

# Paryushan Parva 2020

## Message from Mr. Dhiraj Devan Dodhia, Chairman VOC Nairobi

I EXTEND MY WARM PRANAM AND JAI JINENDRA TO ALL JAINS OBSERVING PARYUSHAN ACROSS NAIROBI AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

PARYUSHAN - THE CELEBRATION OF SPIRITUAL AWARENESS- IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ANNUAL FESTIVAL FOR THE JAIN RELIGION. THE REAL PURPOSE AND TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS FESTIVAL IS TO REPENT AND SEEK FORGIVENESS FOR ANY KIND OF SINS COMMITTED. PARYUSHAN FESTIVAL FOCUSES ON CLEANSING OUR SOUL BY ELIMINATING VARIOUS IMPURITIES LIKE ANGER, PRIDE, DECEIT AND GREED AND BUILDING GOOD VIRTUES. THE CULMINATION OF CONFESSION IS RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM ALL LIVING BEINGS AND ALSO GRANTING FORGIVENESS TO ALL LIVING BEINGS.

FOR JAINS ACROSS THE WORLD, THIS PARYUSHAN PARVA WAS DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT AS GOVERNMENTS DISCOURAGED OR BANNED LARGE GATHERINGS AND URGED PEOPLE TO STAY HOME TO STOP THE SPREAD OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19). IT WAS UNIQUE AS JAINS AROUND THE WORLD BECAME INNOVATIVE, EMBRACED TECHNOLOGY, AND FOUND NEW WAYS OF CELEBRATING THIS FESTIVAL. IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE JAINS AROUND THE WORLD UNITED BY TECHNOLOGY AND CELEBRATING TOGETHER AS ONE.

MANY OF US LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING THESE EVENTS IN A COMMUNAL WAY WITH SADHARMIK BHAKTI, AND IT MUST HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT NOT TO DO SO THIS YEAR," BUT WE CAN LOOK AT IT POSITIVELY AND AGREE THAT WE WERE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSCIOUSLY PRACTICE THE REAL ESSENCE OF JAINISM BY SEEKING WITHIN US TO PURIFY OUR SOULS AND ACHIEVE SELF UPLIFTMENT.

IN THE PAST 8 DAYS, JAINS ACROSS THE GLOBE COMMEMORATED PARYUSHAN PARVA AT HOME, WHICH UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD HAVE BEEN ATTENDED AT JINALAYS FOR DARSHAN, POOJAS, PRATIKRAMAN, SAMAIK AND VAANCHAN, ALLOWING THEM TO PRACTICE AHIMSA (NON VIOLENCE) BY REDUCING THEIR MOVEMENT TO AND FROM THE JINALAYS.

THE EFFORTS OF MANY RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LEADERS WORLDWIDE THIS YEAR BY BROADCASTING SERMONS, RITUALS, CELEBRATIONS AND LECTURE OF SCRIPTURES THROUGH SOCIALS MEDIA AND ONLINE RELIGIOUS MEETING FORUMS, DID IN MANY WAYS CREATE THE UNIQUENESS OF THE CELEBRATION.

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THESE RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LEADERS ALL OVER THE WORLD, WHO ARE A KEY SOURCE OF SUPPORT, COMFORT AND ADVICE FOR THE COMMUNITIES AS THEY CONTINUE TO SERVE AND DO EVERYTHING TO KEEP THE CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES SAFE.

WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT THIS YEAR WE HAVE CELEBRATED PARYUSHAN WITH MORE UNDERSTANDING AS WE HAVE LEARNT AND PERFORMED RITUALS THAT WE TOOK FOR GRANTED BEFORE. WE HAVE ALSO CELEBRATED WITH MORE SIMPLICITY BY SPENDING MORE TIME PRACTICING THE RELIGION ITSELF. I AM SURE THE TIME SPENT ALONE AND WITH THE FAMILY GAVE ALL OF US THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES, OFFICE BEARERS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE SHREE VISA OSHWAL COMMUNITY NAIROBI, OUR HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL TAPASVIS AND TO ALL WHO OBSERVED THIS CELEBRATION OF PARYUSHAN IN SOME FORM OR THE OTHER.

WITH HUMILITY, WE SEEK FORGIVENESS FOR ANY WRONGDOING OR HARM WE MAY HAVE CAUSED KNOWINGLY OR UNKNOWINGLY!

MICCHAMI DUKKADAM!



# PARYUSHAN PARVA

This year Paryushan began on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and ended on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020. Due to Covid – 19 every program was conducted live via facebook and Zoom. The Programs Conducted for 8 days were:

- Aathai Vyakhyan
- Kalpa Sutra Sthaapan and Vaanchan
- Live Darshan of Aangi, Arti & Mangal Divo followed by Bhakti Bhavna every day in the evening.
- Activities included Singing Competition, Fancy Dress competition, Childrens Activities, Jainism Quiz, Oratorical Competition, etc.
- Mahavirswami Janma Vaanchan
- Pravachan by Narendrabhai Koradia
- Dhvaj pooja and Flag hoisting at the Shree Mahavir Swami Jinalay

## Daily Aangi's Aarti & Mangal Divo and Bhakti Bhavna during the Paryushan





AATHAI VYAKHAN AND KALPA SUTRA VANCHAN BY PUJARI KISHANBHAI



SHREE MAHAVIRSWAMI JANMA VAACHAN



DHWAJ POOJA AND FLAG HOISTING AT SHREE MAHAVIRSWAMI JINALAY BY THE VOC TRUSTEES AND ACCOMPANIED BY VICE CHAIRMAN



OFFICE BEARERS SPEECH ON LAST DAY OF PARYUSHAN





# Fancy Dress Competition

Oshwal Awaaz



Conveners of the fancy dress competition :- Ektaben and Aparnaben

## Participants



## Appreciation and Awards for Participants



## Oshwal Chaitya Paripaati Yatra



Jayeshbhai Shah – London Hosting the Chaitya Paripaati



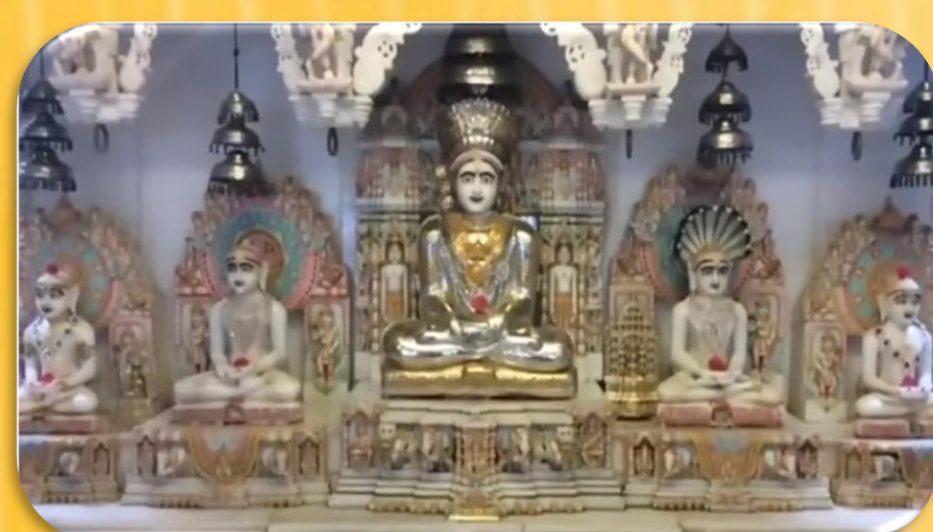
Shree Munisuvrat Swami Jinalay Derasar – Limuru Road Mahajanwadi, Nairobi - Kenya



Jain Samaj Manchester



Jain Samaj Leicester



Kenton Derasar UK



Jain Temple, Potters Bar Derasar - UK

