



By Love Serve One Another

JOTTINGS

Faith in God the Father Almighty
and in Jesus Christ His Only Son Our Lord and Saviour
and in the Holy Spirit

Purpose

- Promotion of the full development of women and girls through its programmes
- To develop a membership that is responsive through service to the changing needs of the community in a changing world.



For Private Circulation only

No. 239 December 2018

Christmas Message: Celebrating Immanuel

Lalitha Fernandes, President-YWCA of Bombay

Dear friends, May the blessings of the Lord be with you and your family as you celebrate the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ and may you all have a Happy and Blessed New Year 2019.

Christmas is the season we all look forward to, The excitement begins from Advent, with the fruit-mixing for the quintessential Christmas cake, the carol-singing practice and the shopping for clothes, Christmas tinsel and baubles, gifts and sweets. Besides the non-stop parties and shopping, Christmas represents so much more. At its core, Christmas is all about the joy of a promise fulfilled.

I have been reading the Old Testament, studying the lives of men and women who struggled and died hoping for a better day. I encourage all of you to spend some time in the Psalms with David. Most of the book was written on the run from King Saul and the armies that wanted to kill David.

He wrote verses like Psalm 68:1 ("Let God arise,

let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him") and Psalm 119:143 ("Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my delights"). While he often expressed how sick and tired he was of persecution, David was a man who loved the Lord. His devotion stretched beyond the fact that he lived in a world that had not yet seen the ultimate salvation for its sins.

And then there are all the prophets. Think of the amazing faith of Elijah that was strong enough to call down fire from Heaven (1 Kings 18:36-38). God spoke to Elijah often, yet this is all before the coming of the Holy Spirit.

It was their dedication to God that took Daniel and his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, to the lion's den and the furnace (Daniel 6 and 3). They were willing to die for their faith, yet believed strongly enough that a God whom they had never met would save them.

Then there's Isaiah who constantly spoke of a



great man whose 33 years of life would change the world forever. He even foretold of the first Christmas in Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel".

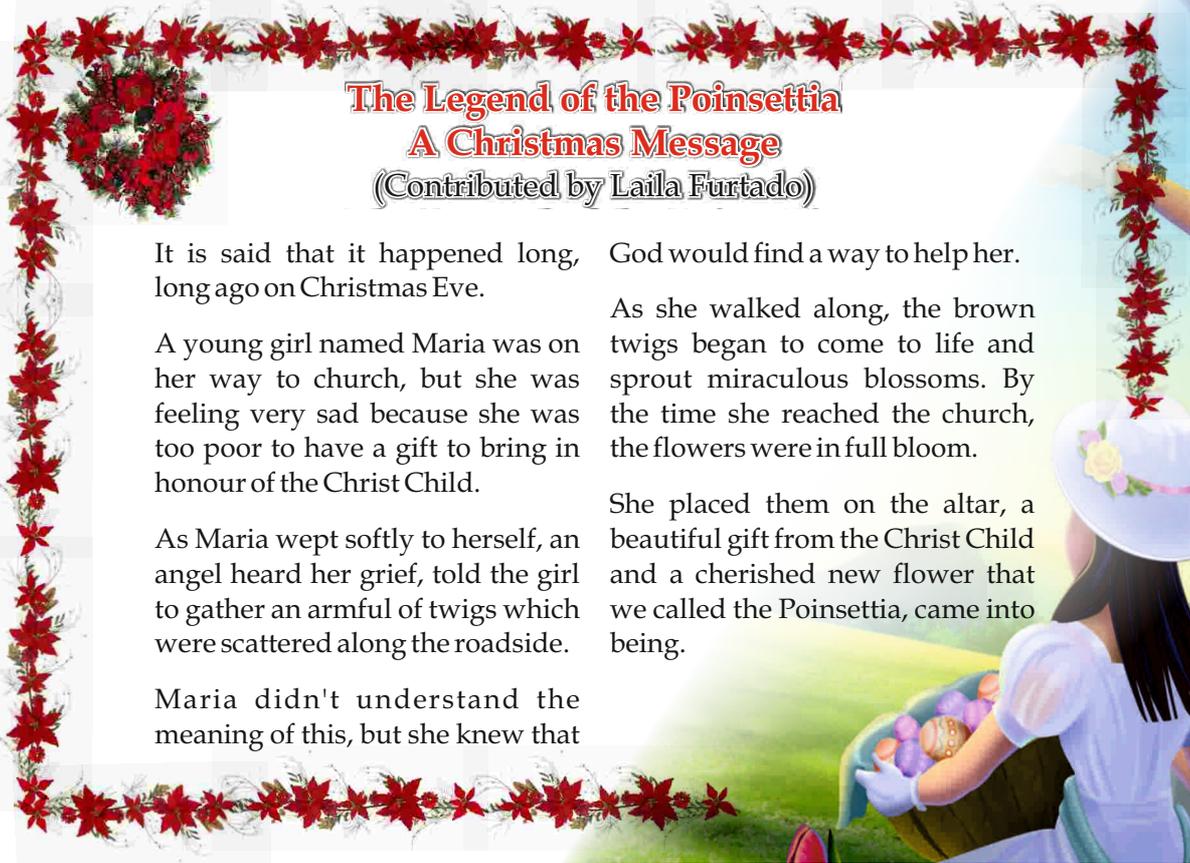
Christmas is the celebration of Immanuel — "God with us". God did what He said He would. Jesus was born. The prophets didn't labour in vain, because the Messiah finally came.

Maybe this year has been a rough one for you. Perhaps you're not seeing a lot of reasons to celebrate. Let's take this holiday for all its worth as the breakthrough that we've been waiting for. The time is coming where your

world will illuminate with God's love, your work and toil will be rewarded and every good and perfect gift will be yours. After all, the good tidings of great joy were simply this: God keeps His promises.

*Every time a hand reaches out to help another, that is Christmas,
Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for understanding, that is Christmas,
Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other, that is Christmas.*

May the Lord Jesus bless you abundantly during this Christmas season and also in 2019.



The Legend of the Poinsettia A Christmas Message (Contributed by Laila Furtado)

It is said that it happened long, long ago on Christmas Eve.

A young girl named Maria was on her way to church, but she was feeling very sad because she was too poor to have a gift to bring in honour of the Christ Child.

As Maria wept softly to herself, an angel heard her grief, told the girl to gather an armful of twigs which were scattered along the roadside.

Maria didn't understand the meaning of this, but she knew that

God would find a way to help her.

As she walked along, the brown twigs began to come to life and sprout miraculous blossoms. By the time she reached the church, the flowers were in full bloom.

She placed them on the altar, a beautiful gift from the Christ Child and a cherished new flower that we called the Poinsettia, came into being.



The Art of Living Joyfully

Ovita Parulekar

The mission of evangelization in the modern world encourages the church to begin joyfully a new chapter. Are we caught up with problems and struggles? Are we enjoying life at too fast a pace? Do we always look sad and forlorn? Can we give the joy of the Gospel to others?

Most often we are thinking of our prior misfortunes, or pre-occupied with future problems that may accost us. In this we tend to miss the joy of life.

Happiness demands commitment and enjoying our lives in the present. Happy living keeps us alert and aware in every moment of our existence.

If we reduce the noise in our lives, we will realize that silence and quiet is with us already. We will naturally deeply appreciate the present moment e.g. Jesus reminds the disciples in the storm at sea (Mathew 8: 23 – 27). Good or bad helps us to move forward. We must cherish the past and live the future to the fullest (Luke 9:62).

No one ever wants to be unhappy or frustrated in life. So do not worry about tomorrow as it

has its own worries. Today's hardships are enough (Mathew 6: 34). Either way if we harm someone or someone harms us, we must settle the issue immediately. Remember if you forgive others their shortcomings, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you (Mathew 6:14).

'Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him'(Colossians 3:17). To be happy we have to learn from the shortcomings that life offers. Such experiences are very important to succeed.

One must live life joyfully as every moment offers us a choice. All we must do is to recognize what is true joy and pursue it. Joy is the perfect compass for us to navigate through life.

So dear friends, let us all remember that living joyfully is the most beautiful way of living. When we live joyfully we can give the word of Jesus unto others, and make room for radiance and those of others around us. By doing this we can master the art of joyful living.



Sweet Notings

- Sharon Pires

Don't let people pull you into their Storm, pull them into your Peace.

If we go back to our younger days, we would realize that life was less stressful and more relaxed. We claim to be hi-tech, greater achievers and having more firsts to our credit than our predecessors yet despite all the latest technological advancements, we are regressing. Instead of having more time to relax and focus our attention towards the people we love and engage in our hobbies, we find we have increasingly less time for these pursuits. We often get into trivial arguments, unnecessary conflicts and inflict pain and heartache on ourselves and others as well. It is best at times to step back into the quiet and peace that exists deep within ourselves than to be the first to make that fiery comment or throw the poison dart that can only add to the damage and destruction. There is enough turmoil and tension in our world today...let us endeavour to be the ambassadors of peace which people will be drawn to and are in search of more than ever before. We don't want to see our lives fall to pieces around us...rather we would love to live a life of peace and harmony.

When your focus shifts from competition to contribution, life becomes a celebration.

Who does not like to partake in a celebration? Everyone wants to be a part of it, get involved and be invited. We can all partake of the celebration called 'Life' and the invitation is open. Unfortunately we are always competing with each other...what is called the cut-throat typewe do not care on whose toes we step as long as we get to where we want to be. Healthy competition is good, brings out our talents and we learn to draw on our strengths, but better still would be contribution and collaboration where everyone pools in to create the final masterpiece each chipping in their best effort and resources. Today we are increasingly working in teams or groups where coming together and collaborating ensures best outcomes for all. Remember many hands make light work and **Together Each Achieves More.**

Birthdays for the month of December 2018 and January 2019

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------|---------------------|---------|
| 1st December | Kusum Mayekar | Fort | 1st January | Dr. Sonal Ohol | Byculla |
| 2nd December | Indira Jenna | Andheri | 3rd January | Genevieve D'souza | Bandra |
| 3rd December | Salome Sebastian | Bandra | 28th January | Renuka Reuben | Andheri |
| 5th December | Jayanti Premkumar | Chembur | 4th January | Severine Andrade | Andheri |
| 6th December | Linda G. Noronha | Bandra | 6th January | Priyanka Jerome | Bandra |
| 8th December | Vimala Raichur | Andheri | 6th January | Roshan D. Bharucha | Fort |
| 9th December | Daksha Kanavia | Andheri | 10th January | Dorothy Colasco | Fort |
| 10th December | Prasanna Benger | Belapur | 11th January | Manuela Dias | Andheri |
| 15th December | Stella Bapu | Thane | 13th January | Celine Gaikwad | Andheri |
| 17th December | Flory D'souza | Andheri | 14th January | Alka Hemant Desai | Andheri |
| 20th December | Gulobi Fernandes | Andheri | 14th January | HarsharanKaur | Andheri |
| 21st December | Melissa D'souza | Andheri | 16th January | Swati Das | Byculla |
| 23rd December | Sarojini J. Hingorani | Andheri | 20th January | Mary Cheru | Chembur |
| 24th December | Elizabeth Peters | Fort | 20th January | Reena A. Vessaokar | Bandra |
| 25th December | Raina Michyari | fort | 26th January | Angela M. Fernandes | Bandra |
| 25th December | Saroj Hilbert | Byculla | 28th January | Molly George | Andheri |
| 25th December | Shaneya Solomon S. | Andheri | 29th January | Sobha Bhalla | Fort |
| 27th December | Maria Victoria Aguiar | Byculla | 30th January | Lalitha John | Chembur |
| 28th December | Shama Chatterjee | Andheri | | | |
| 29th December | Vini Sebastian | Byculla | | | |

"Your birthday is the first day of another 365-day journey. Be the shining thread in the beautiful tapestry of the world to make this year the best ever. Enjoy the ride."

Happy Birthday

WE Love You !!!

Members are requested to submit their articles for Jottings before / on 15th of every month.

This should be sent to Staff, Mildin
ywcajottings@gmail.com
or a hard copy at Byculla, YWCA.



Evening of Carols
Theme : Tidings Comfort and Joy
Date : Saturday 8th December 2018
Time : 6pm to 8pm
Venue : Fort
All are Welcome with Family and Friends



YWCA of Bombay
in collaboration with
Paranjoti Academy Chorus
under conductor
- Coomi Wadia, organizes
'Christmas Music from around the World'
Date: Friday 14th December 2018
Time: 7 pm
Venue: Afghan Church
(Navy Nagar), Colaba
Bring your family & friends



Available Christmas
Cloth Bags
for your
Christmas Goodies /
Shopping
and
Calendar
for the year 2019
from 1st December 2018
Please contact
Mildin Nadar
022 23096544



With teamwork and collaboration wonderful things can be achieved.

Members and Staff Christmas Celebration
Date : Wednesday
12th December 2018
Timing : 10.30 a.m.
Venue : YWCA, Fort

Members to confirm attendance to
Y building Hostel Secretary's

Spiritual Emphasis

YWCA and YMCA Week of Prayer

The world week of prayer, a joint initiative of YWCA and YMCA took place in the 2nd week of November beginning on 11th November at St Thomas Cathedral. It was then held at various locations of the YWCA and YMCA in Mumbai, with the young and young-at-heart participating. The theme this year was '**Youth Empowerment for Good.**' Each of the days were assigned a sub theme - created for good, enabled for good, challenged for good, overcoming for good, transformed for good, live for good and celebrate for good. Pastor Vinny Varghese, Rev. Mc Donald . D. Sorna, Mr. Rajiv Chelladurai were the resource persons at YWCA centres.

This joint venture by YWCA and YMCA is 'an

important reminder of the spiritual vision that drives their efforts to create a better world for all people.' We began the week of prayer from the Genesis account that we were created and were stamped as good, for good, to do good. Throughout the week this emphasis continued. And so it was the entire week of seeking and listening to God's voice through His messengers, drawing deep from His Word.

Christ being central from Him and Him only any good social action flows. It is far more impactful, far-reaching, enduring, HOPE-filled, effective and has eternity in view. An exciting move of God's Spirit within His 'agents of change' YWCA and YMCA to bring Him honour and glory!!!



Vacation Bible Studies

Whoever Received One Such Child in My Name Receives Me, And Whoever Receive Me, Receives Not But Him Who Send Me (Mark 9:37)

On behalf of the Spiritual Emphasis the VBS (Vacation Bible School) was organized from 5th to 7th November for our community children of Byculla, Belapur, Kurla and Wadala, and from 12th to 14 November at Fort. VBS was

conducted by the volunteers of Union Vacation Bible School. On an average 50 children were present every day. This year UVBS theme was 'My Potter and Me'. It was an exciting time with action songs and stories from the Bible. Children were given Bible verses to memorize and came every day. Along with spiritual nourishment, their physical needs were also taken care of and gifts were distributed.



Women's Development Unit

Balwadi - Sessions on **Importance of Savings** at Thane Community and **Good Parenting** at Wadala and Fort community were held in October.

Youth group: Monthly meetings were held in October at the following communities-

| Sr. No. | Place | Nos. | Topic |
|---------|-------------------|------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Kurla Community | 15 | Magic Bus Courses and its Importance |
| 2 | Fort Community | 13 | Sex Education |
| 3 | Belapur Community | 15 | Vocational Courses run by Urja Trust |

Adolescent Group -

Monthly meetings were held in all communities in October. Following topics were discussed -

- a. Importance of Communication
- b. Precaution to be taken during Navratri
- c. Anmol Diwali Mela
- d. Save the Environment
- e. Vacation Bible School
- f. Mobile Van Museum
- g. Sexuality and Physical Attraction

Sustainable Livelihood -

Monthly SHG meetings were held in October and following are the details about the meeting

| Sr. No. | Mahila Bachat Gat Name | Place | Nos. | Topics |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------|------|---|
| 1 | Ekta and Sahara | Byculla | 28 | Feedback on BMC Stalls during Diwali |
| 2 | Chaitanya and Jagruti | Chembur | 16 | Explanation of BMC Courses and its benefits |
| 3 | Mata Ramai and Pragati | Belapur | 16 | Discussion on paper bag orders |
| 4 | Annapurna | Fort | 15 | BMC Stalls and Girls' Safety during Garba |
| 5 | Unnati, Vrundavan and Hirkanai | Mankhurd | 25 | |
| 6 | Samata | Kalachowki | 10 | |
| 7 | Prerna | Wadala | 10 | |
| 8 | Unnati | Thane | 10 | |

Health -

A Health Check-Up Camp was conducted by L&T Health Centre on 4th October and on 1st November at Chembur and Fort respectively, with 285 service users.



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Capacity Building

a. Life Style Management session was organized for staff and students of VTC on 29th October at Byculla. Dr. Anjali Gholwalkar was the resource person who spoke about a healthy and stress-free life. Staffs and students benefitted from this session.



b. **Para-legal Training:** A one-day workshop on Muslim Women's rights was organized by YWCA in collaboration with Majlis at Fort YWCA with 32 ladies on 5th November.



c. **Nutrition competition** was held in all Balwadis in October

| No | Place | Participants |
|----|------------|--------------|
| 1. | Fort | 41 |
| 2. | Mankhurd | 33 |
| 3. | Kalachowki | 25 |
| 4. | Chembur | 23 |
| 5. | Wadala | 17 |
| 6. | Byculla | 45 |
| 7. | Belapur | 50 |
| 8. | Kurla | 20 |
| 9. | Thane | 23 |



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d. **Anmol Mela:** 'Anmol Society' Wadala, (Project of Don Bosco) organized **Diwali Dhamaka** for underprivileged girls from different NGOs of Mumbai on 5th November at Auxilium Campus, Wadala. 60 girls along with their Social Workers from Byculla, Kalachowki, Wadala and Kurla participated



e. An Awareness session on **Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH)** was conducted by Shoba Philip (GS) and Neeta Dabre (Assist Co-ordinator WDU) for more than 100 staff of Lilavati Hospital on 29th October at Bandra.



Clean-up Drive was organized on 11th October at Mankhurd Community. An awareness session on Importance of Health and Cleanliness was also organized for the community people with 62 service users conducted by Ms. Sangita Kharat from Srushti Dnyan



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Special Event

Senior Citizens' Day was celebrated in all communities in October.



month from Family Service Centre as financial help for education.

- English-speaking Classes started from 22nd October with 40 students at Byculla after a screening procedure.



Staff Capacity-Building

- Parasocial Worker attended a workshop and an interactive session on **Gender and Law** organized by Bebaak Collective Organisation on 2nd November at Savitribai Phule Gender Resource Centre.
- A meeting with our community staff was organized by Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work on 20th October at Byculla. The speakers explained short term courses run for school dropouts and senior citizens at nominal charges.

Success stories

- One unemployed woman from Fort community was referred to Balaji Hospital and secured a housekeeping job with a salary of Rs 8,500/- p.m.
- Belapur Pragati Mahila Bachat Gat has accepted orders from Gnyaneshwari Hospital for providing chapattis on a daily basis.

Information

- A needy student will receive Rs 500/- per

Vocational Training Centre - Diwali Anand Mela was organized by VTC students on 3rd November at Byculla.



Asha Kiran Programme and Activities

1. **Vacation Batch** - In October 13 girls successfully completed the one month **Basic Mehendi Course** and 15 girls successfully completed the 10 days **Self-Grooming Course**.
2. Tuberculosis claimed the life of Akshata Ambelkar, a former SSC student on 24th October 2018. An emergency session on '**Prevention of Tuberculosis**' for crèche parents was conducted by Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) Centre Andheri (W) on 29th October.
3. On 6th October Career Guidance Camp was conducted by Ms. Rucha Patki from L & T. Ms. Patki guided students on various career options available and methods to select the right course. 135 girls and boys from various schools participated.
4. On 9th October Elders' Day was celebrated with games, dance and music.
5. International Girl-Child Day was celebrated on 11th October. Study-centre teacher Vaichavi presented a mono-act on Savitribai Phule. A poster making competition on the theme '**Girl Child**' and group discussion on various topics were also conducted. Information was given about a few great Indian women who have excelled in their respective fields.



6. In collaboration with YMCA, 60 Study Center, Beautician and Tailoring Class students attended a lecture by MS-CIT, Maharashtra State-Certificate in Information Technology.

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PASI

A Public Talk on 'A School Principal's Struggle to Obtain Gender Justice to her Students' was conducted by PASI of YWCA of Bombay on November 3rd at YWCA, Belapur.

Standing up for gender justice is something that many of us aspire for, however, never experience in the fullest sense. Sherly Paul's journey of challenging the existing power hierarchies by providing unbridled support to survivors of sexual assault seems straight out of a book. Abandonment, poverty, fraud, lies are only some of the chapters in her story, worthy of a detailed book.

Sherly tried her best to summarize the harsh reality of fighting against sexual assault of girls from in her school. As Headmistress, and a child of God, she stayed true to her duty, and complained against the teacher abusing the girls. Her quest to seek justice for the survivors and create a safer space for the girls at school, led her to report the male teacher's behaviour to the police. It wasn't easy there on. She had to face a management who was more concerned about its image than doing right by the survivors. They implicated her in false cases causing her to engage in endless trials at various courts in the country. They also dismissed her from service, leaving her with no source of income.

The exercise of recounting one's story of struggle and strife, culminating in victory, runs the risk of extreme romanticism. Sherly very consciously avoided it and presented the narrative as it happened. She underscored the hardship she endured and times of complete desolation. As an audience member, it was interesting to see someone talk about their narrative, in such a raw and truthful manner.

It was evident that when Sherly spoke, she was living the experiences all over again. The pain that these memories brought, reflected on her face; she paused quite often to hold back tears. The talk was filled with emotions and often, left her overwhelmed. Sherly's experience resonated with the audience, who were all associated with the education sector, either as students, educators or managers.

In times of such despair, Sherly found her faith in God being restored. She attributed the will to fight and never-ending hope to her faith in God and belief that He will give her the strength to continue in these trying times.

Listening to Sherly's narrative offered the audience a chance - a - chance to be self-reflective and evaluate the choices one make. It would have been a convenient choice for Sherly to ignore the complaints from the survivors and leave things status quo. It was definitely a more secure option. However, she decided to stand on the side of truth, despite the insurmountable hardships. Her experiences are filled with lessons for everyone associated with education. They



spell out the work that authorities need to undertake to create safer environments for students and other participants at schools.

*Jottings Committee wishes everyone
a Christ Centered Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year 2019*

Area Reports

Andheri: 20 members attended the meeting held on 1st November. Sharon Solomon and Indira Jenna held a cooking demonstration on healthy snacks.

Belapur: 5 members attended the meeting held on 5th November. Members discussed the programme for January 2019.

Byculla: 7 members attended the meeting held on 6th November. Members had a carol singing practice.

Bandra: 24 members attended the meeting held on 3rd November. Adv. Sharon Rodrigues from Preventive Health Care spoke on **Good Health** and also gave tips on home remedies.

Chembur: 8 Members attended the meeting held on 2nd November. Members celebrated Children's Day with the children of Aashreya at Sevadaan. The children had an enjoyable time colouring pictures and singing songs.

Fort: 9 members attended the meeting held on 7th November .On 14th November members visited Garden School to celebrate Children's Day.



**No meetings in the month of December 2018
Programmes and Committee Meetings for January 2019**

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | 1 Holiday | 2 Fort Area 11.00 am Fort Prayer Fellowship 11.30 am, Fort | 3 Prayer Fellowship 12.00 noon Andheri Andheri Area 03.30 pm Asha Kiran DDH Meeting 12.00 noon Asha Kiran Prayer Fellowship 4.00 pm Belapur | 4 Chembur Area 03.30 pm Chembur | 5 Bandra Area 2.00 pm Q Tube |
| 7 ABH Meeting 11.00 a.m. Byculla | 8 Byculla Area 11.00 am Prayer Fellowship 11.30 am Byculla WDU Meeting 12.30 pm Byculla Belapur Area 04.00 pm Belapur | 9 Prayer Fellowship 11.30 am, Fort Anugraha Meeting 4.30 pm Belapur | 10 Prayer Fellowship 12.00 noon Andheri International Centre 11.30 am Fort Prayer Fellowship 4.00 pm Belapur | 11 Spiritual Emphasis 4.30 pm Fort Asha Kiran 11.00 am Andheri | 12 PASI Meeting 11.00 am Andheri Membership Meeting 12.00 noon Byculla Public Relations Meeting 2.00 pm Andheri |
| 14 LWH Meeting 11.30 am Fort | 15 PIYA Meeting 1.00 pm Byculla | 16 Prayer Fellowship 11.30 am, Fort | 17 Prayer Fellowship 12.00 noon Andheri General Hostels 11.00 am Buildings 02.30 pm Byculla Prayer Fellowship 4.00 pm Belapur | 18 | 19 |
| 21 Jottings Meeting 11.00 am Byculla Personnel Meeting 12.00 noon Byculla | 22 Prayer Fellowship 11.00 am Byculla | 23 Prayer Fellowship 11.30 am, Fort Finance Meeting 11.00 am Fort | 24 Prayer Fellowship 12.00 noon Andheri Prayer Fellowship 4.00 pm Belapur | 25 | 26 Holiday |
| 28 | 29 | 30 Prayer Fellowship 11.30 am, Fort | 31 Board Meeting 11.00 am Byculla | | |

DROP IT IN

If you do not receive a copy of the JOTTINGS for the month please inform our Byculla office immediately.

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