

# LOCUSTS & HONEY



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.**

PVS: Family as a bond between God & Community in Service

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly Vol. 4, No. 5 3 February, 2008

## Mass Schedule:

**Sunday: 6,7,8,9.15 a.m. & 5.30 , 6.30p.m**

**At Kopri: Every Sunday at 10.30 a.m.**

Weekday: 6 & 6.45 a.m., 7.00 pm.

and at 6.30 a.m. in Holy Cross Convent

**Mass in Marathi:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 7. a.m

**Mass in Konkani:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 7. a.m.

**Mass in Hindi:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 7.00 a.m.

**Tamil Mass:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 11.00 am

**Mass at Ghormal** – every Sunday at 10 a.m.

**Confessions:** Saturday: 6 to 7 p.m.

**Baptisms:** Sunday: 10.15 a.m.

**Marriages:** Weekday at 5.15 p.m.

Sunday: 5.30 p.m. & 6.30 pm

**Funerals:** Any day: 10 to 11.45 a.m. &

4 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

**Sacrament of the sick:** on request.

**House Blessing:** With prior arrangement.

**Novenas:** St. Anthony's: Tuesday 7.30pm

**Perpetual Succour Novena:**

After 7 p.m. Mass on Wednesday.

**Charismatic Prayer Service [English]**

On Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m.

**Divine Mercy Devotion:** On Fridays

at 6.00 p.m. except on 1<sup>st</sup> Friday

**Sunday School:** after 8.00 a.m. Mass

**Night Adoration:** Last Saturday @ 11 pm

**Office Timings:** 9.00 a.m. to 12.30

5.00 p.m. to 07.00

Sunday: 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.

**Parish Tel. No. 2534 8671; 2543 5411**

Website: [www.stjohnthebaptistthane.com](http://www.stjohnthebaptistthane.com)



## Blessed are....

The eight Beatitudes in the Gospel are considered the numerous sides of a multi-faceted precious stone. There is little to distinguish them one from the other.

- The Beatitudes depict the countenance of Jesus Christ and portray his charity.
- They express the vocation of the disciples who are associated with the glory of his Passion and Resurrection.
- The Beatitudes shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life.
- They are the paradoxical promises that sustain hope in the midst of tribulations.
- They proclaim the blessings and rewards already secured, however dimly, for Christ's disciples.

The Beatitudes tell us that we must go beyond the simple external observance of the law. It's not enough for us not to sin. We must take a stand "for something." And, the way to begin is for you and me to have the right "internal" disposition, an attitude about the way we want to live our lives, and an attitude about our relationship with God who is the source of our desire for happiness, and neighbour to whom we witness at Christians.

- The beatitudes which Jesus offers us are a sign of contradiction to the world's understanding of happiness and joy.
- How can one possibly find happiness in poverty, hunger, mourning, and persecution?
- Poverty of spirit finds ample room and joy in possessing God as the greatest treasure possible.
- Hunger of the spirit seeks nourishment and strength in God's word and Spirit.
- Sorrow and mourning over wasted life and sin leads to joyful freedom from the burden of guilt and spiritual oppression.
- God reveals to the humble of heart the true source of abundant life and happiness.
- Jesus promises his disciples that the joys of heaven will more than compensate for the troubles and hardships they can expect in this world.

***This week's announcements  
February 03, 2008.***

1. *This Sunday is celebrated as The Bible Sunday*
2. *This Sunday Mass at Ghormal at 10.00 a.m.*
3. *Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February is the Ash Wednesday. It is a day of FAST and Abstinence Masses will be at 6, 6.45 and 7.30 in the morning and at 6.15, 7.00 and at 7.45 in the evening.*
4. *In Lent the Way of the Cross in Marathi every Wednesday at 6.15 p.m.; in Konkani every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. and in English on Fridays at 7.30 p.m. For children Way of the Cross after 8.00 a.m. Mass.*
5. *Holy Childhood Sunday is celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> February. Sodalists will make collection for abandoned children after Mass at all the gates.*
6. *Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Sodalists will recite the Rosary in front of the Grotto at 6.00 p.m.*
7. *The collection at Masses last Sunday, amounted to Rs.28,571. 00*
8. *The collection from the box in front of the Perpetual Succour amounted to Rs1660/-*

***This Week's Liturgical Readings***

28/Mon) 51 Thomas Aquinas (M) 2 Sm 5;1-7.10; Ps 88;20.21-22.25-26; Mk 3:22-30  
 29/Tue 2 Sm 6:12b-15.17-19; Ps 23:7.8.9.10; Mk 3:31-35  
 30/Wed 2 Sm 7:4-17; Ps 88:4-5.27-28.29-30; Mk 4:1-20  
 31/Thu SI. John Bosco 2 Sm 7:18-19.24-29; Ps 131:1-2. 3-5.11.12.13-14; Mk 4:21-25  
 1/Fri) 2 Sm 11:1-4a.5-10a.13-17; Ps 50:3-4.5-6a.6bcd-7.10-11; Mk 4:26-34  
 2/Sat Presentation of the lord (F) Mal 3:1-4; Ps 23:7.8.9.10; Heb 2:14-18; lk 2:22-40  
 3/Sun Zeph 2:3,3:12-13;1Cor 9:19-23; Mt 5:1-12.

***Smile, Giggle, Laugh!***



. A lady whose husband's climb up the ladder of business led her to a more ritzy way of life changed to a better car, better home, better furs, and a better church. After another major advance which landed her in the Cadillac stage, she paid a visit to her latest minister. "I've had the feeling for some time that I should join you with my friends at the St Ritz Church," she said, swinging her furs around her back and flashing her two carot diamonds. "What would be your opinion, Sir?"

"My dear lady," the clergyman replied, "it matters little what kind of label you put on an empty bottle!"

**ST JOHN BAPTIST POLYTECHNIC  
COLLEGE**

St John the Baptist Special School 2nd Floor  
Thane (W)

**In Association with USHA International LTD**  
(USHA Shriram Group) Manufactures of USHA  
Sewing & Embroidery Machines.

**U S H A**

**Announces**

**Certificate Courses**

- 1) **Sewing & Designing (6 Months)**
- 2) **Embroidery Course**
- 3) **Sp. Blouse Cours,**
- 4) **sp. Salwar suit course,**
- 5) **Ladies Basic & advanced Course,**
- 6) **Men's basic & advance Course.**

**FOR OFFICE INQUIRY EITHER MEET IN  
PERSON OR**

**Contact - Yogita Kashyap (USHA Rep.)  
Mob.986 788 4228**

**On Monday, Wednesday & Friday**

**Timing - 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.**

**In the Polytechnic office on 2<sup>nd</sup> flr of St. John  
the Baptist Special School, Thane**

**ATTENTION YOUTH!!!**

A three-day Lenten Mission for parish youths  
from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

8-2-08 -, Boy-girl relationship and human  
sexuality,

9-2-08 - Life-management

10-2-08 Youth and God.

All youths are urged to attend. Entreating parents to  
encourage the youth to attend the Lenten mission.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION  
MASS**

**On Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, '08**

**At 10.30 a.m.**

**&**

**CONFIRMATION**

**On Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, '08**

**At 10.30 a.m.**

<b>LENTEN SERVICES 2008.</b>			
<b>DAYS</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>SERVICES</b>
<b>Ash Wednesday</b> <i>fast &amp; abstinence</i>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	6.00 a.m., 6.45 a.m. 7.30 a.m. 6.15 p.m., 7.00 p.m., 7.45 p.m.	Masses: Morning : Evening [No s Convent Mass]
<b>Mondays</b>	In Lent	7.30 p.m.	Screening of Biblical Films
<b>Wednesdays</b>	In Lent	06.15 p.m.	Way of the Cross in Marathi
<b>Thursdays</b>	In Lent	07.30 p.m.	Way of the Cross in Konkani
<b>Fridays</b>	In Lent	07.30 p.m.	Way of the Cross in English
<b>Sundays</b>	In Lent	08.00 a.m. 09.30 a.m.	Children's Mass followed by Way of the Cross in Eng. for children Usual 9.15 Mass
<b>Thurs, Fri, Saturday</b>	8, 9, 10 Feb. 08	7 – 9 p.m.	<b>Youth Mission</b>
<b>Sun – Saturday</b>	09-15 March	07.30 p.m.	MISSION by Dominican Frs
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	16-3- 08	8.00 a.m.	Blessing of palms, procession & Mass
<b>Monday, Tuesday, &amp; Wednesday</b>	17,18, 19-3-08	at 5. p.m. to 8. p.m	<b>CONFES-SIONS</b>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	20 March, 08	05.00 p.m. <b>7.30 p.m.</b> 10.30 p.m.	Mass for the sick; <b>Last Supper Mass</b> Holy Hour
<b>Good Friday</b>  <b>Day of fast &amp; abstinence</b>	<b>March 21, 08</b>	07.00 a.m. 08.00 a.m. 09.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 12. noon <b>6.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Way of the Cross:</b> in Marathi In Konkani In English: for youth for adults for children In Malayalam <b>Liturgical Service</b> followed by Passo
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	March 22 08,	07.00 a.m. <b>8.15 p.m.</b>	Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows <b>EASTER VIGIL</b>
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>March 23, 08</b>	6.am,7.am 8.am,9.15 a.m.	Masses: Morning <b>NO EVENING MASSES</b>



**ZONE-WISE COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION SERVICE**  
**[ LENT 2008 ]**

The church has for sometime now offered us Catholics three modes of sacramental confession. We mention two. The one most familiar is that of individual confession where the penitent

approaches the sacrament and obtains forgiveness. This approach tends to see sin in a personalistic way, me and God. However, the other mode less used is that of 'communal penitential service.' This view looks at sin in its social dimension, namely our thoughtlessness and indifferences in words, actions and deeds as hurting and harming others, and thus driving us into isolation which is tragic. This second mode of confession is profitable because it helps us deepen our understanding of community which constitutes the church, to which we are called to live. Hence to receive the mercy of God and to be reconciled with our brothers and sisters we invite you to a 'communal penitential service on the following dates and venues.

<b>DATE (2008)</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>ZONE</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	Monday	Vrindavan	Holy Cross Convent
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	Tuesday	Kopat Pratap	Holy Cross Convent
20 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	Wednesday	Naupada (I + II) - Horta M.	Church
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	Monday	Kolbad	Holy Cross Convent
26 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	Tuesday	Satguru + Utalsar	Holy Cross Convent
27-2-08	Wednesday	Cherai North	Church
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Monday	K'Villa	Holy Cross Convent
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday	Rabodi	Holy Cross Convent
5-3-08	Wednesday	Cherai South	Church
11-3-08	Tuesday	Lewiswadi	Church
12-3-08	Wednesday	Kopri	Church

Please Note: The service will commence at 7.45 p.m. and end at 9.00 p.m. It will begin with a brief input session followed by points for examination of conscience and individual confessions and absolution. We exhort all parishners to attend in large numbers.

**Commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Marian Apparitions at Lourdes,**



The Plans to celebrate the event as follows:

- 11th Feb 2008 - HEALING SERVICE at 6.30 p.m. in front of the Lourdes' Grotto**
- 12- 16 Feb** after the 7pm mass –Health Talks
- Marian Exhibition: 11-17 Feb.**

**4. 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2008 – Concluding Rally at 5.30 pm**

**Concluding ceremony:**

**17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2008,** All the SCCs of the parish will come in a procession from their respective areas and converge in the church compound for the 5:30 pm mass followed by a candle lit procession either along the usual Christ the King procession route or in the precincts of the church itself, Coordinators will ensure 100% participation from their communities for this concluding rally. There will be **NO Sunday 6:30 pm mass** on 17<sup>th</sup> February.



**THE NEED TO WORK FOR VOCATIONS**

In our archdiocese our priests are growing older, and fewer men are coming forth from the community to replace them and on the other hand the number of parishes and parishioners is on the rise. What is the problem? Why is it that many are not heeding the call? The call can come at different moments in life. Some people feel a vocation early on and persevere with the idea through high school. Today, more and more young men are discerning a vocation after college, or when they have already finished their professional training and are working. This is so true in our seminary where we have seminarians who have completed their MBA, Engineering, Hotel Management etc. The independence and status that have been acquired can make it very difficult for some young men to answer the call, like the rich young man in the Gospel who turns his back on a vocation because, “his possessions were many”. When a vocation goes unanswered it is not only a sadness for the one who declines God’s call, but also a sadness for the entire Catholic community who has just lost another priest.

As Catholics, we all need to promote vocations in the Church. It is the responsibility of the entire community to pray for vocations and to invite our young people to consider the possibility that God might be calling them to a vocation as a priest or religious. Our ideal goal must be to instill in our young Catholics such a love and appreciation for the sacraments and the Priesthood that they will not only consider a vocation themselves, but also encourage their peers to be open to such an option, because too many vocations have fallen victim to peer pressure.

Traditionally, Catholic homes have been a privileged place for a vocation to grow and be nurtured by parents who understood the importance of Priesthood and religious life. My own family was a great source of encouragement for my vocation. Today, we need to appeal to parents and teachers to instill a sense of vocation in our young Catholics. They should not confine themselves to asking their children: “What do you want to be when you grow up?” They must also ask “and what do you think God wants you to be?” We must

help young people look beyond careers and professions and answer a call from God.

Parents can do so much by praying with their children and teaching them to seek God’s will in their lives through vocational discernment. Parents receive their children from God and must be willing to give them back to God for service of His people. Vocations tend to appear in families where the parents are actively involved in the faith formation of their children and instill in them a love and respect for priest and religious. Asking children to pray for priests is a way to signal to the child the importance of priests in our lives and at the same time indicates to the child that priests are human and need the support and prayers of the faith community to persevere in their service to the Church. We have many young people today who lead good and generous lives, but are not involved enough in the life of the Church or familiar enough with the teaching of the Gospel to be able to identify a call or to respond. I believe that vocations are there in the hearts of our young Catholics, vocations waiting to be nurtured and cultivated by our prayers and encouragement. This reality confronts us with one of the greatest challenges of the Church today: God is calling many...can we help them to respond?

Fr Anthony J Fernandes  
Diocesan Pastoral Centre



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
*A day of fast and abstinence.*  
**Those 14 above are to abstain from meat products**  
**Those 21 and above are to observe fast with one full meal and a bite at the breakfast & dinner while abstaining from all meat products.**  
*This is just a token fast as a sign of your determination to keep away from sin, sinful habits, drinks, smoke or any sinful And harmful waste.*  
Lent is a journey with Jesus in the desert of wants & struggles of life,  
Lent is a time to measure up one’s self control over one’s weaknesses such as self-abuse, anger, ill-temper, loose tongue, greed and self-centeredness.  
Lent is a time to mend relationships.

**The Feast of OUR LADY OF HOPE,**  
**Ghormal will be celebrated on Sunday,**  
**27<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.**  
**Masses at 8.15 & 9.30 a.m. in English,**  
**At 10.45 a.m. in Marathi**

## COMMON PRACTICE OF PENANCE IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BOMBAY

"All Christ's faithful are obliged by divine law, each in his own way, to do penance. However, so that all may be joined together in a certain common practice of penance, days of penance are prescribed. On these days, the faithful are in a special manner to devote themselves to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity and to deny themselves by fulfilling their obligations more faithfully and specially by observing fast and abstinence" (Can. 1249).

The days of Common Practice of Penance are Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and every other Friday in the year.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting.

The new Code of Canon Law has left it to the Episcopal Conference to determine, in place of abstinence, other forms of penance, specially works of charity and exercises of piety. In virtue of this, the CBCI at its meeting at Nagpur in February 1984, had decreed that the obligations of abstinence can be fulfilled by choosing certain other forms of prayer or penance or works of charity, besides the traditional one of abstinence from meat.

In the Archdiocese of Bombay the faithful may observe the days of common practice of penance by choosing from anyone of the following .

1. Making the Way of the Cross or a Visit to the Blessed Sacrament or a Meditation on the Lord's Passion.
2. Prayerfully reading the Scriptures or Praying the Liturgy of the Hours.
3. Preparing for the Liturgical Service (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday) by reflecting on the readings as a family.
4. Giving 10 % of one's daily wage in charity on days of common practice of penance
5. Donating Blood
6. Offering voluntary service to a Social/Charitable Institution through the parish CCO/SCCs.
7. Offering a meal to a poor family of another faith.
8. Abstaining from meat preparations if meat is part of one's regular diet. (Meat soup is allowed; so too animal fats may be used by way of condiment).
9. Missing anyone meal: breakfast, lunch or supper.
10. Taking strictly vegetarian meals, without even fish and eggs.
11. Abstaining from alcohol and/or smoking, for those who use these.
12. Avoiding all beverages like tea or coffee, or sweet drinks, between meals.
13. Avoiding films, television and other forms of recreation on the days of common penance.

### Lenten Alms:

The Lenten Alms collected this year has been earmarked for St. Pius X College, Goregaon: Diocesan Seminary of Bombay.

### Easter Duties:

Easter Duties would require that the Christian faithful who have been admitted to the Blessed Eucharist, receive Holy Communion at least once a year during the Paschal time, unless for a good reason the precept is fulfilled at another time during the year (Can.920). The faithful are reminded that those who have reached the age of discretion are bound to confess their grave sins at least once a year (Can.989). In the Archdiocese of Bombay, the Easter Duties can be fulfilled this year between Ash Wednesday, March 01, 2006 and Pentecost Sunday, June 04, 2006



## OFFICIAL 2008: YEAR OF THE WORD OF GOD

Pope Benedict XVI has convoked a Synod of Bishops on the topic "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church". This meeting will be held in Rome from October 5th to 26th, 2008. Preparations for this Synod have evoked an enthusiastic response all over the country. In the Archdiocese of Bombay we have studied and discussed the preparatory document at different levels. A deeper understanding and a greater ministry to the Word is an urgent need of our times.

Keeping the above in mind, it is with great joy that I declare the year 2008 as the "Year of the Word of God" in the Archdiocese of Bombay. The celebration of this special year dedicated to the Word will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 6th, 2008. The Bible Commission, under the leadership of Bishop Bosco Penha, will coordinate the planning of programmes for the year. I invite all our Archdiocesan Commissions to see how they could integrate this focus on the Word of God in their own programmes this year.

I strongly urge all to celebrate this Year of the Word with enthusiasm: parishes, Small Christian Communities, Parish Associations, families and individuals. A more profound understanding of the Word will bring us into a deeper interpersonal relationship with the Word made Flesh, Jesus. I encourage all our people to benefit from the different programmes that will be organized. I am confident that our celebration of this Year will be a small but significant step towards making our Archdiocese even more Spirit-filled.

I wish each one of you a grace-filled Lent.

January 28, 2008

+ Oswald Caram-alGracias  
Archbishop of Bombay

## CONFIRMATION NOTICE

3<sup>rd</sup> Feb.08 at the 8.00 am Mass a Special Rite will be administered to all the confirmand prior to confirmations. Parents, God Parents, Prayer guardian to be with the confirmand.

All confirmand to assembly at 7.45.a.m. near Christ The King Statue.

6<sup>th</sup> Feb .Ash Wednesday .All confirmand to attend the 6.15p.m. Mass and there after attend a special class. In lieu there will be no class on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. Sunday

January 29, 2008

Dear Fathers,

Sub: HEALING MINISTRY WEEK in the Archdiocese of Bombay

February 11, 2008, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, much associated with healing, is observed in this Archdiocese and elsewhere in the world as the World Day of the Sick. Sunday, February 10, 2008 is celebrated as Health Sunday. February 04 to 11, 2008 is observed as Healing Ministry Week.

On this occasion the Health Care Institutions will do well to organize 'Awareness Programmes' and meaningful celebrations for the staff engaged in health care. With due discretion and full respect for sick people of other faith traditions and others with no religious persuasion, they could distribute inspirational texts and prayers to help them understand and appreciate the Healing Mission of Jesus.

At the parish level, in collaboration with committed volunteers, it would be desirable to have Eucharistic Celebrations and blessing and anointing of the sick at a suitable time (A suggested 'Prayer of the Faithful' is enclosed). Apart from liturgical celebrations, interreligious prayer services for the sick, health awareness talks and seminars, medical camps and poster competitions for children would be an ideal way to celebrate the Healing Ministry Week.

This is also an opportunity for us to express our gratitude and appreciation to all the men and women in our Archdiocese who are actively involved in the Ministry of Healing as Directors/ Administrators of Health Institutions, Researchers, Doctors, Nurses, Teachers, Paramedics, Supportive Staff and Volunteers. The Christian witness of various groups of Health Care workers is extraordinary. Each Parish could plan its own way of expressing gratitude to those involved in the Healing Ministry in the parish or in the neighbourhood.

Yours sincerely,

+ Percival Fernandes,

Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay,

Chairman, Commission for Health.

**N.B, The Health Week with talks in our parish will be held from 12 to 16 Feb** after the 7pm mass.

The Retreat House at Bandra announces

**LENTEN RETREAT FEBRUARY"14 - 17, 2008**

&

**A PATHWAY TO INNER HEALING**, (A 5-Day Silent Retreat Experience limited to 8 participants only) FEBRUARY 19th eve. - 24th eve. 2008 For those who are struggling with negative feelings of hurt, fear, grief, anger, resentment, shame, guilt, lust, sadness, stress, anxiety etc. and longing for Inner Healing in their lives

*For Registration and Information*

*Please Contact: THE RETREAT HOUSE*

*6 Kane Road, Bandra(W), Tel. 2641 6653/ 2642 209512645 5296*

**DIPLOMA IN AIR HOSTESS/FLIGHT  
PURSER TRAINING, KOMPASS  
AVIATION, CABIN CREW or GROUND  
STAFF ETC.**

For all those youngsters, boys and girls  
between the age of 18 to 28 years wanting to  
seek a career

**SPECIAL CAREER GUIDANCE  
ON SUNDAY 3 February, '08  
At 10.30 a.m.  
In St. John's Pavilion  
Free Power Point Presentation and one-  
to-one basis counseling.  
*All those interested are welcome.***

**Half-day Youth Programme held on 27<sup>TH</sup> Jan.  
2008**

The PYAT organised a get-together for the parish youth in the audio-visual room on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2008. It was attended by a total of 60 youth. The sole motive of this meeting was to increase participation



from the youth towards building a better society. It was the beginning of a series of programs which are going to be held throughout the year for the youth and with the youth representing the parish. These include a three day mission for the youth on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of February which would deal with several



issues related to the youth. Eminent speakers will be addressing the youth on these days. There is also a youth rally which will be held in the month of April. All this demands preparation which was done in an effective way at this meet. It encouraged the youth to participate in further such programmes. The event was made interesting with interactive session, games and snacks. Indeed, it was a wonderful welcome for the youth who are not yet involved with parish activities. I hope to see the PYAT organising more such opportunities for getting the youth together to participate in large numbers. Congratulations to the PYAT on a really successful session.

Henry P. Sebastian, Louiswadi

The youth group of St. John hopefully has got some new members due to the programme organized on 27<sup>th</sup> January '08 by the PYAT, which was preceded by a youth Mass at 9.15 a.m. A fun-filled icebreaker helped us to know each other a bit better, while we filled our tummies with yummy sandwiches and samosas. The youth present had a thoroughly enjoyable time and wrote their hearts out on various issues during the session. The objective of the programme was to mobilize the youth and to make them more active. Thanks to the PYAT members. Hoping to see more youth at the weekly meetings.



social service to the poor are invited to give their names to Sr. Bena.

Edel-Ann  
Cherai.

## Women's Cooperatives

Women's Cooperatives is a new venture on the anvil of the parish CCO's activities. Several people from among the marginalized frequently knock at the doors of the Parish Priest for a small short term loan of say five to ten thousand rupees to meet some emergency. It has not been possible to disburse such loans from the Community Welfare Fund in the absence of some clear practical recovery procedure. As a result, it has been thought some kind of women's cooperative approach would give relief to those in urgent need of a small loan, which cannot be easily made available from a bank. Now that we one more sister on the pastoral ministry, Sr. Benedicta, we propose to kick-start the movement of women's cooperatives in the poorer SCC zones.

With this in view, the parish team had a meeting with the Sisters Joan, Bena and Amala and Fr. Trevor Mirand's team presently working at Kalva. gave a brief resume of the 25 women's cooperatives he has started in Kalva and there-around. He said that a group of 20-25 women in a locality come together, meet twice a week, make a monthly contribution of Rs. 50/- to their accounts; the money thus collected is deposited in a bank or given as loan to any member requiring a small temporary loan on interest. He has now 25 such cooperatives investing nearly twenty five lac rupees in banks and operating successfully. Sr. Bena will first visit some of these cooperatives, attend some meetings and then take up a pilot project in this parish. She will require some volunteers to help her with this project. Those interested in this kind of

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