

eastern end of Mazagaon is directly connected with the introduction of the Double Jurisdiction in Bombay. Till 1794, there was but one parish in Mazagaon—that of Our Lady of Glory. But when Gloria Church came under the jurisdiction of Padroado in March 1794, the fisherfolk, who comprised the majority of the Gloria Church congregation, asked the Governor in April to allow them to remain under the Vicar-Apostolic of Bombay as before. Government acceded to their request and permitted them to build a new church and cemetery at Mazagaon, a few hundred feet away from Gloria Church. It appears that work towards the construction of the church began straightaway. In the Register of Rosary Church the first baptism recorded is June 1794 and the earliest dated tombstone is of 1798. The church seems to have been completed by the end of 1794, peacefully.



But trouble broke out in January 1795 when the people of Rosary Church boldly carried away some church paraphernalia (vestments, ornaments, books, etc.) from Gloria church, which they claimed belonged to them. The Padroado party of Gloria Church protested and Government had to intervene. It would appear that Government did succeed in getting the articles restored, but soon afterwards some unknown parishioners of Rosary Church broke into Gloria church and reappropriated them. Nothing is known of what happened after that (Hull, I:129-132, 152-157).

The parish of Our Lady of Rosary always remained under Propaganda and under the charge of the secular clergy, except for a short period (1864-1875) when a Jesuit, Fr. Antonio Pereira, was its Vicar (Humbert, II:147).

To accommodate the increasing number of parishioners, the church of 1794 was re-built between 1924-25 and consecrated

by the Bishop of Mysore on February 14, 1926. This church was completely remodelled during the Vicarship of Msgr. Stanislaus Pereira to give it its modern exterior and interior appearance.

ST. JOSEPH, Colaba (1853)

Till the end of the 18th century, Colaba (and Al Omanis), the most southern of the seven islands of Bombay, did not participate in the unfolding of events under British rule which affected the other islands. Though purchased by the British from the Portuguese in 1674, Colaba remained "a mere spit of bare rock" inhabited by none but the Kolis (fisherfolk) and "antelopes and beasts of delight" (Hull, II:267). The Colaba Causeway was built in 1838 thereby linking up the islands of Colaba and Al Omanis (Old Woman's island) to the rest of Bombay.

Early in the 19th century, Colaba began to be used for troops and thus a military chapel became necessary. The question of a chapel was first broached in 1823 when the Vicar-Apostolic submitted a petition to Government. The petition was not only

granted but the chapel of St. Joseph came to be built by the Government at its own expense. The chapel was blessed by the Vicar-Apostolic, Peter d'Alcantara, on January 27, 1828. An English school was founded there as early as 1851 but we do not know for how many years it remained open before it was closed down.



In 1853, Bishop Hartmann put up a bungalow for the chaplain who looked after the chapel. Prior to this date no chaplain resided at Colaba. Since it was an appendage of the Fort, it was visited

by priests from the Fort church. In 1861-1863, the walls of the Fort were demolished and the troops stationed in the Fort were disbanded. Consequently, the "chaplain of the Fort and Colaba" became the chaplain of Colaba only.

We find the Jesuits serving as military chaplains at St. Joseph's from 1853 onwards. It appears that the first Jesuit who resided there was Fr. James Peniston (Humbert, II:96). It also appears that in those early years, the Jesuit fathers and brothers used St. Joseph's as their base of operations until they gradually established themselves in different parts of the Bombay-Poona Mission. Then, St. Joseph's was left with a single resident chaplain.

In course of time, houses began to spring up in Colaba, and a civilian population gradually came into existence alongside the military personnel and their families. Thus Colaba developed into a parish with a small number of civilians and a constantly floating population of soldiers.

The parish passed into the care of the secular clergy in 1950 when Fr. Ignatius D'Souza (now Bishop of Baroda) was appointed Vicar there.

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES, Mahim (1855)

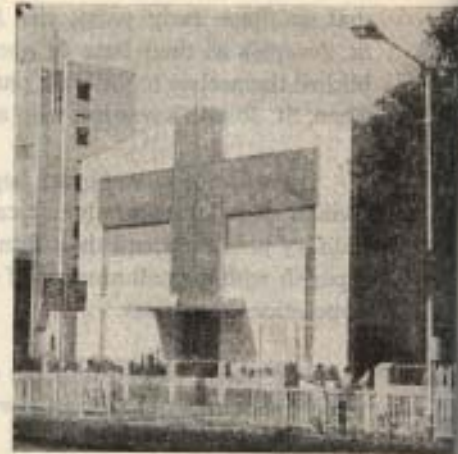
The origin of this parish lies in one of the most turbulent periods of Bombay's Church history. After his voluntary imprisonment in St. Michael's church, Bishop Hartmann was compelled by Court decree to relinquish that church to the Padroado party. The Bishop was then faced with the urgent problem of providing another place of worship for those parishioners of Mahim (about 1,000) who chose to remain under Propaganda. He addressed a stirring manifesto both to the people of the Bombay Presidency and to the Catholic world in general. As a result of his appeal, contributions poured in from his friends and well-wishers in and outside India. Thus encouraged, he bought a plot of land called "Oart Gowlet" on October 6, 1854 and laid the foundation stone of the new church on December 10 of the same year. The Kolis of Mahim, Dharavi and Sion are said to have helped carry the stones for the construction of the church from the quarries of Koli-Kalyan (Kalina) in boats through the Kurla and Mahim creeks. Thus the church was completed, blessed and opened for public worship on December 9, 1855.

Up to 1928, this parish extended to all the Catholics in Mahim, Dharavi, Sion down to Matunga, who gave their allegiance to Propaganda — they numbered nearly 1,240 persons. Filial to

this Church was the chapel of St. Francis of Assisi at Mahim Woodlands (today, Prabhadevi) which was also built by Bishop Hartmann in 1855.

Many additions and alterations were made to the church to meet the needs of an increasing population. Originally designed for a congregation of less than a thousand, the church was unable to contain a parish population which, in the course of a century, had grown to over 7,000 in number. A vigorous drive for a new and bigger church was launched under the Vicarship of Msgr. Ligoury D'Souza.

Actual construction work was begun in 1966. Msgr. D'Souza did not live to see the completion of the church in 1968. During the Vicarship of Msgr. William Nazareth, the new church was blessed by His Eminence Valerian Cardinal Gracias on April 14, 1968.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, Dabul (1872)

The present church of St. Francis Xavier at Dabul has come into existence at three different periods and in three stages. Sometime just after the middle of the 19th century, the Goans in Bombay began to take concrete steps towards erecting a church that would cater to the religious needs of the many Goans flocking to Bombay to earn a livelihood. In a small plot of land at Dabul along Burrows Cross Lane (renamed St. Francis Xavier Street in 1967), the foundation stone of this church was laid on December 4, 1870. This first Dabul church, dedicated to Our Lady of Happy Voyage, was completed in 1872, and blessed on May 12 of the same year. The church was later re-named "St. Francis Xavier" sometime before the signing of the Concordat of 1886.

The church, however, was a small affair capable of accommodating some 300 people only. This was very soon seen to be inadequate for the ever-increasing Goan population; in 1883, it was decided to enlarge it. Accordingly an adjacent plot of ground

was bought which was separated from the already-existing church by a three-foot wide municipal lane. It was hoped that this lane could be easily bought from the Municipality. But the City's governing body refused to sell. Thus it was that a new and separate church was built; its foundation stone was blessed and laid by Dom Antonio Pedro da Costa, the first Bishop of Damaun (the Dabul church belonged to the diocese of Damaun which was created in 1886) on June 21, 1891. It took five years to be completed and was blessed by the same Prelate on June 7, 1896.

After years of prayers of the parishioners and protracted efforts and tact of the then Vicar, Msgr. Bernardo Francisco Mendonca, the intervening lane was at last acquired in 1934 and the work of joining the two churches was taken in hand. In the process the old frontage facing the Burrows Cross Lane was replaced by one facing Girgaum Road, a second tower erected, and the church internally renovated. On the feast day of the Patron, December 3, 1937 the new church was blessed by Archbishop Roberts. It was consecrated during the 38th International Eucharistic Congress on November 28, 1964 by Bishop Andrew D'Souza of Pune. On the occasion of the Centenary of the parish (1972), certain internal modifications (affecting altar, communion rails, baptismal font) have made the church more liturgically expressive. This was during the Vicarship of Msgr. Ayres Fernandes.



ST. ANNE, Mazagaon (1887)

The present church of St. Anne had its beginnings in a small chapel erected in 1787 by a devout Armenian lady, Mrs. Rose Nesbit. The original slab of the old chapel on top of the entrance leading from the sacristy to the main altar of the present church gives us this date. Further, in a note preserved in the Archives of St. Mary's High School, we read: "St. Anne's chapel was built by an Armenian lady, Mrs. Rose Nesbit, wife of Commodore Nesbit, Com-

mander of the Naval Forces attached to Bombay, in about the year 1787." Before her death in 1819, she handed over the chapel and property to the Vicar-Apostolic of Bombay. During her lifetime, the chapel was served by native secular priests of the Propaganda jurisdiction. At some later date a Carmelite priest took charge; and in January 1857, we find two Capuchins in charge. Finally, from November 25, 1858 the Jesuits took over the chapel as they ran the St. Mary's Institution close by.

Fr. Henry Daling SJ took charge of the chapel in 1870. Finding the chapel to be inadequate for the growing needs of Mazagaon (St. Mary's High School had moved into the chapel compound in 1864), he decided to build a new church on the site of the chapel. The foundation stone was laid on April 16, 1880 and the very next year, on November 6, 1881 the new church of St. Anne was solemnly consecrated by Bishop Leo Meurin.

For a hundred years after it was built in 1787, the original Nesbit chapel was regarded as filial to Rosary Church, Mazagaon. Then, to mark the centenary of the erection of the original chapel, the church of St. Anne was raised to the status of a parish church, when the new parish of St. Anne was created on July 31, 1887.

HOLY CROSS, Lower Parel (1904)

The first beginnings of the future parish of Holy Cross at Lower Parel are connected with a chapel that was built in 1883 by the Vicar of Salvacao Church, Fr. Braz Fernandes. This chapel stood close to the Seksaria Mills and was intended to serve the Railway people of the area. The chapel remained filial to Salvacao church until 1904 when Holy Cross was erected as an independent parish. A few years later, the present site was acquired and a new



church built in 1915 under the Vicarship of Fr. Pio Elias Saldanha. The old church was demolished and the property sold to Seksaria Mills.

The transfer of the Railway Workshops to Valsad and Dohad and the movement of Catholics to the suburbs have contributed to the decrease of the original population. Further, the creation of the parish of St. Paul on the eastern side of the Railway Lines in 1941 has reduced not only the area but also the population of the parish of the Holy Cross. Nevertheless, today, the parish still counts a total of about 7,000 Catholics.



HOLY NAME CATHEDRAL, Fort (1905)

The parish of the Holy Name with its Cathedral church is somehow related not only to the former Esperanca Cathedral but also to the previous parish of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel once located within the Fort area. Hence a word about these two institutions is in place.

The original church of *Nossa Senhora d'Esperanca* (Our Lady of Expectation) was built by the Portuguese Franciscans before 1570 and it remained in their possession till they were expelled from the island in 1720. The church then passed into Carmelite hands. This church occupied three different locations before it was finally demolished in 1941 (Hull, II:250-256):

- (1) The original Portuguese church stood more or less in the centre of the present Victoria Terminus Railway Station.
- (2) In 1760, the church was transferred, most probably, somewhere on the Esplanade (Azad Maidan).
- (3) In 1804, it was transferred again, this time to a place called "Oart Garvary" in Bhuleshwar, a short distance north

of the Cavel church. It was completed in 1806 and rebuilt in 1832. When Bombay became an Archdiocese in 1886, the church was elevated to the status of a Cathedral in the following year.

In 1941, the Bhuleshwar Cathedral was closed to the public and demolished in the same year.

When the Franciscans were expelled from Bombay island in 1720 and a group of four Carmelites took over the administration of the Church on the island, the Carmelite Vicar-Apostolic took up a house on Medows Street in the Fort (about 1730) for his official residence and there set up a chapel dedicated to *Our Lady of Mount Carmel*. When the Esperanca church was transferred to the Esplanade in 1760, the people in the Fort area found the distance to the church inconvenient, and so the Fort chapel was opened for public worship. At first the chapel was filial to Esperanca. But in 1767 it was made an independent parish church for the Fort. Shortly after 1794, the Vicar-Apostolic bought the neighbouring plots along Medows Street in both directions, and on this property there arose in later years a seminary, convent-school and a printing press. By 1850 the church and house were remodelled and in these renovated premises lived successively Bishops Hartmann, Canoz, Steins, Meurin and Archbishops Porter and Dalhoff.

Around 1900 the Municipality decided to cut a street right through the church. This scheme together with the fact that the church was proving inadequate to accommodate the parishioners, led the Church authorities to look out for a new site. This was found on Wodehouse Road (Nathalal Parekh Marg today). There three buildings were soon erected: Archbishop's House, the Fort Convent School, and a new church in Gothic style. The foundation stone of the church was laid by

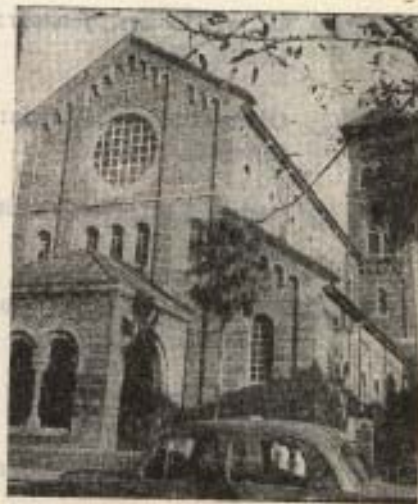


Archbishop Dalhoff on July 9, 1902 and the new church was blessed on the feast of the Holy Name, January 15, 1905. Thus the new parish of the Holy Name was born in 1905. In 1920 the whole complex of buildings on Meadows Street was demolished (Hull, II:260-262).

With the demolition of the Bhuleshwar Cathedral, the parish church of the Holy Name was raised to the status of a Pro-Cathedral on December 21, 1941 which took effect from January 1, 1942. On March 3, 1964, at the request of Cardinal Gracias, the church was elevated to the dignity of a Metropolitan Cathedral and was consecrated on November 28, 1964 during the 38th International Eucharistic Congress held in Bombay. The first diocesan priest to be appointed Parish Priest and Rector of the Church of the Holy Name in 1942 died on September 11, 1978 and lies buried below Our Lady's altar on the left aisle of the Cathedral—His Eminence Valerian Cardinal Gracias.

ST. IGNATIUS, Jacob Circle (1913)

As its name suggests, the history of this parish is linked with the history of the Society of Jesus in the Archdiocese. On August 13, 1858 the Bombay-Poona Mission was entrusted to the Jesuits when Bishop Hartmann was Vicar-Apostolic of Bombay. To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of their administration in Bombay, it was planned to build a church dedicated to the founder of the Society of Jesus—St. Ignatius. Work was begun in December 1908 on a plot of land acquired on Arthur Road (now re-named Sane Guruji Marg). The church of the style of the early Romanesque basilica was completed in 1912 and blessed on January 1, 1913 by Archbishop Herman Jurgens SJ.



The parish of St. Ignatius was managed by the Jesuits until almost the eve of the amalgamation of the Padroado (Damaun) and Propaganda (Bombay) dioceses. In 1926 the parish was entrusted to the Secular clergy, under whose pastoral care it has remained till today. The parish celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1963 during the Vicarship of Msgr. H. B. Marques.

CHAPELS

During the period when the Church on the island of Bombay lived out its fretful days under the Double Jurisdiction, chapels were set up by both sides—by Padroado and Propaganda. They are mentioned below. Again, passing reference is made to those chapels, built during this period, which developed into parish churches in the following period, while a few details are given about those chapels that did not undergo this development.

(A) Chapels which developed into parish churches

Padroado Chapels

- (1) **OL of Dolours, Sonapur:** built in 1794, filial to OL of Health, Cavel.
- (2) **OL of Dolours, Wadala:** built in 1853, filial to OL of Salvation, Dadar.
- (3) **Sacred Heart, Worli:** built in 1888, filial to OL of Salvation, Dadar.
- (4) **OL of Good Counsel Sion:** built before 1841, filial to St. Michael, Mahim.

Propaganda Chapels

- (1) **St. Joseph, Umerkhadi:** built in 1853, filial to OL of Expectation, Fort.
- (2) **St. Ignatius, Mandvi:** built in 1899, filial to OL of Expectation, Fort.

(B) Chapels which did not develop into parish churches**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, Colaba, (1823)**

The present chapel of St. Francis Xavier or the Blessed Sacrament chapel, as it is more recently called, in Middle Colaba, stands on the site of former Augustinian Hospice and chapel that were built by the Augustinian monks of the Convent of Our Lady of Grace, Goa in 1823. The Hospice was meant to be a rest-house for missionaries proceeding to Bengal, Madras and Damaun. When the Religious Orders were suppressed by Portugal in 1835, the building was appropriated by the Portuguese Government and used to accommodate Portuguese officials arriving in Bombay on their way to Goa, while the chapel was affiliated to Gloria Church at Mazagaon.

In 1838 the Vicar-Apostolic of Bombay tried to take possession of the chapel on the strength of the papal brief "Multa praeclare" but was prevented from doing so by the British Government who decided that it belonged to the Archbishop of Goa. When the diocese of Damaun was erected in 1886, the house at Colaba became the de facto residence of the Bishop of Damaun in Bombay. The House and chapel were completely re-built around 1900. In 1928, the Double Jurisdiction came to an end in Bombay, and the chapel of St. Francis Xavier became affiliated to Holy Name Church, Fort and remained so until 1964.

On July 31, 1964, the Blessed Sacrament Fathers of the Australian Province were offered the chapel by Cardinal Gracias so that they might transform it into a centre for the promotion of devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and for the growth of the Eucharistic life of the diocese. This foundation remains as a spiritual memorial of the 38th International Eucharistic Congress held in Bombay in November-December 1964.

Used daily for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the Shrine is the monstrance presented by the people of Tyrol. Blessed by Pope Paul VI during the Eucharistic Congress, it was used for the final procession of the Blessed Sacrament from the Oval to the Gateway of India. After the service, the Papal Legate, Cardinal Agagianian enthroned it on the altar of the chapel.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, Dadar, (1855)

When Salvacao Church, Dadar, transferred its allegiance from Propaganda to Padroado in June 1851, some 15 families of the parish, who were not in favour of the transfer, found themselves without a church. For a time the Vicar-Apostolic, Bishop Hartmann, lent them his own house at Parel (where St. Paul's church was built decades later) and Mass was said in one of its rooms. Since the distance from Lower Mahim (where the families lived) to Parel was somewhat great and inconvenient, Bishop Hartmann built a small chapel for them in Mahim Woodlands, a little southwest of Salvacao church. This chapel, dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, was blessed and opened for worship on July 24, 1855.

As soon as the parish of Our Lady of Victories was founded in December 1855, this chapel was made filial to it and was served on Sundays by the priest of that Church. With the abolition of the Double Jurisdiction the chapel was transferred to Salvacao Church on January 31, 1932, to which it became filial. The chapel, though now closed down and not in use, still stands just behind the Convent of the Franciscan Hospitaller Sisters at Prabhadevi.

ST. ANTHONY, Byculla, (1922)

The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary opened their first house in the Archdiocese on Bellasis Road, Byculla, in 1922. In that very year, the chapel attached to this house, St. Anthony's Foundling Home, was thrown open for public worship. The Jesuit Fathers from Mazagaon provided the religious services for the Sisters, the inmates of the Home, and the public. In 1940-41, the chapel was completely remodelled and enlarged.

Then there was a move to divide the parish of St. Anne, Mazagaon by raising the area around Bellasis Road into an independent parish. About the same time the Franciscans of Bellary were eager to open a house in Bombay, and in the course of 1943-44, Archbishop Roberts offered the Friars a choice of three places—Byculla, Chembur or Sion. The Friars decided to accept Byculla with a view to eventually setting up a parish there. In February 1945, Fr. Fidelis OFM took up his residence in the compound of St. Anthony's Home. He acted as chaplain to the Sisters and the Home and also looked after a portion of St. Anne's parish. Fr. Fidelis

was followed by Fr. Egbert Barnes in August 1945 and Fr. Damian Brady in 1948. In June 1949, Fr. Brady was transferred to Sion, where he subsequently started the parish of Our Lady of Gopo Counsel. With the departure of the Franciscans from Bellasis Road, the plan of creating a new parish in Byculla was aborted. Since 1949, then, the chapel of St. Anthony's Home was given back to the care of the Jesuits of Mazagaon and continues to function as a public chapel for the people of the area.

III PARISHES FOUNDED AFTER THE DOUBLE JURISDICTION ENDED (1928-1981)

Since the end of the Double Jurisdiction in Bombay in 1928, thirteen new parishes have seen the light of day, all of them within the last forty years. Of these 13 parishes:

- (a) Six were the result of a re-organization of existing parish boundaries brought about by a Decree issued by Archbishop Roberts on March 12, 1941: at Cumballa Hill, Dadar, Girgaum, Sonapur, Umerkhadi and Wadala.
- (b) Eight started off with filial chapels that had been built in previous years: Girgaum, Mandvi, Sewri, Sion, Sonapur, Umerkhadi, Wadala and Worli.
- (c) Two have been the result of the development of the City and the in-migration of parishioners: Sion-Dharavi, and Antop Hill.

The erection of these 13 parishes brings the total number of parishes in Bombay City (from Colaba to Sion) to 25. Almost all these parishes have Catholics spread out over a territorially small area; only two of the parishes, namely, Sewri and Antop Hill, have subcentres within them.

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS, Sonapur (1941)

The history of the parish of Our Lady of Dolours at Sonapur is linked with that of the parish of Our Lady of Health at Cavel. In 1974 Government granted the new parish of Cavel the right not only of building a new church but also of owing a burial ground at Sonapur which at that time bordered the Arabian Sea (see

note on OL of Health Church, Cavel). On this burial ground, small in size, a mortuary chapel—the predecessor of the present Sonapur church—was built around 1794.

In 1905, a new chapel was built over the whole area of the cemetery and thus the graveyard totally disappeared. The new chapel, filial to the Cavel church, was called Nossa Senhora da Dores (Our Lady of Dolours) and had as its first chaplain Fr. Daniel X. Fernandes, who in the building of the chapel had been "indefatigable and constant in his endeavours to curtail expenses in every direction" (The Examiner, Sept 30, 1905:1). The new chapel was blessed on February 17, 1905 by the Bishop of Damaun.

At the reorganization of the parishes in Bombay in 1941, the parish of OL of Dolours at Sonapur was created by separating it from the Cavel parish. With far-sighted policy, its first Vicar, Fr. Orphino de Sa, purchased two adjoining buildings and thus ensured a future for a new church and school building. Though cramped on all sides by roads and buildings, which forbids any thought of expansion, the Sonapur church has, nevertheless, been so pleasingly extended and renovated in 1979 under the Vicarship of Fr. Nascimento de Sa, that it attracts people on their way to and from work in downtown



Bombay to drop in for a visit throughout the day.

ST. TERESA, Girgaum, (1941)

St. Teresa's church was originally a private chapel dedicated to St. Joseph and St. Teresa. A tablet fixed in one of its walls tells us that it was "built in 1773 by the pious family de Ga, and rebuilt and ornamented by Joseph Maria de Ga of the same family in 1836." The chapel was filial to OL of Expectation Church and functioned as a public place of worship under administrators chosen by the majority of the congregation.