

# IJ MATTERS



**Nashik India: Volume II Issue 13 – November 2023**

## **CONTENTS**

SR NO	TOPIC	PAGES	AUTHOR
I	SHRINE HAPPENINGS	3-8	ERROL
II	COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED	9	GODFREY
III	ALL SAINTS DAY	10	GODFREY
IV	WERE I TO BE ELECTED	11	GODFREY
V	DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA	12-14	ERROL
VI	CHRIST THE KING	15	GODFREY
VII	मणिपुरी पणत्या !!	16-17	वेन्सी
VIII	दीनदुबळ्यासाठीचा जागतिक संवर्धन दिन !!	18-21	वेन्सी
XI	SCRIPTURE NUGGETS	22	ERROL
XII	RETREAT FOR THE LAITY IN JANUARY 2024	23	ERROL

## **SHRINE HAPPENINGS IN NOVEMBER 2023**

The month of October began with two feasts. On November 1, 2023, we celebrated the feast of All Saints and on November 2, 2023, we celebrated the Commemoration of the Faithful departed.

In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III consecrated a new chapel in the Basilica of St. Peter to all saints on November 1, and he fixed the anniversary of this dedication as the date of the feast. In the ninth century, Pope Gregory IV extended the celebration of All Saints for the entire Church and since then, the Church celebrates the feast of all Saints on this date.

While the celebration of this solemnity may be seen on the one hand as a remembrance or memorial of the numerous courageous men and women who lived lives of selfless love, it may also be seen as an event which makes each of us aware that we, too, as those who have gone before, are capable of living such lives. It is a celebration of possibilities, potential and promise. They could, we also can.

The Commemoration of the faithful departed reminds us that we are still one with those who have gone before us into eternal life, and that death is not and can never be the end. Since they are alive, we still owe them love and support in Christ's name, even beyond the grave.



On November 3, 2023, the Principal of the Secondary Section of our St. Xavier's School, Dr. Sanjay Katala retired. He has served the School for many years, first as teacher and in more recent years as Principal. He is an excellent Mathematics teacher and for many years now, many students of our School have been able to score cent per cent marks in the Mathematics Board examination. We have retained his services till the end of the Academic Year and he serves the School with the same zeal and enthusiasm with which he began his career. We had a celebration for him in the Quadrangle of the School and many staff and students spoke of how he influenced their lives in a very positive way. We pray for all God blessings on him and his family.

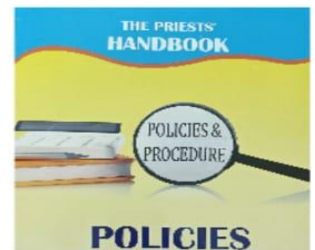


Fr. Augustine is a celebrated Table-tennis player and the winner of many tournaments. On November 5, 2023, he took part in an All Nashik tournament and was the winner. Most of those who play in the Gymkhana where Fr. Augustine plays are of other faiths and are inspired not only by Fr. Augustine's game and ability but also by the manner in which he accepts success and failure namely with equanimity. During the time he spends playing at the Gymkhana and during tournaments, Fr. Augustine preaches the Gospel through his actions more than his words. His ability and his equanimity inspire many.



From November 4-7, 2023 Fr. Errol conducted Orientation Sessions for the Regional Superior and team of 5 sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary Society (FMM) here at the Shrine of the Infant Jesus. They were extremely happy with the Orientation.

Fr. Errol went to Nagpur on November 12, 2023 to give a 5 day Retreat to the Priests of the Archdiocese of Nagpur. Archbishop Elias Gonsalves also made the Retreat along with his priests.



Fr. Terence Quadros (Fr. Terry) celebrated his Diamond Jubilee in the Society of Jesus. He joined the Society of Jesus on June 20, 1963. The Province celebrated this event at Vinayalaya on

November 19, 2023. Frs. Tony and Bosco accompanied him and represented our community at these celebrations.

We had two celebrations for Terry at the Shrine. On November 18, 2023, we celebrated with the employees of the Shrine and on November 26, 2023 we celebrated with the Pilgrims at the Shrine at the 12 noon Eucharist. In his introduction Fr. Errol spoke of the numerous qualities that Terry was blessed with and that he used all of them not for himself but for others and for God's glory. The Bishop of Nashik, Lourdes Daniel graced our community with his presence and had a meal with us. We are ever grateful to Bishop Lourdes for his constant availability to us at the Shrine and for his humility from which we can all learn.



34 Priests from the Nashik Diocese made their Annual Retreat at the Shrine of the Infant Jesus. They had a Spirit filled Retreat and were very grateful for the arrangements. Bishop Lourdes celebrated the Eucharist on the last day of the Retreat and had lunch with the Retreatants in the Canteen.



On November 26, 2023 Fr. Augustine was invited to Taj Intercontinental, Nashik to partipate in an interreligious prayer service to remember those who had been killed in the attack on commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai. He took the Gospel text from Mt 10:26-33 as his base from he explained Jesus' exhortation to fearlessness. He ended his explantion with the text from Rom 5:5 in which Paul says that HOPE is not deceptive. He exhorted all the participants to hope.



The children of the Play School celebrated the festival of lights in the school premises and were dressed for the occasion. The teachers brought them for a photograph.



From November 24-26, 2023, the Jesuit team at the Shrine conducted a Retreat for the laity. It was truly a Spirit filled Retreat and experience. All 54 Retreatants were rejuvenated, recharged and refreshed after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Some of the comments after the Retreat were as follows: "Thanks for offering us ways of re-examining our approach and attitude to our individual religious practice and for energizing, as it were, our daily prayer and reflection times.". "This was the bestest retreat I have ever attended". "Truly one-of-a-kind Retreat. Feel so blessed and so glad that I came". "The arrangements were fantabulous. The sessions were practical and down to earth. William and team did an excellent job. If there is a follow-up, I will be the first to register".



We take this opportunity to thank you for your generous patronage and generosity. It is largely because of it that we can do the work we do and reach out to the poor.

May God be with you and your families; may the Infant Jesus bless you all and may Joseph and Mary always intercede.

Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ

Chaplain

Shrine of the Infant Jesus,

Nashik 422101

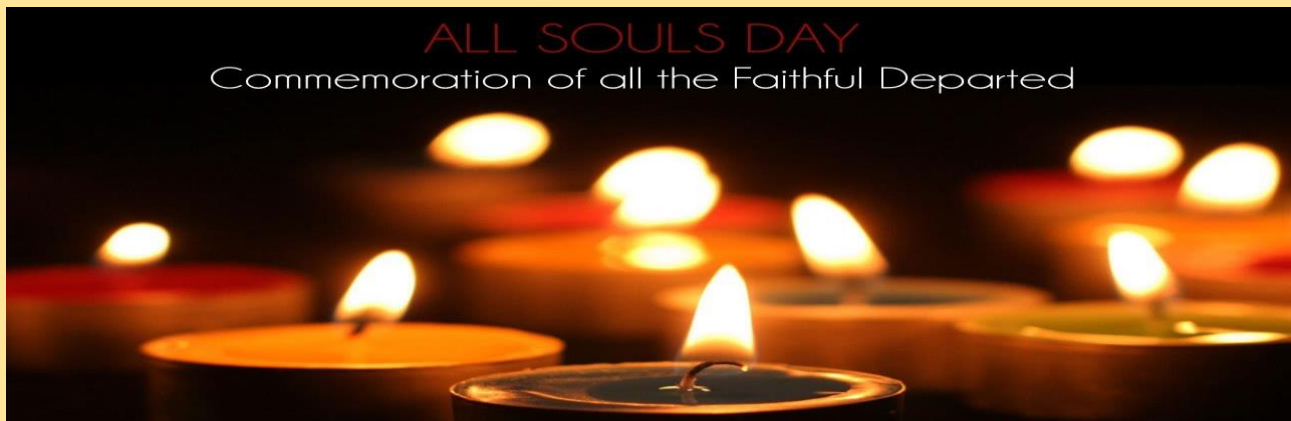
November 2023.



## COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

How good to remember family and friends  
Who journeyed sometime and went on before  
We pilgrimage yet the way forward wends  
But their care for us reaches in ways who can know

We pray that their failings be healed in God's time  
We pray that their happiness radiant remains  
We pray those departed without ritual nor rhyme  
Will still find a welcome where God's mercy reigns



Dear souls of our loved ones – and some not so dear!  
Your earthphase is over a new life begun  
Watch over our wanderings while yet we are here  
Pray for us pilgrims on the race yet to run  
Godfrey D'lima

# FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

I pray the Saints will march with us  
Upon life's rugged way  
The wars are fierce our freedoms crushed  
And tyrants come to stay  
The Saints have seen it all before  
With Jesus staying true  
Their prayer will bring us heaven's grace  
If this world's to renew



Dear Saints of every land and time  
From all of humankind  
Come help in this endangered age  
A humane way to find

Godfrey D'lima

## **WERE I TO BE ELECTED**

Were I to be elected  
And neta would become  
Would I be very different  
From those I hold as scum  
Would I put simple citizens  
On par with wealthy ones  
And care for nature's frailty  
Against commercial huns  
Would I hold firm to common good  
And stand against the tide  
When mobs demand their pound of flesh  
Would justice be my guide  
Many many dreamers  
Make plans that seem so wise  
But only when I pay the price  
A newer world will rise

Godfrey D'lima

## **THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA**

The Basilica of St John Lateran is the cathedral of Rome, the cathedra, or Chair, at which the Bishop of Rome, the Pope, presides. In order to express devotion and unity of all Catholics to the successor of Peter, the Church commemorates the dedication of the Lateran Basilica. Since the Pope presides in charity over the universal Church, the Lateran Basilica is affectionately called the "mother and head of all the churches of Rome and the world".

When the Cathedral in Milan was finished, in the vast throng of people assembled for the dedication, a little girl cried out in childish glee, as she pointed to it: I helped build that. One of the guards challenged her: "What? Show me what you did." The girl replied, "I carried the lunch box for my father, while he worked there." The cathedral, the Church the Basilica is not primarily a building but the people of God. Each of us and all of us help build up the Church.

It is interesting but mainly revealing that the gospel reading chosen for this feast in which we celebrate the Lateran Basilica would be Jesus cleansing the Temple. Much like the Temple was a significant and symbolic building for the Jewish people the Lateran Basilica serves in this capacity for us.

The first Christians gathered to pray in private homes. To be a Christian was for the first three hundred years after the Resurrection of Christ a crime of treason against the Roman state. Therefore, believers would meet secretly to hear the Gospel and break the bread. Today's feast commemorates the end of those many long years of terrible persecutions and martyrdom and the dedication of the Christians' first public place of worship.

While this was a welcome change for the first Christian community, it also began to soon struggle with a dilemma. The source of Jesus' power is found in weakness and poverty. While being an underground church this was easy to accept. Now, being accepted by the state, Christianity's

power began to be aligned with fame and fortune, buildings and property, prestige and status. The church began to take on the political structure of the Roman state. Officials began to be identified by secular titles such as “prince of the church” (Cardinal) and “lord” (Bishop). While it is advantageous to have a place to worship and also advantageous to have a structure to maintain a sense of order, both, however, can also prevent us from encountering God by presenting an image of God that is quite different from the one that Jesus presented and revealed.

Writing during the period of Exile, the prophet Ezekiel dreamed of returning to his home in Israel and especially to the Temple. The vision narrated in the first reading of today is of water flowing from the Temple giving abundant life to the valley below, even to the arid, lifeless region around the Dead Sea. However, at the time of Jesus, this life-giving water had dried up and the temple was no longer what it ought to have been.

The cleansing of the Temple is an incident that is narrated by all four evangelists. However, there are significant differences in the manner in which John narrates it when compared with the Synoptic Gospels. In John, the incident appears at the beginning of the Gospel and immediately after the Cana miracle of turning water into wine, and so sets the stage for the kind of revelation of God that Jesus makes in this Gospel. The temple in Jerusalem was considered the dwelling place of God on earth and a place where people expected to encounter God in prayer and sacrifice. However, as is evident in the actions of Jesus, the Temple had become instead a market place. When one considers that some trade and exchange of Tyrian coins for Roman or Greek coins was absolutely necessary for worship to proceed smoothly, one realizes that this action of Jesus is extremely radical and goes to the root of the meaning of worship and encountering God.

All religious institutional rootedness whether in the form of worship, unjust social systems or repressive religious practices are challenged by this action of Jesus. Zeal for his father's house did indeed consume him when it led to his passion and death at the hands of religious authorities. While he was aware that this would be one of the main actions that would lead to his death, Jesus went even further when he pointed to himself as the new Temple, the new place of worship. In him a person encounters God as never before.

Thus, Christians, being identified with Christ in Baptism, are also temples of God, living temples of the Holy Spirit. Paul reminds the early Christians of the community at Corinth that they are themselves God's Temple. God, in Christ, dwells in each one. Moreover, the whole community of Christians forms a temple, in which each Christian is a living stone, with Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

It is in the context of these readings that we must ask ourselves what we are really celebrating today. While it is true that the very orderly, stable and universal structure is surely to be celebrated in this feast and we need the certainty and conviction that comes from something that is consistent and bigger than ourselves, we also need to accept the fact that this is not all that the Church is. We also celebrate weakness in today's feast. First, the weakness and numerous failures of each of us individuals who make up the Church, and also the failures and shortcomings of the Church as a whole. Both are in constant need of cleansing by the head of the Church Jesus Christ who continues to make all things whole.

# CHRIST THE KING

He wasn't just another king  
To war with all around  
He did not send his merchant ships  
Exploiting all he found  
He kept on speaking up for truth  
Reached out to those in need  
Opposing faith of cultic law  
And all inhuman creed



He paid the price of cruel death  
Like others in defeat  
But then they say he rose again  
His kingdom wont retreat  
Godfrey D'lima

मणिपुरी पणत्या !! 🧡 🧡

माझ्या मिशनच्या परिघावर  
MP ची सरहद्द आहे.

दिवाळी आहे. निवडणुकीचा  
त्यात माहोळही आहे.

पंधरा मणिपुरी आश्रीत मुली  
तेथे काँलेजात आहेत.

दिवाळीची सुट्टी लागली आहे  
पणत्या विकत आहेत.

तेवढा हातभार अभ्यासासाठी  
लागत आहे आयुष्यात.

सारे वैभव गमावूनच आल्यात  
त्या जाळपोळीत.

दिवाळी? करावी कुणास्तव?  
साजरी कुणासाठी?

प्रकाशच अंधारलेला असताना  
दिवे विकतात बाजारात.

आश्रय दिलाय सेवाभावी एका  
संस्थेच्या मिशनरीनी.

नाताळपर्यंत! नाताळपर्यंतच !!  
पुढील आयुष्य अधांतरी...



विकताहेत पणत्या त्या माझ्या  
ह्या सहिष्णू? देशात.  
तेलाविना वातीविना अंधार  
आयुष्याचा....

.... विवेक 😊

१९ नोव्हें.

दीनदुबळ्यासाठीचा

जागतिक संवर्धन दिन !!

.... वेन्सी डिमेलो.

१९ नोव्हें. आपले जागतिक चर्च दीनगरिबांप्रती असलेली कणव, सहानुभूती आणि संवेदनशीलता म्हणून जागतिक "दीन संवर्धन जागृती दिन" साजरा करित आहे.

"करशील जे गरिबांसाठी होईल ते

माझ्यासाठी. "वेदना जाणावयाला जागवू संवेदना." हा पोपमहाशय फ्रान्सिस ह्यांनी भाविकांसाठी आग्रह धरला आहे. त्याचे यंदाचे हे सातवे वर्ष आहे.

यावर्षी पोप फ्रान्सिस बायबल मधील संवेदनशील संदेशा तोबीत हे व्यक्तिमत्त्व निवडून गरिबांची बाजू घेणाऱ्या ह्या सद्गृहस्थाच्या जीवन शैलीवर निरूपण करित आहेत. ते मुळातून वाचायला हवे

मनन मंथन चिंतन करायला हवे.

( तोबीत: एक ते चौदा अध्याय)

तोबीत आपल्या जीवनानुभवातून

आपल्या मुलाला घडवतो. त्यावर संस्कार करतो. "दीनगरीबीतील श्रीमंती आणि साधेपणातील सौंदर्य" त्याला विशद करतो. अशा दीनावस्थेत माणूस

अहंम गर्व सत्ता मत्ता मानसन्मान

ह्यांची गुणदुर्गुणासह खोलवर पारख करतो. ज्यात दीनगरीब लोकांचा धनिक श्रीमंतांना विसर पडण्याचा धोका असतो. ज्यातून जीवन जगण्यातील आनंद आणि समाधान ते मिळवू शकत नाहीत. "असूनही नाथ मी अनाथ" अशी त्यांची स्थिती असते.

तोबीत असे संवेदनशील जीवन जगत असताना आंधळा होतो. ते ही व्यंग तो देवाची देणगी म्हणून सकारात्मक घेतो. डोळे उघडे असतानाची नव्हती तेवढी आता मला बंद डोळ्यांनी दीनदुबळ्या गरिबदलितांबद्दल, विषयीच्या कळकळीची अधिक आंतरिक दृष्टी प्राप्त झाली असे म्हणत ही देणगी तो आनंदाने स्वीकारतो.

अशा धर्मसेवाश्रद्धेतून, बायबल शिकवणूकीतून आपण ख्रिस्ती लोक घडले आहोत. आणि जीवनात दयाकृत्ये नि दानधर्म करीत असतो. गरिबांप्रती

प्रार्थना करीत असतो. नुसत्या अशा प्रार्थना करणाऱ्या भक्ताला तोबीत सावध, सतर्क नि झोपेतून

उठवतो आणि म्हणतो... "प्रार्थनेतून परमार्थ, भक्तीतून कृती, श्रद्धेतून सेवा सदा जागवत रहा."

येशू म्हणतो,

प्रभो प्रभो म्हणणाऱ्यांचा स्वर्ग राज्यात प्रवेश होणार नाही. प्रवेश अशांचाच होईल जो माझ्या शेजारील गरजवंत भावाबहिणीची संवेदना जाणेल आणि जागवेल. ह्यासाठी येशूने आपणा सर्वास

"चांगल्या शमरोनीचा" दाखला दिला आहे.

गुड समॅरिटन हा सद्गृहस्थ जखमींच्या सारख्या जखमा बांधत असताना, गरिबांप्रती सहानुभूती व्यक्त करताना. त्यांच्यासाठी दयाकृत्ये दानधर्म करताना, त्यांची दुरावस्था दूर व्हावी म्हणून प्रार्थनेद्वारे देवाला साकडे घालताना...

त्याही पलीकडे जाऊन आपणास गरिबांवर होणाऱ्या अन्यायाविरुद्ध केवळ त्यांच्या जखमा बांधून नव्हे तर त्यांना जखमी करतो कोण? ह्याचा शोध घेत त्या विरोधी लढा उभारायचा आहे. गरिबांना गरीब करतो कोण? ही समाजव्यवस्था शोधायची आहे.

आपल्या ख्रिस्ती श्रद्धेतून निर्माण झालेल्या ख्रिस्ती संस्था ह्या बऱ्याचदा "चॅरिटी ओरिएंटेड" असतात. त्या "वर्क ओरिएंटेड" व्हायला हव्यात. आपण एखाद्यावर उपकार करतो. आणि तो जन्मभर आपला ओशाळी रहातो. त्याला प्रतिष्ठा मिळवून द्यायची असेल तर त्याला तेथेच त्या पातळीवर न ठेवता. आपल्या पातळीवर आणणे आणि त्याची अस्मिता जागविणे हे आहे देवाप्रती समतेचे सत्कृत्ये. "माणसाने माणसाशी माणसासम वागणे"

ख्रिस्ती माणूस हा दयाकृत्ये आणि दयाधर्म करण्यात जगाच्या तुलनेने माहीर आहे. तो आपल्या उत्पन्नातला हा दहावा हिस्सा तर दीनदुबळ्यांप्रती देतोच. शिवाय अधिकचेही देतो. लाखो करोडोने चर्च दानधर्म जमा करते. मात्र त्या

वाटपाचे यथार्थ योग्य नियोजन करणे ही देखील चर्चची एक गरिबांप्रती बांधिलकी आहे. शिस्त आहे... जबाबदारीही आहे.

कधीकधी दानधर्माच्या महान पवित्र महाकाय वृक्षावर भ्रष्टाचाराची इतकी बांडगुळे वाढतात नि मूळ वृक्षाचा रस शोषून घेतात. की त्या ओझ्याने धर्मदायी वृक्षच उन्मळून, कोंलमोडून पडण्याचाच धोका अधिक आहे. हा धोका त्यावेळी ख्रिस्ताने आपल्या निरीक्षणातून अचूक ओळखला होता. आणि शास्त्री परूशांचा रोष ओढवून घेतला होता. हा धोका आजही आहे हे "सामाजिक पाप आहे." ह्यासंबंधी पोप फ्रान्सिस ख्रिस्ती भाविकांना सावध सतर्क करतात.

परिणामी आजचे ख्रिस्ताचे सच्चे सेवक अनुयायी चर्चचे 'एजंड' न वापरता परस्पर दीनगोरगरिबांना तातडीचे मदतकार्य करताना आढळतात. हाही प्रापंचिकांचा मदत सेवाउपक्रम चर्चने ह्या साजऱ्या होणाऱ्या जागतिक गरीबीच्या संवेदनशीलदिनी मान्य करायला हवा. "प्रापंचिक" हा संदेष्टा तोबीत सारखा स्तुत्य मानायला हवा.

जगातील राजेरजवाडे जेवढे श्रीमंत नाहीत. विज्ञानशास्त्रातील शोधबोध जेवढे संपन्न नाहीत. त्यांच्याकडे जेवढी सत्ता मालमत्ता

नाही. त्याहून अधिक संपत्ती नि पैसा हा जगातील सर्वधर्मीय पुजारीनी एकवटला आहे. त्याचे योग्य नियोजन वितरण विकेंद्रीकरण करणे हाताबाहेरचे झाले आहे. आणि ह्याच गर्वातून अभिनिवेशातून जगात युद्धे पेटतात आणि ह्याच जमलेल्या पैशातून ती खेळली जातात. आणि गरीब नाडला जातो. आणि ह्याच योग्य नियोजना अभावी

"चॅरिटेबल ओरिएंटेड" दानधर्माचा जगाला तसेच जगातील गरिबीला धोका आहे. हे लक्षात घेतले पाहिजे.

ह्यावर चिंतन मनन चर्चा व्हावी. जागृतता यावी म्हणूनही हा दिन साजरा करण्यामागे पोप फ्रान्सिस ह्यांची जागृतता आहे. हेतू आहे.



## **SCRIPTURE NUGGETS**

### **THE BOOK OF NUMBERS**

1. The Book of Numbers (from Greek Ἀριθμοί, Arithmoi, literally "numbers"; Biblical Hebrew: בְּמִדְבָּר, Bəmidbar, literally "In the desert [of]") is the fourth book of the Hebrew Bible and the fourth of five books of the Pentateuch.
2. It consists of 36 Chapters
3. The book divides neatly into two parts. Each part begins with a census of the people (chaps. 1 and 26) and inaugurates a period of preparation prior to entering the promised land.
4. Numbers begins at Mount Sinai, where God's people have received their laws and covenant from God and God has taken up residence among them in the sanctuary. The task before them is to take possession of the Promised Land.
5. Numbers is the culmination of the story of Israel's exodus from oppression in Egypt and their journey to take possession of the land God promised their fathers.
6. While it is a fairly short distance from Egypt to Israel, it took the people 40 years to get there. This was because of the people's disobedience and lack of faith because of which they wandered in the desert.
7. Numbers was written to document their journey of God's people to the Promised Land, but it also reminds all future readers, that God is with us as we journey toward heaven.
8. In the New Testament numerous allusions to incidents in the Book of Numbers appear: the bronze serpent (Jn 3:14–15), the sedition of Korah and its consequences (1 Cor 10:10), the prophecies of Balaam (2 Pt 2:15–16), and the water gushing from the rock (1 Cor 10:4).
9. The name "Abraham" only shows up once in the book of Numbers, but in the Book of Numbers, God is at work fulfilling his promises to Abraham.
10. The chief divisions of the Book of Numbers are as follows:
  - I. Census and Preparation for the Departure from Sinai (1:1–10:10)
  - II. Departure, Rebellion, and Wandering in the Wilderness for Forty Years (10:11–25:18)
  - III. Second Census of a New Generation and Preparation to Enter the Promised Land (25:19–36:13)

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**Preacher: Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ**  
**Contact 9004617804 or errolsj@gmail.com**



**January 26-28, 2024**

**Arrival: January 26, 2024 (evening before supper) Departure: January 28, 2024  
(after lunch)**

**Kindly book by the Jan Shatabdi (12071) {Second sitting Rs. 120 and AC Chair Car Rs. 400 – Departure at 12.10 pm from CSMT and 12.25 pm from Dadar} to come to Nashik. Book by Tapovan (17618) from Nashik to CSMT {Second sitting Rs. 90; AC Chair car Rs. 335 – Departure at 6.05 pm from Nashik}**

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