



CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH KANARA

Founded in 1914

(Regn. No. MNG/130/2015-17)

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EDITORIAL

This message evolved in Europe and culminated in Mangalore. On 22nd March we were scheduled to take a flight from Barcelona to Brussels with the family to enjoy a continued holiday but escaped the horror of the bomb blasts at Brussels airport – our flight was of course cancelled and the resultant flight dislocations grounded us in Barcelona for four additional days! We were shaken indeed but had to make the best use of our extended stay in Barcelona, a beautiful city. But I am drifting... the point I wish to make is that, Indian airports are safer and more secure compared to airports in Europe where anyone and everyone can enter the departure and arrival lounges. We thank God for His love and care.

As we celebrate the season of Easter let us reflect on the true meaning of His resurrection and what it means to us ordinary folk. I was particularly struck by a quote by Phillips Brooks forwarded to me by a non-christian friend “Let every man and woman count themselves immortal. Let him catch the revelation of Jesus in His resurrection. Let him say not merely “Christ is Risen” but “I shall rise”. Can we find situations in our daily life, where we can rise?

At the conclusion of the Biennial Plenary of the Catholic Bishop’s Conference of India (CBCI) held at Bangalore March 2-9, 2016, Cardinal Baselios Cleemis, President-CBCI said that the Church in India should avoid clericalism, reject extravagance by adopting a life of simplicity and promote a love of nature.

What is ‘**Clericalism**’ I thought and quickly googled. Clericalism is a policy of maintaining or increasing the power of a religious hierarchy or the application of the formal, church-based opinion of ordained clergy. Well, the term was first used by Pope Francis a few months into his papacy and now we have the good news that there might be a ‘dilution or decrease’ in the clericalism or the power of the Bishops and the Clergy as wished by the Pope.

We have an article titled “Lead Us Not Into Clericalism” by Fr Daniel P.Horan OFM which further enlightens us on clericalism.

Interesting articles by our regular writers – Dreamcatcher, Flavia Agnes, Veronica Shearer and Norbert Shenoy are included.


CASK celebrated International Women’s Day on 8th March at St Agnes College by organizing a symposium for the students of the Arts stream. 80 students participated. By their unique motherhood role, ‘Women are the real architects of society’ and as Malala Yousufzai has said “Mankind cannot succeed if half the population is left behind”. This is the message that women need to convey to every man even as they break new ground and pull down traditional walls.

We at CASK are deeply saddened by the demise of Octavia Albuquerque, the first Lady President of CASK : 1983-1986. Aunty Ottie was a multi-faceted personality who had made noteworthy contributions in various fields – civic, political, social and religious. We offer our condolences to the bereaved family. The Eulogy to Octavia delivered by Margaret Saldanha is separately published.

We are also grieved by the death of Sandra Anna at the young age of 48. I had the privilege of interviewing Sandra a couple of months ago as a courageous lady coping with cancer, which we published in “Mangalore”. Sandra inspired me with her faith and zest for life which she sustained until the very end. I imagine her entering heaven dancing. We pray for solace for her family.

On 3rd April, Derek and I attended the Easter Get-together of Konkani Kutam- Rome. It was a pleasure to participate in a Konkani mass concelebrated by 18 Manglorean Priests followed by an entertainment programme with Konkani as the predominant language. Fr. Melville Pinto SJ is doing a commendable job as the gurkar of the Konkani Kutam-Rome.

Until next time.....Patsy Lobo

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY	
	CASK is grateful to Mrs Tilolia (Tilly) Peres for her generous contribution of ₹ 25,000/- towards the CASK scholarship fund and for a purified drinking water unit.

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's -Mathew 22:21



1st April is the beginning of our Financial Year. What was said by our Master and Teacher two thousand years back holds good even today. The Government passed the Unique Identification (UID branded Aadhaar) Bill giving statutory rights for the programme still leaving privacy as a specific challenge. Privacy with Aadhaar isn't just an abstract issue but related to the fundamental view of how data is to be accessed and used. So, it is time for every citizen or institution to get one's financial records in order and be within the framework of the law by paying to 'Ceasar what is due to Ceasar'.

We heard of Wiki leaks, Swiss leaks and we now have the Panama Papers leak where the names of 500 prominent people of our country from various walks of life figure. Well, until this publication we had a total different impression of these actors, politicians and businessman. Some could be innocent and may be given benefit of the doubt. One has to ponder: is it really worth circumventing the law. The Prime Minister of Iceland was the first casualty – having to resign. Many heads may roll in the near future. In the era of Information Technology and Social Media the fear of offshore funds getting diverted to promote terrorism, unaccounted money stashed in tax havens, can easily be targeted. The political will is the big question mark. To quote an example, the piracy problem against Somali pirates off the horn of Africa was overcome where money trail was tracked across the globe and piracy problem in Indian Ocean brought under control. The Panama Papers is a wake-up call for all individuals and institutions that the long arm of the tax law will come knocking on one's door if we indulge in evasion of taxes.

It is the season of spring and when we look around we seek to celebrate many festivals this vernal equinox period, viz, Easter, Holi, Baishaki, Nawroze and Ugadhi. This year I had an opportunity to attend the Palm Sunday service at the chapel of the Embassy of Holy See, Vatican, in New Delhi. What was noteworthy was that we had olive branches for the symbolic procession instead of the usual palms. The previous year Palm Sunday service I attended was in Hindi where the service was offered by a Mangalorean Missionary from Tripura at a Church in Mumbai. This speaks of our own diversity within the community itself in this great secular nation.

The Holy Week was marred by the gruesome attack and loss of 35 innocent people at Zaventem airport in Brussels and the injury to over 200. This was followed by explosions at the amusement park on the

merry-go-round taking 65 lives in Lahore on Easter Day. Easter across the world could have been better if these incidents had not taken place in spite of Pope telling refugees ‘we are brothers’ as he washed and kissed the feet of Muslim, Orthodox, Hindu and Catholic refugees on Maundy Thursday. ‘We have different cultures and religions, but we are brothers and we want to live in peace’ is an extract from Pope Francis’s homily. Let us therefore pray for “World Peace”.

The issue of ‘Nationalism’ debate refuses to die down as one incidence or the other has cropped up from students of FTII, JNU, UOH, Fergusson College, Pune and now NIT, Srinagar. The political discovery of a party to reap electoral dividend is dangerous in the long run. Our Constitution gives us freedom of expression. Just by shouting slogans one cannot prove ‘Nationalism’. As put rightly, we want freedom (Azadi) and victory for Mother India on issues of poverty, intolerance, untouchability, unemployment, corruption, health-care, gender equality, empowerment of women and other social evils. Mere slogans like ‘Bharat Mata Ki Jai’ will not help. Real love for Motherland has to be inculcated and nurtured by respecting a pluralistic society, the culture and heritage of India.

Speaking of corruption, I visited Kolkata, Chennai, Trivandrum, Cochin and Delhi over the last month. As West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala states go for state assembly elections, I asked random rickshaw drivers, stewards and the working class persons as to emerging voting patterns. The labour class all complained that corruption levels had all gone up manyfold. The white collared in all three states were happy with the ruling parties. The corruption issue took its toll with the flyover collapsing on 31st March in Kolkata taking many lives, hopefully we will get the correct number soon. I have done my own poll predictions listening to the blue and white collared. Time will tell.

Out here in Mangaluru, the shocking hacking to death of a RTI activist, Vinayaka Baliga, on 21st March 2016 is another act of an intolerant society. Is it greed, ego or money power that one takes to such inhuman acts? Church attack, pub attack and now this heinous crime is a setback for brand Mangaluru.

We at CASK are now finalizing our financial accounts so that we can keep up to the deadline of having our AGM in September. The usual process involves auditing, passing of the audited balance sheet by the Executive Council and then printing in the ‘Mangalore’ with adequate notice is underway. Well, it has been exciting all along. Remember with Big Brother watching you it always pays to be on the right side of the law, as ignorance of law is not an excuse. Finally, enjoy the king of good times (I mean Mango) and the other tropical fruits. Remember to recycle water to the maximum in this summer, as one has to live in a drought-prone area experiencing water rationing to realize the value of the natural resource. Jai Hind.

Capt. John Prasad Menezes

EULOGY TO OCTAVIA ALBUQUERQUE

Delivered by Ms Margaret Saldanha



Octavia Albuquerque, Otty, Mother, Mummy, Aunty Otty, Ottybai, Grandma, Amma, all these names refer to this dear lifeless form, cold in the arms of death. To me Aunty Otty was one of the Grand Old Ladies of Mangalore, a legend in her own right. Her 92 years of earthly existence can be summed up in just two sentences. Life's work well done, Life's race well run. A multifaceted lady she left her mark on whatever she did or undertook, be it politics or her service to the Community.

Aunty Otty was one of the six children of the Late Rao Sahib F. Lobo and Late Mrs. Lilly Lobo of Balmatta. She was a product of St. Agnes School and College. She began setting her seal of achievements from the early age of 16 years when she was elected the first President of the School Cabinet. As a student both in School and College she excelled in Academics, Debates and Acting. She showed great leadership qualities especially when it came to organising funds for the less fortunate students or the poor. She organised the Social Service League in the college. Once a girl guide she rose to be the Commissioner of Guides later in life. In appreciation of the services rendered the girl guides brought her into the Church with a Guard of Honour.

Aunty Otty married Mr. Cyril Albuquerque the son of Late Mr. Felix Albuquerque Pai, the Indian Pioneer of Tiles and Bricks. On his passing Uncle Cyril took over the management of the factory A. Albuquerque and sons and A. Otty became 2nd in command. It was while assisting her husband that she realised the plight of working women and their families. In spite of her own growing family she found time to look into the needs of those children and helped them with uniforms, books and subsidized food. This was the starting point of her life in public service. Soon she was elected President of the Women's Social

Service League of South Kanara.

As a woman she dedicated her life for the cause of women, their upliftment and their medical care. In her own way she brought relief to the Harijan Colony seeing that their area was cleaned up and that they got water and electricity. During the floods and riots in Karnataka, Aunty went to the affected areas with food, clothes and money and helped to distribute them and maintain peace. She used to visit Hospitals, Jails and Sanatoriums with food and fruit. To date her pet project was the Cheshire Home that she helped build and run as long as she was able. It was a great day when she was nominated M.L.C. representing the minorities for 2 years.

Aunty Otty was a member of the Church Board and the Catholic Bishops Conference of India. In this capacity and with her political influences she was able to help the Catholic Institutions in so small measure. For minorities service she was conferred the Pro Ecclesia Et Pontificae by His Holiness Pope Paul VI in 1967. Another plus point, she was a good orator and put this ability to proper use. But friends these are all earthly achievements for which she has received praise and applause. The Lord is not going to question her on this but will instead put the following questions:

1. Did you care for my poor, the sick and the marginalised? – YES
2. Did you do Corporal Works of mercy? – YES
3. Did you try to be a Role Model as friend, philosopher and guide? – YES
4. Did you strive for peace and harmony? – YES
5. Did you hold me up to those who do not know me? – YES

Then, friends surely she has heard her master say “Well done good and faithful servant, come take the place I have reserved for you”.

The last few years of her life as expected of all those her age were hard. Loneliness, pain, fatigue and helplessness were all part of her daily existence but from this situation too she drew strength. She prayed, heard daily mass on the T.V, she would introspect, forgive, ask for forgiveness and made her peace with God and man. This indeed was a great blessing from God. Many do not get this chance even to say

farewell.

As we stand around her mortal remains let us thank God for the good person that Aunty Otty was and for the good deeds that she has done. May He forgive her for all the faults that she has committed through human frailty. May her dear soul RIP.

Loy, Moira, Dorothy, George, Joan, Marie Therese, Joseph, Anna Marie, Eliza and all your dear families our heartfelt sympathies. We share your grief. There are going to be several memories of Mum around “Sea View” as you close up one more chapter in the book of life. May God be with you. We loved Aunty in life we will not forget her in death.

LIFE SUPPORT – BASIC AND ADVANCED

Talk at the CASK programme on 5th March, 2016

Dr. Christopher Pais, Professor of Medicine, Kasturba Medical College

Dr. Christopher Pais spoke about Life Support – basic as well as advanced, with a crisp power point presentation. He explained what is meant by brain death and brain stem death with the help of simple diagrams. The importance of communicating with the relatives of the patient was highlighted. He said the doctor has to take into account the religious ethics and the law of the land whenever the relatives want the patient to be off advanced life support. The doctor and the relatives alone cannot take decisions to stop advanced life support. Whenever the patient is unconscious and brain death is suspected, and the patient’s family is willing to donate the organs, the board of medical experts, as mentioned in the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, have to certify the patient brain dead before any organ is harvested for transplantation. Passive euthanasia is legal in case of brain death and in patients who are in a Persistent Vegetative State. However, this requires approval from the high court. He also mentioned the laws of the Catholic Church wherein it is stated that “Discontinuing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary, or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate where one does not will to cause death.”

LEAD US NOT INTO CLERICALISM

Daniel P. Horan OFM (courtesy – America – The National Catholic Review)

Next month I turn 30. While that might seem like an old age to me as I approach the milestone, most people are quick to remind me of how young a friar and priest I still am. That statement of fact is often, but not always, accompanied by some well-meaning remark by a parishioner after Mass or an audience member after a talk suggesting that I'm not like other "young priests" they know.

What generally follows that sort of comment is an expression of concern about the perceived unapproachable or pretentious character of so many of the newly ordained priests. They appear to be more concerned about titles, clerical attire, fancy vestments, distance between themselves and their parishioners, and they focus more on what makes them distinctive than on their vocation to wash the feet of others (Jn 13:14–17), to lead with humility and to show the compassionate face of God to all.

What concerns people, in other words, is clericalism.

What I hear in these moments is not so much a compliment or praise for me as the worry people have for the future of ministry. As St. Francis cautioned his brothers, I realize that anything good that comes from my encounters in the ministry is God's work, and the only things I can truly take "credit" for are my weaknesses and sinfulness (Admonition V). And, trust me, there are plenty of both in my own life. At the heart of this encounter is the intuitive recognition that we are all sinners, yet we all have equal dignity as the baptized, and that those ordained to the ministerial priesthood should serve their sisters and brothers on our journey of faith.

While I know many good and humble religious and diocesan priests, I've encountered far too many clergy who, for whatever reason, feel they are above, better or more special than others. Pope Francis also recognizes this and spoke critically about it in the impromptu interview he gave during his return trip from World Youth Day.

Catholic News Service reported the Pope's words: "I think this is a time for mercy," particularly a time when the church must go out of its way to be merciful, given the "not-so-beautiful witness of some priests" and "the problem of clericalism, for example, which have left so many

wounds, so many wounded. The church, which is mother, must go and heal those wounds.”

Pope Francis names this the culture of clericalism, which maims and distorts the body of Christ, wounding those who seek God’s mercy but instead encounter human self-centeredness.

In an interview published in **America** (9/30), Pope Francis suggested ministers could help heal these wounds with mercy. He said: “The most important thing is the first proclamation: Jesus Christ has saved you. And the ministers of the church must be ministers of mercy above all.”

St. Francis of Assisi is often remembered for having had a special reverence for priests, a characteristic that appears frequently in his writings. But he also had a particular vision for how the brothers in his community, ordained or not, would live in the world. His instruction seems as timely as ever in light of the persistence of clericalism.

In his *Earlier Rule* St. Francis says, “Let no one be called ‘prior,’ but let everyone in general be called a lesser brother.” He also wrote in Admonition XIX:

Blessed is the servant who does not consider himself any better when he is praised and exalted by people than when he is considered worthless, simple, and looked down upon, for what a person is before God, that he is and no more. Woe to that religious who has been placed in a high position by others and [who] does not want to come down by his own will. Blessed is that servant who is not placed in a high position by his own will and always desired to be under the feet of others.

All members of the clergy, not just Franciscans, should be challenged by these words.

Eight months into Pope Francis’ pontificate, I sense that he is challenging the whole church, but especially its ordained members, to a similar way of living. His call for humbler and more generous priests is a call to work against a culture of clericalism. It is a call for priests and bishops, young and old, to remember that their baptism is what matters most.

Fr Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M., is the author of several books, including the ‘The Last Words of Jesus: A Meditation on Love and Suffering’. This article on Clericalism was written soon after the Pope attended the International Youth Congress in Rio de Janeiro in 2013, where he first used the term ‘clericalism’.

MIND OVER MATTER

Veronica Shearer, Morpeth-UK

Who am I? “Sit comfortably on this chair and close your eyes” said my therapist to me. I dutifully obeyed.”Now think to yourself, who are you?” I began to think. Who am I apart from being someone’s mother, sister, wife, beyond my appointments, my connections, my duties, my titles and my roles? We are a sum of our changing parts – mind and body but who we intrinsically are, remains the same. But what makes me unique? I soon realised that who I *am* and what I *do* are two completely separate things. The Talmud says that we see things as we are and not as they are. We see in others what is in us. What I most dislike in others is actually my greatest fault. Beauty, they say, is in the eyes of the beholder. How true that cliché is! But I still am no closer to understanding who I am.

To confuse the issue even further, the media colours our vision for us. We believe what we see on the screen and read in the newspapers; we believe what we hear on the radio, forgetting that we are getting it from the reporter’s perspective. We hear of horrendous acts of terror, rape, man’s inhumanity to man. Our senses are repulsed and we feel helpless and hopeless. But try sitting in a room alone. Close your eyes and think about the present moment, you will be transported to a different world. You were made in God’s image. You are God’s breath. Let us therefore try and stay in this world for just a few moments and savour the peace and comfort of being in His arms. With each breath as we inhale and exhale, God’s presence becomes more apparent. Jews don’t take the name of God in vain. They just refer to Him/ Her as *Yahweh*. This is actually the sound that our breath makes when we inhale and then exhale. . . .*Yah* . . .*weh*. If we just concentrate on our body and our breathing instead of letting our mind wander into dangerous territory, we will be filled with new energy. The mind will certainly take us away again into imagined hurts, imagined feelings of despair, when we begin to think of the nasty world around us. So bring yourself back to your body and your breath, because the mind can become our enemy if we allow it to. “What if. . . .?”, “If only. . . .” “I should have”, I “could

have” thoughts race through our minds and push us further into a spiral of desperateness and emptiness.

Who am I? I am God’s creation. I must reject the temptation of becoming a victim to my never-ending thoughts, feelings and repetitive behaviour. Such negative thoughts are self-destructive and we distance ourselves from the rest of the world as we blame them for our problems. This self-absorption leads to loneliness and further gloom and doom. So let us shake ourselves out of ourselves and concentrate on serving others. I happen to be writing this on Maundy Thursday when Jesus not only instituted the Eucharist but by his example showed us that SERVICE to others is the name of the game. Not feathering our own nests but restoring human dignity in our neighbour is what Christianity is all about. Human trafficking in all its forms is a proof that human beings can go to any lengths for their own pleasure. We too could be in this category of we don’t respect those who serve us. It is all a matter of degree. Good and evil are two sides of the same coin as are left and right, suffering and joy. A lotus grows out of mud. We too can make a garden with the dung that is thrown at us. There is no need for tit for tat or revenge; we can transform all our crosses into little Easters, since what we don’t transform, we transmit onto others. If we listen to our hearts and the pain within, we can recognise the pain in others. We must accept our suffering as Jesus embraced His cross. Only the practice of Mindfulness will help us in this transformative experience.

Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese Buddhist monk who was a great proponent of Mindfulness, says that it is like Phoenix rising from the ashes when you transform your pain and sorrow into peace and joy and turn the energy of anger into the energy of compassion. This is one of the outcomes of Mindfulness.

The Mindfulness programme has almost become a necessity in the rough and tumble of today’s world. I am not going to dwell on it too much as the internet is full of interesting aspects of this form of meditation. Courses on Mindfulness are run all over the world, nearly every state in the US has thousands of such courses and more than 30 countries all over the world have jumped on the Mindfulness bandwagon. Maybe the city of Mangalore has courses available and if not, maybe you could

start one. Mindfulness not only reduces stress and cures depression; it is also used to relieve pain. Through being mindful of the PRESENT, the here and now . . . my body, not my mind, what I see rather than what I am thinking about, makes us get rid of the EGO which wants us always to be right or feel superior. We empty our minds, get rid of negative thoughts and simply be present to the God who made us.

The Easter mysteries should teach us the Thomas Merton way, “to suffer without reflection, without hate, suffer with no hope of revenge or compensation, suffer without being impatient for the end of suffering.” (NO Man Is An Island by Thomas Merton) A piece in today’s newspaper brought tears to our eyes. A Muslim shopkeeper in Glasgow left a message on Twitter wishing his Christian brothers a Happy Easter. By the time this message went viral, he was stabbed, his head was smashed in and he later died in hospital - he was just forty years old. Asad Shah had given his life for peace and reconciliation. He didn’t proclaim himself a martyr but in his love for his fellow man, had actually become a martyr.

So to return to my original question, ‘Who am I?’ What I do and what I say, who I am in society, the size of my bank balance and the rest of the outward and superficial aspects of my life is not who I am; even what is written on my gravestone does not reflect who I am. But It is what is in my soul that matters. Did I truly live in God and allow God to live in me? The Muslim shopkeeper in Glasgow certainly did.

BELIEVE(14)

By: Dreamcatcher

His name was Sandy Greenberg. In his youth, Sandy was a very good student, but he came from a poor family. Going to college was a hardship, but through much hard work got into the prestigious Columbia University of New York winning a scholarship. Here he met his roommate who was also receiving financial aid

Now while Sandy was in his second year at Columbia University, he contracted an eye disease that eventually proved to be glaucoma. The trouble was, it wasn’t detected early enough, and as a result he

became legally blind. He could not see, which meant he could no longer read.

Columbia being an Ivy League school was very competitive. Students had no time for others. As he was coping with blindness, something surprising happened to Sandy. His caring room mate started reading him his textbooks every night. This was a very selfless act. Through his room mate's reading help, Sandy went on to graduate with honors. He also received a full scholarship to study at Oxford, where he became a Marshall Scholar. He was still quite poor, but had managed to save some money from his scholarship.

His roommate, meanwhile, graduated from Columbia and went on to graduate school. One day, Sandy got a call from him at Oxford. He said, "Sandy I'm really unhappy. I really don't like being in graduate school, and I don't want to do this."

So Sandy asked, "Well what do you want to do?"

His roommate told him, "Sandy, I really love to sing. I have a high school friend who plays the guitar. And we would really like to try our hand in the music business. But we need to make a promo record, and in order to do that I need \$500."

So without hesitation, Sandy Greenberg took all his life savings and sent it to his roommate.

You probably want to know who Sandy's roommate was?

Sandy's roommate was a fellow by the name of Art Garfunkel, and his high school friend with the guitar was Paul Simon. The \$500 from Sandy helped them cut a record that eventually became "The Sound of Silence." Subsequently Simon and Garfunkel played to a packed audience of half a million people in 1981 at New York City's Central Park.

Art and Sandy's friendship remained steadfast through the years. Sandy became a successful tech entrepreneur and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the National Science Board. Recently, Art Garfunkel had the pleasure of singing at Sandy's daughter's wedding as he walked her down the aisle.

Sandy Greenberg and Art Garfunkel are principals in a campaign

known as End Blindness by 20/20. In this charity, they have put up \$2 million in gold for the individual, group, or institution that contributes most to eradicating blindness by the year 2020.

When most people think of Art Garfunkel, they not only think of him as half the duo Simon & Garfunkel; they think of him as the singer of “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” which includes the lyrics “I’ll take your part/ when darkness comes/ and pain is all around.” Appropriately enough, you can now also think of Garfunkel as a major player in the fight against blindness.

Just when the caterpillar thought its world was ending, it turned into a beautiful butterfly - Proverb

SIX WOMEN AWARDEES ON THE OCCASION OF EUROPEAN DAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS

Flavia Agnes, Majlis-Mumbai

Each of the five women awarded on the occasion of European Day of the Righteous, which was held on March 8, 2016 this year to coincide with International Women’s Day in Milan, Italy, had a heroic story that needs to be told. Some had died a long time ago, others were alive and struggling, but the common thread that bound them together was the courage of the ordinary woman to defend her beliefs, and the dignity and rights of others.

Azucena Villaflor (1924-1977) fearlessly pursued the path of truth and justice and paid for it with her life. Eight months into Argentina’s military dictatorship, on November 30, 1976, when her son was kidnapped by the military, she started on this dangerous journey. Soon the realization dawned on her that only a collective struggle could force the government to respond. So she formed the Association of Mothers of Disappeared Children and on April 30, 1977, she along with 13 other mothers met at the city centre of Buenos Aires, bringing the protest right to the gates of power. It had a huge symbolic and political significance.

On December 10, 1977, International Human Rights Day, the association published the names of their missing children in a newspaper.

The same night, Azucena along with other members of the association was abducted and taken to a torture chamber where they were drugged and stripped, and then put on a flight and thrown into the sea. Later these came to be known as “death flights”. Their bodies washed ashore a few months later, but the DNA analyses confirming their identity could only be conducted 28 years later, when democracy returned to Argentina. Her daughter, Cecilia De Vincenti, who received the award on behalf of her mother, shared with the audience this poignant story.

Felicia Bartolotta (1916-2004) was married to a farmer in 1947 and the following year her elder son Peppino was born. During a brief stint in prison, her husband developed links with the local mafia. Her husband’s brother-in-law, the godfather of the village in Sicily, was killed by a rival group in a car bomb. Her husband then developed links with the new godfather and that is when trouble started as Felicia refused to entertain the mafia gang leader.

Peppino, then 15, became a political activist and started protesting against the mafia. He broke up with his father, got involved in Left-wing political activism along with a group of young boys. When she learnt that he had written an article about the mafia in the mouthpiece of the Left group, she went around town collecting copies and destroying them. (Giovanni, her younger son, who received the award on behalf of his mother, told the audience, “You cannot imagine what Sicily was like in the 1960s.”)

When his activism became more intense, she did not have the courage to go and listen to his speeches, but would get a glimpse of what he said from his friends and asked them to convince him not to talk about the mafia. When her husband was killed in a bizarre accident, Felicia knew that her son’s days were numbered. On May 9, 1978, her worst fears came true when the battered body of her son was found. When her only surviving son, Giovanni, started unearthing the murder mystery and demanding justice, Felicia took over. “Since I am old they cannot do to me what they can do to you,” she reasoned with him. The trial, which went on for several years with the inquiry being closed and reopened several times, finally concluded after 22 years.

During the trial, Felicia had pointed with a firm voice at the person

who had masterminded her son's murder and his henchman who had carried it out. It was not revenge she was seeking but justice. She always told the young people who came to visit her after a movie on Peppino was made, "Keep standing with a straight spine".

Halima Bashir, a young doctor in Darfur, Sudan, lives in exile, in hiding. Since her life is still in danger, she could not attend the ceremony and was represented by the Sudanese community in Milan, who stood apart with their flowing printed robes and bright head scarves.

When the war broke out in 2004, Dr Bashir's patients in the village hospital included girls who had been raped by the government's militia. Dr Bashir spoke out to explain that the reality on ground was much more complex than what the Sudanese authorities would have the international community believe. She was threatened and sent to a remote hospital miles away from the media glare. However, when a school close to the hospital was attacked and several young girls raped, Dr Bashir, who had attended to them, was asked by the United Nations officials to testify. She did so with devastating consequences — imprisonment, gangrape and torture. On her release, Dr Bashir escaped to the United Kingdom and sought asylum as a refugee. In an interview to a newspaper, she said that she had no regrets about reporting the horrendous abuse committed by the Sudanese authorities on the children of Darfur. Her book '**Tears of the Desert**', was published recently.

Vian Dakhil (1971) is also young and holds an important post — she's the only Yazidi woman member of the Iraqi Parliament. She too could not be present as her car met with an accident when she was on her way to the airport. She sent a message from the hospital bed. On August 5, 2014, when she gave a passionate call in Parliament on behalf of Yazidis trapped in the mountains of Sinjar, where the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria was committing genocide, she made international news headlines. She had warned then that without immediate intervention of the international community there would be large-scale massacre.

Sonita Alizadeh (1996) - the youngest awardee was, the 20-year-old Afghan rapper who survived several attempts by her parents to marry her off to the highest bidder. In an Iranian refugee camp she learnt to write and secretly composed a rap song, **Dokhtar Foroshi**

(Children on sale), to denounce forced child marriages. Her song was a hit and, in October 2015, it was shared at the Women in the World Summit in London. She now lives in the United States and is continuing her studies. Due to her exam schedule she too could not come.

That leaves yours truly, the only one who was present in person to receive the honour. I was dwarfed by the towering presence of the absent women. As the Mayor of Milan, dedicated a tree to each of us in the “garden of the righteous” at an impressive ceremony, the message was loud and clear — International Women’s Day is an ode to the extraordinary courage of ordinary women.

Flavia Agnes is a women’s rights activist and lawyer, whose articles regularly appear in ‘Mangalore’. CASK congratulates her on this prestigious award and wishes her continued success in the cause of women’s issues and empowerment.

APRIL FOOLS: WHAT KIND OF A FOOL ARE YOU?

Matilda Pinto

A couple of days more and it will be time to fool one another as is done across the world. You may send someone on an errand that doesn’t exist or congratulate someone on an award that hasn’t been conceived. In fact, April is a ridiculous month – the time for mischief and merry-making. At the turn of the season from winter to spring, for no particular reason, the world turns into a paradise for fools which is quite alright in itself. If one is inclined to make a fool of himself/herself, I’d commend him/her and say that he/she is welcome to do so. But my only reservation is for those who cross the mean and try their pranks on folks who have neither the appetite nor the wisdom to stomach it.

Would you believe it, if I were to tell you that it all began with Pope Gregory XIII of Rome? In 1528, he had ordered the new Gregorian Calendar to replace the old Julian one. In the new calendar, the New Year was slotted to begin on January 1st as against the turn of season from winter to spring. Around the 1st of April that is. Human nature being what it is, folks were divided – nay, ‘polarized’ - over the rescheduling of the New Year. Those who said, ‘Aye’ made fools of

those who said, 'Nay'. Often, they sent them on foolish errands and tricked them endlessly. However, going by the claims made by history the 'Ayes' who thought themselves wise ought to concede defeat. The Gregorian Calendar became the order of the day only by about 1752 and Europe is believed to have had fools who kept up the day way prior to the claim of the Gregorians.

Or did it begin with Emperor Constantine? Legend has it that his jocular court jesters told him that they could do a better job of running the empire. Amused, the king passed the baton to a jester named Kugal for a day. Kugal lost no time in passing an edict asking everyone to be at his absurd best on the day. And then on, we have had the Fools Day, not merely confined to Rome, but the globe. We Indians have our Holi, the Jews their Purim, all in April. The French have their Poisson d'Avril or April Fish day. The French children are known to post pictures of fish on the back of an unsuspecting victim. He is then led around for everyone to see and they call out, 'April Fool' on his discovering he has been made a fool of.

On the flip side, a prank meant for lighthearted foolery can turn into a nightmare if it is not reigned in. A communal or a racial prank is never palatable. But one where a ten-rupee coin is glued to the road expecting a miserly neighbour to pry it out while pretending to tie his shoe lace is a harmless and a common one.

Regardless of where the fool comes from, it is what he does which is a matter of concern. If the intent behind his gag is only to spark laughter and not make a scapegoat of someone, it adds to the mirth of the day. On the contrary, there was an old grandma in her late eighties, hard of hearing and poor in sight, who was taken for a ride by her grandson in disguise. He had her believe that he was a cop who had come to serve her summons to present herself at the local police station. A lady who had never been beyond the brook in her village broke into a cold sweat before placing her thumb impression on the warrant. As a parting shot he added that her asthmatic husband was already behind bars as the prime suspect for a murder not committed. It was heart rending to watch a confused grandma meekly defend her husband with stories of his virtuous life. Luckily for the grandson, she wasn't a cantankerous lady or he'd been at the receiving end when the lid was

blown off the prank.

The worst fool of all is the one who believes and expects others to believe that he is able, affable, efficient, intelligent, powerful, sought after, successful, wealthy, and wise, attributes which have always dodged him. To the opinionated, everyday is a fool's day and the world begins to decry him. Nevertheless, he climbs the pedestal demanding to be heard, seen and applauded. His fall, when it comes, will be the hardest of all falls, with not even the company of fools for consolation.

On the other hand, a companionable fool is one who evokes laughter rather than derision and ill will. The ultimate fool is he who places himself in a bind rather than pick on the gullible. It doesn't always work though. I remember having read the story of a boy strolling through a cemetery and reading the inscriptions on the tombstones. He came to one which declared, "Not dead, but sleeping." After contemplating the phrase for a moment, the boy rolled his eyes and exclaimed, "He sure ain't fooling nobody, but himself."

All the same, the world shouldn't discount fools. Life would be a humdrum affair without them. Prof. Boskin of the University of Boston, speaking of court jesters said, "In those times fools were really wise men. It was the role of jesters to put things in perspective with humour." May their tribe multiply. Have a great Fools Day. And the prize always goes to a witty fool willing to be fooled.

JUST TAKE CARE OF MY EYES DEAR

There was a blind girl who hated herself just because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her. She said that if she could only see the world, she would marry her boyfriend.

One day, she received a donated pair of eyes. This was a whole new world for her. She could see everything, including her boyfriend. Her boyfriend asked her, "Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?"

The girl was shocked when she saw that her boyfriend was blind too, and refused to marry him. Her boyfriend walked away in tears, and later wrote a letter to her saying: "*Just take care of my eyes dear.*"



TRIBUTE TO SANDRA ANNA

Shyla Crasta (Aunt)

Sandra was an embodiment of unconditional love, faith and sacrifice. A person you and I could look upto in our own tiring moments of life. Hence deep down I felt, we have forgotten to thank God and praise Him for blessing us with one of His most

beautiful creations.

Oliver is grateful to you Lord, for the blessings he received of Osanna, Denvor and Arlene through Sandra.

Osanna, Denvor, Arlene and Claude deep down from their hearts say in thanks and praise. ‘Risen Lord, we Hail you for the most beautiful gift you gave us in Mummy. We thank you Jesus for being Mummy’s strength from the day she was born till you took her into your kingdom. We now ask You to be our source of strength’.

Lord Jesus the rest of us and myself unitedly praise You, thank You for the blessing of Sandra in our lives.

Ending this prayer service by saying Sandra’s prayer of faith

“Jesus is Lord now and forever
Now and forever Jesus is Lord”

With the most radiant of smiles, an epitome of love and unflagging vitality- this mother surpasses description. This amazing Zumba Fitness instructor with unfailing faith and indefatigable positivity even while undergoing chemo treatment, is a huge source of strength and motivation for all who know her. Proud of you Mom...feel truly blessed!

From your loving daughter Arlene

The song has ended but the melody lingers on.... Sandra Anna

On her face you would always see a smile. She was elegant with impeccable style. Full of ideas, a perfectionist to the core, Her Zumba classes had people coming back for more. Her fitness mantra was a motivation to us all. She fought her illness and always stayed strong. Through all our shows, she was by our side - as a makeup artist, a costume designer and a guide. Of her talents and abilities, we can write a long list. Her contribution to this town will be greatly missed.

A Tribute from Ramona Mathias

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SANDRA ANNA

Nayana Fernandes

Sandra Anna lived life to the fullest
Celebrating the strength of a woman
A beautiful soul..... gone too soon
A wonderful person..... in heart, mind and soul
Elegant, Talented Competent and Loved..... An inspiration to all.
Sandra touched our lives by her ideals, values and impeccable style.
Her energy and her professionalism left us spell bound and in awe.
Super positivity was her inner strength Special in every way .
Her smile was infectious beaming with radiance.
Sandra fought adversity with divine Constance
Smiling through pain
Never dispelling the anguish of what lies beyond
Her love enduring the walls of separation
May she remain in our hearts frozen in time for her Beauty, Elegance
and Strength .
She was truly an Inspiration.
At 40, Sandra let her spirit soar,
She pursued and accomplished her dream
She trained in Ballroom dancing, fitness, Zumba, Makeup and reached her Zenith
Setting up a world class studio ‘ The Art of Dance’ in Mangalore.
Her contagious passion for fitness consumed us all .
An unmatched choreographer and a flawless performer .
Sandra absorbed the concept and delivered an enthralling display of
talent making us all stars on stage.
Sandra once asked

“How many of you know, you have just that much time to be here on earth”
“I am at peace amongst all this uncertainty, “living one day at a time” .
Such was the magnanimity of this beautiful person Sandra Anna.
CASK whole heartedly appreciates Sandra’s colossal contribution to
our centenary functions and fund raisers.
Every time you look in the sky and in a twinkling of an eye,
you spot a dancing star that’s our Superstar Sandra in the Sky



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE
ARTHUR C. PINTO
OCTOBER, 2, 1953 - FEBRUARY 16, 2016



Dr. Arthur C. Pinto of Fairfield, CT (USA) passed away on February 16, 2016 with his family at his side at Bridgeport Hospital after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 62 years old, born on October 2, 1953 in Mangalore, India and was the youngest of five children born to the late Judith and Ralph Pinto. He attended medical school at St. Johns National

Academy of Sciences in Bangalore, India. He completed his training at Bridgeport Hospital, Vanderbilt University and Kings College in London, and has worked at Bridgeport and St. Vincent's Hospitals for over 32 years. He was former Chief of Urology at Bridgeport Hospital. Arthur devoted his life to caring for others and as a skilled surgeon and dedicated clinician, he was often his patients' greatest advocate. He was an esteemed colleague and loyal friend. He always had a ready smile, was warm, charismatic and devoted to his family. He was the epitome of a gentleman and was loved by those that knew him and will be greatly missed. Arthur in his youth was a ranked tennis player. He was an avid golfer, loved skiing, and collected art and antiques. He cherished his family and is survived by

Brothers: Patrick Pinto (Veronica), Dr. Edward Pinto (Dr. Marguerite);
Sisters: Rita Gonsalves, Daphne Fickes (Dr. Michael) and Thelma Pinto; **Nieces and Nephews:** Dr. Christina Pinto (Ira) and Lisa Pinto; Dr. Michelle Pinto Kittleson (Kurt); Dr. Nirmala Gonsalves (Dr. Steven); Dr. Michael Fickes and Sarah Fickes, Roy Pinto, Margaret Mitchell (Ian) and Mario Pinto (Judith), Dr. Ralph Pinto (Bernadette) and Claude Pinto (Regina); **Grand Nieces & Nephews:** Noah; Martin and Conrad; Sonali, Kiran and Devan; Hamish and Michael (Jr); Rachel and Krystal; Tricia and Nayan; Nicole, Naomi and Caitlin

HOMILY FOR THE MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL FOR DR. ARTHUR PINTO

*Fr. Joseph A. Prince, Pastor, St. Elizabeth Seton Church,
Ridgefield, CT, USA*

Moses, Jesus and an old man went golfing. Moses teed off, and his ball went down a waterway, the water parted, and the ball rolled across within four inches of the cup. Jesus, then, teed off, and the ball hit near the water, skipped across on top of it and came within two inches of the cup. The old man teed off next, and the ball went crooked, hit a tree and bounced. A squirrel picked it up and ran with it across the green. An eagle swooped down, caught the squirrel, flew high up into a thunderstorm and got struck by lightning, which made him drop the squirrel. The squirrel dropped the ball, which hit a terrapin and rolled into the cup. Jesus said, "Nice shot, Dad."

St. Paul in his letter to Timothy says: "I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, I have kept the faith. And now, there is waiting for me the prize of victory awarded for a righteous life."

Arthur Pinto has clearly shown us that there is no excuse for not running the race of life. In baptism, we are called to join the faith-race, where the finish line is just the beginning of our life in Christ. Arthur has finished the race; kept his faith and merited the awaited crown of glory. Winning isn't everything. St. Paul testifies that he "has finished the race," not that he has won. For some, in the worldly sense, life does not have a happy ending. But, one should still strive to finish. A believer in Christ, doesn't set out to 'run the great race of faith,' with a mind to quit halfway. That's the advice, Arthur would like to impart to all of us.

"To finish the race!" What is involved in this? If you listen carefully to the commentaries on the world series, super bowls, world tennis, four words representing important sports-concepts keep cropping up: **groove, ambition, momentum & enthusiasm.** They are easy to remember, for they form the acronym: "**GAME.**"

Groove: Each of our lives revolves basically around a certain question or theme or what used to be called "life verse." Each of us has one theme with many variations; one conflict with many skirmishes; one chord played in a variety of keys. In short, each one of us has a particular

groove. When we are in the groove, there is robust engagement with life. Life is lush with fulfillment and can be lived full throttle. Arthur, undoubtedly, stayed in his groove. Each one of you can come up with stories to substantiate this.

Ambition: In the athletic jargon, ambition means 'desire.' Jesus said: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." In a world where there are constant spiritual showdowns between hope and despair, love and hatred, faith and doubt, we are modest about exclaiming and proclaiming what we believe: that our faith, hope and love come from the Lord. That was Arthur's driving desire. That was his true ambition. The Lord whom he loved so dearly satisfied his hunger with a blessedness that Arthur graciously shared with us all. Now, Arthur is invited to the blessedness of eternal life.

Momentum: Once we have found the groove and fit in, and once we feel the desire and ambition, we've got to keep the momentum going. Once we are well into the race, we begin to sweat, lose confidence and courage. Jitters of self-doubt must not cause us to stop or look back, once we have begun the race. God blesses our best. No matter how weak of body and weary of mind, we must avoid being thrown off stride. Could anyone or anything try to stop Arthur Pinto?

Enthusiasm: Nothing is accomplished in this world without enthusiasm. Enthusiasm, if given an inch, will take the universe. Passion tempered with sensitivity is an alloy of feelings. The world needs people with passion, with triumphant spirits. It needs the excitement of enthusiasm. A people excited about their faith are exciting to be around. There was never a dull moment where and when Arthur was around.

Arthur Pinto was an avid golfer. There is a plaque with these words on Arnold Palmer's office wall. **"If you think you are beaten, you are. If you think you dare not, you don't. If you'd like to win but think you can't, it's almost certain you won't. Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or faster man. But sooner or later, the man who wins is the man who thinks he can."**

Arthur Pinto strongly believed that, with the help of God - he could. And he did! Arthur, rest in peace!

EULOGY DELIVERED BY NIMI GONSALVES, MD

I am Nimi, Arthur's eldest niece and even though Arthur was not my father, he was the closest thing to a father that I have ever known. It is an honor for me to speak on behalf of our family and share some memories of Uncle Arthur. Let me start by thanking you all for joining us in this celebration of the life of a truly amazing man. It is evident by looking around this room how beloved my uncle was.

He would want this to be a celebration and not a somber affair because that's who he was. He would say, there's no use in being sad, remember the happy times and move on. He would tell us not to sweat the small stuff, to breathe and just let it go. So I'm going to take a breath and share with you some of my memories of my uncle.

Arthur always strived to live life with meaning and purpose. He did not believe in false pretense or saying things just to say them. He believed in making a difference in this world and being honest and just. His life was the epitome of the American dream. He came to the US at age 23 with a passion for medicine, the love of his family and a desire to make a difference. His life became quite the success story. He was the hardest worker I know and worked tirelessly improving himself both as a physician and in other aspects of his life.

He wanted to be the best at anything he did, because anything less was just not good enough. He was constantly striving to be a better surgeon, to not only do the surgeries well, but to get his patients home the same day. This applied to other areas of life as well. Whether it was tennis, golf or skiing, when he practiced a skill, he wanted to master it. What Indian do you know who takes up skiing as an adult and ends up a black diamond skier?

Arthur had an infectious personality that drew people to him. He was witty and charismatic and had an incredible way of putting people at ease. He had a way of making acquaintances feel like friends and friends feel like family. Anyone who has come to a Thanksgiving at my mom's house in New Jersey has probably witnessed what I mean. It can be a madhouse and to anyone who is not family, I've heard it can be pretty intimidating and overwhelming. Arthur always seemed to know when someone felt uncomfortable, could take them under his

wing and make them feel welcome and at ease. He loved this Thanksgiving tradition and had a ball telling jokes with his brothers and making others laugh. His smile and laughter was infectious and something I will always remember.

He was adventurous and fearless and always up for a challenge. I remember visiting him in Boston and he took me sailing on the Charles. Some crazy storm was brewing and the coast guard was calling in all the boats but Arthur was happily taking us out in the sunfish, stating that a good sailor never shied away from a few small waves.

Arthur was incredibly devoted to our family and their well-being was the most important thing to him. He tried to protect all of us whenever he could - he was the rock that we all relied on and the glue that held us together. Even though he did not like to ask anyone for help, he was moved and humbled by the love, support and assistance his brothers and sisters provided to him during these recent difficult times. He cherished his siblings tremendously and this was evident. He carried on his mother's legacy of keeping our family close and his greatest wish was that this would continue after he was gone.

Despite all his strengths, Arthur had one serious downfall and that was his singing. He loved to sing in Church but could not hold a tune. He and my grandmother would always say the louder you sing, the better God has a chance of hearing you. I can just picture them both up there right now singing at the top of their lungs. Arthur was deeply rooted in his faith in God and lived his life in this context. He took comfort in this faith and was not afraid of his next journey.

He tackled his disease like he did his life-with courage, determination and pragmatism. No matter how sick he felt, he was kind to his doctors, nurses and all who entered his room. He was a true gentleman and an inspiration and example of an individual that we could all strive to be. Someone had mentioned that Arthur thought he would be forgotten over time. While he has certainly left a hole in our hearts that we can't possibly fill, his spirit will always be with us. Because it is clear to me looking around this room that Arthur has touched the lives of so many people and that the world is truly a better place because of him. Our family is a better family because of him, and I am a better person because

of him. I mentioned that he was a success story-it is because of this impact on others that he achieved the greatest success in life. It is evident in the love, respect and admiration of those that surrounded him. Arthur, we love you and will miss you every day until we see you again. On behalf of our family, I thank all of you who are here today and showed Arthur your kindness and love throughout the years.

REMEMBRANCE BY OTTO RAEBIGER, A CLOSE FRIEND

This is a very sad moment, thinking about our loss of a very good friend. But instead of feeling sad, let's be thankful that his suffering is over - the last few months were quite difficult. Thankfully, religion played a great role in Arthur's life. He had a very deep faith during his final days. He told me he prayed very hard for his health, but if it was not to be, to let his suffering be for some other greater good.

He was a remarkable man. He had so many qualities - it is hard to know where to start! As a professional, he was accomplished and well respected. To him Medicine was not only a profession but a CALLING. He was the first to offer help in any situation - very giving of himself. It seems to be a family trait! We all knew Arthur to be a good Golfer and Tennis player. But not all know that at the age of 9, he was a top rated Tennis player in India. Quite the athlete! And now you know why he won so many Golf and Tennis tournaments. He was a natural athlete. Highly disciplined in every aspect of his life.

It has been my pleasure to know the Pinto Family for about 20 years - all 5 Children - and if all will excuse my expression, to me he was the PICK of The Litter! We developed a friendship over the years that not only grew but to use a term he was fond of, was SOLID. He never disappointed me. We travelled quite a bit together especially in France. So much so, that my grandson wanted to know if he was their cousin! Everyone who met Arthur no matter the length of time, remembered him. He made a positive impression on everyone he met and what amazed me was that he never forgot the name of anyone. He had total recall. A brilliant mind. He was one of the finest persons I have ever known. He was my friend. He will be remembered. He will be missed! Dr. Arthur Claude Pinto - "WHAT A GUY" Keep a slot open for me Arthur.

(Sponsored)



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SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES WILL BE CONDUCTED AT BABYLAND FOR CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 3 AND 13 YEARS., from April 11th onwards. Registration started.

For details call 9845274042

MUSIC AND LITURGICAL CHOIR CREATES LOVE, PEACE AND HARMONY

F. M. Lobo

The Bible tells us about the Parable of the Talents. Many of us have special skills and talents. It is our bounden duty to unleash these God given talents to use for greater glory of God and serve humanity. Music and Singing is one of the instruments to praise the Lord and spread love, peace, laughter, harmony and joy. Musicians are creative people. Music promotes love, peace and harmony between God and man. All of us know that soft melodious music has a harmonious effect on man. Music has a calming effect on the patient. Even animals, trees, plants, paddy etc. appreciate music. Research and Development (R&D) studies, show positive results. Music brings us joy and happiness, it can also stir love and compassion. Music will spiritually lift us and inculcate in us the message of love. Even the hard hearted man can be changed or moved by soft melodious music. Music washes away from the soul, everyday troubles.

Over the years in Mangalore, many organizations, institutions, student groups and social workers regularly organized entertainment programmes for the benefit of the elderly, the sick, the disabled and the disadvantaged groups. While I play the violin, Prof. Antony Mariadoss plays the Keyboard. My children Fiona, Ian, Delia, Julia, Verina from “Sangeeth Vihar”, Bejai, would join in entertaining the inmates with music and games. The inmates of the Homes would be bubbling with joy and happiness and would be anxiously waiting to have another such occasion. Music will definitely bring joy, peace and happiness to all of us especially in our families.

I must say, we the parishioners of Bejai Church are fortunate to have a well trained Konkani choir under the able leadership of choir master - Mr. Ivan Mascarenhas, who has a special devotion to the cause of music. Finally it is team-work and blending of voices along-with the accompaniment of the organ and the violins that gives a special touch to the choir. Going back to 1940s and 1950s, I fondly recall our school master - Mr. C.U. Pinto (Shipa Maestry) who played the violin

melodiously which has imprinted a mark on all of us musicians.

The organ at Bejai Church has an interesting story. This organ was originally ordered in 1931 for St Mary's Church, Mazagaon-Mumbai but it was felt that it was too small for the Mazagaon Church. Mr L.X. Rego, a prominent Mangalorean in Mumbai then contacted his sister – Mrs Nympha Lobo of Bejai and explored the possibility of donating the organ to Bejai Church. The beautiful Organ was donated by Mr. & Mrs. B.F. Lobo and their son Eustace on Ascension Day. Eustace Lobo was also a member of the choir during the 40's, 50's & 60's. The cost of this beautiful organ was just Rs. 100/-. As on date this particular organ is one of the best instruments we have in the Diocese. This organ when played by good and seasoned musicians brings about sweet sonorous and melodious music. Our Parish Priests including the present one Fr. Wilson D'Souza and all the Assistants take lot of interest in the choir and motivate the Choir members. I am proud to say that the present choir members sing reverently, joyfully with all their hearts, soul and their might. May their tribe increase!

POINTS TO PONDER – MARCH-APRIL 2016

Norbert Shenoy

Brand – Myth or Reality - The Curious Case of King Fisher

A lot has been said about Vijay Mallya's airline business misadventure that left the banks thousands of crores poorer. And now begins the blame game...

The buck is being passed from the now grounded airline to banks that lent and now to the Reserve Bank of India, whose corporate debt restructuring scheme in 2008 was seen as a signal to lenders to go easy on large corporate borrowings.

The latest to be caught in the ire are the rating agencies that overvalued the Kingfisher brand. In the eye of the storm is Grant Thornton India. The valuation agency assigned a huge value of Rs 41 billion to the KingFisher Airlines (KFA) brand back in 2010. What set

off the alarm, rather late in this case, is that the brand was valued much lower... at Rs 2 billion... by another rating agency in 2013. This agency was appointed by one of the lenders, namely, State Bank of India.

Both the Serious Fraud and Investigation Office and Central Bureau of Investigations have recently questioned the initial high valuation. The huge gap in the two valuations has sparked debate on the sanctity of brand valuation methods. Since the brand was used as a collateral, the overestimation of its value, is a big reason the lenders are in such a mess.

The brand or franchise value, is one of the most effective moats a company can have.

Warren Buffett swears by branded consumer goods companies such as Coca Cola, See's Candy, and Heinz. Strong brands are equipped with high power of association and recall value. This in turn imparts consumer loyalty and pricing power to a company's products. So branded consumer goods companies earn huge shareholder returns.

However, brands do not have a tangible existence on the balance sheet. And so its monetary value can only be known when the brand is revalued or sold, meaning a brand's value remains open to subjective assessment.

There is no doubt that companies with established brands can be great defensive investments even in volatile times. That's why, most of them trade at huge valuations. But sometimes the high valuations are driven more by perception rather than the underlying fundamentals. And that's why the stocks of some of these companies tend to offer a low margin of safety. One way to evaluate the brand is to assess whether the brand has helped to sustain and increase the company's return on capital over the long term. Following are some companies that have established strong brands and command high valuations given their high return on net worth.

Are branded consumer goods companies expensive?

Company Name	Return on Net worth (%)*	Trailing Twelve Months PE (times)
Britannia Industries Ltd.	59.4	45.7
Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd.	81.6	38.9
Dabur India Ltd.	37.2	50.8
Glaxosmithkline Consumer Healthcare Ltd.	29.7	35.8
Godrej Consumer Products Ltd.	20.5	63.1
Hindustan Unilever Ltd.	124.8	45.6
Marico Ltd.	25.3	46.1
Nestle India Ltd.	45.5	89.0
Page Industries Ltd.	58.0	58.5
Procter & Gamble Hygiene & Health Care Ltd.	31.0	49.4

Source: Ace Equity; * FY15 financials

Corporate Tax Rate in India - If India has to realize its dream of 'Make in India' then it needs to improve the ease of doing business in the country. One of the factors impacting business is the incidence of corporate taxes. The corporate taxes in India, at over 33%, are still higher than most of the other countries. However, this is only one side of the coin.

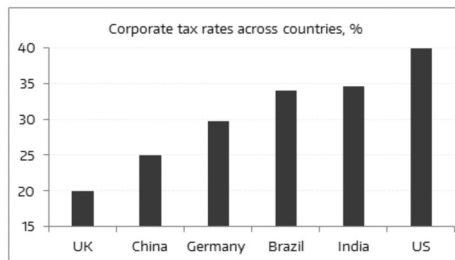
The average tax rate, in fact, works out to 24.67% due to various exemptions, incentives, and deductions availed by companies. The companies operating in the infrastructure, mining, IT and drugs and pharmaceuticals sectors are subject to lower effective tax rates on account of numerous deductions enjoyed by them.

To ensure that the corporate tax burden remains equitable, the government has laid down the framework of reducing corporate tax rates from 30% to 25% along with rationalization or phasing out of corporate tax exemptions. In the Union Budget 2016-17, the government is in active consideration of phasing out of tax incentives and exemptions.

Principal among them are, restricting the accelerated depreciation for IT companies to 40% from FY18 and limiting the deductions allowed for Research & Development to 150% from FY18 and to 100% from FY21 onwards. Since the additional revenues resulting from phasing out of exemptions would be available gradually, the government would be rationalizing the corporate tax rates in a staggered manner.

In the Union Budget 2016-17, the government has allowed new companies formed after 1st March 2016 to be taxed at 25% provided they do not claim any tax benefits. Additionally, small companies with turnover of less than Rs 50 million would be taxed at a lower rate of 29% from FY17 onwards. These measures are expected to bring down the corporate tax rates in gradual manner.

Indian Cos Continue to Face High Tax Burden



Technology; Enabler or Disruptor?

World's largest taxi company owns no taxis (Uber)

Largest accommodation provider owns no real estate (Airbnb)

Largest phone companies own no telecom infra (Skype, WeChat)

Most valuable retailer has no inventory (Alibaba)

Largest movie house owns no cinemas (Netflix)

Largest software vendors don't write the apps (Apple and Google)

The above messages commonly do the rounds on WhatsApp. But it does convey the kind of digital disruption (Schumpeter would have called it creative destruction) that is sweeping around us, leaving many companies worrying worldwide. The scope of digital business is literally forcing brick and mortar businesses to rethink their model. The entire risk-reward tradeoff of traditional businesses is being revisited.

Even the legendary investor Warren Buffett, who has not fancied Hi Tech companies, is worried that driverless cars will make GEICO's insurance policies redundant. You can write off such worries as farfetched, or look back in history to see what kinds of businesses were quick to succumb to massive technological upheaval...as well as the ones that survived. The emergence of new technologies has always had a disruptive effect on business and economy. Once well-known companies disappeared from the earth due to digital disruption. iDisrupted is a company that examines such digital disruptions. According to their research, of the top 100 global companies in 1912, 29 experienced bankruptcy within a few decades, and 48 had disappeared by 1995.

Eastman Kodak was one of just 19 companies to remain on the list during these years. But it too went bankrupt in the twenty-first century. The imaging solutions company suffered from the arrival of digital cameras and photo-sharing websites. Kodak foresaw the arrival of digital photography as early as the 1970s. But it took 30 years for the digital products to drive Kodak into bankruptcy.

Similarly, many thriving businesses of today could be heading for the corporate graveyard within the next few decades. India's manufacturing sector is in danger of losing a large chunk of business to robots. China is expected to have 430,000 robots by 2017. So to stay cost and technologically effective, Indian companies too may have to consider replacing traditional business with robots. Companies that continue to invest in their traditional model face the biggest risk of complacency and obsolescence. Energy, telecom, and retailing giants must rethink the focus of their incremental investments.

Digital disruption is bound to make a lot of businesses models irrelevant in a few years. With payment gateways, crowdfunding platforms, digital currencies and automated financial planners, financial sector is in for a gut wrenching overhaul. Branch-heavy public sector banks, brick and mortar retailing companies, travel and tourism companies, telecom and media giants, and software companies are just a few of the businesses that may have to reckon with their Kodak moment sooner than later. As an investor, one needs to examine whether the moats of one's favourite companies have the strength to withstand digital disruption.

NEWS & NOTES

BISHOPS OF INDIA PLEDGE TO CURB CLERICALISM AND LIVE SIMPLER LIVES



In a Press Release at the conclusion of the Biennial Plenary of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of India (CBCI) held at Bangalore March 2-9, 2016, Cardinal Baselios Cleemis of Trivandrum, President-CBCI said that the Church in India should avoid clericalism, reject extravagance by adopting a life of simplicity and promote a love of nature.

We should be “first and foremost, shepherds of their flock, available and service minded,” they said and added that Catholic bishops and priests in India “should be an example of simplicity and spirituality that can be an inspiration to everyone,”. The statement signed by the 178 bishops from 171 dioceses also proposed setting up “pastoral structures such as parish councils and finance committees” to promote administrative “transparency and accountability” at all levels of the church.

A simple lifestyle would mean “opening our houses and institutions to the poor” and “rediscovering the power of the Word of God and prayer,” the prelates said.

They also proposed “refashioning the formation of priests and religious” to help them respond to the “challenges of our times with faith and courage.”

The bishops noted Pope Francis' challenges “to be authentic in our Christian vocation by freeing ourselves from traditional structures, institutionalization and to break new ground, shedding the comforts and privileges of office and status.” The bishops urged all “people of goodwill in India” to join them in working for a “better church and better society.”

The Bishops listed some of the challenges facing society and the church, such as declining family values, growing consumerism, a lack of commitment to vocations, and ecumenism.

India's poverty, illiteracy, violations of constitutional rights of religious minorities and increasing religious extremism were national challenges, the bishops said.

Cardinal Cleemis said that the church in India is "responding positively to all these challenges with its mission of education and service to the poor. Our only response now would be to reaffirm our commitment to serve the nation,"

Responding to Pope Francis' call for an environmental commitment by the church, the bishops vowed "to go to the heart of environmental degradation and advocate education in ecological responsibility." They also want parishes to encourage the use of solar energy, bio-fuels, and harvest rainwater as well as encouraging organic farming and avoiding the use of plastics and pesticides.

FR DIONYSIUS VAS SJ APPOINTED NEW RECTOR OF ST ALOYSIUS INSTITUTIONS



Fr Dionysius Vas, SJ (52 years) has been nominated as the new Rector of St. Aloysius College Mangalore. He will be succeeding Fr Denzil Lobo, SJ who is completing his 3-year term in May 2016.

Fr Dionysius Vas hails from Mangalore and is an alumnus of St Aloysius College-Batch 1969. He was an excellent student, a very good athlete and hockey player, and a voracious reader.

His father was the post master of Hampakatta PO and his family used to reside at Falnir. Following his graduation, he went on to study psychology and counseling in USA. Upon his return to India, he was initially engaged in the training of young aspirants for priesthood. Later he was posted to Bijapur as the head of the Jesuit Mission work there and was engaged in social work and in projects for helping the poor. His last designation was that of Superior of Bijapur Jesuit Mission. The mission also runs a Pre University College and a Technical School.

CASK welcomes Fr Dionysius Vas as the Rector of St Aloysius Institutions and wishes him a fruitful tenure.

EMINENT ALOYSIAN ALUMNI AWARDS 2016

The Eminent Aloysian Awards 2016 were conferred on five distinguished Aloysians on 19th March 2016 at the Fr L.F.Rasquinha Hall, St Aloysius College :



1. Mr Thumbay Moideen – a successful NRI entrepreneur & educationist & Founder of the Thumbay Group-Dubai & the Gulf Medical University of United Arab Emirates. His business enterprises cover Health care and Diagnostic services, coffee shops & nutrition stores. Mr Thumbay Moideen delivered the Aloysian Conclave Address on 19th March 2016.



2. Mr Walter D'Souza - well-known cashew exporter/importer, Chairman - Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), Southern Region and Managing Partner of M/s Fernandes Brothers. He was also the former President of Karnataka Cashew Manufacturer's Association.



3. Professor B.S.Raman – a member of the teaching faculty of St Aloysius College for 35 years. He has authored more than 100 books on Commerce and Management and was instrumental in establishing the Business Management Department, Teacher's Credit Cooperative Society and the Staff Association



4. Dr K.Ullas Karanth – one of the world's foremost authorities on Tiger conservation. He is the Director of the USA based Wildlife Conservatiob Society-India Program. He is the recepiet of the Karnataka Rajyothsava Award and the Padma Sri for his outstanding contributions to Wildlife Conservation & Environment Protection.



5. Dr K.Padmanabha Rao - a software expert who has made noteworthy contributions towards the development of software to use Kannada language in computers. He is a contributor to the Free Software Foundation, Sourceforge, Wikipedia & Youtube in Language, Linguistics and Paleography.

CASK congratulates all the awardees and wishes them well.

FR RICHARD REGO SJ NOMINATED AS LEROUX CHAIR AT SEATTLE UNIVERSITY-USA



Prof. Fr Richard Rego, SJ from the Karnataka Jesuit Province has been named LeRoux Chair at the prestigious Seattle University, Washington, managed by American Jesuits. Fr Rego was until recently a faculty in the department of communication at St Joseph's College (Autonomous), Bangalore. Dr Rego holds a masters in communication and in film and television studies and is a PhD in Kannada films from Pune University. As the media professor at St Joseph's College he also served as Director of Post Graduate Studies and Research Centre of the College.

In January 2016, Fr Rego joined as Professor-Department of Film Studies, Seattle University. He is teaching a 5 credit course in Indian cinema as part of the University's international cinema program. Fr Rego points out that Indian cinema is not just the 'Bollywood', which accounts for only about 15% of Indian cinema. The bulk of the contribution to Indian cinema comes from the four South Indian Languages-Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu and in addition, Marathi and Bengali cinemas.

Fr Richard delivered the LeRoux Endowment Public Lecture on "Deconstructing Media-tion, Interrogating Modi-fication: Politics of Imaging Public Personalities" on March 2, 2016. He earlier taught journalism and mass communication at St Aloysius College (Autonomous), Mangalore, where he founded the post graduate department of mass communication and the campus-based community radio Sarang 107.8FM, which he ran 24x7, making it the only 24-hour community radio in the country. After his 12 years of teaching at St Aloysius College, Fr Richie studied at the University of Warwick (2012-13), UK, and was Academic Visitor at the University of Oxford (2013-14). He has many publications to his credit in Konkani, Kannada, and English.

CASK congratulates Fr Richard Rego and wishes him success in his new assignment at Seattle University-USA

SR CARMEL RITA ELECTED AS NEW PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR OF APOSTOLIC CARMEL

Sr Carmel Rita A.C. was elected as the Provincial Superior of Apostolic Carmel, Karnataka Province during the 22nd Provincial Chapter held recently at Provincial House, St. Ann's Convent Mangalore.



(From Left : Sr Linet D'Souza, Sr Nirmala Francis, Sr Rose Agnes, Sr Carmel Rita, Sr Ida Barboza, Sr Maria Kripa)

Sr Carmel Rita succeeds Sr. M. Linette who was the Provincial Superior of the Karnataka Province since 2010.

Sr Rose Agnes, Sr Maria Kripa, Sr Nirmala Francis and Sr Ida Barboza are elected Councillors and Sr Linet D'Souza is elected as the Provincial Bursar.

The new team assumes office on May 2nd 2016.

CASK congratulates Sr Carmel Rita and her team and wishes them a successful tenure.

FR JOSEPH DOLPHY PAIS RE-ELECTED PROVINCIAL OF KARNATAKA CAPUCHINS



Fr Joseph Dolphy Pais has been re-elected the provincial minister of the Franciscan Capuchins of Holy Trinity Province-Karnataka.

He was elected during the 7th provincial chapter of the Karnataka Capuchins of Holy Trinity Province, held at Shanthi Sadhana, Bangalore.

Fr Pais holds a doctorate in spirituality and is the programme

director at Franciscan Institute of Spirituality, India, based in Bangalore. He was born at Banakal in the diocese of Chickmagalur but later shifted to Bangalore.

Fr John Alwyn Dias was re-elected the vicar provincial and Fr Peter Cyprian D'Souza, Fr Paul Melwyn D'Souza and Fr Salvadore Fernandes were elected the councillors for the triennium.

CASK congratulates Fr Joseph Dolphy Pais and his team and wishes them a successful tenure.

COASTAL DISTRICTS WITNESS FIRST SUCCESSFUL CADAVERIC KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

The Kidney transplant team from Yenepoya Hospital performed a successful cadaveric (deceased) kidney transplant on 23rd March 2016.



This is the first time that an organ harvested in neighbouring Udupi district has been transplanted to a recipient in the city.

Dr. Nischith D'Souza, Consultant Urologist and member of the team which conducted the transplant, said that the kidney was retrieved from a donor at Kasturba Hospital, Manipal. He was declared brain dead after he failed to recover from a severe injury in a motor vehicle accident. The liver was also transported to a hospital in Bangalore, after a green corridor (free access without signals or traffic) was created by the police from Manipal to Mangalore.

The kidney was transplanted to a 25 year old woman after necessary cross match. She had been on dialysis for the past four years and had been struggling to get a suitable donor from her family. She had registered for cadaveric transplant with the Zonal Co-ordination Committee of Karnataka (ZCCK), and was awaiting her turn.

Dr Nischith said that “We have been also carrying out live related kidney transplants regularly”.

“If one does not get a suitable live related donor, cadaveric transplant is an alternative to be considered. Registration with the ZCCK is a must. There is a severe shortage of organs for transplants in the country with about 80,000 people on the kidney transplant waiting list. Deceased organ donation is the best option to clear this backlog. Public perception about the same has positively changed in the recent past. A start has been made, with the purpose of providing a better quality of life in patients with kidney failure”.

CASK congratulates Dr. Nischith D’Souza and his team and hopes that facilities for Cadaver organ harvesting and transplantation will be scaled up in Mangalore.

Obituaries - March/April

CASK offers its sincere condolences to the families of the following members of our community, who passed away recently:

1. Colmon J D'Souza (63) Kulshekar, husband of Merlyn D'Souza, Father of Lionel/Reena and Sonal/Stino, on March 8, 2016.
2. Octavia Albuquerque (Ex MLC) (92), Rosario, wife of late Cyril Albuquerque, mother of Aloysius/Rosemary, Moira/Ben, Dorothy/Hugh, George/Cecilia, Joan/Joseph, Marie Therese/Ronald, Joseph/Anne, Eliza/Colin & Anna Maria, on March 9, 2016.
3. Fredric D'Souza (71), Derebail, husband of Emilia D'Souza, father of Lavita & Sweeta, on March 9, 2016.
4. Mary Moras (82), Bejai, wife of late Denis Moras, Mother of late Alwyn/Fatima, Mazie/Frank, Lizzie & Reginald/Agnes, on March 14, 2016.
5. Sr Prescilla D'Souza (77), Sisters of Charity, Jeppu, daughter of late Sebastian & late Benedicta D'Souza, on March 15, 2016.
6. John R Goveas, (82) Derebail, Husband of late Juliana, father of Jane/Alphonse, Joyce/Peter & Juliet/Joel Lobo, on March 15, 2016.
7. Fr Terence Joseph Fransz (88), Bangalore, senior Priest of Bangalore Archdiocese, on March 15, 2016.

8. Vincent Cutinha (71), Bendur, husband of Winnie, father of Jyothi, Joel, Jasmine/Naveen, on March 15, 2016.
9. Lilly Cutinho Rodrigues (86) Bondel, wife of late Lawrence, mother of Venilda, Laveena, Sr. Aleena and wilfred, on March 15, 2016.
10. Cyprian Mascarenhas (78) Bejai, Husband of Winny Mascarenhas, Father of Jessy/Jossy, Cynthia/Victor, Ivey/Marcel, Jerald/Jyothi, Fr Claud (OFC), Daniel/Lolita, on March 18, 2016.
11. Dorothy D'Souza (87), Bejai, wife of late James D'Souza, mother of Marian/Vimala, Jeevan/Stella, Manohar/Caroline, Vinod/Jeanette, Fiona/Arun, Sanjay/Elfreeda, on March 19, 2016.
12. Sujatha Cutinha (43) Valencia, Wife of Rocky Cutinha, mother of Rachel, Rhea, Regan, on March 20, 2016.
13. Fr Edward D'Souza (70), Marol, Mumbai, parish priest of St John the Evangelist Church, Mumbai, on March 22, 2016.
14. Mary D'Souza (95), Bendur, wife of late Simon R D'Souza, mother of Gilbert and Clement, on March 23, 2016.
15. Joyline Monis (23) Kulshekar, daughter of John A Monis/Cynthia Pais, sister of Jacqueline Monis, on March 23, 2016.
16. Walter Fernandes (53) Bejai, Husband of Rita Fernandes, father of Niel and Nilisha, on March 23, 2016.
17. Sandra Anna (48), Valencia, mother of Arlene/Claud, Denver and Osanna, on March 24, 2016.
18. Anselm Oswald D'Souza (81), Valencia, husband of Christine, father of Melba/Subu, Elba/Anil & Jovita/Donnel, on March 26, 2016.
19. Sr Susheela F (50), Mysuru, UFS, Mysuru Province, daughter of Late Francis and Late Philomena, residing at Maria Kripa Provincialate, Mysuru, on March 26, 2016.
20. Juliana D'Sa (92) Bejai, wife of late Thomas D'Sa, mother of Gregory/Diana, Herman/Adelaide, Late Antony/Clotilda, Mildred/Anselm, Celine/Godwin, on March 26, 2016.
21. Rose G Lobo (91), Milagres, wife of late Vinny Lobo, mother of Joselyn (Professor, Roshni Nilaya, Mangalore)/Shanathi, Franklin/Amrit, Marilyn/Vijay & Carolyn, on March 27, 2016.

22. Rtn Leo Walter Noronha (68) Pamboor, husband of Agnes Noronha, father of Lionel Noronha, on March 28, 2016.
23. Sr Domitilla Pinto UFS (81), Shirthady/Mysuru, (Benedicta Maria Matilda) of Mount Carmel Church, Shirthady, Mysore Province, daughter of late Antony J Pinto and late Mary Magdaline Pinto, on March 29, 2016.
24. Capt Irwin J Coelho (67), Canada/Mangalore, husband of Marita, father of Marvin/Neha & Marlon, on March 29, 2016.
25. Helen Hudleston (86), Bendur, wife of late Paul Hudleston, mother of Shirly/late Peter D'Silva, on April 1, 2016.
26. Victor Castelino (61), Kulshekar, husband of late Thereza Castelino, father of Vania & Vernon Castelino, son-in-law of late Pascal Rodrigues & Macrene Rodrigues, on April 3, 2016.
27. J J Pinto (86), Bendur/Balehonnur, husband of Cecilia Pinto, father of Brincy/Stan, late Felcy, Mercy/Percy, Cressy/late Eddu, Bessie/ Glary, Vivek/Shobha, on the April 3, 2016.
28. Sr. Angeline (85) Angelore, Sisters of St. Anne of Providence, daughter of late Rosario Dsouza and late Ann Rose Dsouza, sister of Sr. Theodosia, Sr. Gonzaga, on April 4, 2016.
29. Patrick Mascarenhas (84), Bendur/Bangalore, husband of late Harriet, brother of late Reginald, Peter, Paul, late Sr Marie Ange AC, late Cletus, late Antony, late Gratian, late Sr Amritha AC, Zita Farias, late Ethel Prabhu & Miriam Contractor, on April 6, 2016.
30. Francis Leo Mark Mascarenhas (73), Milagres, son of late Leo/ Martha Mascarenhas, brother of late Effie, Lulu, late Bertie, late Carol, Marina, Lorna, Miriam, late Joseph, Betty and Terence, on April 6, 2016.
31. Lily D' Costa (84), Bangalore, Wife of late Gregory D'Costa, mother of Wilson/Clariss, Johnson/Susan & Nelson/Veena D'Costa, on 6 April, 2016.
32. Daniel Nathaniel Lewis (19), Bangalore, son of Merwyn and Priya Lewis, brother of Justin and Yohann, grandson of Thelma and (late) Alfred Mathias, and (late) Leslie and Blanche Lewis of Bangalore, passed away in a tragic road accident on April 6, 2016.
