



SCCP News

Salesian Catechetical Centre Pune



MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR FR. DINESH

Dear Friends,

As we enter the month of February, love seems to be in the air. People celebrate Valentine's Day but this month holds an even greater significance for us Christians as it marks the beginning of the Lenten season, a journey of love that invites us to reflect on the ultimate act of love of Jesus Christ for our salvation.

Valentine's Day reminds us of the power of love in our lives. It is a day when we express our love and gratitude to our family, friends, and significant others. We exchange gifts, share heartfelt messages, and create lasting memories. This celebration is a beautiful reminder of the importance of love in our relationships and daily interactions. However, we Christians understand that love goes beyond romantic gestures and expressions. We will experience this in the Lenten season - forty days leading up to Easter. It is a time of reflection, repentance and mortifications that mirror the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

In the season of Lent, we are called to journey with Christ, walking in His footsteps and deepening our understanding of His love for us. It is a time to examine our lives, identify areas where we can grow in love, and make a conscious effort to live more fully by God's commandments. Through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity, we seek to align our hearts with Christ's love and grow in our capacity to love others. As we journey through Lent, let us remind ourselves of the ultimate act of love that Jesus, our Lord and Master, performed through His passion, death, and resurrection.



Dear Friends, I invite you to embrace the opportunity to grow in love. May we not only express love through romantic gestures but also seek to embody the love of Christ in our thoughts, words, and actions. Let us use this time of reflection and prayer to deepen our relationship with God and to extend His love to those around us.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT REPORT

Br. Joswin

The Salesian Catechetical Center, Pune organized a two day retreat for the confirmation students of Good Shepherd Parish, NBIM and St. Ignatius Parish, Kirkee on the 20th and 21st of January 2024 at Don Bosco Youth Center, Koregaon Park. A total of 54 students participated in the retreat. The retreat was filled with sessions and activities animated by Fr. Dinesh, the Director of the Catechetical Center along with Sr. Teresa Joseph and the Salesian brothers.



The various sessions on topics like Confirmation, a defining moment; Relationship with Jesus and our neighbours; steps to walk in the Spirit; Social Media and the Church; life after confirmation and significance of the Sacrament of Confession helped the youngsters to know themselves better and to prepare well for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The activities like Bible quiz and enacting of the Bible narratives helped them to grow in their love for the word of God. The presence of 6 animators from both the parishes enabled to get the best out students and thus the last confirmation retreat for the academic year 2023-2024 was a grand success.



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT LENT

Lent is the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter observed by the Roman Catholic, Eastern, and some Protestant churches as a period of penitence and fasting. Sundays aren't included in the 40-day count. Since Sundays aren't included, Lent technically lasts 46 days.

When Lent started, it was only 36 days. Later, it was changed to 40 days.

Why is Lent 40 days? The number 40 is a significant number for Christians. Jesus spent 40 days in a desert. Noah had to wait 40 days for his ark to float. And Moses, along with his followers, traveled through the wilderness for 40 years before reaching the Promised Land.

Lent comes from the Middle English word "lente," which means springtime.

Violet is the official color of Lent, as this represents mourning for Jesus dying on the cross while also celebrating his resurrection with the colors of royalty.

Lent doesn't actually end on Easter; it ends on Good Thursday, the day Jesus has The Last Supper. Good Friday is when Jesus dies on the cross, and on Easter Sunday, he rises from the grave.

The date for Easter has been set for thousands of years. It all has to do with the full moon of the Pashal, or Passover, full moon. Easter will fall between March 22 and April 25. There are mathematical formulas you can use to determine when Easter will fall in any year.

WHY ASHES

ASHES ARE A PUBLIC SIGN OF OUR INTENT TO


**DIE TO OUR
WORLDLY DESIRES
AND
LIVE IN CHRIST**

AS OUR FOREHEADS ARE MARKED WITH ASHES, THESE WORDS ARE SAID:

“REMEMBER, THAT **YOU ARE DUST,** AND **UNTO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN.**”

WHERE DO THE ASHES COME FROM?

THE ASHES ARE MADE FROM THE **BLESSED PALMS** USED IN THE PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR




REASONS FOR FASTING



<p>1 TO GROW IN SELF-MASTERY</p> <p>It helps us learn to say “no” to our appetites and be free from what we don’t need.</p>	<p>2 OBEDIENCE AND DISCERNMENT</p> <p>It opens us up and allows us to let God and the Church tell us what is best for us.</p>
<p>3 WORSHIP AND SACRIFICE</p> <p>Fasting is a sacrifice oriented towards worship of God and not ourselves.</p>	<p>4 TO BE CO-REDEEMERS WITH JESUS</p> <p>As it is a sacrifice, we participate in the Cross of Jesus for the salvation of the world.</p>

UPCOMING SESSIONS

☞ Symbiosis for Pune Region Youth

📅 11th February 2024, 9am - 5pm

📍 DBYC, Koregaon Park, Pune

☞ Youth Pasch (for 18+ youth)

📅 27th to 31st March, 2024

📍 DBYC, Koregaon Park, Pune

☞ CTC (Catechist Training Course)

📅 18th February 2024, 2pm - 5pm

📍 DBYC, Koregaon Park, Pune

Resource Person: Mr. Shirish Sebastian

Topic: Spiritual Leadership

☞ Lenten Recollection for Catechists

Rt. Rev Bishop John Rodrigues

📅 3rd March 2024

📍 DBYC, Koregaon Park, Pune



Please contact us if your parish would like to join
for the confirmation retreat and first holy communion recollection

The Editorial Team



Fr. Dinesh



Sr. Teresa



Br. Joswin



Fr. Ian



Alisha



Magdalena



Kenrick