

Onam Assembly Report

A special assembly for the celebration of the auspicious occasion of Onam – the harvest festival of Kerala, was held on **Saturday, 21st of August 2021** at 2 pm via a zoom meeting. All the professors and students were requested to be present. All **48 students** attended this assembly.

The assembly was organized by a team of volunteer students under the guidance of Dr. Vini Sebastian. The assembly was compered by Suzan who started with an introductory welcome note followed by a heartfelt thanksgiving prayer “Where mind is without fear” by Rabindranath Tagore as recited by Sukanya.



As a binder for so many traditions, Onam is the converging point of diverse arts and lives. It is an annual feast, celebrated by all, irrespective of race, class or religion. and likewise, it is not constricted to just one method of celebration. Larrisa and Leona prepared a power point and presented a thorough tour of the diverse history and traditions of this festival.

The mythos behind Onam is the legend of Mahabali- the just and benevolent king and a cultural hero, who gave up his rule to protect his subjects! This wonderful story was enacted by Daris, Manish and Cyrus as a short movie with remarkable editing and lightheartedness. Onam is a feast of harmonious music, songs, intricate dances. With beats of energetic music comes graceful dance. Ranging from the infamous Kathakali to the Pulikali - the tiger dance, each kali highlights specific aspects of this harvest festival.

Our talented students Drishya, Sheba and Sukanya performed a dance, the Thiruvathira Kali, a display of this culture, art and harmony with great poise. Onam is perhaps one of the secular festivals in India which transcends religious, cultural and economic barriers. Following the lead of their King Mahabali who regarded everyone as equal, the followers and their celebrations ensure the inclusion of all! Onam is for all. It's a celebration of Kerala. As a display of this harmony, a short collaboration video of dances by Sukanya, Sheba, Blythe, Malvika, Daris, Cliona, & Perna was presented for a dance of amity and fraternity.

A note of well wishes was our professor Ms Priti, to our in-house Malayalees as well as all those who found a home in Kerala and its culture.

Music has always had a way with our souls. It is a saga of history, a poem of appreciation.

After all the exciting contributions, a song of melody and tradition was sung by Sukanya, Patrisia, Sheba, & Drishya, in a harmony of tunes.

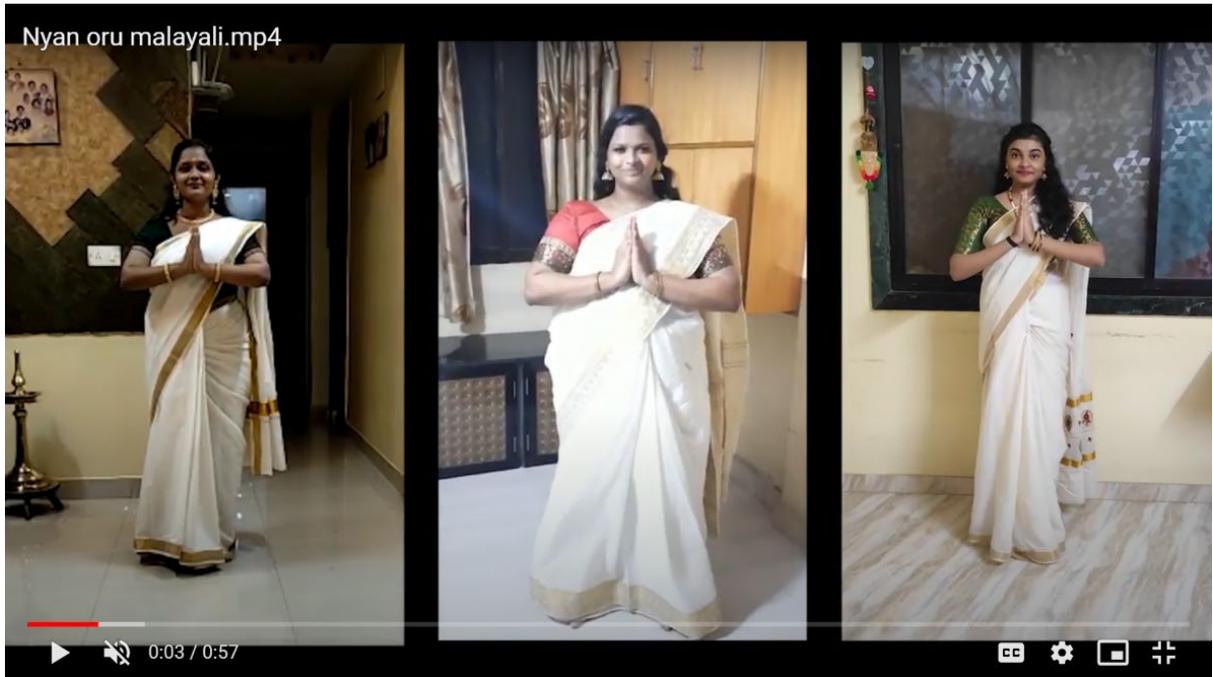
Words of wisdom, a reflection was shared by our manager Fr. Blaise D'souza S.J. decorated with nostalgic stories and an inspiring song and a short review by our principal Dr. Sosamma Samuel.

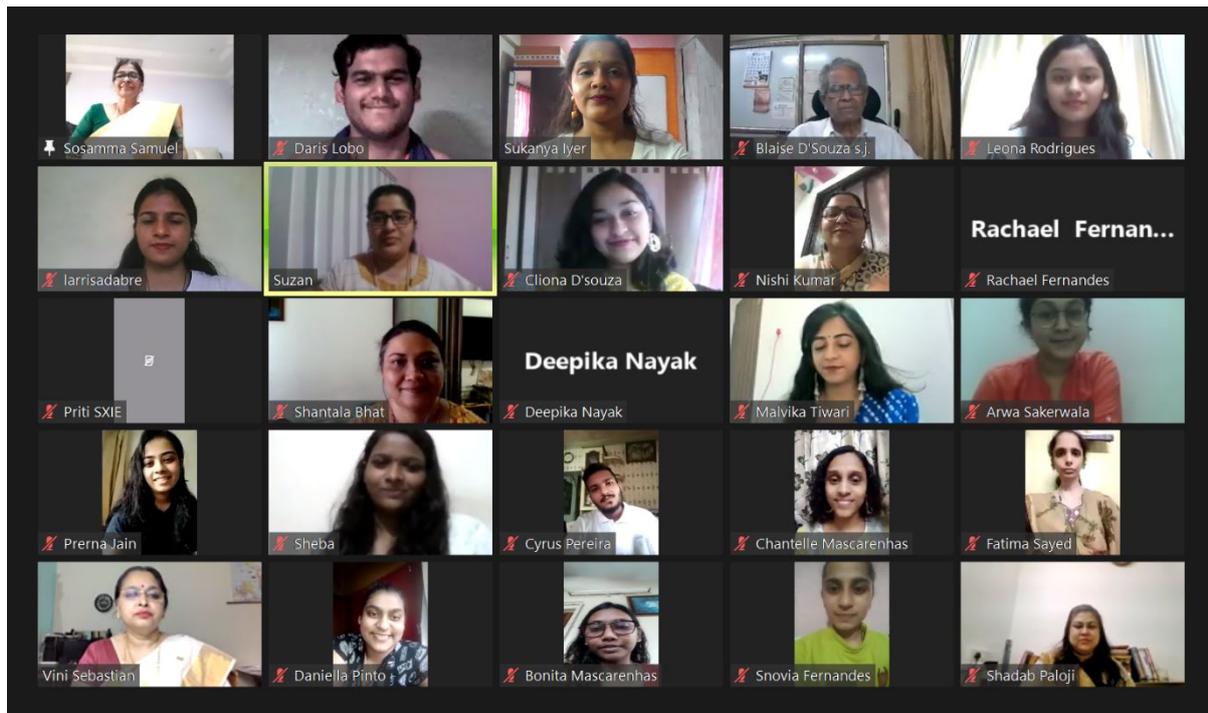
Daris, dressed as King Mahabali, made an appearance in the assembly gracing us with a short chat. He shared with us his thoughts about the current global situation and gave us some insightful advice on striving on in these trying times. The audience had a great time and shared their review and reflections on this feast of harmony.

As the event neared an end, a note of gratitude and appreciated was bestowed upon the institution, Dr. Vini for the meticulous organisation of the event, the participants for their valued contributions and the audience for their wholesome presence. The assembly was concluded with the college anthem, a class photo and well wishes to all.

Pictures of the assembly:







Drive link for the assembly:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/188ax0j2WFRpWVstw9LaIdz0dXlfqr9z5/view?usp=sharing>