

30th September 2025

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART

PROVINCE OF INDIA



NEWS FROM THE KRISTHPREMALAYA
COMMUNITY

SR. IRENE, RSCJ, SHARES...

I joined the Kristhpremalaya community on 6th June 2025, after spending eight years in Santacruz engaged in parish and pastoral work. My ministry included attending SCC meetings, visiting families, and supporting parish activities. I contracted Covid twice and recovery left me with weaker vision and imbalance while walking, making it difficult to continue pastoral work.

Now I find joy in studying the life of St. Madeleine Sophie with the 5 candidates in Kristhpremalaya. The stories not only help the candidates understand our Holy Mother but also bring alive her values of humility, patience, courage, and confidence.

These sessions are enriching for both the candidates and myself, as together we grow in the spirit of our Holy Mother.

MY GREEN GARDEN

Behind the main college buildings lies a patch of land once used as a dumping ground for construction debris and garden waste. During Covid, I felt inspired to transform it into a garden. I cleared and prepared the land and put manure in it.

Within a week, I planted banana saplings, sweet potatoes, and papaya plants. Daily watering and watching their slow, steady growth soon became a joyful routine. When the harvest came in plenty, after a year, I shared it with the hostel girls and staff. There were moments of sadness too, when heavy rains and strong winds brought down some of the banana plants and papaya trees. I thought of farmers who depend entirely on their crops for survival, and prayed for them.

This garden has taught me to love Mother Earth more deeply, for she sustains us with all we need. These simple experiences fill my heart with gratitude, leading me to thank and praise God for the small joys of life.

Teresita Puthiampuram rscj

MY VISIT TO HAREGAON

It was a great joy for me to visit Haregaon with Sr. Irene D'Souza on 28th June 2025, for the farewell ceremony of a teacher, who had been our ex-student at St. Theresa's Girls High School, our Marathi medium school for girls there. She had faithfully served the school for 40 years under five of us RSCJ Principals, one after another.



The teacher & her sister, 4 ex-principals, the present principal

Haregaon is filled with memories for me. Teresa Pereira and I had entered there as postulants in June 1968, 57 years ago, the first postulants of the Indian Province to enter directly into a community, instead of in the novitiate. Life then was very simple: kerosene lanterns instead of electric lights, brackish water drawn from a well with a diesel pump, no shops on the narrow dusty road, and only a few vegetables and fruits available 11 kilometers away in the town of Shrirampur. Yet, in

that simplicity, the presence of the Lord was deeply felt, in our chapel and in the striking bell tower of the parish church, which stood just 100 meters away, across the playground. The spirit of St. Madeleine Sophie too, was very much alive in the school and hostel. Over the years, I had been part of the Haregaon community in different capacities — as postulant, teacher, assistant to the principal, and later as Principal — for a total of 18 years.

How much the village, the school and hostel have changed since then! Today, there are well-built houses, and many facilities like shops, electricity, and piped water. The spirit of Madeleine Sophie continues to shine in the school and hostel. The farewell Mass and function were especially meaningful, as four of us ex-Principals were present, and the heartfelt speeches bore witness to the deep gratitude of staff and students for all they had received from the school.

For me, the greatest joy was meeting ex-students, ex-teachers, and many familiar people from the past, and experiencing their affection and joy. Above all, I felt that Madeleine Sophie herself would have been happy with the contribution our education has made in the lives of so many, over the years.

Elizabeth (Vimala) Verghese rscj

A VISIT TO THE NATIONAL FILM MUSEUM OF INDIA

One day we visited The National Film Museum of Indian Cinema with Sr. Venizia. The museum is filled with fascinating exhibits.

We were welcomed by the statue of *Dadasaheb Phalke*, the father of Indian cinema. We saw early film equipment like the *Praxinoscope* and the magic lantern, along with posters and photographs of pioneering actors and actresses. It was interesting to learn that in the early years, men played women's



roles, as women were not allowed to act. We also discovered how equipment was imported, how film production stopped during World War II, and how sound films like *King Harishchandra* marked a turning point in cinema. There was a creative film studio setup where special effects could be created.

This visit helped me realize the hard work and teamwork of filmmakers, from cameramen to makeup artists. It was both educational and enjoyable, and it gave me a deeper appreciation of Indian cinema.

Sushila Topno (Candidate)

MY EXPERIENCE IN OUR PARISH CHURCH

We belong to the St. Stephen's Parish, and when there is no Mass on the Sophia College Campus, we attend Mass there three times a week. The parish has many migrant parishioners from Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh, most of them Adivasis (Indigenous). Every Sunday evening there is a Hindi Mass for them, and once a month we join in. As five of us are from Jharkhand, it feels like home —we especially enjoy singing in Hindi with our traditional instruments, which also helps us connect with the parishioners. On 10th August 2025, we joined the celebration of *Adivasi Diwas* (World Indigenous Day), which brought together traditional dances, songs, and speeches by priests and even by a Bishop. The church was filled for the festive Mass, followed by a cultural program. We joined in the Adivasi dances with joy. We also went for an outing to a water park with the parishioners. It was a new experience for us.



Lakshya, Manjusha, Nilima

Meeting fellow Adivasis and sharing our traditions has given us much joy, and gratitude.

Lakshya Hemrom (Candidate)

SOME ENRICHING EXPERIENCES ON THE SOPHIA CAMPUS

Life on the Sophia Campus has been a journey of learning and discovery. With its five institutions, the campus offers countless opportunities to explore, grow, and broaden our minds.

During the Polytechnic Annual Exhibition, we visited the different departments. The creativity amazed me—beautiful multi-layered cakes decorated with intricate icing designs, dresses inspired by nature, and thought-provoking videos and we learnt how students are trained in hospitality and service. The enthusiasm of the students impressed us deeply. We also had the privilege of watching a classical *Kathak* dance performance in the Sophia Bhabha Hall. The Polytechnic Fashion Show was another new experience, giving us insight into how models present creative designs on the stage. The Nursery School Exhibition on water deepened my understanding of the water cycle and reminded me of the importance of conserving this precious resource. The annual “Kaleidoscope” inter-collegiate festival of Sophia College was another wonderful experience.

Each of these experiences has enriched me in new ways. Being part of the Sophia Campus is truly a blessing, as it constantly opens doors to knowledge, creativity, and inspiration.

Manjusha Horo (Candidate)

SUNDAY – OUR FREE DAY

Sunday is our free day, and each of us uses it in different ways to develop our skills and interests - painting, card-making, stitching, embroidery, knitting, crochet, or music. We learn from one another and even from the YouTube. In the evenings, we often go for walks and explore the neighbourhood. We have visited, on our own, places like the Priyadarshini Park, Amarson’s Garden, Hanging Gardens, Chowpatty Beach, the new sea promenade, the Grant Road market and several other places. These small adventures not only bring us joy, but also help us gain confidence in going out on our own. Sometimes, we also relax by watching a good film. After supper, we gather for indoor games such as Uno and Rummikub. Playing together helps us unwind, laugh, and bond as a group. Some of us are learning these games for the first time from each other.



Sundays are truly a time of relaxation, creativity, and shared joy.

Jasinta Horo (Candidate)

MY EXPERIENCE IN SADHANA SCHOOL

As part of our ministry, we spend one and a half hours each day at our Sadhana School, on the Sophia Campus, which is dedicated to children with special needs.



Each of us is assigned to a different class, where teachers patiently guide the children in simple yet important skills, such as cutting vegetables, cooking, painting, solving puzzles, using the computer, or even tearing paper into small pieces. The children range in age from five to twenty-one. Alongside these activities, they also learn study skills, dancing, festival programs, and even how to eat with a spoon and fork. Teachers also emphasize good manners, self-control, and discipline in the classroom. There is also a gym, where the children practice different

physical activities. Some children perform these tasks very well, others need encouragement, and a few, though capable, simply refuse to do them. I am always impressed by how the teacher manages the group — even the naughtiest child — often with just a firm expression.

Serving at Sadhana School gives me joy. While helping the children, I too am learning patience, perseverance and creativity.

Nilima Hemrom (Candidate)

AN INSPIRING ENCOUNTER WITH ALLAN SOARES AND LYNDIA DYER

I met Allan and Lynda by providence!

For days, I had been thinking about how to help three students who had approached me for free ship for hostel accommodation. All three come from very challenging family backgrounds, yet they are bright, hardworking, and deeply determined to complete their studies so they can one day support their families financially.

Before I could put the requests before the Principal, I received a call from an unknown number. The voice at the other end said: “I am Allan Soares. I had paid a small amount towards a student’s hostel fees last year and would like to pay this year too.” By the end of our conversation, he added words that touched me deeply: “Please let me know if I could help more students!” That was the beginning of my encounter with an extraordinary couple, Allan Soares and Lynda Dyer.

Together, Allan and Lynda run ‘*The Allyn Fund – Empowering Economically Disadvantaged Females*’, a private initiative sustained entirely from their own savings and investments. In just two and a half years, this fund has enabled around 2,700 young women to stand on their own feet. Their mission is simple yet powerful: to support female students in higher education so that they may complete their studies and become financially independent.



They personally follow up with each student they support, tracking progress and offering encouragement along the way. The Allyn Fund does not expect repayment. Instead, Allan and Lynda gently encourage beneficiaries to “pay it forward” in their own time and way—whether through financial help, mentorship, or simply giving back to other young women in need.

They have even created a *Moral Pledge*, which beneficiaries may choose to sign.

What struck me most, when I met them, was their humility, simplicity, and joy. To spend time with them is to feel uplifted. I was, and still am, in awe of their vision and their goodness. Their selfless work to make the world a better place is an inspiration to me. Truly, I believe that God’s angels walk among us, and in Allan and Lynda, I was blessed to encounter two of them.

Rajani Khandagale rscj