

LOCUSTS & HONEY



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.

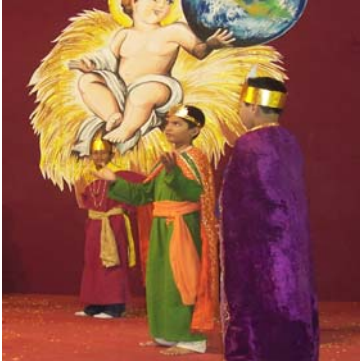
PVS: Family as a bond between God & Community in Service

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly

Vol. 4, No. 01

06 January, 2008

The Locusts & Honey
Weekly Buletin
has completed successfully
three years of
parish media-service.
Well done. Bravo!



Which Way to Jesus?

Mark Twain used to tell a joke that he put a dog and a cat in a cage together as an experiment, to see if they could get along. They did. So he put in a bird, pig and goat. They, too, got along fine after a few adjustments. Then he put in a Baptist, a Presbyterian, and a Catholic, and hell broke loose. Mark Twain did not even bother putting together a Christian, a Muslim, and a Hindu. That was unthinkable in his days. In today's world, however, it has become obvious that Christians live in the same cage, in the same city, in the same world, with people of other religions.

Today, the feast of Epiphany, we remember the Magi who came from faraway lands to worship the baby Jesus. They came guided by a star. Being nature worshippers who had no scriptures, God revealed Himself to them through the means available to them in their own religion. Through the stars they were able to learn of the birth of Jesus and find their way to him. They came as pagans, they worshipped Jesus as pagans, and they went back home as pagans. They did not convert either to Judaism or to Christianity. Their worship was acceptable to God and God directed them in their journey home through a dream. This shows that God does have a relationship with people of other religions who are neither Jews nor Christians.

There is only one God, and all who seek God with a sincere heart are led to Him, though they call Him by different names. One thing Christians have in common with members of other religions is that we all worship the same God. We all are children of the same Father. This truth is hard for religious people to appreciate because religious people all over the world tend to claim that they have exclusive access to God and the truth.

In the past, Christians tended to make the same mistake as the Jews of old by claiming that there is no salvation outside the church. Then Vatican II came along, the church opened the windows to the Spirit of God, and came to recognize that God's truth is available to people of other religions, although not to the same degree that it is available in the church. The difference between the Christian faith and other faiths, therefore, is not that we possess the truth of God and they do not, but that, thanks to God's unique revelation in Christ, we can know see God's truth more clearly, love God more dearly, and follow God's ways more closely in our daily lives. But we should always remember that if we go to sleep, even though we are on the better way, others who are on the not-so-better way could arrive at the goal before us. Let us reflect on this mystery today as we celebrate the Magi coming from pagan lands to worship the new-born Jesus while God's "chosen people" in Jerusalem sleep unaware that the kingdom of God has come

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: 3rd Sunday at 7. a.m

Mass in Konkani: 4th Sunday at 7. a.m

Mass in Hindi: 5th Sunday at 7.00 a.m.

Tamil Mass: 2nd Sunday at 11.00 am

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 1st 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

The Epiphany of Our Lord – 06 January, 2008 .

***This week's announcements
January 06, 2008.***



1. Sunday, 6th January is the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord.
2. On Sunday, 6th January there will be Mass at Our Lady of Hope, Ghorma at 10.00 a.m.
3. From Sunday, 6th January the Sunday School resumes.
4. Sunday, January 6 at 4.00 p.m.– house-workers' party. To register your house-worker please, contact your zonal leader.
5. The collection at Masses last Sunday, amounted to Rs.25,511. 00
6. The collections from the box in front of the statue of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour amounted to Rs. 1,09,134.00
7. New Year's Day collection amounted to Rs.51,574.00
8. A gold chain has been found on 1st January, 08. The owner may claim it from Parish Priest.

This Week's Liturgical Readings

7/Man 1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7bc-a.10-12a; Mt 4:12-17.23-25
 8/Tue 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 71:1-2.3-4.7-8; Mk 6:34-44
 9/Wed 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 71:1-2.10.12-13; Mk 6:45-52
 10/Thu 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 71:1-2.14&15bc.17; Lk 4:14-22
 11/Fri 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 146:12-13.14-15.19-20; Lk 5:12-16
 12/Sat 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2.3-4.5.6a&9b; In 3:22-30
 13/Sun The Baptism of the Lord Is 42:1-7; Act 10:34-38; Mt.3:13-17

Smile, Giggle, Laugh!



A man arrived at the Pearly Gates and on being asked his name replied: "Charlie Graball."

"We don't have any notice of your coming," he was informed. "What was your occupation on earth?" "Scrap metal merchant," was the reply.

When the angel who went in to enquire returned, he was aghast at what he saw and screamed:

"Charlie Graball has disappeared and so have the Pearly Gates!"

Visitor: "Excuse me but can you tell which ward Vera Ramble is in?"

Receptionist: "Ah yes! Wasn't she the lady who was run down by a steam roller early this morning?" Visitor: "Yes."

Receptionist: "She's in ward 4, 5, 6 and 8."

the Hope & Life Movement

Monday 7th the Hope & Life Movement will be having their Annual Thanksgiving Mass followed by a fellowship get together for all members at 5.30 p.m. in the Pavilion

URGENT VACANCIES WITH REPUTED CLIENTS OF DON BOSCO RECRUITMENT SERVICES – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008

1. OFFICE ASSISTANT:

Smart, fresher, HSC/SSC. Candidate should have computer knowledge, Handling of petty cash, banking work.

2. ACCOUNTANT:

B.Com., tally, knowledge in scrutiny and follow-up of bills required.

3. CUSTOMER SERVICE EXECUTIVE/BACK-OFFICE EXECUTIVE

With good MS-Office skills,

4. FRONT OFFICE EXECUTIVES:

Graduate/under graduate with good communication skills and pleasing personality.

5. RECEPTIONISTS/TELEPHONE OPERATOR:

Candidates having good command over English. Freshers are welcomed. Age below 35 Years.

6. SECRETARIES: (M/F)

Knowledge of shorthand and proficiency in computers.

Age:below 35 years. . .

7. EXECUTIVES / MARKETING:

Sales professionals with pleasing personality having 2-3 years selling experience in leisure related services.

8. BANQUET SALES EXECUTIVE/ BANQUET AND F & B EXECUTIVE:

Hotel Management graduate with F & B background having atleast one year banquet sales experience.

9. HOUSE-KEEPING SUPERVISOR: S.S.C or R.S.C.

with minimum one year

10. FITNESS INSTRUCTOR:

Certified fitness instructor with atleast one year's experience.

11. FITTER/TURNER:

S.S.C., ITI course, should be able to read drawings and have atleast 2 years experience.

12. JR. MECHANICAL ENGINEERS/ ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS/ DESIGN ENGINEERS.

Experienced/Freshers are welcome.

13. DATA ENTRY OPERATORS:(M/F)

Graduates(English-medium) with good Typing speed.

14. DRIVERS:

Heavy/Light vehicle drivers with 1-2 years experience will be preferred.

15. NETWORK ENGINEERS: With CCNA having 6 months experience.

16. MALI: With 1 year experience. Freshers are welcome.

17. PACKERS: With 2-3 months experience.

18. HOUSEMAIDS: Full-time (Day & Night) Part-time 7:30 am to 8:00 pm.

19. OFFICE BOY/ PEON: With minimum knowledge of English /Hindi.

20. HOSTEL WARDEN: With 1 year experience.

Graduates preferred .

Venue: Don Bosco Recruitment Services Youth Services Bldg., Ground Floor, Matunga - East, Mumbai - 400019.

Tel. Nos. : 24118282/24154646 Timing : 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m, 2.30 p.m. - 05.30 p.m, Monday to Friday E- Mail :

dbrs _ bosco@rediffmail.com OR dbrs@vsn1.net

SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER ON 28-12-07



There were more than 90 senior citizens enjoyed the party held in the auditorium. Mrs. Heather Serpes and the ladies conducted the event filled with fun, dance and eatables. All the seniors were proudly taking away home a small gift with them. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Fr. John Rumao, Parish Priest, the seniors had a very enjoyable evening.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOME BOUND ON 29-12-07



At about 10.00 a.m. more than forty sick and the homebound were helped to attend a special Mass in the church. They were all anointed with the healing oil during the Mass celebrated by Fr. Gerry. After Mass all of them were led to the corridor for a small party. Fr. John Rumao, Parish Priest welcomed them and blessed them, presenting them a Rosary each. Fr. Victor, Brother Oneil shook hands with them all. A big thank you to the members of the Legion of Mary and Mrs. Margaret Menezes and the choir for organizing the program.

Christmas Lunch for the poor on 28-12-07



Mr. Marcus Alvares with the help of the members of the Sodality took all the trouble to bring smile on

the faces of the poor and the beggars from the neighbourhood of Thane who were welcomed by the Parish Priest for a Christmas Lunch at noon. There were more than 150 men, women and children. Mr. Panto had prepared delicious veg. pulao as main dish.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY DAY 30-12-07

The Family Day was a thumping success. With the live band Taquila some six hundred young and old couples were on the floor with their dancing shoes non-stop almost two hours. Thanks to the Parish Priest's generosity, the families who attended the family get-together had a memorable evening of fun, thrill and enjoyment. There was tremendous goodwill and fellowship seen in the mingling of couples and children in the quadrangle. All food stalls were scraped clean and many had to forgo even a snack. A word of appreciation and thanks to all Fr. Gerry, Mrs. Jessie Sequeira, Mrs. Rosy and Julius Rodricks, Mrs. Lucy Srinivasan, Mrs. Leena D'Souza, Mr. Eustace de Cunha, Mr. Savio Andrade and others who helped make the Christmas Family Day bring joy to all.



THE CRIB & STAR CONTEST.

This year's first and only prize of Rs. 1000/- for the Star Contest goes to Lewiswadi Zone.

The Crib contest first prize of Rs. 1000/- goes to Brindabn Zone and the second prize is shared between K'Vill, Kolbad, Cherai North and Kopri zones. Each of them will be awarded Rs. 500/-

The above prize-winner zones are requested to collect their respective prizes from the Parish Office during office hours.





New Year Resolution

It is New Year again and time to resolve, To bring back the lost smile on ABBA's face who loves us most of all.

Let us all resolve to live holy lives this year,
No more succumbing to Satan's temptation to whom sin is most dear.

Let us all resolve to respect the elderly,
They are the ones who have experienced the ups and downs of life almost completely.

Let us all resolve to be more gentle and respectful towards the women community, Though treated unfairly, they are the pillars of our Patriarchal society.

Let us all resolve to love our innocent and beautiful looking children,
They cannot be made victims of child abuse and child labour as to the Lord they are His little angels.

Let us all resolve to treat our domestic workers with love and justice,
Though being lower in hierarchy they must feel wanted in society.

Let us all resolve to spend some time of our busy schedule in prayer,
The Lord wants to talk to us and for him we must always be there.

Let us all resolve to save our planet from the disaster of global warming,
We need to cut down on carbon emission without grumbling.

Let us all resolve to follow our New Year resolution,
We need to make this world a better place for the present and the future generation.

Malcolm Nobre

**THE
TALLEST
CANDLE
IN
THANE
BURNING
AS
FULFILL
MENT OF
A
PROMISE
IN FRONT
OF THE
GROTTO.**



NEW HYMNAL!
The present church hymn books are all in tatters; a number of books are missing and in some of them several pages are missing. We have, therefore, thought of coming out with a revised edition of the Joyful Voices for the use in the church. Before we add or delete some of the hymns, we invite your valuable suggestions in writing by 15th January, 2008.

Copies of Church Calendar 2008 are on sale
@ Rs.20/- at the Legion Counter



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