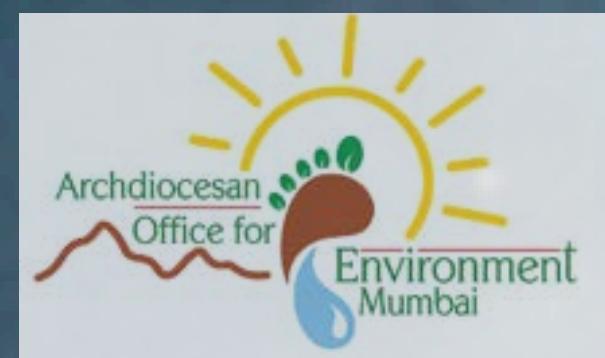


December 2025

Vol 12 | Issue 1



# green

Gods call to Renew and Energise Earth and Nature

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# Editor's Note

## Caring for Our Common Home — Faith in Action

GREEN — is here, with a renewed commitment to the Church's ecological witness!

As the global community intensifies its response to the climate crisis, the Catholic Church continues to offer a moral and spiritual compass rooted in faith, justice, and responsibility towards creation. Inspired by *Laudato Si'* and global milestones such as COP30, the Church reminds us that ecological degradation is not merely an environmental issue, but a deeply human and spiritual concern.

At the national level, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) and the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) have strengthened the Church's ecological witness through creative and participatory initiatives. The presence of Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão and Bishop Allwyn D'Silva at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, highlighted the prophetic role of faith leaders in advocating climate justice and amplifying the voices of vulnerable communities.

Within this wider ecclesial vision, the Archdiocese of Bombay stands out for its sustained commitment to ecological conversion. Declaring Bombay a Green Diocese, Cardinal Oswald Gracias affirmed that care for creation flows directly from the Gospel. This initiative, confirmed by Archbishop John Rodrigues, integrates renewable energy use, rainwater harvesting, energy audits, and parish-level *Laudato Si'* action plans towards 2030.

The Strategic *Laudato Si'* Implementation Plan, unveiled at the July Consultative Meet, renewed collective commitment to ecological spirituality and sustainable lifestyles.

Green initiatives and eco-programmes in parishes, schools, youth groups, and religious communities, many driven by Eco Ambassadors trained by the Archdiocesan Office for Environment, reflect a growing culture of stewardship.

And to add to this, across India, similar faith-based efforts echo the Church's response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

GREEN, the e-magazine of the AOE, stands as a testament to faith in action and hope for generations to come.

Happy Reading!

**Sr Joeyanna D'Souza FSP  
Secretary – Archdiocesan Office for Environment (AOE)**

**Layout & Design  
Br Jubin Thomas  
Pastoral Ministry - AOE**

# MESSAGES

Fr Luke Rodrigues SJ  
Head - AOE

**The Season of Christmas is such a beautiful time involving so many celebrations with friends, family, the parish community, etc. It's also a time when we do something or the other to spruce up our homes – getting pending repairs done, buying new furniture or appliances, and generally making the home more joyful, colourful and vibrant.**

**That's great! Now, let's think of doing the same thing for our common home. We could look at repairing some of the damage done by pollution, or renew the vitality of the soil and water bodies, or make space in our gardens and homes for the tiny creatures that bring colour and vibrancy to our surroundings.**

**The AOE team invites you to join us in making this dream a reality by adopting and implementing the Vision 2030 plan. We have taken the seven Laudato Si' Goals (proposed by the Laudato Si' Action Platform) and worked out specific actions for these goals. This vision and action plan is being shared with parishes across the Archdiocese. If you feel the desire to be actively engaged in this process, please contact us at [secretary-office@aoebombay.org](mailto:secretary-office@aoebombay.org). We are always happy to welcome enthusiastic collaborators who are committed to this mission.**

**This Christmas season, let us give thanks not just for the warmth of family and friends, but also for the air we breathe, the water that revives us and the soil that nourishes us. May our actions and habits be rooted in care and respect for each other and for the beautiful world we live in.**

**May we renew our commitment to caring for creation this 2026**



**Bishop  
Allwyn D'Silva**



# AOE DIARY

The Archdiocesan Office for Environment (AOE), Mumbai journeyed through the year animating faith communities, youth, and institutions to embrace an integral ecology rooted in prayer, formation, and action. Through collaborations across deaneries, parishes, and organisations, AOE sought to translate the vision of Laudato Si' into lived discipleship.

## Journeying Together

The year opened with a Reunion of Eco Ambassadors (January, Dadar), reaffirming their role as ecological animators within parishes. This was followed by an Exposure Visit to a Waste Management Facility at Kanjurmarg (February), organised with the Federation of Centres for Community Organisation, offering participants hands-on learning in sustainable urban practices.

During Lent, AOE partnered with Don Bosco Youth Services to conduct a Lenten Eco-Recollection at Uttan (March), inviting participants to experience ecological conversion through prayer, reflection, and lifestyle discernment.

## Prayer, Liturgy, and Ecological Spirituality

World Environment Day in June was marked by a Holy Half Hour for Creation, prepared by AOE and celebrated across seven locations in the Archdiocese, fostering a spirit of gratitude and responsibility towards creation.

In August, ecological reflection was further deepened through an Eco-Spirituality Retreat at Vinayalaya, Andheri, and the preparation of an Ecology Reflection Paper for Small Christian Communities as part of the Jubilee Year initiatives.

The liturgical life of the Archdiocese was enriched during the Season of Creation, with the AOE coordinating celebrations of the new Mass for the Care of Creation in five parishes. The Season concluded with the Archdiocesan Mass for the Care of Creation on October 4 at the Shrine of Don Bosco's Madonna, Matunga, marking triple milestones - the tenth anniversary of Laudato Si', the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Sun and the 1700th anniversary of the ecumenical Council of Nicaea. The AOE also facilitated an Ecumenical Prayer Service for the Season of Creation at Ambernath— the first of its kind in the Archdiocese—bringing together diverse Christian communities in shared concern for creation.

## Youth, Formation and Collaboration

A hands-on Session on Creation—Destruction—Restoration was conducted during the Thane Central Deanery Youth Day in August. September witnessed vibrant youth participation through COPeace, a Season of Creation interfaith youth event organised in collaboration with Don Bosco Youth Services.

Formation initiatives included the Online Certificate Course for Eco Ambassadors - 2025, with participants from across the Archdiocese and beyond, conducted in collaboration with the CBCI Office for Environment and Climate Change. Additionally, sessions were held for Deacons at the Seminary and for faith communities on becoming a Laudato Si' Diocese.

The AOE also collaborated with The Examiner for the Code Green Special Ecology Issue, extending ecological awareness through diocesan media.

The AOE Ministry team was instrumental in developing the Vision 2030 presentation for the Archdiocese of Bombay in July, highlighting integral ecology as an key pastoral priority.

In November and December, ecological consciousness was sustained through parish-based sessions and Advent Recollections and Adoration Services, encouraging faith communities to welcome Christ by caring for creation.

### Personnel and Portfolio Changes

Br Jubin Thomas is assigned to pastoral ministry with the AOE since June, Br Joel D'Silva having completed his term in March.

Sr Joeyanna D'Souza FSP was appointed as AOE Secretary in August, taking over communications, media and archives.

Ms Shawna Nemesia Rebello continues as Consultant, coordinating the Certificate Course for Eco Ambassadors and the Season of Creation programme for the AOE, and is its representative (on behalf of Bishop Allwyn D'Silva) at the Laudato Si' Action Platform.

The following Ministry Team members facilitate the Vision 2030 process in the Archdiocese of Bombay together with the AOE - Mr Andrew Williams, Ms Annie Gomes, Ms Elaine Fernandes, Ms Jasmine Nair, Ms Pramila Lewis, Ms Pauline Fernandes and Ms Snehlata Alphonso.

- Ms Shawna Nemesia Rebello  
Consultant - AOE

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Eco Ambassadors, Eco Cell Members of Parishes and other Institutions and Eco-Clergy from Parishes are invited to a Consultative Meet towards Vision 2030 to plan for 2026 and for interaction with the Synod Implementation Team for Ecological Wellbeing on Monday, 19 January 2026, from 5PM to 8PM, at Salvation Kendra Hall, Dadar

The meet is open to all interested persons who wish to contribute to parish-level ecological action and long-term planning. Come, be part of shaping a greener and more responsible future for our Church.

For the registration form, Call or WhatsApp: 9136644259

# VISION 2030

6th July 2025

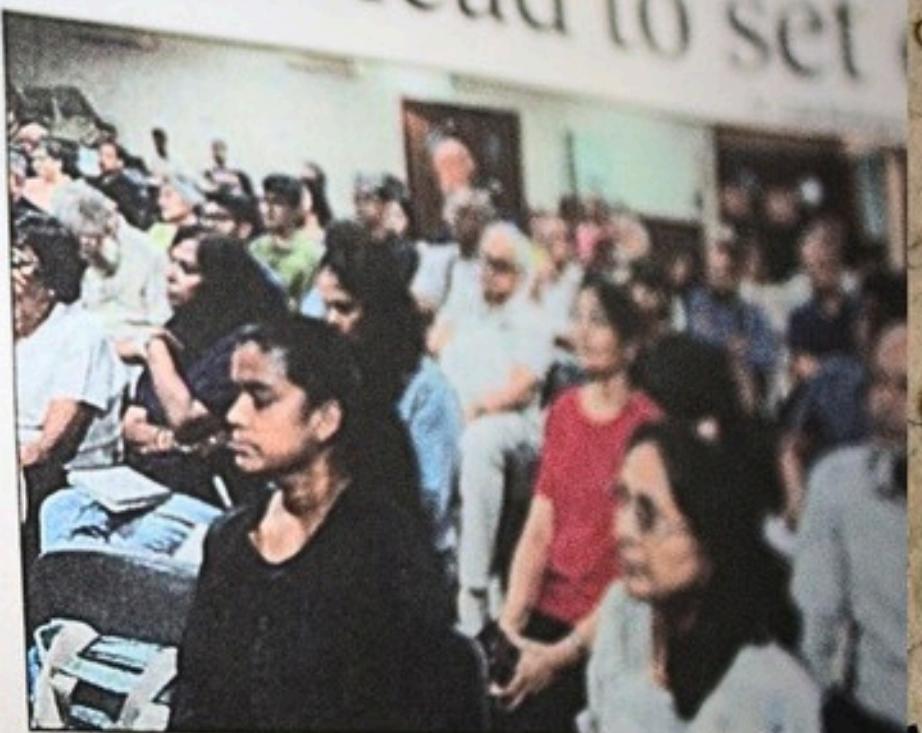


## Church takes lead to set

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Sunday evening saw over 100 members of the Christian community gather at Salvation Kendra, Dadar, to chalk out an environmental action plan for the 124 parishes of the Bombay Archdiocese. The event was organised by the Archdiocesan Office for Environment (AOE), a department committed to creating awareness on climate change in the community.

The consultation, called 'Implementing the Vision of Laudato Si', was held to discuss the framework developed



The meeting was held at Salvation Kendra, Dadar, on Sunday

by the Rome-based Laudato Si Action Platform. The Laudato Si is a papal encyclical letter drawn up by



Church takes lead to set environment goals for community



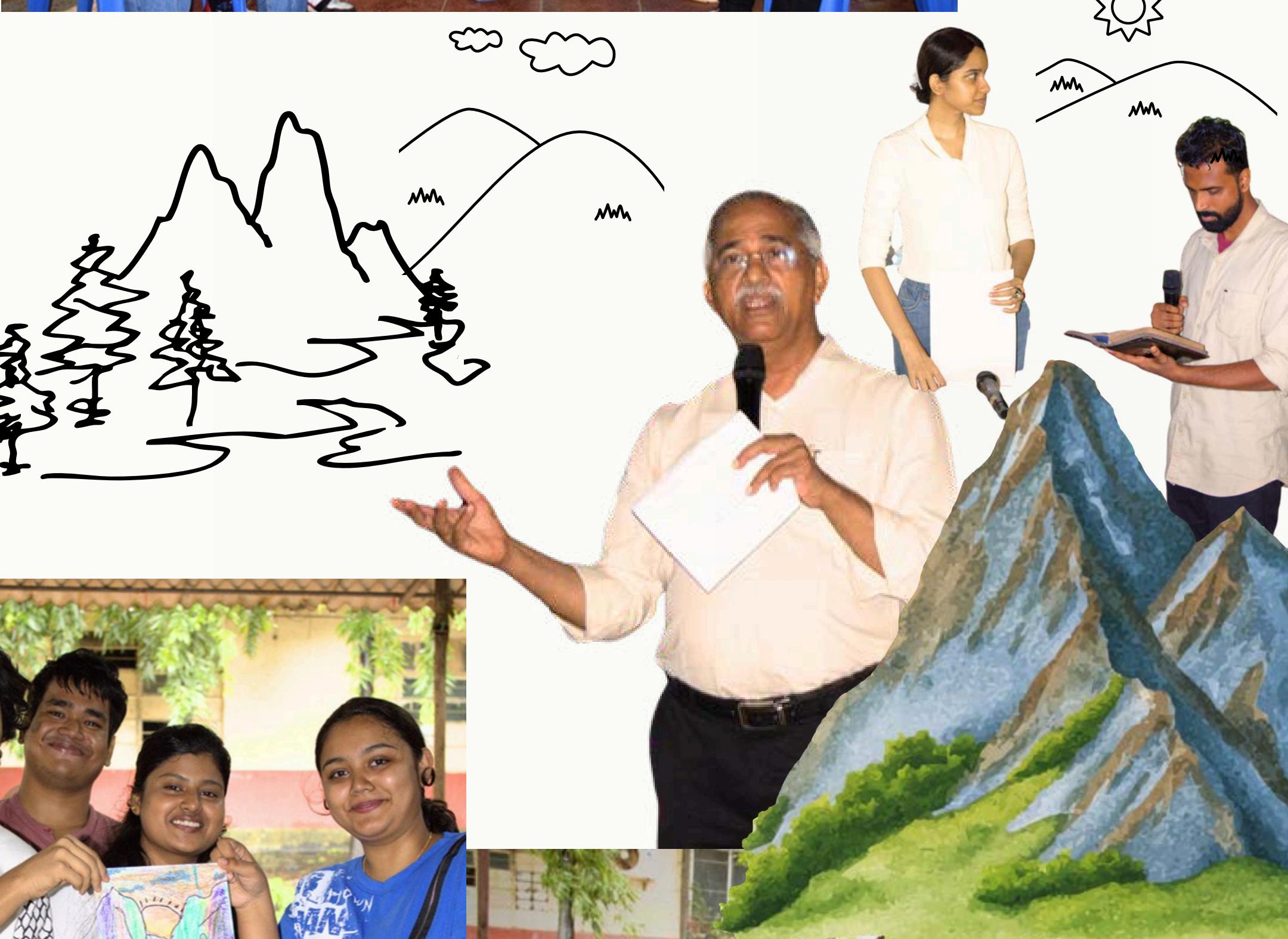
# Eco Recollection

9th August 2025



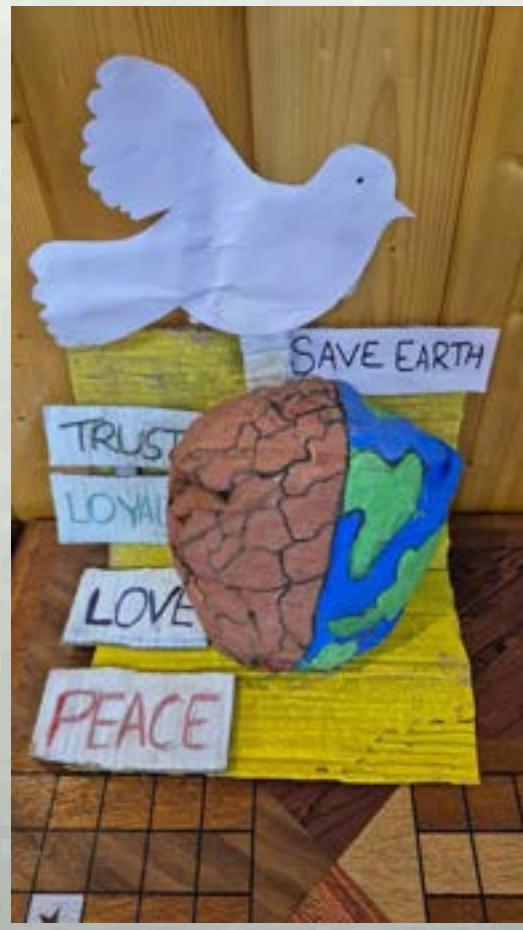
# Creation-Destruction-Restoration

17th August 2025



# COPeace

28th September 2025



# Mass for the Care of Creation

4th October 2025





# **DIOCESAN TALES**

# E-Waste and Newspaper Drive

## Sacred Heart Church, Vashi

### Young Hearts, Green Mission

On Sunday, 9th November, Sacred Heart Church, Vashi came alive with a beautiful sense of purpose as the parish community joined hands for an e-waste and newspapers collection drive. What made the initiative truly inspiring was the dedication of the parish youth, who led the entire effort with genuine enthusiasm and a deep concern for the environment.

Right after morning Masses, the youth volunteers fanned out across different church zones, visiting homes and meeting parishioners with cheerful greetings. Armed with collection bags and plenty of motivation, they went door to door gathering old newspapers and electronic waste—things that often pile up unnoticed in our homes. Parishioners welcomed them warmly, happy to support a cause that blended faith, responsibility, and care for the Earth.

By afternoon, the volunteers returned to the church compound with their collected items. There, they spent time sorting everything and ensuring that all the materials were sent to authorised recycling partners. The newspapers would be reused, and the e-waste processed safely—preventing harmful components from ending up in landfills. For the youth, it was not just a drive, but a hands-on experience that strengthened their understanding of sustainable living.

This spirit of environmental care continues throughout the year. The parish youth also collect PET bottles and Tetra Pak cartons from Sunday School students, helping the children understand the value of recycling and the impact of simple everyday choices.

The drive on 9th November was a reminder that when a community, especially its young members, comes together with sincerity and hope, even a small initiative can make a big difference—to the planet and to the hearts of those involved.



# Orlem Eco Confirmation Group Outing

## A Day of Learning, Action and Fun

On 5th November, we organized our first-ever outing for the Eco Confo Youth group- an engaging and interactive session focused on sustainability.

We began with a lively buzz session, which helped the youth reflect on what sustainability means in their daily lives. The participants were then divided into five groups, with each group given a guiding question to discuss. After their discussions, they shared their thoughts with everyone. Each group was also invited to create its own eco-team name and slogan, adding a fun and creative element to the session.

To make the experience more personal and meaningful, every participant wrote down one sustainability pledge they committed to follow.

The learning continued with a quiz on Bonaventure Church. This was followed by a hands-on activity where the participants collected dry waste from the beach an eye-opening exercise that highlighted the importance of caring for our environment.

We wrapped up the outing with some relaxed time on the beach and a time of fellowship over snacks.

This being our first initiative of its kind for the Eco Confo Youth, we are delighted to share that the young people thoroughly enjoyed the day. It was a wonderful blend of fun, learning and action leaving everyone enriched and inspired.

We thank our SD - Fr. Clinton for his support and encouragement to organize such an activity. Thanks to also our team members (Elivra & Giselle – both Eco Ambassadors) in planning and executing this event successfully.

**Pauline Fernandes - Eco Ambassador  
ECO – Our Lady of Lourdes Church – Malad**



# "Stirring Up Sustainability One Recipe at a Time"

In a unique celebration of sustainability and family bonding, OLLC, Orlem buzzed with excitement on 27th July 2025, as E.C.O. (Environment Cell of Orlem) hosted its much-anticipated Zero-Waste Cooking Competition. Held on the school's ground floor from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the event brought together an inspiring mix of creativity, environmental consciousness, and intergenerational teamwork.

Designed to encourage mindful cooking practices, the competition emphasized the importance of reducing food waste while promoting healthy and innovative culinary habits. Each team, comprising one child and one parent or grandparent was assigned the task of preparing one snack and one drink—using ingredients thoughtfully, with minimal waste and all prep had to be done at home. On the day of the event, participants arrived ready to assemble and present their creations on-site, using only natural, eco-friendly décor to complete their displays. From fruit peel garnishes to compostable plating and creative use of leftovers, the event showcased how sustainability can start right in the kitchen—and how small changes can make a big impact.

More than a contest, the Zero-Waste Cooking Competition served as a powerful reminder of the role families play in shaping sustainable habits. It encouraged participants to rethink their relationship with food and demonstrated that reducing waste doesn't mean compromising on flavour, fun or nutrition. With enthusiastic participation and heartfelt teamwork on display, the event was a colourful celebration of eco-consciousness, innovation, and family connection.

**Jill Forte - Eco Ambassador**

**ENVIRONMENT CELL OF ORLEM, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Malad**



# Gown/Blazer Donation drive

## Our Lady of Visitation Church- Nerul

The Green Cell of Our Lady of the Visitation parish Nerul, undertook a meaningful outreach initiative titled “Donate a Gown or a Blazer”, aimed at promoting conscious reuse and reducing clothing waste in the community. The drive primarily collected gently used First Holy Communion gowns and blazers—clothes often worn only once or twice and then stored away at home.

The initial objective of the initiative was to make these garments available to families preparing for their children's First Holy Communion. However, with only one family coming forward to receive a gown, the Green Cell decided to extend the purpose of the drive by donating the collected garments to the children of Vaduz Ashram.

On 3rd October 2025, the donation was carried out to coincide with the Ashram's celebration of their Patron Saint, St. Francis of Assisi, whose life is a testament to simplicity, compassion, and care for the marginalized. The children welcomed the gesture with joy, and the garments—still in excellent condition—brought smiles and comfort to their special day.

The nuns of Vaduz Ashram expressed deep appreciation for the thoughtful contribution. This initiative effectively highlighted the importance of mindful consumption, responsible reuse, and compassionate action.

The Green Cell extends heartfelt gratitude to all parishioners and families who generously contributed, enabling these treasured garments to find new life and bring happiness to children in need.

By Annie Gomez - Eco Ambassador  
OLVC Nerul



# Learning Takes Wing in Our Butterfly Garden

Don Bosco Senior Secondary School, Nerul, took a significant step towards environmental education and biodiversity conservation with the inauguration of a Butterfly Garden on Wednesday, 17th December.

The Butterfly Garden was formally inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Ashley Miranda, Provincial of the Mumbai Province, in the presence of the school management, staff, and students. The initiative reflects the school's commitment to nurturing curiosity, environmental awareness, and a love for nature among young learners.

To ensure the effective maintenance and sustainability of the garden, a core Eco Club team comprising students from Classes V to VIII was formed. Students will ensure regular watering, manuring, and vigilant maintenance of the Butterfly Garden to support plant growth and sustain biodiversity, thereby promoting observation skills and experiential learning.

This meaningful green initiative was made possible through the generous support of the iNature Watch Foundation, which offered a free Butterfly Garden setup to the school campus.

The school expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Kalyani Chaudhuri, Principal, for her encouragement and vision in promoting eco-friendly initiatives. Sincere appreciation is also extended to Mrs. Shubha Lakshmi, Director of the iNature Watch Foundation, for gifting 300 saplings, including butterfly host, feed, and nectar plants, enabling butterflies to thrive naturally within the school campus.

This Eco Club initiative aims to create a vibrant green learning space where students can:

- \* Observe butterflies in their natural habitat
- \* Explore biodiversity and ecosystems
- \* Learn to care for and protect nature
- \* Experience joyful, hands-on environmental learning.

Sharing his enthusiasm, Ved Liam, a student member of the Eco Club, remarked, "I love gardening and am eagerly waiting to see butterflies flutter across our campus." His words reflect the excitement and sense of ownership students feel towards this green initiative.

The Butterfly Garden serves as a living laboratory, fostering environmental responsibility and inspiring students to become active stewards of nature.

Annie Gomez – Eco Ambassador



# Global Collaboration

## Don Bosco Students Connect with Ukrainian Peers for Climate Action

Nerul, October 2025:

In a heartwarming display of global collaboration, students of Grades 8 and 9 from Don Bosco Senior Secondary School, Nerul, connected virtually with their counterparts from Oriyana School, Ukraine, as part of the Global Climate Action Project. The interactive session aimed to promote environmental awareness, global citizenship, and joint efforts toward a sustainable future.

The Ukrainian students, led by their teacher Ms. Yulia, showcased their inspiring initiatives such as forest walks, garbage collection drives, and campaigns to maintain a clean and green school environment. Their dedication to environmental conservation resonated deeply with all participants.

The Don Bosco students shared their own impactful climate initiatives, including the Garden Project and the campaign “1 Paudha Maa ke Naam” (One Plant for Our Mother Earth). They also presented findings from their Water Audit and Carbon Footprint Assessment, emphasizing conscious efforts to reduce environmental impact. Furthermore, they highlighted their Plastic and E-waste Collection Drives, which encourage responsible waste management within the school and community.

A poignant moment came when Ukrainian students shared how their school had suffered damage from the ongoing war — a part of the building hit by a rocket and still under restoration. Their resilience and commitment to continue environmental action despite adversity left a lasting impression on everyone.

The session concluded with an exchange of messages of hope and unity. One Don Bosco student beautifully expressed,

“We hope for peaceful coexistence so that humanity can thrive and flourish together. We wish for a future where we no longer have to worry about climate change, but instead live in a cleaner, healthier world guided by wise and responsible people.”

The interaction embodied the essence of the Climate Action Project — learning beyond borders, sharing impactful practices, and inspiring global change. It was indeed a memorable and enriching experience, strengthening the bond of empathy, awareness, and shared purpose among young changemakers.

— Diana Jimmy





## July Plastic free

### Salvation Church - Dadar

In 2023 out of the 6.3 L tonnes of dry waste, Plastic waste accounted for 20 K tonnes. Unfortunately, only half of this, made it to recycling facilities. This implies over 10 K tonnes made it back into our soil to live the rest of their 400+ years to decomposition mingling and leaching into the ground water of Mumbai.

Thus as a member of the SGC, I am proud and happy to note our deep commitment to sending plastic to recycling via our partner Bottles for Change (A Bisleri initiative) . In the year 2024 we were responsible for sending 293 Kgs of Plastic Waste to the recycler.

In 2025 we were determined to do better and this as a member of the Salvation Green Cell (SGC), I can confidently say that the plastic drive, conducted on 20th July, 2025 was a massive success. I spent the day with the SGC members, travelling around the neighborhood in vehicles, halting at each designated collection point. The response was incredible where families awaited our arrival with large bags of assorted plastic waste ready to be responsibly recycled.

This was more than just a plastic drive, it was a testament to our shared commitment to a healthier planet. The sheer volume of plastic we collected was staggering, filling each vehicle to the brim. It served as a powerful visual reminder of the amount of plastic we use and how vital it is to minimize our reliance on single-use plastics.

The final tally of our collective effort was astounding. Matthew zones contributed 625 Kgs from their homes, 117.0 kgs was collected from the Church campus itself including plastic junk left over from renovation work. A grand total of 741.9 kgs of plastic waste was diverted from landfills! This remarkable figure indicates what we can achieve as a community with a common purpose, demonstrating the tangible impact of our actions.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who participated in this drive. It was a wonderful display of unity, garnering support from the entire church community. We proved that we are dedicated to ensuring a greener future.

- Lynn Dsa (Member, Salvation Green Cell)



# Warli Art

Salvation Church - Dadar

**The Season of Creation (SoC) is a marquee event, in the environment calendar of the year, which is celebrated from 1st September until Saint Francis of Assisi**

**Day on October 4th. This year's theme of 'Peace with Creation' is a call to renew our relationship with all creation through celebration, prayer and activities focusing on repairing our relationship with God's Creations**

**The Salvation Green Cell (SGC) therefore partnered the Parish Youth Group @ Marian Nights 2025 on 5th & 6th Sept, to celebrate the fact that the Warli tribe has been at Peace with Creation since 3000 BCE.**

**Inspired by their life and art, that borrows motifs heavily from nature and community living, the SGC designed a parishioner engagement to help our community members experience the care for creation that the Warli Tribe has been practicing for centuries.**

**It was a pleasure to see people of all ages indulging their creative spirit, designing their own book mark in Warli Art, which was a take away along with a little pack of vegetable seeds.**

**Participants were also encouraged to contribute one idea / habit they would imbibe to save the earth.**

**From the usual ideas of growing trees and thrifting to a poignant plea to avoid plastics from a cancer survivor – All these ideas were written on a paper leaf and were then hung on a plant. The winning ideas were “edible cutlery from millets” by Derrick Dsouza and “using eco- friendly products and reducing noise pollution”. By Nerissa Godinho**

**These ideas were written on paper leaves and hung on a small tree – The Tree of Life to thus show the commitment of the community to protect and preserve our Common Home thus also Caring for the Poor as well.**

**The campaign also went digital. Volunteers mingled with the visitors enlightened them on the Season of Creation, in English and Konkani supported by a QR code that was linked to writeups and informative literature about the Season of Creation.**

**From – Corrina D'Souza (Member, Salvation Green Cell)**



# Reviving Grace in a Garden patch

A gentle nudge, over a cup of tea, initially lead an SGC member to actively pursue the reviving of the Herbal Garden at Our Lady of Salvation Church, Dadar. In today's world, increasingly dominated by synthetic products and a fast-paced lifestyle, the idea of the herbal garden felt like a return to something real and grounding. Thus began the effort to gradually set up the garden, which finally culminated in small but perfect blessing ceremony that happened on the 24th of August.

After the 9:30 am Mass, Fr. Michael Pinto blessed the newly planted herbal garden in the presence of other parishioners. It was a moment of grace and unity, marking the official beginning of a beautiful initiative rooted in care for our common home.

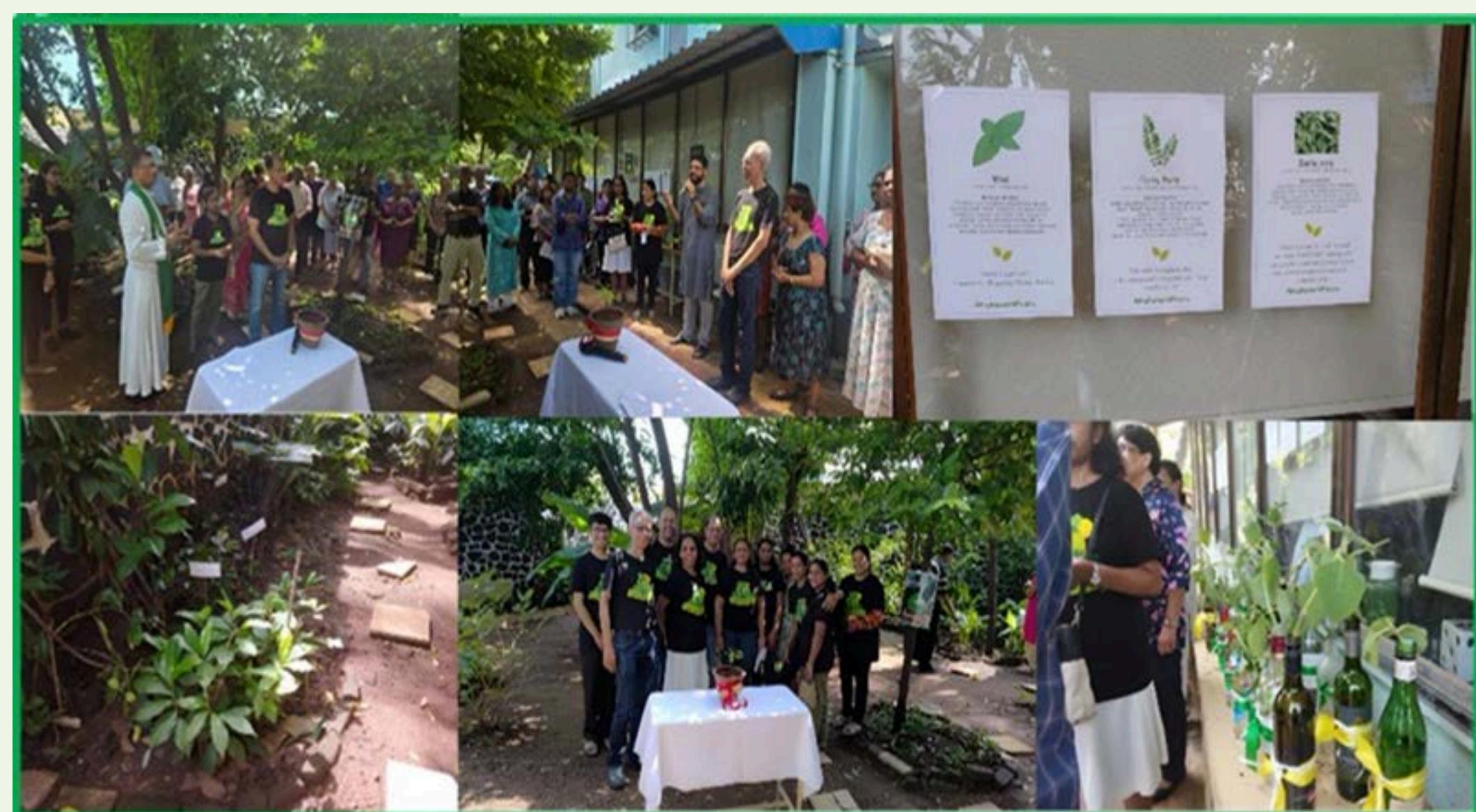
We have planted a variety of herbs including Pepper, Basil, Mint, Ajwain (Indian Borage), Turmeric, Insulin, and more recently Garlic Vine and Asian Pigeon Wings, among others, each with its own unique healing properties and cultural significance. We encourage our parishioners to drop by and learn about the benefits of the garden from the posters put up or even by talking to the SGC members on any Saturday between 08:00 – 09:30

This garden is not just about growing plants—it is also about cultivating wellness, stewardship, and a deeper connection with the Mother Earth.

Apart from providing the Green Cell team with a weekly (Every Saturday morning tasks associated with caring for and maintaining a garden) we also hope like the Borgo Laudato Si garden at Castle Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence, this little garden patch in this part of the world serves as a place that refreshes the soul, brings prayer to our lips and helps us wonder at the glory of his creation.

May we all find time to slow down, pause, plant, and grow.

- Vencela D'Souza – Member, Salvation Green Cell





# Mercy Miles – A WALK WITH THE PRIEST

Our Lady of Mercy Church, Pokhran, organized its second annual Walk with the Priest event on 16th November. Aptly titled “Mercy Miles,” the walk drew nearly 100 parishioners—from youth to senior citizens—who gathered at 6:30 a.m. in the church auditorium for the 4 km walk. Everyone brought their own water bottle, helping avoid the unnecessary use of disposable plastic bottles. Father John Almeida, our parish priest, led the walk along with Father Raja.

**The walk aimed to achieve four key objectives:**

1. To create awareness about healthy living and fitness
2. To keep our streets and city clean by collecting plastic waste
3. To reduce waste and promote recycling
4. To work together as a community to make the world a better place

The walk began at 6:45 a.m., and as the group made their way through the streets, many participants collected plastic litter along the route. By the end, nearly six large bags of waste had been filled—an eye-opening reminder of the amount we discard on our streets each day.

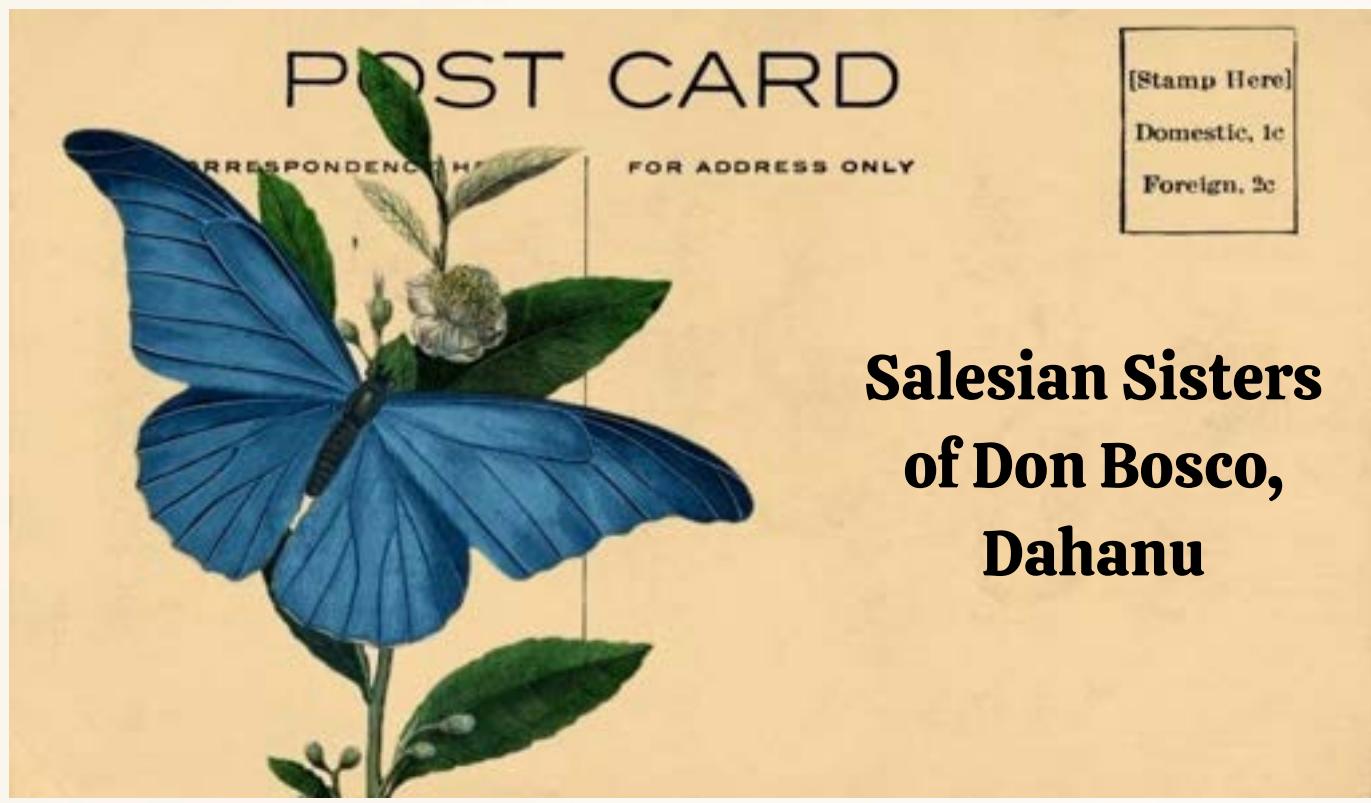
At the end of the first leg of the walk, the group was invited to join a Zumba session, courtesy of the Happy Streetsprogramme taking place that morning. The air was filled with energy and enthusiasm as participants danced together to lively Zumba beats. After 15 minutes of dancing, it was time to return, as more activities were planned for the morning.

The group then proceeded to “Maa Niketan” hall, near the church, where a special Holy Mass was to be celebrated. Father John offered the Mass exclusively for this enthusiastic group that had completed the 4 km walk, joined the Zumba session, and collected heaps of plastic waste along the way. After Mass, healthy snacks—Ragi idlis and bananas—were served.

The programme continued with a short talk on waste management by Natasha D’Costa, founder of Sun, Start Upcycling Now. Natasha shared insights on composting wet waste at home and encouraged everyone to adopt similar practices to reduce the burden on landfills. She also spoke about her “Blue Bag” initiative, through which her team collects dry plastic waste from housing societies—often compensating them for it—before segregating and sending it for recycling.

The event concluded at 10:00 a.m. It was truly a day well spent—engaging in meaningful work, taking responsibility for our surroundings, and reinforcing our commitment to keeping our environment clean and sustainable so that future generations may inherit a better world.

-Steven Fernandes



## Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco, Dahanu

### Sisters in Sustainability: Sparking Community Climate Action in Dahanu

If you think climate action is all grim graphs and gloomy forecasts, you haven't met the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco. On 20 September 2025, 24 nuns from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, and Rajasthan came together at Dahanu, each ready to become more sustainable.

The session began with the duo from Better Planet Alliance, Ashwini Jadhav and Keren Pereira, zooming out from landfills in India to the drowning island nation of Tuvalu. Visuals and data-driven stories wove case studies together on the climate emergency, carbon footprints, and the consequences of poor waste management practices. The sisters listened with interest, at times surprised by the magnitude and convergence of such problems. And, then the games began.

In one corner, nuns huddled to debate whether a cross-country flight pumps out more carbon than a year's worth of steaming chai (PS - chai wins only if you're brewing it nonstop). In another, pairs segregated waste material, deciding the eternal fate of rogue items like biscuit wrappers and coconut shells. Dry? Wet? Recyclable? We must choose wisely.

But it wasn't all about problems. After mapping the mess, we turned to the magic, i.e., the solutions. Divided into four groups, the sisters brainstormed ideas on better waste management, greener spaces, and stronger climate advocacy. They don't think big; they think local, personal, and practical—just what climate action needs. And their presentations came with conviction, purpose, and a healthy dose of creativity.

At the end, the sisters walked out with more than just notes; they carried home actionable steps and a few fun activities to share with their students, fellow nuns, and neighbourhood communities.

Their feedback? Overwhelmingly positive. Their spirit? Undeniably contagious. Their impact? Only just beginning.

Turns out, when it comes to saving the planet, these sisters mean serious and sustainable business.

—Keren S. Pereira (Co-Founder of Better Planet Alliance)



With warm wishes for the  
Christmas Season  
and a Blessed 2026!



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