

DIOCESAN DAY OF REPARATION AT THE MIRACULOUS CROSS, NANDGAD



CHEF AMIT KUMAR CONDUCTS MASTERCLASS FOR STUDENTS



Goan traditions to observe Good Friday

Good Friday, observed by Christians, commemorates Jesus Christ's crucifixion. It's a solemn day of prayer, fasting, and reflection. In Goa, it combines religious devotion with local traditions reflecting cultural and spiritual identity

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Good Friday, also called Holy Friday or Black Friday, commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. The liturgy, known as the 'Mass of the Pre-Sanctified,' has undergone significant changes since

the 1955 liturgical reforms. The priest would prostrate himself before the altar, where a cloth is spread and the missal is placed. It begins with a bare altar, and after the Passion reading, the priest vests in a cope, indicating no Mass is being celebrated. The cross is unveiled in three stages, and the faithful venerated it by genuflecting three

times and kneeling in adoration before it was restored to the altar. The veiled cross is held by priests for veneration, and the ceremony concludes in silence, with the ciborium repositioned in the main tabernacle and new prayers chanted.

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

A key aspect of the observance is the tradition of fasting and abstinence.

Families prepare a modest meal of rice gruel, known as 'kanji' or 'péz' in Konkani, accompanied by pickle or salted fish. This simple meal reflects the themes of sacrifice and self-denial central to Good Friday. The humble food serves as a reminder of Christ's suffering and the need for spiritual discipline.

This combination of religious observance and local culinary tradition helps to reinforce the solemnity of the day, creating a unique way of honoring the significance of Good Friday within the Goan community. It is a time for both spiritual reflection and cultural expression, offering a blend of faith, tradition, and simplicity that resonates deeply with those who observe it.



VEILING THE IMAGES OF CHRIST

The whole meaning behind veiling the images of Christ is that, during Lent, Christ was absent from society and isolated on the Mount of Olives. Hence, He was not visible in public. But if that is the case, why are the saints also covered with a veil? This is because all saints are ultimately followers of Christ. So, if Christ isn't present, how can the saints be? It is also a beautiful tradition to pass down to our children, who will be intrigued by it, making this time of year truly special for them. We go to great lengths to decorate our homes for Easter, so why not prepare for the great feast by using veils? Interestingly, at the Andrade house in Ambajim, Margão, the practice of veiling their private oratory with a black veil began around 1730. It continued until around the 1960s, when the veil caught fire due to the candles lit nearby. The practice was only reinstated in 2013. The custom of veiling images during the last two weeks of Lent dates back to the Middle Ages. Traditionally, the veils are made of lightweight purple cloth without any decoration.

LITURGICAL REVERENCE AND GOAN CUSTOMS ON GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday holds deep significance in Goa, blending liturgical reverence with unique local customs. Agnelo Andrade from Ambajim recalls the solemn atmosphere of the day, where the usual distractions of music and television are set aside, fostering an environment of reflection on Christ's suffering. The focus is on simplicity and quiet devotion.

SHOWERS OF BLESSING

Antoneta Carvalho e Fernandes of Benautilm fondly recalls the fun that followed this intense day: during the Easter Vigil, boys would throw pieces of Pandanus (Ketok) leaves from choir lofts at parishioners—especially girls—walking to the communion rail, marking a shift from solemnity to celebration.



A UNIQUE CRUCIFIXION

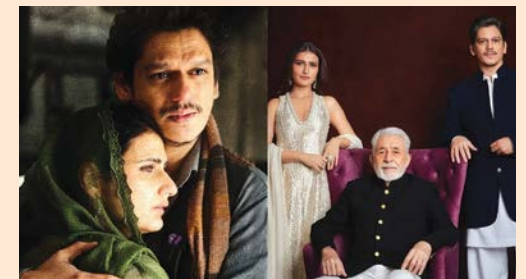
Among the more unusual Good Friday traditions in Goa is the crucifixion of garden lizards—called Thopio or Sheddo—by village boys. Using the thorny branches of lemon trees or Flacourtia jangomas, these lizards were nailed onto coconut trees or palm fronds. The origin of this ritual varies across villages.

In Ambajim, Margão, elders claim the lizard played a role in Jesus' betrayal by Judas, and its crucifixion symbolizes punishment. Another tale suggests the lizard mocked Christ at the moment of his crucifixion. Some interpretations even point to pre-Christian beliefs where lizards falling on someone were seen as a bad omen, and the act of crucifying them became a symbolic cleansing merged with Christian catechism.

In cases where boys accidentally caught a poisonous lizard (Sorop shilli) and were bitten, they were immediately immersed in a pond, with water up to their neck, to slow the toxin's spread until medical help arrived.

SWIPE RIGHT

Manish Malhotra's production, 'Gustaakh Ishq' announced

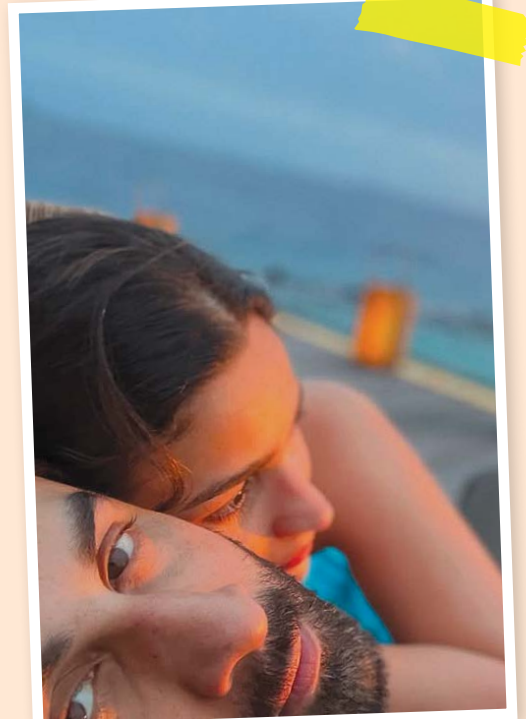


Ace fashion designer Manish Malhotra shared an update about his production project revealing the title of the film, 'Gustaakh Ishq', which was previously named 'Ul Jalool Ishq'. The film is written and directed by Vibhu Puri and features 'Jaane Jaan' actor Vijay Varma, Dangal fame Fatima Sana Shaikh, veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah and Family Man actor Sharib Hashmi in the lead roles. It is significant to note that the lyrics and music for this film are given by legendary artists including Gulzar, Vishal Bhardwaj and Oscar award winner Padma Shri Resul Pookutty. However, the film is produced by Dinesh Malhotra and Manish Malhotra.

Mark Wahlberg takes on a gangster's role

Mark Wahlberg looked nearly unrecognisable as he was seen on set of his upcoming film, 'By Any Means'. The actor, who plays a mob hitman in the crime thriller, was photographed in full wardrobe with chin and nose prosthetics as he waved to cameras while filming in Atlanta. The famously muscular star, 53, also appeared to have bulked up for the role as he sported a brown suit.

Wahlberg's gangster transformation also included a red button-up shirt and gold jewelry, including a watch, rings and a necklace. The look was completed with a pair of aviator sunglasses and a toothpick in his hand. The actor's hair was notably longer than usual and was styled to the side with thick sideburns.



Alia Bhatt shares an adorable picture with Ranbir Kapoor on their third wedding anniversary.

Still Got It! Cricket's silver foxes set IPL 2025 on fire

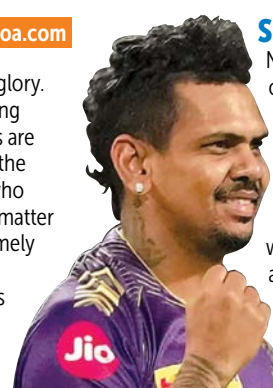
These seasoned warriors over 35 are setting the IPL ablaze, proving age is just a number when brilliance speaks

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M S Dhoni - 43 years old

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) stand-in skipper MS Dhoni turned back the clock in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 match against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) earlier this week, unleashing a late blitz to power his team to their second victory of the season. Dhoni's bat came alive, smashing 26 runs off just 11 balls as CSK chased down a target of 167 in a last-over thriller. Thanks to his fireworks in Lucknow, Dhoni was named Player of the Match. Although 'Thala' didn't quite agree with the organisers' decision, the award helped him break an all-time IPL record.



Sunil Narine - 36 years old

Narine has been one of the mainstays of the Knight Riders unit having joined them in 2012. The Trinidad-born spinner has established himself as an exceptional spin bowler with the ability to bamboozle batsmen, but over the years has also contributed when required with the bat making him a lethal weapon to have. He was once again retained by the franchise for IPL 2025. He has taken 7 wickets in the league with a best of 3-15.

Moeen Ali - 37 years old

Moeen Ali played for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in IPL 2025, replacing Sunil Narine due to illness. Ali made his KKR debut against Rajasthan Royals on March 26, taking 2 wickets for 23 runs and contributed to a comfortable victory. Ali is a valuable middle-order batter, capable of stabilizing innings and accelerating scoring when needed.



Virat Kohli - 36 years old

Virat Kohli has led the charge for RCB with 248 runs from 6 games, including 3 half-centuries. He has had his opening partner Phil Salt for company, who has himself scored 208 runs already this season. A bonafide superstar of the sport and the TATA IPL, Virat Kohli has been with the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) through thick and thin. The former India captain, is the only player with over 8000 IPL runs.



Faf Du Plessis - 40 years old

A seasoned campaigner with over 11,000 T20 runs, Faf du Plessis is among the most consistent top-order batters in IPL history. The South African veteran has amassed over 4,500 IPL runs and was instrumental in CSK's 2018 and 2021 title-winning campaigns. He later led RCB to two playoff finishes before being acquired by Delhi Capitals. He brings leadership and experience to the squad serving as DC's vice-captain in TATA IPL 2025.

