

CELEBRATING THE PASSOVER

The SVD Lay Partners, INM (Disciples of the Divine Word - DDW) celebrated the Passover Seder on Saturday, 30th March, 2019 at Atma-Darshan, Mumbai.

We celebrated the Passover from a Christian perspective preserving the Jewish traditions and experiencing the faith journey of the Israelites. We observed one of the most important annual events on the Hebrew calendar by commemorating the Exodus story, drinking four cups of wine and partaking of symbolic foods placed on the Passover Seder Plate. The Passover celebration helped us to reconnect with the Israelites' journey out of Egypt, and to recall our own spiritual journey. Meaningful traditions were performed throughout the Seder, such as the lighting of candles, washing of hands and the search for the *afikomen* that was hidden. As it was customary during the Passover Meal, we too washed the feet of each other reminding us of the need to be humble like Jesus.

The Seder concluded with a celebration in which everyone shouts, "Next year in Jerusalem!" This is done in anticipation of the coming of our Lord when we will have the Passover meal with Him in His kingdom.

Around 45 DDW members took part in the Passover Seder with Fr. Gregory Arockiam, SVD, our Spiritual Director, taking the main lead (representing Moses). We invited Sanjay and Grace, recently married couple, as our special guests for the Passover Seder. Sanjay and Grace, like thousands more, are migrant workers in the city of Mumbai who have journeyed like the Israelites in their struggle to find better lives and at present are working for SVD institutions.

Fr. Donald D'Souza, SVD and Susan Noronha guided and accompanied the DDW members into the Passover experience. *"It was a beautiful, unique and enriching spiritual experience, etched in our memories forever"*, expressed Valerie Stanley, one of the DDW members.

- Susan Noronha
SVD Lay Partner - INM

