

LOCUSTS & HONEY

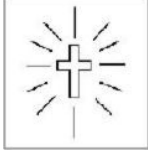


ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly

Vol. 3, No. 37

09 September, 2007



Parish Team:

Fr. John Rumao.

Fr. John Lopes

Fr. Gerry Fernandes

Fr. Victor Dalmat.

Bro. Oniel Rodrigues – week-end ministry

Srs Amala & Joan – Pastoral Work

V-President PPC: Mr. Francis Fernandes

P' SCC Coordinator: Mr. Eustace de Cunha

APC Representative: Mr. Kirk Gonsalves

PPC Secretary: Mr. Anthony Alphonso

CWF Secretary: Mrs. Jessie Sequeira

In-charge: Sunday School: Sr. Ancy

RCIA/School Catechism: Ms. Ida D'Silva

This week's gospel message:

DARE TO FOLLOW

In today's Gospel Jesus speaks of the sense of detachment that we need to have if we are to follow Jesus Christ. The demands of the gospel are serious and far reaching and not to be taken lightly. Jesus demands exclusive loyalty from those who wish to follow him. They have to make choices which will clash with other loyalties. "Any one who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. " Jesus' disciples must be ready to renounce their own personal and family relationships and commitments in following the Lord. Self renunciation and carrying the cross is rather painful, but that is the cost of being His disciple. The parables about intending to build a tower and about a king going to war are intended to drive the point home that following Jesus is not based on an impulse but is a well-thought out, considered decision based on reflection and readiness to face the consequences. Of course there are varying degrees of commitment to Jesus but all have their demands and call for some degree of sacrifice and renunciation.

"It is not an easy religion that Jesus sets before the 'great crowds' that accompany him on his way. 'Great crowds': this does not mean monks and religious, but the popular movements roused by Jesus in Palestine and, as well, those innumerable ones who, down the centuries, have been ready to go to the end of the road with him. The majority have found his gospel an admirable book, full of divine wisdom and moving human tenderness. But what can be said about this blunt language, demanding radical renunciation? To prefer nothing to the love of Christ, not even the most legitimate bonds of affection; to take one's cross and renounce everything in order to be his disciple, is that really reasonable? Certainly not! But if we wish to be 'reasonable' we shall never have any of those evangelical deeds of daring which mark the true disciple of Jesus. In fact in a world dominated by practical materialism, by the contemporary idols of power, sex, money, there is often need of heroism just to be a Christian. It is good to discover then, with the gospel, the price of grace: "Grace which costs dearly', and not that cheap grace, sold at a discount, with which we so easily content ourselves." -*Glenstal Bible Missal*

- **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:** at 8.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m
- on last Saturday
- **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

***This week's announcements
September 09, 2007.***

1. Sunday 9th September parish council meeting will be at 10.30 a.m.
2. Friday 14th September is THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS.
3. *The collection at Masses on last Sunday, amounted to Rs.22,393.00*
4. *The collections from Perpetual Succour box amounted to Rs 1660..00.*

This Week's Liturgical Readings

10/Mon Col 1:24-2:3; Ps 61:6-7,8c-9; Lk 6:6-11
 11/Tue Col 2:6-15; Ps 144:1-2,8-9,10-11; Lk 6:12-19
 12/Wed Col 3:1-11; Ps 144:2-3,10-11,12-13ab; Lk 6:20-26
 13/Thu S. John Chrysostom, bp dr - mem Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1-2,3-4,5-6; Lk 6:27-38
 14/Fri THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS - Fst Nm 21:4b-9 or Phil 2:6-11; Ps 77:1-2,34-35,36-37,38; Jn 3:13-17
 15/Sat Our Lady of Sorrows - mem Heb 5:7-9; Ps 30:2-3a,3b-4,5-6ab,15-16,20; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
 16/Sun. Ex 32:7-11,13-14;1Tim 1:12-17;Lk15:1-32

Attention- Ladies & Gents

St. John the Baptist Polytechnic College
 St.John The Baptist Special School 2nd Floor.
 T. 64109529

In Association with
USHA International Ltd (USHA ShriRam Group) Manufactures of Usha Sewing & Embroidery Machines

Announces

DEPLOMA/CERTIFICATE COURSES
 in Sewing & Designs

Duration = 6 Months

Fees = Rs.6000/- for full course

Days - Alternate days – 4 hours daily

Program Commences On 1st Sept. '07

Admissions still open

Course open to all – ladies and gents

For registration - Contact Ms. Yogita Kashyap, USHA rep M.9869719773

PERPETUALEUCHARISTIC ADORATION



PEA Committee will be having one day recollection on Sunday, 30th September 2007, from 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. conducted by Rev. Fr. Erasto Fernandez, sss, on "how to bring others and pray before the Blessed Sacrament"

Smile, Giggle, Laugh!

Aaron was very much upset when he came to know that Pharaoh had broken his promise to Moses for the second time to release the children of Israel from bondage. In desperation he said to his wife, "The Pharaoh is a bastard."

"Aaron, you mustn't talk like that," reproved his wife. "We are children of God. After all, every living person is descended from Adam and Eve. We're all one family - even Pharaoh." "That I know," said Aaron, "I suppose, Pharaoh hails from YOUR side of the family!"

Curate: So you really think you would have run through all your money had it not been for your wife?

Young Man: Sure of it.

Curate: And, my good man, how did she stop your spending it all?

Young Man: She spent it first.

PARISH VISITATION

This Tuesday Parish Fathers will visit Kolbad.

== == == == == == == == == == == == == == ==
|| PRE-BAPTISM CATECHESIS SESSIONS ||

	Pre Baptism Catechesis Sessions will be held on	
	23rd September and 30th September 2007 at 5.p.m.	
	in the Parish Meeting Room. All parents to be of	
	their first child must compulsorily attend these	
	Sessions. The Sessions on 30th September will	
	have to be attended by Parents along with the God-	
	parents of the new-born baby. Registrations will be	
	accepted in the Parish Office latest by 20th	
	September 2007.	

	A certified copy of the Marriage Certificate will	
	have to be attached to the Registration Form.	
	Fr.John Rumao (Sp.Dir.)	

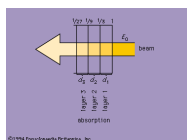
== == == == == == == == == == == == == == ==

SENIOR COLLEGE IN THANE!

[letters to the editor]

August 31, 2007

Rev. Fr. John Rumao
Parish Priest
St. John the Baptist Church
Thane



Dear Rev. Father,

We, the undersigned, have heard about your plans to start a Senior College at St. John's. This is the best thing to happen to us as our children can now avoid the tedious train travel and the cumbersome admission procedure.

We assure you of our whole-hearted support to begin this venture.

Yours truly,

Roshni D'Souza – B/9 Kolungade CHS
Louisa D'Souza - B/9 Kolungade CHS
Sunny Francis - B/8 Kolungade CHS
Sindu Francis - B/8 Kolungade CHS
Dorothy Crass - B/4 Kolungade CHS
Rovena More - A/33 Kolungade CHS

Date: 29/8/2007

A.S. Hariharan.
Sr. General Manager. GKW Limited,
A 1003, Rameshwar, Nee1kanth Heights,
Thane 400 610

To,
Rev.: Fr. John Rumao,
St. John the Baptist School & Junior College.
Sub. : A Degree College at Thane Dear
Fr.Rumao,

When I heard from an ex colleague about proposed degree college at Thane, I thought I should support this proposal.

It struck me that this proposal has inherent strength and a solid foundation in as much as it is backed up by professionals who have years experience in management of education.

The proposed college will not only serve the present generation but generation to come in and around Thane .

I am of the opinion that a Commerce College at this moment is the right choice as it involves the lower and the inflow is guaranteed.

May this college follow the footsteps of its illustrious elder institutions and be one of the outstanding colleges that Thane can boast of !

Best Wishes.

Yours faithfully,

A.S. Hariharan

William Misquita

To 11, Shivkripa , Opp. St. Mary's Convent,
Mulund, W., Mumbai 400080

28/08/07

Rev. Fr. John Rumao,

Re: A Catholic Degree College in Thane

Dear Father,

Being given to understand that there is a proposal for a Degree College offering Commerce & Computer Applications at St. John the Baptist Parish in Thane, I am writing to you, in full support of the Project!

Having done my Inter Science in St. Xavier's College, I used to rue the 3 hours wasted daily in traveling from these distant suburbs to CST and back. In the 60's, Inter Science being a highly competitive exam for admission to Engineering & Medicine, such colossal loss of time was, may I say, criminal! Specially during exam days, the last minute revision is imperative for students of lesser abilities of 'retention and recall' Again , staying this far from college prohibited one from participating in extra-curricular activities, for which St. Xavier's was, and still is, renowned, as they were many and varied, and the college believed , and rightly so, that a person's professional growth is fuelled by what he does in the classroom as well as outside it!

But the moral values instilled in us in that Catholic College have remained with us over the decades: Fr. Garcia Nieto in the classroom during Religion periods and Fr. Fuster and Fr. Bonet outside the classroom. Even the non-catholic staff of the college had plenty of ' catholic' values.

The subsequent colleges where I did my Engineering & Management were nearer: Matunga and Thane, respectively, but they lacked the 'class' of a Catholic College like Xavier's -- at least in the First and Second Years. The diction and erudition of the professors, was missing. The perfectly organized machinery of extra-curriculars was either half-baked or missing altogether and inculcation of moral values were left to the winds, whether in or outside the classroom.

But we had to move on from Xavier's to these other Colleges in order to obtain applied and not fundamental qualifications.

After passing out, I worked in various companies in Thane, Dighe and Kalwe for 22 years. Was it a reaction to traveling in those overcrowded trains toward CST, rather than comfortably towards Thane, against the traffic? You bet, it was!

Hence I summarize my case, emphasizing every word: Catholic Degree College, in applied subjects like Commerce and Computer Applications, nearer to home, in these northern suburbs, would be a boon to all Catholics as well as non-Catholics in this area

On a personal note, Father, at this age, you may be apprehensive about your energy, the funds and availability of willing workers. However, you have the organizing ability and trust in God. The prayers of so many well-wishers as have appeared in your Parish Weekly will give impetus to the Project. You have only to start and organise its various activities and unexpected angels will keep appearing to give momentum to this benevolent Project towards its successful completion.

My wife, Monica, joins me in wishing you and your team all the very best in this venture! Be assured of our prayers!

Yours Truly
William Misquita

Sundeeep Co-op. Hsg. Soc. Ltd First Floor
Near Dr Rao's Clinic Charai - THANE
August 20, 2007.

Dear Fr. Rumao,

The idea of setting up a college in Thane is a good one. Thane needs many more colleges to cater to the ever growing population of an educated middle class society. May your efforts bear fruit.

Yours faithfully,

SWANAND PAWAR

Degree College

Mr. Anthony Alphonso with the permission of the Chair briefed the House on the Memorandum presented to the Bishop by parishioners comprising of Mr. Oliver Colaco, Mr. Roland Almeida, Mr. Anthony Alphonso and Mr. Kirk Gonsalves and supported by other parishioners for a Degree



College for our Parish. He also elaborated on the advantages, and how this would help our students and parishioners as well as our neighboring parishes. The House was unanimous and in total support of this proposal and requested this be followed up and ensure that this is made a success. Considering above following was resolved:

“The Parish Council is in total support of the proposal to have a degree college started in our Parish and the PPC would support in whatever manner deemed necessary to ensure this.”

Anthony then suggested that the PPC members could communicate in writing their support and views, they should also request their zonal parishioners to communicate vide letters, emails, etc. for the above Degree College.

Mrs. Brenda of CPG informed the house that the CPG have already started a signature campaign for this.

To,
Rev. Fr. John Rumao,
St. John the Baptist Church
Thane



Dear Rev. Fr,

The news of a proposed Degree College to start at St. John's is definitely worthy of an Educational Institution that has completed more than a hundred years. Parents like me who have for years been sending their children to colleges in Mumbai will vouch for all the hardships undergone by our wards in the past years. The opening of this College will be a big boon to our future students of Thane.

I wish to strongly support you in this endeavor and extend my best wishes on the success of this project.

Yours faithfully,
(J. Sequeira)

To,
Rev. Fr. John Rumao,
St. John the Baptist Church
Thane

Dear Rev. Father,

With reference to the article in Locusts & Honey for starting a Degree college at St John The Baptist. I personally feel that it is a very good thought.

A degree college at St John The Baptist will be a great boon to the children of our Parish, which will

save them the stress of admissions, and from traveling long distance to attend the college.

I extend all the support and wish you success for this project.

Thanking yours,
Nickel Susai
Kopri Zone.

Mr. Roy Alphonso
IRS (Retd)
Everest Apartment, Charai,
Thane,
5th Sept '07

Reverend and dear Fr. John Rumao

Mumbai University in starting a 'Unit' in Thane has surely recognized the potential of our City as a Centre of Higher Education.

The Catholic Church has always been in the lead with education institutions like our own St. John the Baptist High School and Junior College and the Special School. The addition of a Senior Degree College is certainly welcome as taking St. John's to even greater heights in the service of the community. It will benefit all our rapidly growing parishes in Thane and indeed in all the Eastern Suburbs from Kurla to Ambernath and Bhiwandi.

Parents too will be relieved of their anxiety as to the safety of their youngsters traveling to our Colleges in Mumbai in rush hour traffic. Our students would save on time and energy too.

To our advantage, our Community here has qualified, experienced and dedicated educationists and Professors who could be expected to help form the nucleus of the new Faculty. We have also in you, a Manager with the rare and outstanding experience of having successfully launched the Degree College at Papdy, Vasai and nurtured it to sturdy growth, as its first Principal with God's Blessing St. John's prestigious project will come to early fruition.

Yours Sincerely
(Roy Alphonso)

[There have been several letters pouring in expressing the need for a senior college and the public support. I thank all those who have taken the trouble to write to us. The need for a senior college is well-established. Letters expressing your views are welcome. They will be placed on record, though may not appear in the pages of this weekly bulletin. You will be

kept posted through this weekly any further progress on the senior college project.

*Fr. John Rumao,
Parish Priest.]*

Our Church needs a Sacristy.

In our church our Sacristy has become one of the most crowded place. When we are late we enter the sacristy, then there are few who have made it their permanent place and if it is wedding than all the relative of the couples add up to it. It is so crowded that most of the time our poor priest have to entry & exit as if they are traveling in overcrowded local train. It is very disheartening that it has become a chatting hub, sermon time is very fruitfully used to read Locust & honey or discussing personal issues. At the end of the mass our priests entering the sacristy are not able to have a peaceful moment for prayer. Sacristy is place for the priest to prepare themselves to celebrate the Holy mass. So let us give them that place and help them to make our Eucharistic celebration more meaningful.

--Brevin Sequeira.

The Maharashtra Christi Sarnaj, in collaboration with Mukti Sagar Prabodhan Kendra (Utan), is organizing a thanksgiving mass for the marathi speaking people of the archdiocese at Mount Mary's Basilica, Bandra, on Wednesday, the 12th September at 11.00 a.m. All marathi speaking people are cordially invited

The Girl Child

There can be no difference between a boy and a girl,
Both have a role to play in this world.
The girl child is bestowed with abundant blessings from above,
The world needs to understand this and give her the right status now.
The girl child of today will be a woman of tomorrow,
Performing her duties which are many to follow.
To her parents she is a daughter,
And to her brother a sister.
To her husband she is a wife,
And to her children she is a mother which the world need to recognize.
She can no longer be treated inferior in this patriarchal society,
She must be respected for she is the creation of the Almighty.

Let there be no longer an atmosphere of unhappiness and anger,
 When she is born in a family that desires a male member.
 There shall be no longer burning cases for dowry,
 Love and respect for woman must be given priority.
 She shall no longer be deprived of health care and education,
 For a healthy society she lays the foundation.
 Female foeticide must be halted ASAP,
 It will create gender imbalance in society.
 No man is complete without a woman,
 If he needs to progress he must give the girl child her due importance.

Malcolm Nobre

THE NIGHT ADORERS' ASSOCIATION.

"COME TO ME IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT", is an open invitation from the lord, to each and everyone.

The Night Adorers' Association in our parish is a very old and long standing organization with a good number of parishioners attending the Night Adoration. However, in the past two years or so, our numbers have slowly fallen due to the passing away of many devoted to the Night Adoration; some have become disabled due to sickness or old age, others have migrated to foreign countries.

As an attempt to revive this much needed Devotion which is the need of the hour, we appeal to all parishioners, young and old, able bodied, to try and give just one night in the month, to the lord, Who has given us all that we have, our very life itself. How do we thank Him for His Boundless love! Can we make the time to hearken to His Call.

You are invited to the Night Adoration, conducted by the Association of Night Adorers in our parish, once a month.,

Day and Time: Starting On SATURDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2007 at 11.00 p.m.

Thereafter on the last Saturday of every month from 11.00 P.M. onwards
 (any change will be announced in advance) .

Programme Night Prayers.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
 ADORATION - PRAISE AND WORSHIP

THE WORD OF GOD - Listening and Reflection.

ROSARIES I LITANIES

REPARATION

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ATONEMENT FOR
 SINS PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THANKSGIVING.

BENEDICTION and concluding with the HOLY
 EUCHARIST at 6.00 a.m. ..

Do come and experience the love of Jesus and be prepared for His Second Coming, which could be anytime. Those ready to spend a night with the Lord in prayer are requested to contact Mrs. Iris Soero, in-charge of the Night Adorers' Association on telephone number 2547 8416.

Fr. John Rumao
 Spiritual Director.

Couples for Christ: - Feedback

During the orientation talk of "**Christian Life Programme**" (CLP) there was a good response. The couple participants who attended the talk were vibrant and participative. The immediate response was that "**this programme is really the need of hour**" and we should reach out to many more couples to attend our next talk on 2nd September after 5.30 PM mass in the pavilion

OSTEOPOROSIS DETECTION AND AWARENESS CAMP

The osteoporosis detection and awareness camp was held on Sunday, 2nd September 2007 in collaboration with Elder Pharmaceutical. Sixty seven parishioners attended the camp. The testing was done free of cost. Counseling of the patients were held and medications were given at a subsidized rate. The health cell members thank Mrs. Maria Remedios for helping in organizing the event with her team of experts

HAIL MARY, FULL OF GRACE!

Hail Mary, full of heavenly grace,
 Spotless Mother of the human race!
 Your magnificent souls God did create,
 Your humble being He did elevate.
 Millions throng to your every shrine
 To meet the Mother of the Child Divine.
 A virgin so gentle, tender and mild,
 You never forsake a single child.
 In times of distress we have nowhere to go,
 Except to the Mother who understands our woe,
 No matter the country, caste or creed,
 You guide all to Jesus in their time of need.
 Sometimes in your eye there is a tear,
 Calling, 'Sinner come back, have no fear.'
 From Heaven you get such a perfect view,
 Of the never ending birthday gifts to you.
 O Queen of Love, dressed in Blue,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

and

A MILLION THANKS

From us to you!

Ella

09 September, 2007.