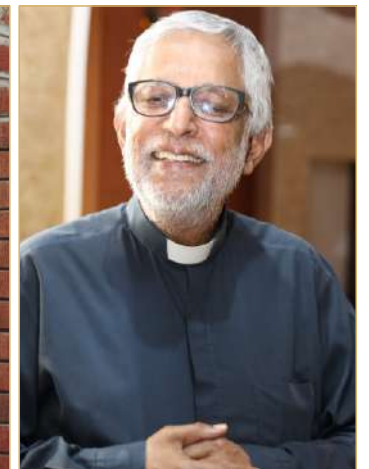


50

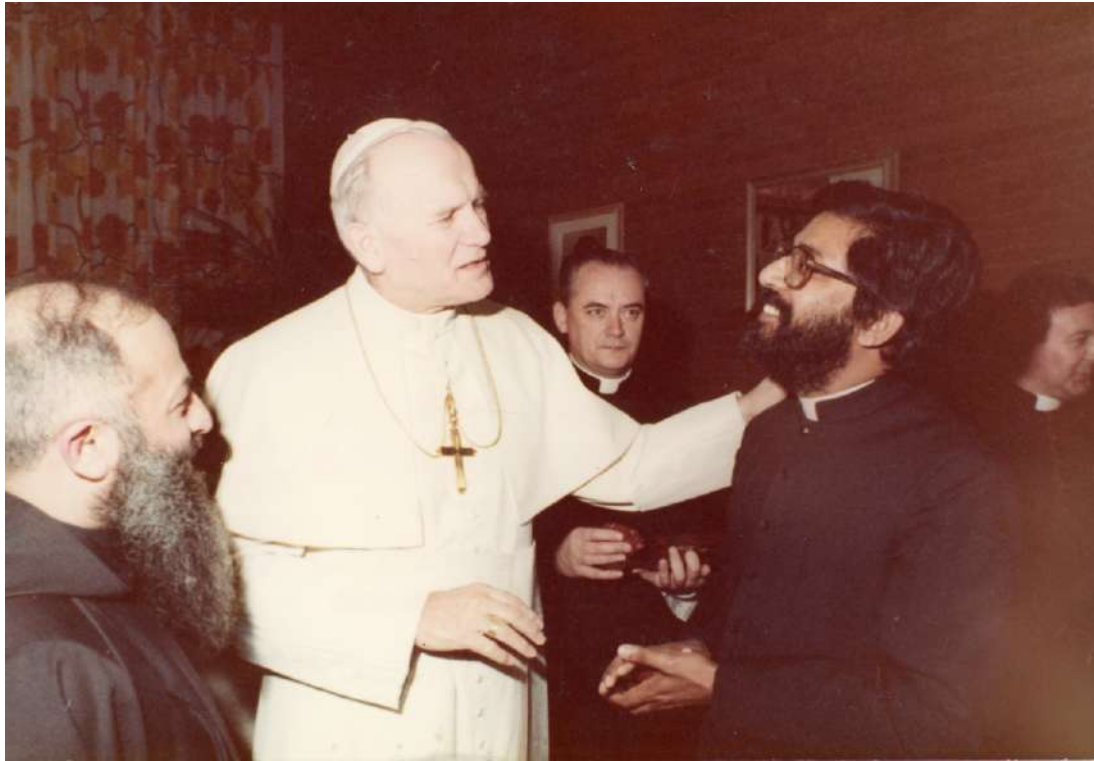
YEARS OF DEDICATED PRIESTHOOD

Fr. Jose Luis Saldanha

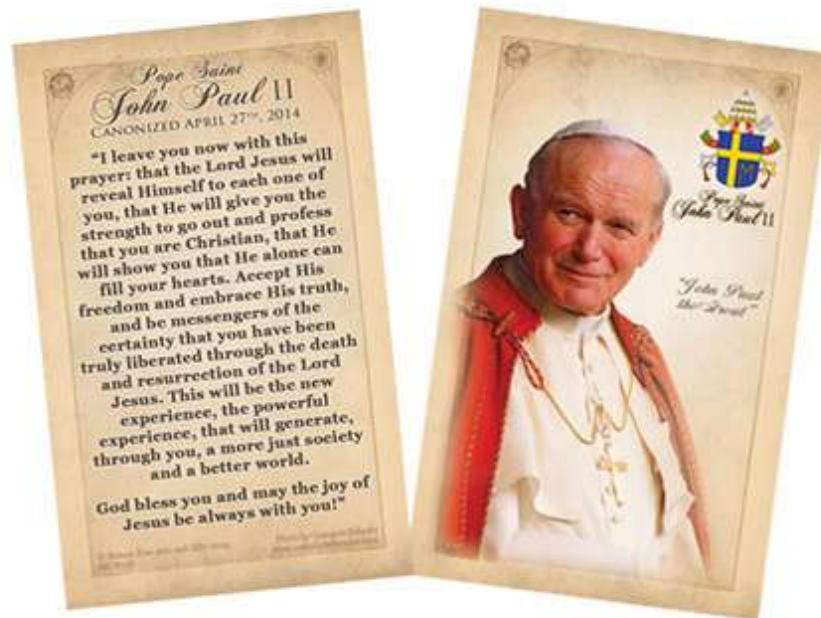


A Commemorative Souvenir

Golden Jubilee, 17th November 1973 to 2023



1981 - With Pope John Paul II at Collegio, Sao Paulo and the College Rector (left)



Fr. Jose Luis Saldanha

*A Golden Jubilee
Commemorative Souvenir*

*A Celebration By
The Goan Community
Nairobi, Kenya*

18th November, 2023

Autobiography

Father Jose Luis Saldanha, born on 1st February 1947 in Ngara, Nairobi, Kenya, was the youngest child of Caetano Jose Saldanha and Ana Clarina (Melita) Saldanha nee D'Souza.

He attended Dr. Ribeiro Goan School, Nairobi, for his primary and secondary education from 1953 to 1963.

After a brief period working as a clerk in the Accounts Department at Stansand Limited in Nairobi, he pursued his Masters in Philosophy and Theology at the Pontifical Urban University in Rome, Italy, from 1965 to 1973.

On November 17th, 1973, he was ordained as a priest for the Archdiocese of Nairobi by Servant of God, the late Maurice Michael Cardinal Otunga, at the Holy Family Minor Basilica, Nairobi. He celebrated his First Mass the next day at his parish, the Consolata Shrine, Westlands, Nairobi.

Father Saldanha's pastoral work led him to serve in various parishes, including Riruta, Tigio, Mangu, Kiriko and Kagwe.

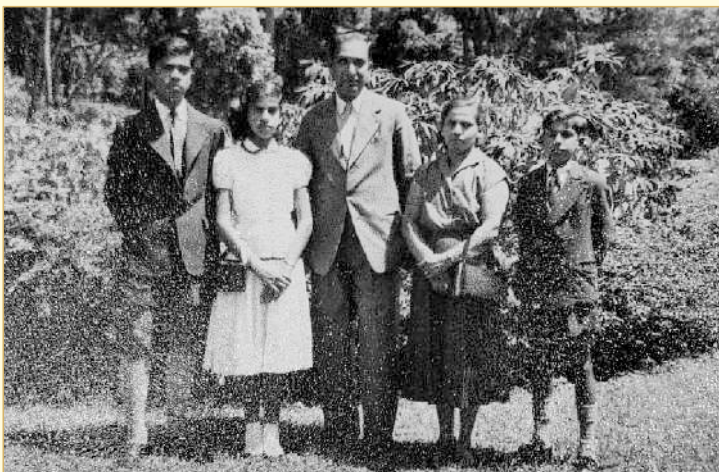
He furthered his studies at the Pontificio Instituto Biblicum in Rome, specializing in Sacred Scripture. He spent one semester attached to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel.

On returning to Kenya Father Saldanha served as Chaplain in Kenyatta University and then was appointed Secretary /Procurator to the Archdiocese of Nairobi.

Throughout his career, Father Saldanha contributed significantly to education, serving as a lecturer in Scripture and Spirituality at Saint Thomas Major Seminary, Langata, and teaching Hebrew and Greek at the Catholic Higher Institute of Eastern Africa (CHIEA - now Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)). His commitment extended beyond education, as he directed the Nairobi Archdiocese Refugee Assistance Programme (NARAP) from 1992 to 1994.



Saldanha Family 1948



Saldanha Family 1958

Father Saldanha's most recent pastoral work was as Assistant at the Queen of Apostles Parish, Ruaraka, before his appointment to the Domus Clericorum (clergy Home), Ruaraka, where he is now resident.

All through the years, and this in spite of his other pastoral and academic responsibilities, Father Saldanha availed himself to the strong Goan community being present at Feasts, funerals and visitation of the elderly.

His unwavering dedication and service have left a profound impact on the lives of those he has touched throughout his five decades of service to the Catholic Church.

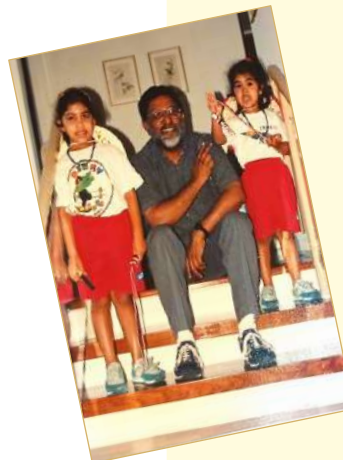
**Alyssa Shamshudin
Nairobi, Kenya**



ROME 1965



*With Arere Aniente (Kenya's first long distance runner)
prize for 2nd plac ein the Mile Race.*



Blind Priest with a Vision

The following article appeared in the Lifestyle magazine in the Nation Newspaper.

What you need to know:

The father of Father Saldanha was born in Kisumu, Kenya in 1911 but spent his early childhood in the Indian state of Goa (in the village of Saligao). He married in Goa and then came to Kenya with his bride in 1940 to settle and start a family.

The Priest is the youngest of three siblings: the eldest, Leandro Jose, was a pilot with Kenya Airways and is now retired with his family in Toronto, Canada; the second born, Lucinda, is now a retired teacher living with her family in Sydney, Australia.

Father Luis Saldanha was not born blind. Neither was he blind in his childhood. In fact, he could see quite well by the time he says he heard his calling to be a Catholic priest at the age of 12 to “proclaim good news to the poor”. However, a degenerative disease robbed him of his sight — but it never diminished his passion. Instead, Father Saldanha, 68, has become something of a miracle, especially as he carries out his religious duties. He strides about with great confidence in the Sanctuary and, when he speaks, there is not a tinge of self-doubt. It is as though he can see everyone in the church. It would take a lot of convincing for a newcomer to agree Father Luis is completely blind. “I have a hereditary eye condition called “retinitis pigmentosa,” where cells in the retina gradually die for lack of a protein. Though for long I knew of my condition, it only gradually affected my ability to see — I was still driving in 1989,” he says, adding that his condition became worse as the years passed.

This has been the story of Father Saldanha's life as a priest for the past 42 years. In November 2013, he received many congratulatory messages as he celebrated the landmark 40 years in priesthood.

“Ever since I was 12 years, I knew that to be a Priest was my calling. I even wrote a story about my desire to become a priest when I was in Standard 7!” he told Lifestyle. “Basically, looking back, I feel that as a priest I answer a call from Jesus to be Him in this world and to lead His precious people to the gates of Heaven, providing help through sacraments.”

Father Saldanha was born Jose Luis Saldanha on February 1, 1947, in Ngara, Nairobi. At the time, Goans were treated by British colonialists as second-class citizens. It was at the height of racial discrimination. Whites and Goans were not allowed to mix. Many Goans were in

administrative jobs, mostly clerks. Some of them, most notably Pio Gama Pinto — who was later assassinated in 1965 — were involved in the struggle for Kenya's independence.

Father Saldanha studied at Dr. Ribeiro Goan School (now Parklands School) and completed his Form IV in 1963. Before he joined the seminary in Rome, Italy, he worked as an accountant at two companies in Nairobi, first a coffee and tea exporting business, and then an insurance company.

When he returned from Rome, after having obtained Masters in both Philosophy and theology, he was ordained on November 17, 1973 by Maurice Michael Cardinal Otunga.

Father Saldanha obtained a Licentiate in Biblical Studies at the Pontificio Instituto Biblicum. In Rome, Italy, and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. After graduation, he taught scripture at St Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Nairobi's Lang'ata and, for many years, he was a chaplain at Kenyatta University. He was later appointed secretary and procurator of the Archdiocese of Nairobi.

Father Saldanha says his motivation has always been to help the less fortunate. For example, in 1984 when famine struck Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopian, Father Saldanha, then a diocesan priest, spent most of his time managing a refugee programme after which he served in various parish appointments at churches in Nairobi.

How has he accomplished all this with failing eyesight? “Technology” is the one word he fuses with “faith” and “determination” to explain his amazing success. Though he needs an assistant and a driver to find his way around town, he is stubbornly independent.

This is How It Works

Father Saldanha can type on a keyboard to communicate through e-mail and prepare lesson notes and sermons on a computer with the aid of a screen reader (software that allows blind or visually impaired users to read text displayed on a computer screen, aided by a speech synthesiser or braille display).

“A digital recorder helps me to celebrate Mass and read the Gospel,” he says.

To show how it works, he removes a small metal object from a pocket inside his crisp black blazer. Then he untangles the headphones and presses the play button effortlessly.

His distinctive voice is heard in the recording as he recites the gospel and the prayers. “I record this the day before I celebrate Mass,” he says. “I record it in parts so that I can press fast forward and pause because, as you know, the mass follows an order”. The trick is to repeat what is said in the recording as it plays in my ear, which is no mean task. “Though I am blind, this has never stopped me from my vocation and I am truly lucky to have access to such technology — screen readers, touch screen mobile phones with voice recognition, and so on,” he says.

Yes! Father Saldanha uses a mobile phone. Again, he reaches into his blazer pocket and retrieves a smart phone. “This is how I communicate — try calling me and see what happens,” he tells this writer. Moments later, as the call connects, a robotic voice recites: “Daniela Oliveira calling, voice call”. And that is not all! Father Saldanha says he tries his best to use as many applications on the phone as he can. “I use Viber and WhatsApp, although I am still getting used to this new gadget,” he says, singling out the popular messaging applications. As he slides his fingers across the touch screen of one of the phones, another robotic voice helps him navigate between the pages and the applications he touches. This, he says, is “how I text you or call you”. To write a message, he dictates words to his phone, which converts them into text.

Father Saldanha is efficient with technology and he looks to the day when he will be able to use GPS (Global Positioning System) “to help me walk around without any help”. Does he use braille? “Yes! I do, but I am still a bit slow at it to derive the same joy as I do when using other means of communication,” he says.

For a while in the 1980s, he served as Cardinal Otunga's secretary and has fond memories of the great man who is on the road to sainthood, saying the Cardinal not only cared for the flock but also for his priests like a Father. The cardinal died in 2003. “One thing most people know him for is kindness. He was so kind and caring to all he met. Every time people would kiss his hand after shaking it as a sign of respect he would say, 'why are you kissing my hand, for I am just a common man like you, not a saint!’” Father Saldanha recalls. He explains that the cardinal would go out of his way to visit people of other denominations and religions, like Hindus and Muslims. He says: “If only he knew that he was going to become a modern-day saint in the 20th century!”

Father Saldanha also says he met Pope John Paul II many times while

studying in Rome, and Mother Teresa, who famously devoted her life to the destitute.

“They were kind-hearted. Meeting them was truly one of the great gifts I have received working as a priest,” he says.

Father Saldanha lives in Ruaraka and is often called to celebrate mass at various churches in Nairobi Archdiocese.

He has seen many changes unfold in the country over the years. And though he remembers with immense sadness the deadly violence of the 1982 coup he is happy about the changes he hears in the present time. “Kenya has come a long way. People used to be poor and the middle class was very small. Now the middle class has grown and a lot of the population identifies with this group. In the past, things were different; people were able to live comfortably with a few thousand shillings, but now the cost of living has certainly gone up,” he says.

He also marvels at how technology has evolved over the years. “In the past, there were only a few TV and radio stations. But now I switch on the radio and I can listen to nearly 30 FM stations,” he says with excitement, adding that there is a lot more freedom of speech, and people are able to voice their opinion on various matters without fear.

He says he has never doubted his calling to be a priest, because his blindness gives him a chance to identify with the weak and the suffering.

He also says his impaired eyesight has given him an opportunity to put into action what is preached in the Bible and to imitate the Master by reaching out to those in need. Loss of sight, he says, never robbed him of his vision to serve.

By Daniela Oliveira (UK)

Saturday, September 05, 2015 — updated on July 05, 2020

Special correspondent Daniela Oliveira, a student at USIU-Africa majoring in International Relations and Finance, is a correspondent for the 'Contact Chaplaincy' in the UK.

Article source: —<https://nation.africa/kenya/life-and-style/lifestyle/blind-priest-with-a-vision1125650>

*Ordination
Holy Family Basilica
17th November, 1973*

*Deaconate Ordination
Queen of Apostles Seminary
June 1973*



“You did not choose me; I CHOSE YOU!”

I have mentioned before how on the day of my ordination the skies did not fall on my head! Surely, I should have felt a tweak, a sensation, even a heart beating erratically? But NOTHING happened!

Now after 50 years I realise that I did not become a Priest on the 17th of November, 1973 for the simple reason that I was a Priest from the Day of my Birth! Like the Prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and others, I was HIS and living in His Heart since time immemorial!

This is NOT fanciful thought – it is the reality and made more so because I can see myself INSIDE and wonder if I am truly worthy of this honour? Surely God can see how imperfect I am and however much I try to be the pure Spirit that a human aspect always is present.

Now I accept fully that God set me apart not because I was “perfect” but because He works as always with clay which is un-formed, but ready to spring into a shape at His Touch!

My Priesthood is at the service of the Almighty and continues the Work of Redemption – the ever-present effort of God to lead His Precious People across the Red Sea to the Mount of Promise.

God has not hammered me into submission to His Will – all this has happened in a subtle way and it has all been His Work. Why I was chosen, I do not know, but I know that My Priesthood has set me apart. I am still human in my actions but the Power of God courses through me and even though sometimes I am filled with doubt it is the Precious People I serve that recognize the new creation in me! And keep me Faithful!

Maybe in the past 50 years I have diverted many a time but God has always been there to reclaim what He Chose.

Yes, My Priesthood is reason to celebrate. It is not that I have been faithful to God but that He has been Faithful to His Choice!

In working in and through me I know that I have let God down a million times but He has persisted and today it is time to be Grateful.

What has the Priesthood meant to those who are celebrating? All have been touched by God in a mysterious way – it is not that I conditioned my actions or smiles to play out an agenda: it has ALL been His Work! Maybe I cannot feel this energy but in reacting to my Presence others have felt it and known that God was reaching out to them, to enfold them in His embrace which was “spiritual” but in its effect, and because of me, became human. And WARM!

A prophet in the Bible is recognized to be the “mouth-piece” of God and is so accepted. But it is so easy to do so when we read words in the Bible. We ask ourselves what is happening in our own times? How does God speak to us? He has spoken through me! This I say not with arrogance but in humility. As I state this fact, I am in turmoil inside not believing for a second that I could be worthy of this gift.

But the Precious People whom I serve insist that I do – they see through the imperfection and do not brook contradiction! All I can do is accept their verdict.

It was His Eminence Maurice Michael Cardinal Otunga who called me to kneel before Him and in anointing my Hands bound me forever in God's Service.

As you celebrate this 50th Anniversary of the Anointing, the affirmation of God's Choice amongst you, I too celebrate with you grateful that I had only one life to live and it was lived in spreading His Love to the ends of the earth.

“I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep!!”

I carry you all in my Heart!

Love and God Bless.

Father Jose Luis Saldanha

*First Mass Celebration
The Consolata Shrine - 18th November, 1973*



Celebrating Fr. Luis.

I have known Luis Saldanha for many years. Despite excelling academically as evidenced by his hold on first place in any class he was down to earth. He was no saint in class. He got up to pranks, but not as bad or as often as some of us (no names mentioned). Consequently, he missed out on periodic visits to the principal's office occupied over the years by Father Comerford, Father Mckay and Neves Pereira. The rest of us did so on a regular basis to be whacked where the sun never shines. Fr. Comerford was by far the worst of the three as his whacks stung. Luis's interaction with the head honchos were limited to receiving some award or other – and there were numerous.

Apart from excelling in class, Luis also happened to be a superb half back for our school's field hockey team that in 1963 advanced to the final of the Nairobi schools' competition only to lose to Duke of Gloucester. He was a thinking man's player looking to exploit the opposition with defence-splitting passes and timely tackles.

After graduating from Dr. Ribeiro Goan School in 1963 Luis was one of the few classmates who kept in touch on a regular basis after returning from Rome. He would come down to the Daily Nation offices at least once or twice a month along with Edward Moniz. My Daily Nation workmate and classmate, Polly Fernandes, would join us for coffee and samosas across the street at Keby's, a well-known Nairobi eatery. The plates were always wiped clean as Polly made sure there was nothing left behind. May Polly rest in eternal peace.

Even though we parted ways in 1976 when Delfine and I, also a classmate of Luis's, immigrated to Canada, Luis was a phone length away. I know that he also rings several other classmates and friends. We can always expect a call from him on our birthdays and on our wedding anniversary.

In an excellent in-depth piece on Luis by Daniela Oliviera of Contact Chaplaincy in London she mentioned that he wanted to become a priest at the age of 12 and that was something he never revealed to us.

But our entire class, the school and every Goan and Kenyan is proud of what Luis has accomplished as a person who is legally blind. But this is typical of the Luis we know. Nothing will stop him from achieving the goals he sets his sights on. He says his impaired

eyesight has not robbed him of his vision to serve and we believe him.

Fr. Luis became the first Catholic priest to acquire a degree in scriptures from the Biblical Institute and the Hebrew Institute of Jerusalem. He was a chaplain at Kenya University and later appointed Secretary and Procurator of the archdiocese of Nairobi. He has a string of other achievements all this with a failing eyesight. But that's Luis. No hurdle is too high to climb.

Delfine and I had the pleasure of meeting Luis at the iconic New Stanley Hotel when we travelled to Nairobi in 2018. We reminisced about our school days and enjoyed a few laughs.

As you all know Luis was ordained by Maurice Cardinal Otunga on Nov. 17, 1973 and this year he completes his 50th year as a priest. Congratulations to Luis who is still in high demand to say masses across Nairobi, and he wows the congregations with his powerful oratory. Luis hasn't allowed his lack of vision to set him back. On the contrary Luis strides ahead with confidence and with what he has achieved many Kenyans feel that our classmate is destined for sainthood.

Norman Da Costa
Canada



Norman, Fr Luis & Delfine at the New Stanley Hotel in 2018

Celebrating in Style

A beautiful celebration was held by the Goan Community in honour of Father Saldanha' 50th Jubilee celebrations on Saturday the 18th of November 2023.

Father Luis Saldanha has touched the lives of so many, that we had so many volunteers, who offered to help to make this function a huge success. There was a core committee dealing with the mass, catering, venue requirements, décor, livestreaming, entertainment, gifting, security, momentos and finance among others. These committee had their sub-committees and in all, we ended up being close to 100 volunteers who did a wonderful job in celebrating our wonderful friend and mentor. The team paid special attention, to curate an event that took in every aspect of what Father wanted for his celebrations including his favourite hymns, his favourite food and his favourite music, after all it was his very special day and he had to be at the centre of it all.

The celebrations started at 2.30pm sharp at the Goan Institute Hall. The high mass which was attended by over 200 people was concelebrated by many priests including Father Luis Saldanha, Father Sebastian Koladiyil, Father Ottone Cantore, Father Tony D'Souza, Father Richard D'Souza, Father Charles, Father Oscar, Father Joseph and Brother Kevin Masese.

The Goan Institute hall was adorned with gold and white and black décor in keeping with the theme of the Golden Jubilee with matching chair covers and flowers on the altar. The whole setting was magical indeed.

A beautiful celebration was had and enjoyed by everyone. The music was melodious, and Father joined in and sang Panis Angelicus. The mass was livestreamed to those who joined from around the world.

After mass, guests retreated to the Goan Institute Tavern where they were treated to snacks that included jaggery sanaas, samosas, patties, chutney sandwiches, fish sandwiches, sausage rolls, coffees and teas donated by members of the community.

Upstairs, the hall was transformed from a mass setting to a celebration befitting a king and set the mood for the evening's events. A fantastic photobooth was available, where families could take pictures with Father Luis to serve as a memory for posterity.

The speeches were made by certain individuals who were hand-picked by Father, and they included Father Ottone Cantore, James Wachira, Desiree Gomes, Leandro Saldanha, Michael Ouma, Lucinda Coutinho and Cleto Dourado. Father responded to the speeches and thanked the community and friends for such a wonderful celebration and called it his miracle. He added that he was walking on air and that it was truly magical.

A presentation was made to Father in honour of the service given to the community over the years and the love and concern he has shared with so many of us. This was followed by the cutting of his 3 tiered Jubilee celebration cake which paved the way for the singing of the traditional Goan besaum song. The whole community sang in their glorious voices and the hall was filled with joy and mirth.

As we all know, Father loves to sing and sing he did. A sing along was had, with some of his favourite songs including 'Can't help falling in love', 'Everybody loves somebody sometime', a medley of 'Daisy, Daisy', and a few others. Our favourite memory of the day is Father standing in the middle of the hall and belting out a rendition of 'Parla Piupiano" (theme song of the Godfather) in both English and Italian. It was absolutely amazing, and he performed like a super star, and we were all awestruck.

The evening ended with a sumptuous dinner sponsored by well-wishers from the community. The lavish spread included Sorpotel, Goa Sausages, Chicken Curry, Vegetable curry, Recheado Fish, Pulao, Pickles and some fantastic desserts. The food was delicious and so much was left over.

Father's presence and energy during the event was electric, it seemed like he was everywhere where he was needed. Everyone got a chance to speak to him, tell him what he meant to them, take pictures with him.... He made sure that he was there for everyone and everyone who came, had the satisfaction of just being in his presence. He was still wishing people and thanking everyone, long after most of the guests had left.

We give gratitude to God for the presence of Father Luis Saldanha in our lives and wish him many more blessed years of Priesthood.

From the Organizing Committee.

GOLDEN JUBILEE MASS CELEBRATION
THE GOAN INSTITUTE - NAIROBI, KENYA
18TH NOVEMBER, 2023



Celebrating Fr. Jose Luis Saldanha's Golden Jubilee

One day towards the end of advent of 2011, a parishioner from Queen of Apostles Parish, Ruaraka Mission, called me to deliver a message from a priest. The priest was having a little challenge attending to his apostolate as well as his personal errands, or simply his mobility, for lack of a vehicle. This priest was blind, and thus he needed a driver as well. It took me about a month to think of the best way of approaching this problem. I had not interacted with this priest personally, but I knew him from the Monday evening Holy Mass that he always presided over. I prayed for divine intervention and approached a few of my fellow parishioners to try and get a solution to this problem.

One Sunday morning in January 2012 after Mass, a stranger approached me and introduced himself as a parishioner. He had retired from employment a while back, and wished to serve the Church as his new year resolution. He intimated that he had recently acquired a vehicle, which he had no use for, and was willing to donate it for the service of our church. At first, I thought I was dreaming. I stared at him in disbelief. Just when I was wondering how to procure a vehicle for our priest, a miracle happens, Maranatha – 'Our Lord Comes'! I took the stranger in my arms and to his utter bewilderment, hugged him like one possessed. I had no words for this wondrous gesture of philanthropy. He went on to say that if the car was needed in that very hour, he would only have to go back home and fetch it. He later intimated that he had prayed for the car for six months. He would walk from Githurai to Ruiru, and back, praying the Holy Rosary, sometimes in tears. One day, God asked him what he would do with the car if he was given one, and he answered that he would use it to serve Him. True to his word, this parishioner served Fr. Luis for a whole year, before another miracle happened.

God would later to provide the vehicle that Fr. Saldanha has been using since 2013.

I came to know Fr. Jose Luis when the late Fr. Vincent Macharia was our Parish Priest at Queen of Apostles. For

many years, Fr. Luis celebrated Holy Mass on Monday evenings. Parishioners loved to attend this Mass. They would marvel at his abilities at the altar. He would be standing at the altar alone but of course with Jesus. He would go about the Eucharistic celebration without any challenge. He was strict about the proclamation of the Word. Lectors needed to prepare well. Before Mass, Christians would come for confession and to date, many still look for him for the sacrament of confession.

Fr. Luis has been a blessing to many – individuals, communities like the Goan community and Christian families. Fr. Luis has over the years been making home visits, celebrating holy mass at Christian homes, attending graduation parties and functions to pray for and bless personal effects, or simply to share meals with families. Father still celebrates Holy Mass for a home for the aged within the Parish.

In a way, through his blindness, God has given Fr. Saldanha special gifts. Father knows more people with intimacy than many of us. His dedication to friends who come to his life is unparalleled. He has a high sense of voice recognition. He communicates with his acquaintances with a lot of ease, be it on phone, Facebook, or on email. Not many of us have the agility of Fr. Luis.

Father has dedicated his life to making life easy for the bereaved, always being there for those in tears with words of encouragement, and being the first one to wish many a happy birthday every year. His messages are always full of wisdom. Fr. Luis has been a blessing and a miracle in my family, and to many other Christians who have interacted with him.

Jesus is spoken of in Psalm 110 as a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek, Fr. Jose Luis Saldanha is a priest forever. He aspires to be perfect, just as Jesus is perfect. Long live Fr. Luis, you are a blessing to us, may God bless you.

**James Wachira,
Nairobi, 18th November 2023**

GOLDEN JUBILEE MASS CELEBRATION



GOLDEN JUBILEE MASS CELEBRATION



GOLDEN JUBILEE MASS CELEBRATION



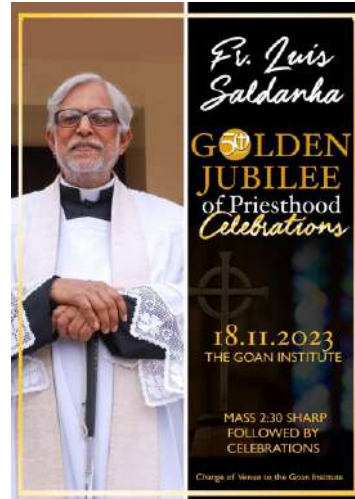
GOLDEN JUBILEE MASS CELEBRATION



Mass Booklet - Gale D'Costa



Christ, I am ready now!
Ready to get lost in the
evangel of people's bodies!



Please pray for
Jose Luis Saldanha
As he celebrates
fifty years of Priesthood.
Nairobi, 17th November, 2023



The Word was made Flesh,
And dwelt amongst us!
(John 1:14)

It is in simplicity,
That one touches the sublime!



O Life!
I want you always to be beautiful.
Neither Rich, nor Easy, nor Joyful:
But purely Limpid –
Like Spring Water!



I have promises to keep,
And miles to go
before I sleep



Always the beautiful answer,
Who asks a more
beautiful question!



For all that has been,
Thanks!
For all that will be,
Yes!



GOLDEN JUBILEE COCKTAILS
THE TAVERN - THE GOAN INSTITUTE
18TH NOVEMBER, 2023



GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION - COCKTAILS



GOLDEN JUBILEE SOCIAL CELEBRATION - THE GOAN INSTITUTE BALLROOM



MUSICAL MOMENTS



Panis Angelicus

Panis angelicus
Fit panis hominum
Dat panis coelicus
Figuris terminum
O res mirabilis
Manducat dominun
Pauper, pauper
Servus et humilis
Pauper, pauper
Servus et humilis

Panis angelicus
Fit panis hominum
Dat panis coelicus
Figuris terminum
O res mirabilis
Manducat dominun
Pauper, pauper
Servus et humilis
Pauper, pauper
Servus et humilis
Pauper, pauper
Servus et humilis

César Frank (1822-1890).

sung by Chris Coutinho and
Fr. Luis at the Mass Celebration.



Parla Più Piano

Parla più piano e nessuno sentirà
Il nostro amore lo viviamo io e te
Nessuno sa la verità
Neppure il cielo che ci guarda da lassù

Insieme a te io resterò
Amore mio, sempre così

Parla più piano e vieni più vicino a me
Voglio sentire gli occhi miei dentro di te
Nessuno sa la verità
È un grande amore e mai più grande esisterà

Insieme a te io resterò
Amore mio, sempre così

Parla più piano e vieni più vicino a me
Voglio sentire gli occhi miei dentro di te
Nessuno sa la verità...
È un grande amore e mai più grande esisterà

Speak Softly

Speak softly and no one will hear,
We live our love, just the two of us
Nobody knows the truth,
Not even the sky that's watching us from above

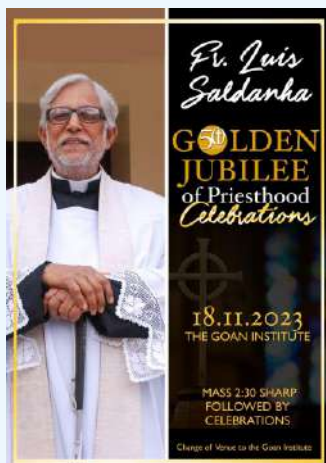
I'll stay by your side,
My love, always.

Speak softly and come closer to me,
I want to feel my eyes inside of you,
Nobody knows the truth,
It's such a great love,
it can't get any greater than this.

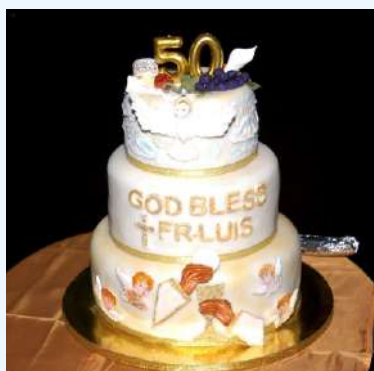
I'll stay by your side,
My love, always.

**One of Father Luis' Favourite Songs
by Patrizio Buanne - Album - The Italian
Theme from The Godfather**

MC - Elmer Noronha
Decor - Colin Carneiro
Posters - Laura Mascarenhas



GOLDEN JUBILEE SOCIAL CELEBRATION



CAKE CUTTING AND GIFTING



Cake - Agnes Pereira Gomes

GOLDEN JUBILEE SOCIAL CELEBRATION



GOLDEN JUBILEE SOCIAL CELEBRATION



GOLDEN JUBILEE SOCIAL CELEBRATION



50 YEAR SOCIAL CELEBRATION
SPEECHES, TRIBUTES
AND INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS
VENUE - THE GI BALLROOM

As the momentum built up to the special day, what culminated was a series of intimate expressions of heartwarming memories and belly-aching inside jokes shared by those touched by our beloved Father Saldanha. With stories of first encounters, metamorphic moments and faith driven testimonials, a strong sense of love and warmth enveloped those gathered together to celebrate his momentous achievement.

Father Saldanha, a man of God and his people, showcased his well-known gift of the gab by leading the congregation in a beautiful ceremony of mass aided by many other priests who came to show their support. As a man of many God-given talents, he performed a melodious rendition of 'Panis Angelica's' accompanied by the talented Chris Coutinho. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the dedicated volunteers and charitable donors, those gathered were able to share a lovely meal together as we too reminisced on the unwavering dedication and presence of Father Saldanha in each of our lives.

Tracy Coelho

It was a pleasure to have attended Fr. Saldanha's Jubilee Anniversary. It was a day well spent, from the beautiful Mass service celebrated by Fr. Saldanha himself with a surprise hymn sang beautifully. It was a wonderful gesture by the Goan community to come together to celebrate and appreciate a selfless priest who has never failed to be there during our times of need.

The event was well organised and went on seamlessly - Kudos to the planning committee. Congratulations to Fr. Saldanha once again!

From Julie Coutinho

CLETO DOURADO from Calgary Alberta Canada

Dearest Luigi,

This is how my family affectionately know you.

Firstly, sincere congratulations on your 50 years of being in the priesthood.

I believe I can honestly claim to be your longest standing buddy from Standard 1 at DRGS. We hit it off right away and not long after, you invited me to your home at recess time, where your mum made us delicious bowls of porridge. How I looked forward to these breaks, and you did not disappoint. Academically you were El Supremo, always first in class, and I somehow revelled in this. You were as well an all rounder, and how excited we both were to make the school XI in field hockey and so were able to continue our camaraderie on the field as well as off. Your true sense of loyalty was never more evident than when in Form 4, I with six others were suspended. The sight of you parading and protesting with a penknife held up high, in front of Principal Neves' office demanding justice was a sight. So funny, If it was not a such a serious allegation (we were exonerated a few days later).

We kept in touch while you were in Rome, and then resumed the friendship when you returned. Margaret, you and I got together often for a movie, coffee, or just a drive out. I left Nairobi in 1974, and the next time we met in person was in 1979, when Margaret and I came to Nairobi. Since then, we feel so blessed that you are constantly in the lives of my immediate family. Eamon and Megan lovingly refer to you as Uncle Fr. Luis. Just as you do with the rest of the class of '63.

You always remember significant dates in our lives. WhatsApp has been a godsend for us as we can chat often. We share amongst other things our love for the spoken word-you with E books and me with a book in my hand (Daniel Silva comes to mind)

Well dearest brother from a different mother, I wish you continued joy and success in your ministry.

With much love Cleto



On the actual day of my Anniversary, 17th November, 2023, I celebrated Mass at the Convent with the Sisters of Charity (Mother Teresa's) and the old men and had lunch with them.

The next day, Saturday, 18th the Goan Community and friends celebrated with a Mass at the Goan Institute and afterwards there was a function which included speeches, sing along and of course dinner.

On Sunday, 19th, to remember my first Mass, I celebrated Masses at the Consolata Shrine at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

If you are interested, I include below my website link to view not only the photographs but also the videos of these three days. You will get a stomach ache if you do this all at once so please pace yourself.

I carried each and every one of you in my heart as I enjoyed all the fuss made.

God Bless you all.
Father Luis

<https://fr-luis-saldanha-golden-jubilee.co.ke/>

My Brother Luis

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen

Sheila and I are very happy to be with my brother and you celebrating the Golden Jubilee of his ordination.

I was always very proud to have Luis as my younger brother and am especially proud of him today. For the family it was a joyful day when Luis came into this world and, particularly so, for my two year old sister Lucinda. She promptly discarded her baby doll in favour of Luis, as he was the real baby she wanted. In growing up, we were very close and have remained this way even though the miles have kept us apart.

Our parents - in particular our mother - were always there to guide and encourage us as we chose different careers. They will be very happy to see that Luis has spent fifty years of his priesthood, assisting and guiding many in the spiritual and other aspects of their lives.

I would like to make a special mention of how Luis took such good care of our mother in her last years. He ensured her comfort in every way. The best part was that she heard Mass and received the sacraments on almost a daily basis.

Sheila and I were blessed to have Luis marry us. How wonderful it is to have my brother be the celebrant of our wedding.

Then he also baptized our two daughters, Lisa and Leanne.

My brother's missionary work is well known to you and is also well documented. Now, in his retired years, the community around him has become his loving family.

It is a thrill and a joy to see everyone gathered here to make this celebration a wonderful occasion. It gives me 'goosebumps' to recollect the effort and work so many of you have put in the days leading to this event. Thank you very much for this and let us enjoy the next few hours together.

God bless you all.

Leandro Jose Saldanha
Brother to Fr. Luis



Jake is Father Luis' grandnephew from Sydney, Australia. At school he was tasked to write about a person who was connected to him. He chose to write about Father Luis' inspiring story.

Kenya is located on the East coast of Africa and has a population of over 53 million. Its capital is Nairobi. It is in this city that I have a very close connection to Father Luis Saldanha. We have never met in person, yet I know him very well as he is my maternal great uncle. We talk frequently via phone calls, text messages and emails.

Father Luis had a dream to become a priest from the age of 12. He was schooled in Nairobi (he loved hockey and played the violin) and later went to Rome to pursue his vocation. He achieved this dream when he was ordained at the age of 26. He knew he had found his true calling - something we all wish we could find. He thoroughly enjoyed his work for 20 years, giving help, comfort and guidance to those less fortunate.

His travels were extensive: the US, Europe, India and Israel. Father Luis also met Pope John Paul the Second on several occasions and also had the privilege to meet with Mother Teresa. So it was a busy and meaningful life. However, in his early forties he suffered an extraordinary difficulty which should have defeated him. How did he manage to get through this period of uncertainty?



CORE Committee
 Paloma Fernandes, Elvira Blunsum
 Nicky Azavedo, Colin Carneiro
 Melvin Fernandes, Gaye D'Costa
 Piety Goes, Emer Noronha
 Joyce Shamshudin

Let me share with you his inspiring story.

The devastating news that Father Luis received was that he was suffering from a hereditary eye condition which would eventuate in the loss of his sight. Of course he was shocked at this diagnosis. How would this impact his life as a priest? How could he help others if he was bereft of sight?

In my interview with him, I posed these questions. Father Luis' response was he was faced with the choice of either to descend into self-pity as he had lost his dream and purpose, or he could begin to thoughtfully plan how he would not let his encroaching blindness impact his vocation. He decided to pursue the latter as he did not want to abandon his calling.

Father Luis' courageous example has helped me understand the myriad challenges that confront a blind person. He has insightfully explained to me how at first, he handled his affliction. First, he underwent rigorous training provided for blind people, such as using a cane and learning braille. So, as you can see, he immediately was determined to maintain mobility and literacy. I think he gained strength from the motivation to continue helping others - even in the midst of darkness.

He became adept at using a digital recorder to record masses and homilies, so he could perform his sacred duties. Also, Father Luis has a digital reminder to



take notes and a screen reader on his laptop, which speaks to him what appears on the screen. Equally remarkable is how he now strides about his parish, guided by his cane. Here is Father Luis, in spite of his blindness, going about his daily work and in his voice, you will not hear a tinge of self-doubt, regret or bitterness. His example is courage personified.

I learnt a number of important life lessons. These include the power of persisting through difficulties and never relinquishing your dreams. These principles guided Father Luis through a very difficult and challenging period in his life. He never gave up, worked hard, defied the odds and overcame his unexpected adversity. He continued his work with even more passion.

I want to apply his example to help me in my life, because I know in the future I will face many difficult challenges. Though hopefully they will not be of the magnitude Father Luis has experienced.

I will strive to imitate his resilience, determination, courage, and perseverance.

Loss of his sight never robbed Father Luis of his vision to serve. He is truly a blind priest with a vision.

By Jake Catterall, 2023



My name is Lucinda Coutinho. I am Fr Luis' sister and I live in Sydney, Australia.

My dearest Luis,

Fifty years ago, we both set out on different paths. You embraced the Lord, being his living presence in the lives of his followers. I took the first steps to starting a family, marrying my beloved Tony.

And even if we followed different paths we never drifted away. You were always there for me, lifting me up when I was down, sharing in my successes and most importantly just being someone to listen to me. These great qualities are why you were called to your role, so you could share this also with others who needed it the most.

I wanted to be with you on your special day. But the Lord works in mysterious ways and it was not to be. With these words please feel my warm embrace. I can only say how proud I am of you and how lucky I have been to have you in my life. You have been an inspiration to me. The love, joy and kindness you have brought into my life I cherish always.

Although they are not with us today, I know Mum and Dad are so proud of you. Yes, of the things you have achieved but more importantly of the man you have become.

Our brother and sister relationship started when I was only two and a half.



I was taken to the hospital to see my baby brother. I was intrigued with the fact that you could open and close your eyes and move your arms. I was excited and as soon as I got home I threw out my doll called Buna. That was the name I gave you when you came home.

Growing up next to you, I knew you were special. Always the silent achiever you made everything look effortless. Your knowledge and intelligence were a wonder. All of us were amazed that from such a young age you knew what you wanted to do. With such clarity you chose your path and I never knew a time when you waived.

Even as your sight faded, your clarity was sharpened and your faith deepened. It was a marvel to see how you overcame the challenges you faced when most of us would have fallen short.

You have dedicated your life to Christ and followed your calling for 50 years. Congratulations.

God bless you my little brother.

Lucinda Coutinho.



Ladies and gentlemen, Distinguished guests,

Today, we gather here to honor and express our heartfelt appreciation to Fr Jose Luis Saldanha who is one of my/our favourite priests who has dedicated his life to serving a higher purpose.

I know that personally for my family, Father has played the role of a teacher, a bible scholar, a counsellor, shepherd, lecturer, uncle, fatherly figure and most importantly a wonderful friend. We have had some good discussions, joked and even argued about life and the curve balls it throws us. I have seen him look at the world through the eyes of all of us in different ways. His relationship with all of us especially in the youth in our family ... is amazing! He takes great care to find out how they are doing, if they have reached their destinations, what challenges they have encountered and he shares his memories of the places he has visited with them.

Father has not let his disability come in the way of progress and has used it to get on ahead in this fast paced high tech world to his advantage. Kudos to him and what a great lesson for all of us!

Father never fails to wish all of us on our birthdays, and all the special occasions in our lives. He not only remembers the special occasions but also remembers when you travelled, when you moved house, when you were sick, when you



were sad, when you won an award and so many more and always makes sure to reach out. In times of joy, he shares in our celebrations, providing words of encouragement and leading us in prayer. In times of sorrow, he offers us solace, a comforting presence, and a listening ear when we needed it most.

His love for music and Goan food is well known to us especially the sorpotel, goa sausages and potato chops. I hope we all make an effort to cook for him sometimes.

On a personal note, thank you for all the patience (over 30 years!) you have had with me as I travelled through the valleys and hills of my life. For all the friendly arguments we had, for the life lessons learnt and, for the gentle correction and nudging and for accepting me as I am.

As much as Father has meant to our family, I know so many of us feel the same way about Father and would now like to take the opportunity to extend our hearty congratulations to our beloved Fr Saldana as he celebrates a truly momentous occasion - 50 years of priesthood.

Words alone cannot capture the depth of gratitude we feel towards you. For half a century, you have faithfully guided our spiritual journeys, offering solace, wisdom, and unwavering support. Your impeccable memory in remembering all our birthdays, anniversaries and death



anniversaries is to be marveled at. Your tireless efforts have touched countless lives, and today, we come together to celebrate the incredible impact you have made on our community.

Beyond his spiritual guidance, Fr Saldana has been a beacon of hope and has taught us the importance of selflessness and compassion, reminding us to extend a helping hand to those in need. His dedication to service has been a shining example, and our community has been enriched by his selfless acts of kindness.

On behalf of the entire community, I extend our deepest gratitude to our beloved Fr Saldana. Thank you for being a source of strength and inspiration. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to spreading the message of love, compassion, and faith. Thank you for being a guiding light in our lives and for leading by example. As we celebrate this incredible milestone, we offer our prayers and blessings for continued health, happiness, and fulfillment in the years to come.

May your journey as a priest continue to be filled with grace, and may you find joy in the knowledge that your life's work has made a profound difference in the lives of so many.

May God bless you abundantly, now and always.

Desiree Gomes

MESSAGE - FR LUIS SALDANHA

The Priesthood brings us together in ONE Body

I am writing this a couple of weeks AFTER my Jubilee Anniversary – and what do you know? I am still flying high!

I had occasion to mention that it was so surprising that the skies did not fall on my head when I was anointed Priest 50 years ago on 17th November, 1973 – it was all oh so normal and I felt that nothing had changed.

But as usual a God was working in the background. All the wonders of His Love intrude into our lives as “normal” and sometimes without perception. Fifty years ago, there was a momentous change in my life – a whole new road was then opened to me.

But this road, and where it has led me, is only apparent to our eyes, mine above all, after all this time. Isn't this how it should be? We only see the cake, and taste it, when it has come out of the oven – NOT when it is a gooey mess in the bowl when stirred at the moment of preparation.

I above all lived the day of my Jubilee with amazement – I can truly confess that I never dreamt that it would have been like it was. Hardly a month before there was nothing planned. Then it all took off and pixies, elves, and angels, scurried around and all saw the fruit of their efforts in the magnificent celebrations that took place on Saturday, 18th November, 2023.

Including me!

Except for answering questions, I had only to “appear” on that day and like those who were present was hit by it all and still recovering!

So, something DID change in my life! And the change was deeper than on the human level. God wrought out His Miracle on the “spiritual” level – a level that was hidden from human eyes but nevertheless felt in the intimate recesses of all who saw in the Priesthood not inhabiting a human being like themselves, filled with imperfections and smiling and crying like they did, but the very Hand of God present in their lives. A REAL Presence that “touched” them in the intimate recesses of their lives.

I, like you, look on my Priesthood, as a Gift from God, and feel thoroughly unworthy of it, just as I felt unworthy of the magnificent

celebrations. But I do realize that I was the focus and was needed not only for people to channel their Faith but to inspire people that this is exactly how it should be.

The wonder of God's Love made VISIBLE in creation sometimes passes over our heads – we see the stars, the sun, flowers, trees, animals, etc. and know that God is certainly with us (otherwise there would be NO Creation!) but we cannot remain at a “high” constantly – we notice HIS Love among us ... and continue with life.

My Jubilee Celebrations gave all a chance to notice god's Love in a very special way. Our Lives without the Real Presence of the Eucharist would be one of despair. But we were able to devote our time one hundred per cent on the Day of my Jubilee to thank god for his Love and Constant Care.

My Jubilee kicked off with the Celebration of the Mass which brought everyone present in an explosion of praise and gratitude focused on the God of Creation who through the Eucharist lives and breathes in us.

This Eucharist owes its presence to the Priesthood and for fifty years god has been working in and through me to respond to the desires of the people who blessed with god's Love want to express what they feel, really feel, inside!

To be part of the Priesthood is my honour, but I do realize that I cannot exist in a vacuum – in a way I kick the ball and the people catch it and RUN WITH IT! Run with it in their daily lives of service in the family, the office, in social clubs, in friendships. In the end it is God kicking the ball!

I was happy to be the “ball” and on the Jubilee I certainly was kicked many times not only in the Eucharist but in the celebrations that followed: in the speeches, the sing a long, the dinner, and not forgetting the decorations and the happiness!

Yes, I was the focus and I enjoyed all the attention and fuss made. I give Thanks and Praise to God for EVERYTHING! And beg you all not to forget me in your prayers – there may not be another Jubilee but my Priesthood continues.

**Love and God Bless.
Fr. Jose Luis Saldanha**

Fr. Luis, Mrs Gakunga, baby Ivanna at home, year 2018.



with Kayleigh & Georgia Fernandes



with Meagan de Souza

Fr. Luis & Friends



with Earth Angels



Christmas with Mina, Sarah, Millie & the girls and Fr. Kevin D'Souza



With Julie and Vilda



With Nick and Melvin D'Lima and family at Nick's 90th Birthday



Blessing of Goan Gymkhana Remembrance Gallery with Artist Praful



officiating at Quitty Menezes funeral



at Alice de Souza's residence birthday Mass celebrations



at Dr. Clara residence Remembrance Mass for Dr Manu.





*For many more messages, videos, photographs and articles,
please visit:*

<https://fr-luis-saldanha-golden-jubilee.co.ke/>

Fr. Jose Luis Saldanha
Golden Jubilee Souvenir
Concept, Design & Layout
Cheryl de Souza