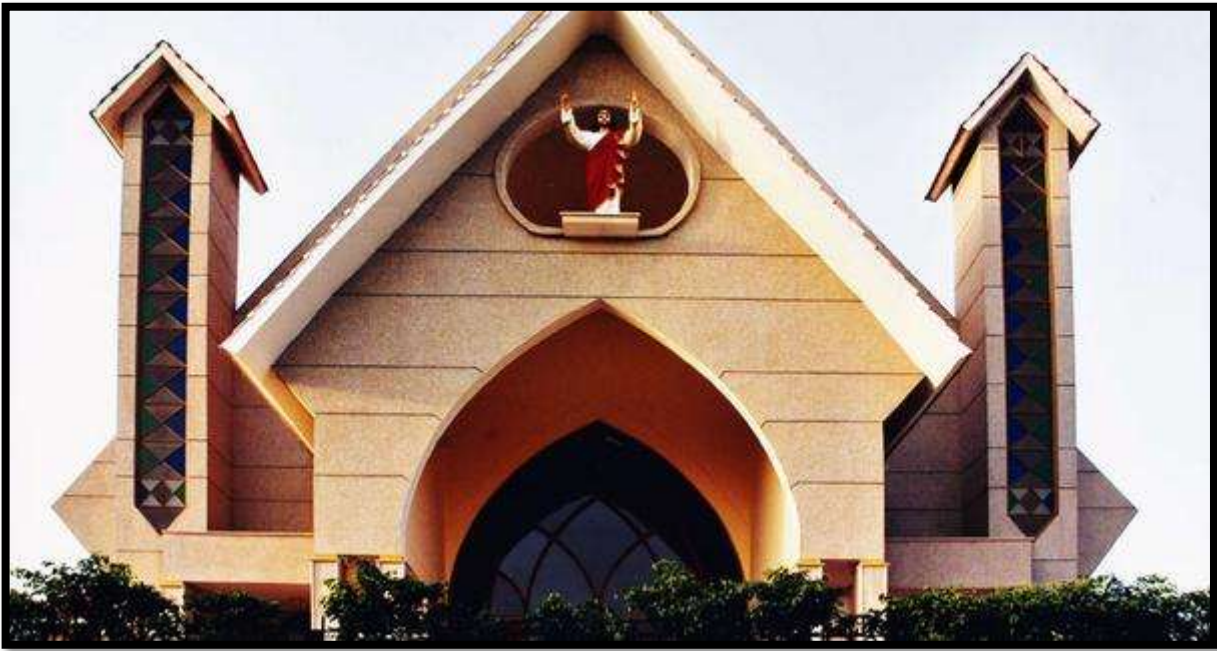


Exploring Our Surroundings: A Visit to St. Alphonsa Church Prep Class Experience – April 2025



“The important thing is to not stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing.”

-Albert Einstein

The new academic session at Santa Maria has begun with a variety of enriching experiences for our Prep students, designed to help them understand the world around them in meaningful ways.

As part of this journey, we began the month with an exploration of our local neighborhood. On **April 21st, 2025**, all Prep students visited **St. Alphonsa Church**, a place of worship nearby, as part of their learning about different community spaces.





Prior to the visit, we conducted our regular '**Circle Time**', where children were guided to understand the purpose of the visit and reminded of appropriate behavior and good practices to follow during such outings.



The walk to the church itself was a valuable experience. The children attentively followed traffic rules, accompanied by the school guard and helpers who ensured their safety throughout the journey.



Upon reaching the church, the children were excited to spot the **statue of Jesus** on the rooftop. Inside, the teachers engaged the children in observing the architecture and structure of the church, drawing their attention to key

features.





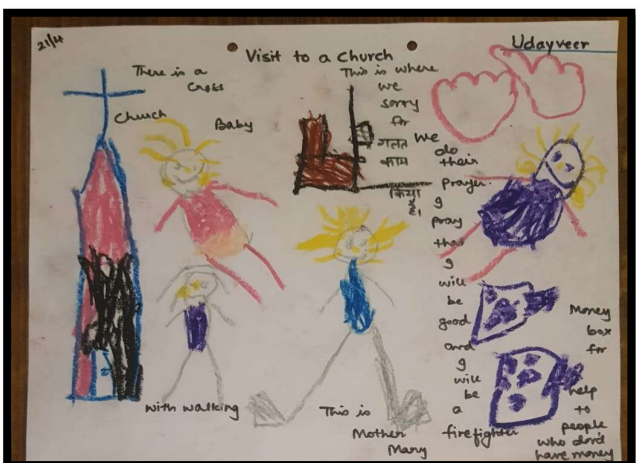
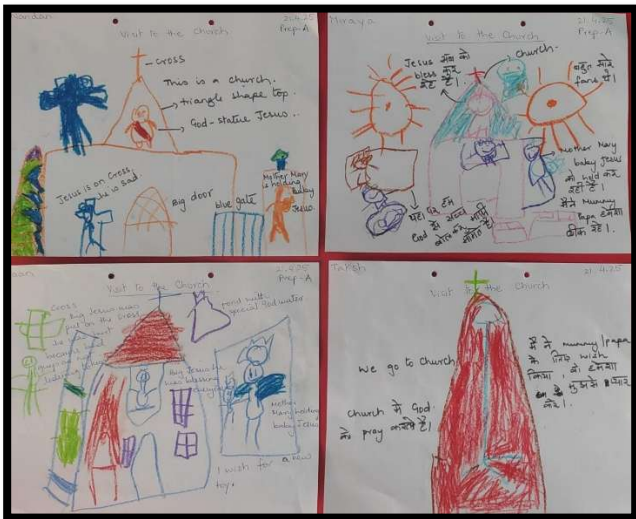
To create a reverent atmosphere, the children were seated on the pews and gently reminded to maintain silence and reflect in peace. They were fascinated by the **hymn books**, flipping through them with curiosity. Together, the children sang the prayer song '*Stuti aaradhna upper jati hai...*' ,



The students learned how to **make the sign of the cross**, were shown the **Holy Bible**, and even had the chance to offer **personal prayers**. Their tour continued with a visit around the church, where they explored the **altar**, **choir area**, **baptismal font**, **confessional** and **holy water** at the entrance. Each element was explained in simple terms to help the children understand its significance. They also saw statues of **Mother Mary** and **St. Alphonsa**, introduced to them as "a best friend of Jesus."



We left the church with hearts full of peace and gratitude. This visit was a meaningful introduction to the concept of places of worship, and our children responded with awe, curiosity, and respect.



Back at school, the children joyfully shared their experiences through thoughtful illustrations and stories, expressing what they had seen and learned.

We look forward to continuing this journey of discovery as our students visit other places of worship throughout the year, learning about diversity, respect, and shared values in our world.

Warm regards,

Elizabeth