

## ONAM CELEBRATION AT SXIE, MUMBAI

*By Pratiksha Fernandez*

**12<sup>th</sup> September, 2019:** The Onam celebration for the year 2019 started at 12.15pm in the Multipurpose Hall at St. Xavier's Institute of Education. Before the programme, each person in the hall was welcomed with a touch of Chandanam on their foreheads as a part of the tradition of Kerala. The Manager Fr. Blaise Dsouza, Principal Dr. Sosamma Samuel, Staff and students of At. Xavier's Institute of Education were welcomed with a short message on the importance of Onam.



The celebration began with the lighting of the lamp by the Manager, Principal and the staff. It was followed by a Medley of Malayalam songs with a short introduction to the songs and its significance to the culture of Kerala. A small video was played, which captured the vibrant spirit with which Onam is celebrated in Kerala.

The history of Onam was depicted in the form of a skit based on Mahabali, the greatest king of Kerala, and his sacrifice.



The event proceeded with a beautiful showcasing of the traditional, elegant dance form - Kaikottikali around the aesthetically made Pookalam (flower rangoli). Fr. Blaise Dsouza, the Manager of the college, then spoke on his experience of the elaborate festivities of Onam.

The excitement of the class was palpable when the boat race - Vallamkali was portrayed with an upbeat folk song.



The Onam message was given by Dr. Vini Sebastian followed by a reflective session, wherein personal experiences and views were shared. The colourful programme came to an end with a vote of thanks and a small message by the Principal, Dr. Sosamma Samuel.

