

The monthly newsletter of St. Mary's JSO Cathedral Youth Association

yoUth buzz

OCT
2020

The St. Mary's JSO Cathedral Youth Association proudly presents to you the inaugural edition of our monthly newsletter, *Youth Buzz*.

Youth Buzz is a result of the efforts of the youth association which wants to create a platform to showcase its various activities, to discuss the common challenges faced by our youth members and to strengthen and nurture ties within our community.

We can be certain that one goes through some of the most difficult and confusing times while exploring for experiences during their youth. Contrary to popular belief, God saw great value in the youth and often used young people to do great things. Some of the striking examples that feature in the Bible are Joseph, Mother Mary, David and Miriam. The significance of the youth is further emphasized when Paul the Apostle tells Timothy in I Timothy 4:12,

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

This newsletter hopes to discuss, encourage and give direction to its young readers while growing together in Christ, because the questions you ask and the situations you face are not unique to you alone. We're in this together!

The newsletter format is a novelty for us and it has been possible only by the continuous and unwavering grace of God, our ever encouraging Vicar and the youth committee. We really hope and pray that you enjoy and accept it.

The inaugural October issue of Youth Buzz features a note from our Vicar and the happenings in the month of September, including the introduction to the new committee and the segregation of all the members into teams. There is some fun and exciting news later on, so make sure you keep reading till the end!

NEWSLETTER TEAM

CONCEPT AND
COORDINATION

George Zacharia

EDITING AND LAYOUT
DESIGN

Hannah John

CONTRIBUTORS OF THIS
ISSUE

Fr. Siby Baby

Tania Thomas

Punnya Ann Andrews

Nikita Sunil

Joshua Philip Mathew

A MESSAGE OF HOPE FROM THE VICAR

By Fr. Siby Baby, Vicar of St. Mary's JSO Cathedral, Bengaluru

“None of us are getting out of here alive, so please stop treating yourself like an afterthought. Eat the delicious food. Walk in the Sunshine. Jump in the Ocean. Say the truth that you're carrying in your heart like hidden treasure. Be silly. Be kind. Be weird. There's no time for anything else”

By Anthony Hopkins.

My dear Beloved in Christ,
When you come to a crossroad and run into the winner and the quitter in you, listen to the winner. The quitter will never take you down the road you want to travel.

I believe we all have a winner in us. There is a WINNER inside of you. Sometimes we've just been hanging around with losers for far too long. Develop the mindset of a winner.

The truth is, most people give up on their dream to live the average lifestyle. But it really doesn't matter what most people do,

WHAT DO YOU DO?!

Because YOU are Different!

You should never give up on your Dream!

You should never listen to the average!

You should always listen to the winner in you!

You will believe in yourself when no one else does.

You will believe in yourself when you have no reason to believe!

And you WILL NEVER QUIT!

I know some of you are going through a tough time during this pandemic. Some of you are going into the fight of your life, fighting for

your future, fighting for your career, fighting for your family. But just hang on and never give up.

MAYBE TODAY IS HARD,
TOMORROW WILL BE WORSE.
BUT DAY AFTER TOMORROW
WILL HAVE SUNSHINE!

God Bless.
With prayers,
Fr. Siby Baby



IT'S ELECTION TIME AGAIN!

The 2020 election for the new committee of the St. Mary's JSO Cathedral Youth Association was decided to be conducted online this time around owing to the pandemic.

Following discussions during an online youth meeting that was held on 16th August 2020 and considering the limitations that come with the current situation, a Google form was created for the nominations. The committee members were thus unanimously elected.



Vice President
George Zacharia



Secretary
Anisha Iype



Treasurer
Ashish Mathew



Joint Secretary
Joshua Philip Mathew



Cultural Coordinator
Elsa John



Cultural Coordinator
Nikita Sunil



Sports Coordinator
Roshan Elias John



Sports Coordinator
Basil K Wilson



Social Media Coordinator
Reuben Abraham



Social Media Coordinator
Ammel Anto



Social Media Coordinator
Alina Iype

VIRTUAL MEET-AND-GREET

By Tania Thomas

A Meet-and-Greet session of the Youth was held online, through Zoom, on 16 August 2020, as a first and reconnecting step towards the revival of St. Mary's Youth, with an emboldened and refreshed perspective. The meeting was attended by 30 people, with great enthusiasm and excitement.

The session started with a song sung by Swetha Mathews followed by an introduction, words of counsel from the vicar, and advice and experience from our senior mentors. Following this was a round of personal introductions, going around the (virtual) room with each meeting attendee saying a few words about

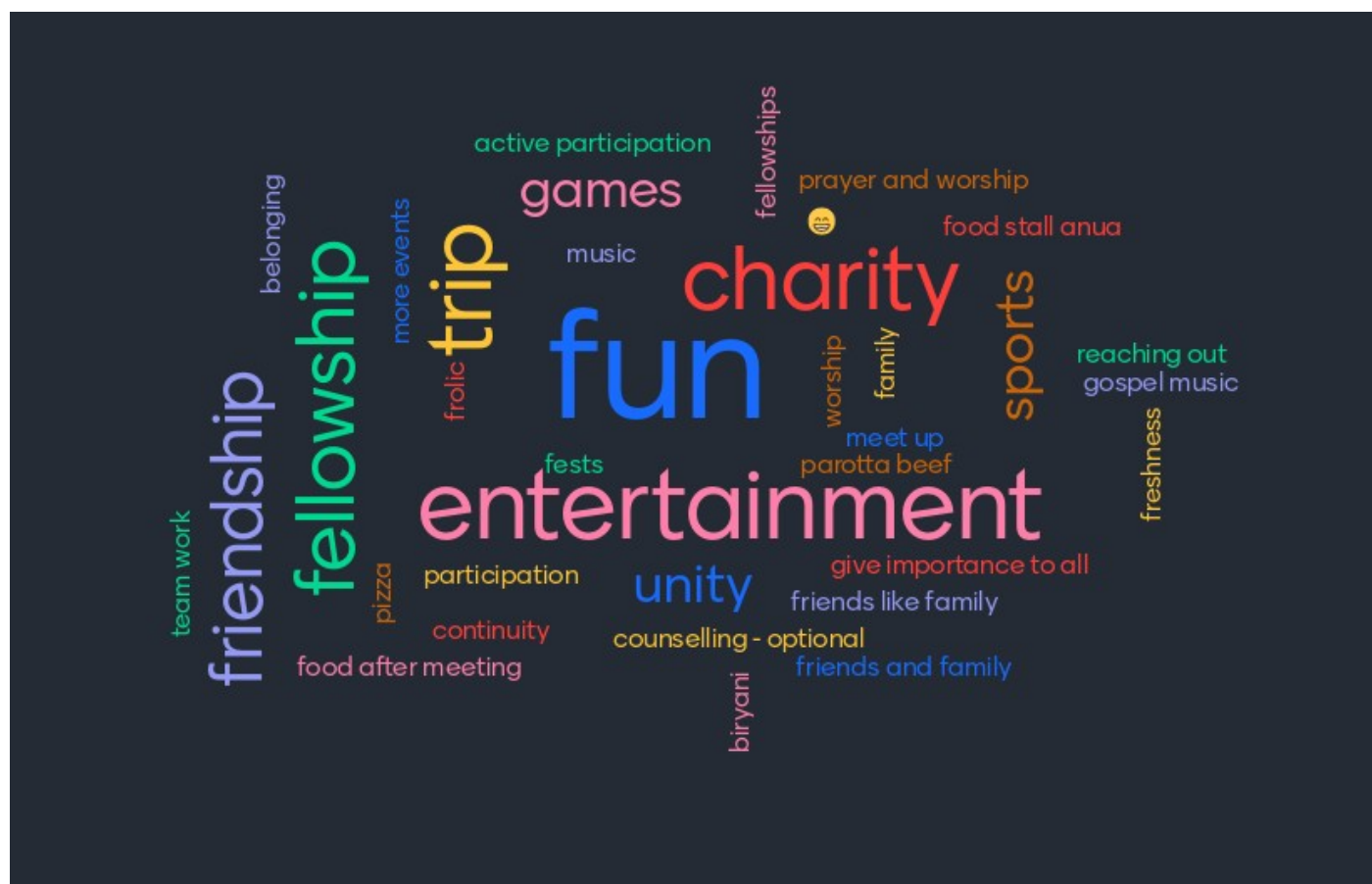
themselves. Then came a discussion of the plan and road map for the foreseeable future, discussing how the Youth Association would go forward—in terms of the election of new office bearers, the creation of groups to be maintained for all activities for the following year, as well as deciding to meet on the third Sunday of every month.

A Mentimeter page filled-in during the meeting showed that the biggest expectations from the Youth were fun activities and entertaining sessions.

Once the business part of the meeting was over, then came the fun. There were ice-breaker games—like a virtual

round of Queen of Sheba, where a list of items commonly found in the typical Malayali household was shared, and everyone in the meeting had to collect as many of the items as they could from around them. There were some rather creative substitutes found, but at the end of the day, the different versions of each item gathered showed that some things remain universal across large family nests and humbler bachelor-pads.

Though the Zoom meeting ran beyond its scheduled time, the session ended on a cheerful note, one of excitement and anticipation, awaiting what is to come.



BLESSED ART THOU AMONGST WOMEN...

By Punnya Ann Andrews

Though we could not go to church or attend prayer meetings in person this year, our youth association committee ensured that we could look forward to eight wonderful days of observing lent from **September 1st - 8th** to learn about and meditate on Mother Mary, and to stay connected virtually. The quality and the effort taken to host these sessions is truly commendable. All days were heartfelt, eye-opening and rewarding experiences.

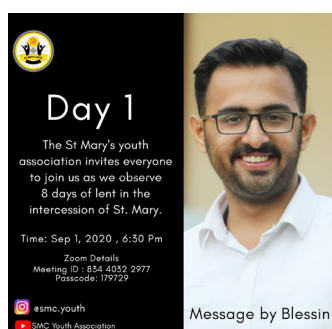
Discussions about why our church celebrates Mother Mary's nativity, the actual meaning of lent or why one chooses to practice lent, the life of Mother Mary and the physical evidence of the same were touched upon. We were taken on a historical journey of various representations of Mother Mary through different

paintings and relics as well as the different aspects of the prayers that we have been taught by our Fathers and how they reflect our faith. We were introduced to the various books written about Mother Mary's life by our church Fathers and were shown images of actual relics from the Holy Land and other sites in India and abroad.

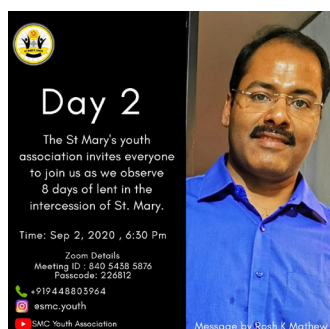
Many points which a Jacobite Christian should be aware of, like the reason we call her 'Mother of God' and whether we worship her, were laid out. In the following days, we learned about all the references of Mother Mary made in the Bible from the Old Testament which all the more confirms that God has a bigger plan no matter what and all we have to do is be patient. Later during the week, we were taken through

a heart touching testimony and reflected upon Christian personality or characteristics of Mother Mary that we can inculcate. We were also enlightened on the various struggles that she faced in her life. With each session, Mother Mary's absolute faith and submission tells us why she is considered the most responsible Christian. Her traits are what we take back and what we need to hold onto. Let us pray that Mother Mary will intercede for us and that we become responsible Christians like her so that God may consider us worthy to be saved.

This year's eight-day feast of Mother Mary was deep and powerful. Each speaker was inspiring and made us explore different perspectives and encouraged us to continue to seek and absorb more about our faith.



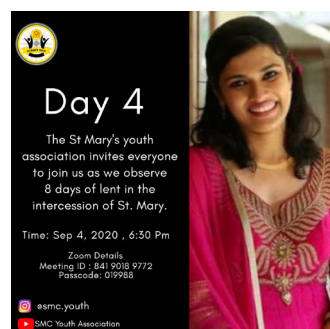
Day 1
The St Mary's youth association invites everyone to join us as we observe 8 days of lent in the intercession of St. Mary.
Time: Sep 1, 2020 , 6:30 Pm
Zoom Details
Meeting ID : 854 4052 2977
Passcode: 179729
@smc.youth
SMC Youth Association
Message by Blessin



Day 2
The St Mary's youth association invites everyone to join us as we observe 8 days of lent in the intercession of St. Mary.
Time: Sep 2, 2020 , 6:30 Pm
Zoom Details
Meeting ID : 840 2438 5876
Passcode: 226816
+919448805964
@smc.youth
SMC Youth Association
Message by Rosh K Mathew



Day 3
The St Mary's youth association invites everyone to join us as we observe 8 days of lent in the intercession of St. Mary.
Time: Sep 3, 2020 , 6:30 Pm
Zoom Details
Meeting ID : 858 567 8296
Passcode: 081159
+919448805964
@smc.youth
SMC Youth Association
MESSAGE BY MAMMAL PHILIP



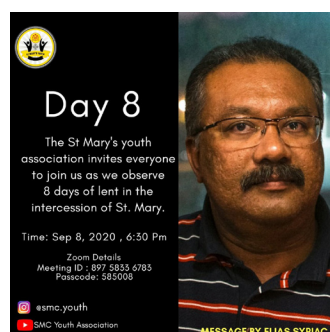
Day 4
The St Mary's youth association invites everyone to join us as we observe 8 days of lent in the intercession of St. Mary.
Time: Sep 4, 2020 , 6:30 Pm
Zoom Details
Meeting ID : 841 9018 9772
Passcode: 03968
@smc.youth
SMC Youth Association
MESSAGE BY DEVA ARUN CHERIYAN



Day 5
The St Mary's youth association invites everyone to join us as we observe 8 days of lent in the intercession of St. Mary.
Time: Sep 5, 2020 , 6:30 Pm
Zoom Details
Meeting ID : 855 2849 2391
Passcode: 962846
@smc.youth
SMC Youth Association
MESSAGE BY ABRAHAM KURIAN



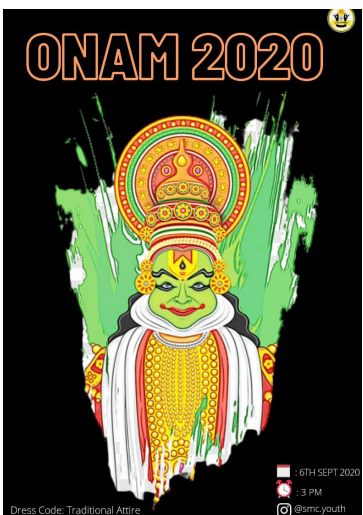
Day 7
The St Mary's youth association invites everyone to join us as we observe 8 days of lent in the intercession of St. Mary.
Time: Sep 7, 2020 , 6:30 Pm
Zoom Details
Meeting ID : 847 0889 9881
Passcode: 750272
@smc.youth
SMC Youth Association
MESSAGE BY RISHI RAMESH



Day 8
The St Mary's youth association invites everyone to join us as we observe 8 days of lent in the intercession of St. Mary.
Time: Sep 8, 2020 , 6:30 Pm
Zoom Details
Meeting ID : 897 5833 6783
Passcode: 585008
@smc.youth
SMC Youth Association
MESSAGE BY ELIAS SYRIAC

ONLINE AAYUM ONAM AGOSHIKYAM!

By Nikita Sunil



After Christmas and Easter, the festival we enjoy the most in St. Mary's Cathedral as a Malayali community is Onam! Amidst the unexpected pandemic that put the whole world to a standstill, little did we know that we wouldn't be able to celebrate Onam the usual way. Onam 2020 this year, like every other occasion was held online on September 6th thanks to our very keen and adaptive committee.

The chendamelam music set off the mood while we had a display of the previous years photos in the background bringing a smile to all our faces. The program started with our anchor of the event, Hannah, energetically gearing us up for the activities ahead! The festivities started with a melodious Onam pattu Sung by Lino Wilson, followed by a one-of-a-kind Onam quiz conductet by Elsa and Swetha which had everyone alert and laughing! From the origins of

Onam to some kusurdi chodiyams and of course, the infamous sadya..we covered it all!

Our Vicar, Siby Achen gave the Onam sandesham this time since Maveli couldn't make it this year. To wind up we had a video clip of our youth members giving us a peep into their 2020 celebrations at home. We were left feeling very nostalgic. We surely missed the pookalam and payasam competitions in church, the last minute dance and skit preparations and all the fun and laughter that came with it.

A big thank you to the committee and our dear Siby Achen for making this year's first online Onam a success. Kudos to everyone who put in a lot of hard work to make it possible.

We pray that the Lord carries us out of the pandemic safely and once again *St. Mary's youthinde hridayam niranya Onam ashamsagal!*



THE LEAGUE OF LEGENDS

By Joshua Philip Mathew

“Unity is strength” is an ironic beginning for this article but as it has been repeatedly suggested during this pandemic, we are all learning to be socially united while being physically distanced. The newly elected youth committee actively took up the task of bringing about a sense of togetherness and breaking the ice amongst the members to ensure that communication and interaction continue to take place irrespective of the pandemic.

To do this, it was decided that the members will be divided into four teams based on their hobbies, interests and talents. In order to not only keep interaction but also competitive spirit alive, these teams will be allotted points/scores based on various tasks and activities that will be conducted during the course of the year. Every

member’s participation is encouraged as these teams are meant to be more than groups but rather function like families where everyone is to be heard and supported without judgement. During the youth meeting on 20th September, the teams were divided. A team leader was chosen by the members of each team and the initial task was to come up with a name that represents them best. Following that, a logo designing competition for the St. Mary’s Youth Association’s official logo was announced and entries were expected to be submitted by 27th September. The teams participated with utmost enthusiasm and submitted multiple entries. The winning design will be announced shortly. In addition to the official logo, each team was also asked to design their team logos. Creative designs submitted by each team is a

testament to how much talent we have within our community.

The four teams and their elected leaders are :

1. BETHEL led by Kiran Mathai
2. ANTIOCH led by Nikitha Biju
3. ZION led by Tarun Babu Cherian
4. OMG (Ophir.Mount Tabore.Gaza) led by Merin Scaria

We live in a time where having a support group and a safe space for conversation is vital. With the growing intolerance towards differences amongst people, creating platforms like these teams is a small step in the right direction. Here’s hoping that the teams use this opportunity well to understand and encourage each other and to learn to work together.



BUN AND KAAP! CORNER!

Conversations on a regular pre-pandemic Sunday at #13, Queen's Road.

COVID ACTION TEAM

Covid-19 has changed our lives dramatically and we don't know when we will be meeting each other again. We hope that all our members and their families are in good health. If in case you need any assistance with regard to the pandemic, a Covid Action Team has been formulated by our church.

Dr. Elsa John, who is a committee member and a part of the Covid Action Team, can be contacted for any queries.

WHAT'S COOKING?

We have a lot of exciting ideas for what we want to feature in the upcoming editions - walking down memory lane, talent revelations and so much more! However, we are also always open to your ideas.

If you want us to feature your work, if you have any suggestions for us or even if you just want to tell us what you think of the newsletter, please write to smcyouth.bnglr@gmail.com

In case you haven't been able to fill the Google form to join the teams yet, this is your chance. Scan the QR code, fill in the form and you're good to go!



All our activities and meets are uploaded on our YouTube channel so that whoever missed out can still catch up. Do check it out!



BIRTHDAY BABIES OF THE MONTH!

Alan Sabu	7th October
Ashika Ann	9th October
Atul Thomas	9th October
Roshan Elias John	10th October
Mithun Babu	20th October
Cibin Mathew	26th October
Neil Winni	26th October
Allen J. Raju	27th October
Bency Suman	31st October

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

Our friends, Anish P Joseph and Nisha, have been blessed with a beautiful baby girl!

OUR BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR DONATIONS

Name : St. Marys JSO Youth Association
 Account Number : 0009053000011473
 IFSC Code : SIBL0000009
 Bank : South Indian Bank, Bangalore Cantonment

CONTACT DETAILS

You can contact us only any of our social media handles. We can't wait to hear from you!



Instagram
@smc.youth



Facebook
Bangalore St.Mary's
Cathedral



YouTube
SMC Youth Association