



NAVA SPURTHI

Bangalore Region



Vol. XII / I

NEWS LETTER

May 2021

Dear Sisters,

May I take this opportunity to express my heart felt thanks to all the sisters, animators, teachers and specially the principals for successfully completing the online virtual academic year for the first time in our history.

At present the situation across the whole world is changing very fast. We have to keep on experimenting. It's difficult then to keep fixed plans. As we are trying to come to terms with the depressing context prompted by the unprecedented pandemic, socio - political and economical crisis we turn to God. "In Him we move and exist" Acts. 17:28 Christ is everything. Col. 3:11

Dear sisters, I wish you all a successful new academic year.

We are in the month of June devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Sacred Heart is the deepest source of vitality for our interior life. For, the Sacred Heart is nothing less than an image of the way that

Jesus loves us fully, radically, completely and sacrificially.

We too had three days of reflection on characteristics of a cheerful giver, giving fragrance of Christ in our mission. So I am sure that all of us will be the aroma of Christ in all what we do in our commitment to generate "a new earth and a new heaven". "In the spiritual life we too, tend to take many things for granted: God's omnipresence, power, providence and prayer. Figuratively speaking, we press many 'switches' to get things done in life, little realizing the 'power' at their sources which make them work! "Prayer is like the turning of an electric switch. It does not create the current; it simply provides the channel through which the electric current may flow". **Max Handel**

Once again I wish you all the best for the new academic year.

United in love and prayers

Sr. Daisy C J

MARIA SADAN, BANGALORE

We welcomed the New Year 2021 with a Holy Mass, invoking God's blessings on all of us. In preparation for the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus we had one day recollection directed by Fr. Joye James S.J the superior of I. S. I Bangalore. We bid farewell to Sr. Elsa who moved to Pizhaku community on transfer and we wish her all the best. Sr. Lawrentia was with us for treatment for a few days. We were happy to have some of our sisters from Patna and Delhi as visitors even during these pandemic and lockdowns.

We welcomed Sr. Pratima from Patna province to our community. She, along with Sr. Rupali has began their first semester B. Ed classes and we wish them God's blessings. Sr. Daisy was on visitation to all our communities. On Easter Sunday we had Holy Mass in our chapel and blessing of the house and then on we began with online Holy Mass.



We celebrated Sr. Alphonsa's 92 birthday with a lot of fun. Thank God she is happy and healthy.

ST. MARY'S CONVENT, MULUND

Our student sisters are engaged with online classes these days. All around us people are suffering from the misery of increasing number of COVID 19 cases. We all are keeping well with the grace of God Almighty.

Holy Name of Jesus, Congregation

Feast: - On 3 January, Fr. Gavin, celebrated the Holy Eucharist to thank God and pray for our Congregation. In the evening we had Agape with the fathers of the Parish and sisters of CTC Congregation. We had a joyous celebration with a festive dinner followed by a few games.

Mary Ward week Celebrations:-

Venerable Mother Mary Ward's Birthday was celebrated on 23 January with a special Mass in our chapel by Fr. George, our Parish Priest. From 23 to 30 Jan. we had prayer - services paying tribute and honour to our Mother Mary Ward. The School too had special virtual prayer services by the students of Primary and Secondary sections separately, stressing on the life and qualities of our Foundress.

Students under the guidance of their teachers creatively depicted the life, maxims and values of Mother Mary Ward through skits, flashcards, charts, etc., on a virtual platform.

On 23 January, at 10 a.m. we had the Closing Ceremony of 'Friends of Mary Ward Meet' hosted by St. Mary's School, Alakode, virtually on the You Tube channel. Each school distributed the prizes of the various competitions that had been held earlier as a part of the Meet in their own schools. The mementos and certificates were given to the participants by Srs. Christine and Edwina.

Republic Day celebrations: - On 26 January, at 8 a.m. Sr. Christine, the Manager of the school, hoisted the National Flag and delivered a message fitting for the occasion. A virtual prayer service followed, pleading for God's blessings on our nation, specially on the leaders of our country.

Venerable Mary Ward's Feast:- On 30 January, we had a solemn Mass celebrated by Fr. Gavin D'Souza at 11.45 a.m. during which Sr. Rupali renewed her vows and Sr. Christine received her vows. We were happy to have the presence of Sr. Cyrilla and two of our Parishnors

from Umralla, who returned after the festive lunch.



On 31 January, Sr. Daisy, our Regional Superior arrived here for her annual visitation and also to be a part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Sr. Leonie.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Sr. Leonie:-



At 7.15 p.m. on 2 February, Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, Fr. George Athaide, Parish Priest, along with concelebrants Fr. Clifford D'Souza and Deacon Denvil offered Holy Eucharist in our chapel celebrating Sr. Leonie's Diamond Jubilee. We thank God Almighty for the fruitful 60 years of Sr. Leonie's religious life in our

congregation. C.T.C. sisters also joined us. After the Eucharistic celebration, Frs. Gavin and Maria Anthony also joined us for the Jubilee dinner. Sr. Daisy's presence added joy to our celebration.

We opened the school website for online registration to ICSE Junior KG on 6 February and for online Registration to State Board Junior KG on 13 February.

From 8 to 13 February, we had Open Day for students of Std 5 to 10, observing the COVID 19 protocols.

On the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, we celebrated the Feast day of Sr. Theodora with a Solemn High Mass offered by Fr. Maria Anthony. Since Sr. Theodora was unable to climb the steps up to the chapel, we prepared the community room for the Mass. Soon after the Mass, Sr. Daisy who was with us for two weeks left for Gujarat to meet her priest brother.



Sr. Christine's Birthday Celebration: -
The community anticipated Sr. Christine's birthday celebration on 16 February. Fr. Maria Anthony offered a

thanksgiving Mass on this occasion. On 20 February, the students of Primary and Secondary sections conducted prayer services virtually on this joyous occasion. The staff was given chocolates and the co-workers were given snacks and tea. In the evening the community had a special prayer hour, followed by organized recreation to conclude the birthday celebrations.



On 17 February, Sr. Prasanna conducted a two days Orientation Programme for Primary Staff. A few teachers of Secondary section also joined the programme. Sister gave model lessons and explained the skills and methods of teaching.

On 25 February, Sr. Christine left for her home leave to meet her aged mother.

Junior KG Verification Process (ICSE & State Board):-As part of the selection process to ICSE Junior KG, sisters with

the help of the teachers of KG section had interaction with the parents and their wards for two hours for three days and for State Board Junior KG for five days.

School Inspections: - On 8 March, the Primary Section had their Annual Inspection. Mrs. Mini Abraham and Mrs. Laxmi Nair visited our school and checked all the documents and the school. Sr. Prasanna visited J.J. Academy, as an Inspector for their Annual Inspection, on 10 March, and Nutan Nav Bharat School on 16 March. On 12 March Mrs. Vaishali Wavekar, B.O. of Primary Section visited our school. She checked the documents and was happy to see that everything was well maintained.

Std 10 Prelim Exams: -The students of Std. 10 had their Prelim Exams. The students wrote the exams at home and the parents had to submit the answer sheets in the school.

On 4 April, we had Easter Mass at 11 a.m. in the sacristy of the Church, only for the clergy and religious of the Parish, and thereafter we had a small get-together.

From 15 to 26 April, our students had their online final exams through Google Forms. The students of Std. 9 wrote their

exams at home and the parents were supposed to submit the answer sheets in the school, but due to the surge in COVID 19 cases, the answer sheets are still to be submitted by the parents at a later date. As per the circular from the Education Department, we were instructed that all the students should be promoted to the next standard. So as per the instructions, it was communicated to the parents through a whatsapp message.

On 13 April, Fr. George offered Mass and prayed for Sr. Mercy, as she was leaving for Bangalore the next day. Father also thanked her for all the services she had rendered to the parish and school for the past four years. The next day Sr. Christine accompanied Sr. Mercy to Bangalore.

Due to the rising cases of Corona virus, Std. 10 Board Exams are cancelled.

Srs. Mary Jude, Christine and Edwina took their first dose of Vaccination.

MARY WARD SADAN, PUTHENVELIKARA

The New Year dawned in, with a ray of hope that this year things would be better and that the world may be corona free. 4 Jan. was a big day of **celebrations** for us. We renewed our Vows during the Holy Eucharist, kept up the Congregation Feast and celebrated the birthday of Sr. Rose

Mary. All enjoyed the festive meals and the organized recreation.

The School welcomed the New Year with Good wishes and prayerful support to all the students and staff of the school. We wished and prayed that the pandemic situation would end. A ray of hope filled the hearts of the students of class X as they could come to the school for regular classes. On 9 Jan. Srs. Deepti and Rose Mary bought some plants and saplings of fruit trees from Mannuthy Nursery and the following days saw every one busy cleaning and planting. The garden around Mother Mary's Grotto got a good facelift. January 23 being the birthday of Mother Mary Ward, all the contestants of the Friends of Mary Ward Fest gathered in the school for the **concluding ceremony** of the Fest. The students were very eager to receive their prizes from Srs. Deepti and Rosemary.



In spite of the pandemic situation, on 26 Jan. we had **Republic Day** celebration though in a small scale. Sr. Deepti hoisted the flag. The students from close

by places and the teachers witnessed the ceremony and sweets were distributed to them. A video based on the Republic day was sent to all the students.

The community had special Mary Ward



prayers during **Mary Ward week** and Mass on 30 Jan. Sisters took turns to lead the prayers, adding their own creativity. Sr. Isabel paid us a visit and all spent some relaxed time with her. Sr. Georgia while on holiday at home, paid us a visit. Our teachers were lucky to attend a **webinar** organized by the (ICRTC) Delhi. The theme for the webinar was **Addiction in School Children** by Dr. Ravindran. All our teachers benefitted from it. It helped them to handle the students in a better way.

As preparation for the Parish Feast – Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, some of us participated in the Novena Masses and prayers for 9 days and 3 days of special prayers and Masses immediately before the Feast. The celebrations of the parish feast and Easter were on low keys. Three of us from here and two from

Thuruthipuram made a pilgrimage to Malayattoor as devotion to St. Thomas. Srs. Imma and Amala sat in the vehicle and prayed as climbing was impossible for them.

An **orientation** **program**



was given to our students of class X. The topic dealt with was *how to handle examination fear and stress*. Fr. Dias Anthony was the resource person for the seminar. He enlightened the students on the importance of parents in their life, how students can be prey to online addiction, adverse consequences of copying in examinations etc. This orientation has helped them in their studies and to be more relaxed and tension free to face the examination. In order to prepare the students of class X for the Board examination many exams and model exams were conducted. But they could not appear for the examination as the Board cancelled the class X examination due to the increase in the Pandemic.

Sr. Daisy was with us for a week on **visitation**. The construction of a tank for rain water harvesting for the school is going on. We had started family visits and participating in family unit prayers, but as COVID 19 cases increased and lockdown is declared, we stopped all such activities now. On Sunday after Easter, 21 children of our parish received **First Holy Communion**. Sr. Susan and other teachers of the parish had prepared them. Nowadays they are busy with online classes for about sixty students for Confirmation.

The students of all the classes had their **annual examination** online and report cards were given to them. The books for the new academic year were also distributed to the students. In order to equip the students with academic progress **online revision classes** are being conducted for all the students. Since we are in triple lock down, activities in the school office stand still. The school campus remains calm and quiet as no staff or co-workers are able to come to the school. Rains come now and then because of 'depressions'. True to the proverb "make hay while the sun shines" we took the harvest of our tapioca,

turmeric, ginger etc, dried and stored and also did the planting. COVID 19 cases are on the rise and so we are trying to stay safe and we wish you the same. In the parish church, for regular Holy Mass, including the priest and the sacristan only five persons are allowed. So the parish priest sends for all through Tube channel Holy Mass in the morning and a short adoration in the evening every day. We have holy Mass in the convent once a week and on other days we depend on media methods. We celebrated the birthday of our parish priest on a day we had Mass in the convent. During Mass we added some special prayers of good wishes and for God's blessings on him. Special breakfast added to the celebration. We continue with adoration from 3 pm onwards specially interceding for the pandemic- hit world. We are getting ready for online opening of the next academic year.

SHANTI SADAN, BEGUR

Even in the midst of COVID 19 pandemic, we were lucky to have Holy Mass often by Fathers from St. John the Baptist Seminary, Christ Academy and from our Parish. We had Holy Mass on 3

January to celebrate our Congregation Feast. Our Parish celebrated St. Xavier's Feast in the month of January.

We participated in the Novena and the Holy Mass at the Parish Church. We also attended the Feast day Mass at neighbouring parish church - Mylasandra. Two of the Jesuit Tertiaries, Frs. Robin S.J. and Manish S.J. from Prerana paid us a short visit.

On 23 January Fr. Babu CMI celebrated a meaningful Liturgy to celebrate Mother Mary Ward's birthday. Each one of us took turn to conduct the prayer service in the evening.

On 6 February we had our recollection. Fr. Agi Paul Holy Cross gave us talk and was available for Confession and Holy Mass.

Sr. Sanjana represented our community for Sr. Smitha's (Nepal) mother's funeral. We were happy to have Sr. Daisy Our Regional Superior with us for a few days. Sr. Gladys went to Maria Sadan for her Cataract operation and stayed a few days there after the operation.

From March on we started going to the Parish for Holy Mass on Sundays.

On 18 March we had a grand celebration of Sr. Gladys' 75 Birthday.

On 20 March we had our recollection. Fr. Cellapandi gave us talk, and was available for confession followed by Holy Mass. In spite of the pandemic, we didn't miss our Easter services in the Parish Church.

Srs. Feby and Mahima along with Sr. Lima, took their chances to visit their home towns to spend a few days with their dear ones.

Sr. Anu CJ (Delhi) stays with us due to lock down and she continues her online work from here.

School Activities:

Mary Ward JPIC South Asia General Meet:

THEME: GENDER EQUALITY & WATER CONSERVATION

Mary Ward JPIC South Asia General Meet (virtual) with 45 schools of CJ and Loreto schools, was held on 15 to 17 January 2021. At the conclusion of the General Meet, it was decided that Mary Ward Schools (i.e., all CJ and Loreto schools of South Asia) would adopt the following goals and meet their objectives by September 2024.



GOALS TO BE ACHIEVED

1. Gender and Water Audit through survey conducted by the students and the staff of all Institutions. Five of our students from class 9 actively took part in it. We would be conducting the Water audit when the school reopens.

2. Adopt the green campus program in all Institutions and contribute to the SDG. Green Campus Programme is a Climate Reality project of Government of India. It's a platform where schools and colleges are motivated to improve the sustainability factor and green practices. It also imparts climate change education to teachers and students.

The objective is to achieve the recognition from Climate reality India under Green Campus program and get certified as a green school.

Our school has already registered for Green Campus Programme Certificate and has started the process. The teachers committee is formed to carry out this Programme. We had the first round of meeting with the management of Green Campus Project group Delhi.

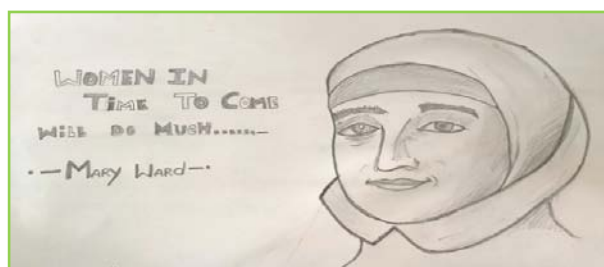
Mary Ward Week celebration in the School

The month of January is special to all the Mary Ward Schools as we celebrate her Birth and Death anniversary to recognize and emulate her invaluable contribution to the lives of many. This year Mary Ward week was celebrated virtually. Unlike the previous years, this year it was live telecasted on You Tube. There was a meaningful prayer service organized by classes 6 & 7. Variety of programmes



such as songs and poems on Mary Ward's life and vision, Quality launch (based on the qualities of Mary Ward), Mono Act, Dance drama depicting different stages of Mary Ward's life etc. were conducted.

On 30th January students of classes 8 and 9 prepared one hour Programme to celebrate the death anniversary of Mary



Ward. It also highlighted the values of freedom, Justice and Sincerity. The emphasis was given for the Just Soul Vision of Mary Ward to enlighten others. Apart from online activities the school organized offline activities for the students like; Collage making, Pencil Sketch and digital poster making and Power point presentation on Mary Ward and her values. The students enthusiastically took part in all these events.

A good number of students took part in **ONE BILLION RISING** global campaign in the month of February on the topic "Rising Gardens". If we wish to see change, we need to do our bit. This was to commemorate, to value and protect **MOTHER EARTH**. Gardens remind us of our enduring connection to life, to each other and to Earth, which protects and nurtures life. The pandemic compelled us to slow down and consider how to live with more empathy and compassion in



relation to our environment. **Let a garden bloom in every home.**

Local Girls Conversation Circle

The Working Group on Girls (WGG) invited to host Girls Conversation Circle. In the run up to the 65 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)- a unique opportunity for girls to lead and make their voices heard in an event facilitated by girls for girls. The girl-led Conversation Circles brought girls together to have productive dialogue about the issues in the Generation Equality Action Coalitions, their impact on girls' lives and to develop methods for collaborative advocacy within their communities and globally. Our school participated in it. A group of 9 girl



students were formed by the JPIC animator of the school Sr. Sanjana. They had three meetings under the guidance of student leader.

In this local Conversation Circles, girls chose the theme 'Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action' with

attention paid to girls' experiences within these areas, what they would like to see as change, what resources or actions are needed to effect change and what roles they can play in creating change. The main purpose was to encourage conversation and include the views of girls in CSW and to give a voice to our young people, especially those who have no voice.

Orientation programme

An orientation programme was organized for the girls of Classes 8, 9 & 10 on the theme Health & Menstrual hygiene. Mrs. Pooja, the Biology teacher and Sr. Shradha enlightened the girls about Woman's Body cycle, the myths and Taboos of Menstruation and how to maintain good health. The girls felt free to ask their doubts and were happy with the session.

Women's Day Celebration:

International Women's Day was observed by the JPIC to empower and celebrate the women around us. St. Mary's Bangalore prepared a short Programme by the self-initiative of our girls. The Programme was telecasted in the school you tube channel. It honoured the achievement and role of women in school, of our country

and the world down the centuries. It also highlighted the value of girl children in the family and in the society.



MARY WARD ILLAM, MITTAPALLI

On first Friday in Lent Srs. Auxilia, Smitha and Japa along with two of our Parishnors conducted the Stations of the Cross in our Parish which was well appreciated by one and all. For our February monthly recollection we took the points for reflection from COIN Process -7 Resource material. This day's reflection helped us to be grateful to God for the gift of our Congregation and to deepen our commitment.

We shared with our supportive staff some vegetables since we had plenty. We celebrated Sr. Anjeli's birth day on 9 Feb. The day began with the Eucharistic celebration by our Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Bosco. All enjoyed the variety of delicious dishes. we planted 110 Banana saplings in our field. We could harvest plenty of turmeric and Tapioca for our

need. As part of the Lenten practice on the Rev. Fr. Arockiasamy along with 60 of his parishnors (mostly youth) from our neighbourhood parish, came to our convent to conduct the Stations of the Cross. Father's reflections on the passion of Christ was connected with our day today life experiences which helped us to feel the presence of Christ among us. Father prayed for our community and the Congregation. In the end, on the request of Father, Sr. Auxilia spoke to the gathering about our Foundress, the Charism and the various ministries undertaken by our Congregation. Finally they were all served tea and snacks. This gathering was a good platform for us to interact with people of our neighbouring parish. On Palm Sunday a team of Charismatic people conducted a day's retreat for our parishnors in which we also took part. The theme for the day's reflection was 'The power of the Precious Blood of Jesus'. By this we were well disposed to begin the Holy Week. Sr. Usha returned from Vellore to join the community for Easter and stayed on till 11 April. Srs. Smitha, Lawrentia, Usha and Auxilia received the first dose of vaccination.

The month of May being dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary the community prayed the Holy Rosary together interceding for the end of the pandemic and for special protection on all of us and of the entire humanity.

We were privileged to attend the daily Mass in our parish church till the last week of April.

On 7 Jan. as per the School Education director, we had the consultation meeting of the parents to know their views on reopening of schools for students who are due, to write board examination.

Students of class IX and XI participated in the 1 Mary Ward JPIC South Asia Meet held from 15 – 17 Jan. 2021.



14 January was a special day this year too, to celebrate the festival of Pongal, only with our non teaching staff.

The School reopened for classes 10 and 12 on 19 Jan. with their regular classes, keeping the COVID 19 SOP guidelines issued by the government.

This year Republic day was marked by flag hoisting and prayer service and

online fancy dress, dance, patriotic songs, speech, and poster making on Farmers' struggle and consequences of the pandemic.



Mary Ward Week was celebrated with a prayer service prepared by class 12 in the school and online competitions like



calligraphy, reciting maxims of Mary Ward, Just Soul theme based dance videos etc. The prize distribution of FMW inter school competitions was held and S. Povarasan Std. 8 won the first prize for digital poster making and 5 prize by G. Haripriyan (Std. 6) in Quality launch.

The students of Class XI initiated The Working Group on Girls in our school and held conversations designed to encourage girls' participation and leadership. The tool kit that we received helped them to support their discussions on the issues that most impact their lives in their conversation circles.

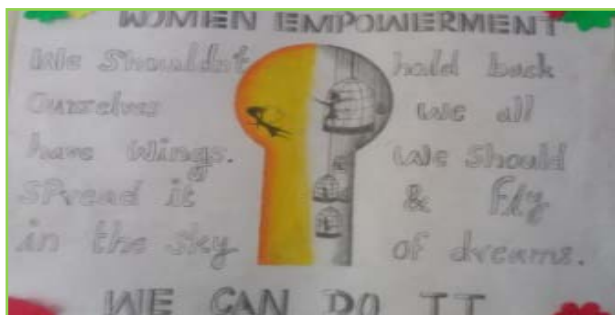
A few saplings were planted in the school premises to spread green.



The students of Std 9 and 11 also began their regular classes in the school from 9 Feb.

Women's day was celebrated. The assembly and the video presented compiling short speeches by girls highlighted the value of girl children in the family and in the society.

On the **World Water day** the students prepared video clippings on various ways of saving water in their daily use and conserving water in the farm land. There was a meeting of the parents of students of Std 9 to 12, after the meeting of the Principals of Krishnagiri. We discontinued the regular classes in the school on 22 April after the board exam Science practicals.



MARY WARD CONVENT, PIZHAKU

On 4 January class began for Std. X students strictly following the COVID19 protocols. All the students except one attended the classes. On 10 January Sr. Elsa joined our community. Sr. Deepti paid a visit to us along with Sr. Rose Mary who with Sr. Suma proceeded to Mannanam for a Meeting.

On 15 January the students of class X had one day retreat given by Rev. Fr. Saju Elanjikal from Sehion Retreat Centre, Attappadi. Children appreciated the retreat as it helped them to experience a lot of peace within after having spent almost an year in their houses with their electronic gadgets, without friends and socialization.

On 23 January we were fortunate to have Sr. Janet's (Allahabad Province)



mother and priest brother for the Holy Eucharist and breakfast. Mary Ward's birthday was celebrated in the school. A meaningful virtual prayer assembly was conducted by the students of Class VIII

under the guidance of Sir Sijo Abraham, highlighting the core values of our Venerable Mother Mary Ward.

On 26 January Fr. Jimmy Thekkumkattil offered Holy Mass in our chapel thanking God for the glorious 25 years of his priestly life. We were happy to have his sister also with us.

To commemorate the 72 Republic Day of India, the National flag was hoisted by Rev. Fr. Jimmy and after which sweets were distributed to those who were present.



On 30 January Mary Ward's death Anniversary was celebrated. The Students of Class X conducted a beautiful prayer service highlighting the values of Mary Ward, Justice and Peace. After the prayer service the Manager Sr. Basilia honoured with Trophies and certificates, the students who took part in the Mary Ward interschool competitions.



On 9 February we celebrated Sr. Basilia's Birthday. We had Holy Mass for her intentions and delicious breakfast. Teachers and co-workers wished and prayed for sister. They were served high tea.

On 14 February we community celebrated the birthday of our parish priest Rev. Fr. Kuruvila Thudiamplackal's. We had a thanks giving Holy Eucharist offered by him followed by a good breakfast. We gave him a small gift as a token of appreciation.



We raise our hearts in gratitude for God Almighty for blessing us with plenty of Jackfruits, Tapiocas and vegetables which we generously shared with our neighbours and supportive staff.

On 19 March, the Feast of St. Joseph, the community except Sr. Elsa had a Pilgrimage to Aruvithura St. George Church and St. Alphonsa's Shrine at Bharanangamnam. We also climbed 'Vallyachan Mala' at Aruvithura,

praying the Way of the Cross. We had a good experience.

Three of us exercised our right to cast votes as Indian citizens. All of us had the opportunity of getting the first dose of COVID vaccine.

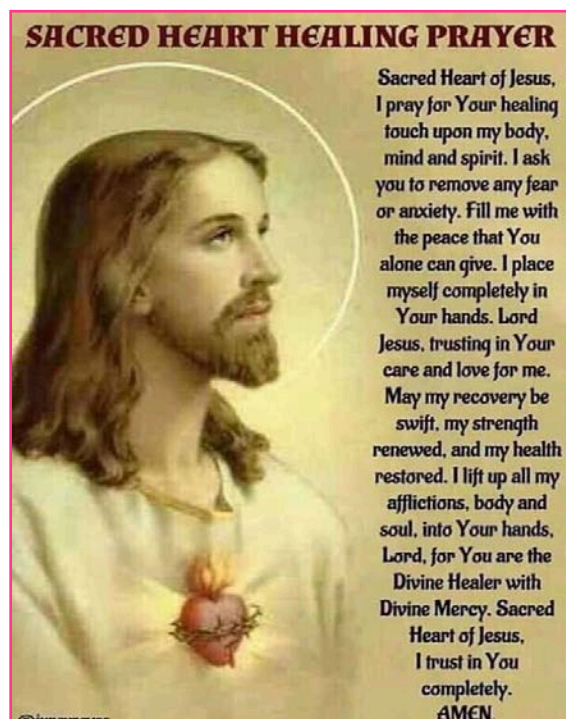
On 16 April the school bid farewell to the students of class X with a meaningful Holy Eucharist offered by Rev. Fr. Thomas OCD in the morning. Father blessed the students and wished them all the best in their future endeavors.



In the afternoon the students of class IX under the guidance of Mrs. Phinu Bobby put up a good farewell programme for their seniors. In the farewell message the Manager Sr. Basilia thanked the students for being with us for the past 12 years and wished them every success in the future. The Head girl said “our teachers are the beacon lights as we grope our way on the road of life”. She thanked the management and the staff for moulding them in the way they are . The Manager

Sr. Basilia gave out the mementos to the outgoing students. The programme was concluded with a high tea for all.

We are fortunate enough to get the individual Ration card for all of us.



THANK YOU