



LOCUSTS & HONEY



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly Vol. 3, No. 46 11 November, 2007

**ENCOUNTERING CHRIST IN TODAY'S WORLD
A HOLISTIC FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM**

Saturday evenings. 5.00 to 7.00 pm
Nov. 17 to Dec. 1, 2007 and Jan 5 to Feb 16, 2008

EMPOWERING THE LAITY FOR DAILY CHRISTIAN LIVING

AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PAVILION, THANE

TOPICS & FACILITATORS

S. N	Date	Topic	Facilitator
01	Nov. 17	Theological Method	Bp. Bosco Penha
02	Nov. 24	Covenant Understood Today	Fr. Harry Vaz
03	Dec. 1	Lay Collaboration in Ministries	Fr. Aniceto Pereira
04	Jan 5	Christians & the Law of the Church -	Fr. Jervis D'Souza
05	Jan. 12	Social outreach through CCQ's & SCCs	Fr. John Almeida
06	Jan 1	Anger Management	Fr. Patrick D'Mello
07	Jan 24	Understanding Sacraments in Today's World	Fr. Gilbert De Lima .
08	Feb. 2	Christian Involvement in Society	Fr. Alwyn D'Souza
09	Feb 9	Christian Ethics	Fr. Stephen Fernandes
10	Feb 10	Church Teachings on Family	Fr. Cajetan Menezes

The above sessions will be held here in the Pavilion specially for the benefit of our parishioners. There is no course fee except a serious **commitment** to attend all the sessions without fail. On completion of the course, certificates will be issued to candidates attending the full course. Admissions open to all. Anintors, zonal leaders are specially urged to attend. Please, enroll your name with the parish office during office hours.

CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE-FREE FAMILIES

The campaign for Violence-free Families wants to unite men and women, lay, religious and: clergy in an effort to stop all types of dehumanizing violence which affects family life, relationships and the harmonious growth of children, This year, in the context of the many gruesome episodes that are threatening children, the focus will be on Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse.

From before birth the unborn child is targeted, then there is the unwanted gender, and right through life the child is subjected to violence in the family, school and society. Stories of sale and trafficking in children for the purpose of child labour and sex industry, rape and killing of children as in the case of the Nithari episode, paedophilia and child pornography are increasing by leaps and bounds and yet, it seems, we continue with our ostrich-like attitude in matters such as these ...

Here are some of the findings of the Child Abuse Study 2007 published by the Ministry of Women and Child Welfare some six months ago:

Child abuse is common in India. Every second child is faced with sexual abuse and two out of every three children are physically abused. Most of the children do not report the abuse to anyone. Over 80% of the time, the children are abused within the safe environment of tile family and over 50% of sexual abusers are persons known to the child or in a position of trust and responsibility.

One of the most hard-hitting statements of Jesus, who we know to be an embodiment of compassion, was when he told his disciples: "If anyone should cause one of these little ones to sin, it would be better for that person to have a large millstone tied around the neck and be thrown into the sea." (Mk9: 42). We as good Christians must respect and love every child and allow him/her feel safe in our company.

We must make sure that no child abuse takes place in our family surroundings. Should there be any such incident, parents will have to be taken into confidence and talked to through our priests, family cell members or any of the NGOs that attend to child-abuse problems. Above all pray for good violence-free family life in the parish.

--excerpts from the liturgy for Nov.11th.

This week's announcements

November 11, 2007.

1. Sunday, 11th November is celebrated as 'Campaign for violence-free families'
2. This week Tuesday Fathers will visit K'Villa.
3. The steering committee will have its meeting on Saturday, 17th November at 6.30 p.m. in the meeting room.
4. Sunday, 18th November will be celebrated a 'World Communications Day'.
5. The collection at Masses last Sunday, amounted to Rs.25,065 00
6. The collections from the Perpetual Succour image box amounted to Rs.2,242.00
7. The collections from All Souls' Day box-intentions amounted to Rs.16,797..00
8. SVP 1st Friday Collection amounted to Rs.15,875.00

This Week's Liturgical Readings

12/Mon S. Josaphat, bp m - rriem Wis 1:1-7; Ps 138:1-3,4-6,7-8,9-10; Lk 17:1-6
 13/Tue Wis 2:23-3:9; Ps 33:2-3,16-17,18-19; Lk 17:7-10
 14/Wed Wis 6:1-11; Ps 81:3-4,6-7; Lk 17:11-19
 15/Thu S. Albert the Great bp dr Wis 7:22-8:1; Ps 118:89-90,91&130,135&175; Lk 17:20-25
 16/Fri S. Margaret of Scotland Or S. Gertrude, vg Wis 13:1-9; Ps 18:2-3,4-5ab; Lk 17:26-37
 17/Sat S. Elizabeth of Hungary, rei - mem Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Ps 104:2-3,36-37,42-43; Lk 18:1-8
 18/Sun Mal 3:19-20;2Thes 3:7-12;Lk 21:5-19.

VACATION BIBLE JOY

Vocational Bible Joy Programme

Theme: - "The Eucharist –My Jesus and I"

For – Std I to X

When - 12th Nov to 20th Nov.

Time – 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 afternoon.

Where– St. John's School -1st day to meet near the Eucharistic Chapel

Nature – Will be taught about "The Eucharistic and Jesus". in the Bible, through fun and frolic, songs and skits, prayers and lessons, art and craft etc.. etc... Snacks will be served during the break.

Certificates and Prizes on the final day-21st Nov.

Charges – Rs 25/-only

Bring with you –Good News Bible, a note book, card, pen pencil, eraser, coloured pencils and a pair scissors.

Forms are available in the Church office.

Fullerton India are organizing a Free Eye Check Camp on Nov is" 07'. In the Pavilion. All re welcome to check their eyes

APPEAL FROM

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ASSOCIATION
OF ST.JOHN THE BAPTIST, THANE**

The members of the Society of St.. Vincent De Paul will be doing house-to-house collection for for the CHRISTMAS BAZAAR and GIFTS given to all poor adopted families of our Parish. Please be generous. If you are a regular contributor of 1 % tithing, you may feel free to ignore this appeal.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ISSUE!

We propose to bring out a special issue of Locusts & Honey at Christmas. Original articles, essays and poems of about 300-350 words will be published in the issue. Zones are welcome to present reports of their activities and progress in the issue. All written material preferably on CD should reach the parish office latest by 10th December, 2007.

FREE MID-DAY LUNCH SCHEME

The proposal of free mid-day lunch for those who go without a square meal a day for reasons beyond their control had come up for discussion in the CWF Committee's meeting on Sunday, 4th November, 2007. The members strongly felt that the scheme should be given a go Hence I am placing before parishioners once again this easy and simple way of a free meal scheme operation which could be tried for a year and continue if funds are available. **Volunteers are invited to join the scheme which will be operative from 1st December, 2007.**

1. The scheme will be known as St. John's Free Mid-Day Lunch Scheme for one who cannot afford a day's meal.
2. A volunteer/ animator/coordinator in each SCC community willing to be part of the scheme will be placed in charge of a set of ten to twenty free lunch coupons at a time.
3. The above volunteer/ animator/coordinator will find from his/her area one who is not in a position to have that day's meal and has to go hungry, give that person a coupon for that day's free lunch and inform the school canteen on the phone about it latest by 11.00 a.m..

4. Or the person in need of a meal will collect a coupon from the above volunteer or animator or coordinator from his/her zone
5. The above volunteer/animator/coordinator in each SCC community placed in charge of a set of ten to twenty coupons will make note of disbursement of coupons for a counter-check.
6. The above volunteer/animator/coordinator in charge of coupons will give only one coupon at a time to a person in need just to help him/her out with that day's meal.
7. He/she should then approach the school canteen manager, Mr. Panto for the lunch packet in exchange for the coupon between 12.00 noon and 1.00 p.m. not later than that.
8. The Canteen manager will collect the coupon and hand over a packet of lunch to be taken home. No food will be served on the premises.
9. The packet of lunch will contain rice, curry/daal and some vegetable..
10. The canteen manager will be reimbursed as per the number of coupons from time to time from the funds available for charities.
11. The scheme is not a regular affair to supplement one's daily need. And no one should take undue benefit of the scheme. It should be that once in a while that someone has care for you.
12. The scheme is not to create dependency in a person in need in anyway nor will there be any liability taken over by the church.
13. The scheme is not meant for a habitual beggar.
14. The scheme if it works will last till funds are available for this purpose.
15. The scheme is initially meant for our Catholic poor who may be in such predicament of starvation.
16. Here is a sample copy of Free Lunch Coupon.

Date:.....	No.
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH,	
Jamblinaka, Thane 400 601.	
FREE LUNCH COUPON	
<i>(for one who cannot afford a day's meal)</i>	
Name:.....	Zone
Issued by zonal leader:.....	
Name of the leader:.....	
Tel. No.	
Cant. Manager	Parish Priest

To Dear Parents On Children's Day

On Children's Day to dear parents I say,
Children are unopened flower buds, you have to show them the right way.

Today's life moves at its fastest pace,
Do not follow the crowd its just a waste.

Life is and will be supplemented with advanced technologies,
Let not your children get carried away, leaving behind only tension and worries.

Do not push your children into something they do not wish to be,
Every child is blessed with talent only to surface when they are left free.

Spend some time with your children at home,
They need your love and affection or else in life they will be left all alone.

Parents are appointed by the Almighty to look after little children,
Perform your responsibilities well and you will be rewarded later in heaven.

Suicidal acts among teenagers are common,
There is much more to do and see in life rather than mere competition.

To dear parents on Children's Day I can just say,
Mould your little angels into God's soldiers today.
--Malcolm Nobre

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST HEALTH CARE CENTRE

There will be a free eye check camp for all on the 18th of November 2007 - Sunday from 9.30 AM onwards at the Pavilion in the school compound. This event is conducted by Fullerton India in association with Sight Savers Organisation. All parishioners are asked to register their names for the same at the Health cell or the Parish office in advance. Please pass the message to the poor and the needy.

INSERVICE TRAINING – HEALTH CELL

A weekend In-service Training program for the Health cell members was held on 20th and 21st of October 2007 from 9.00AM to 6.00 PM. The resource person was Sr. (DR) Celine Payyapilly – Director of the Holistic Health Centre – Pune. The two day long session on the Basics of Holistic Health was indeed very helpful and educating. The purpose of holding this session was to motivate the members and discover the spirituality of involvement.

We take this opportunity to thank the Parish Priest Rev. Fr. John Rumao who is always encouraging and for sponsoring this training. We would also like to thank Rev. Fr. John Lopes – Principal who

willingly gave us the AV Room for conducting the classes.

We would like the Health Cell to grow in size. Inviting parishioners to register their names as members of the Health Cell helping us in the following ways-

- Identifying the sick who are poor
- Visiting hospitals
- Visiting the homebound
- Identifying alcoholics and addicts
- Helping the terminally ill
- Volunteers for conducting the various health awareness camps.
- Helping in the dispensary once or twice a week
- Adopting a sick person (providing medication through donation)

Smile, Giggle, Laugh!



A little boy in church, who had just been aroused from his nap, said to his father, "Daddy, has he finished?"

The father replied, "He's finished, but he isn't stopped yet."

A parson looking up from the sermon he was reading, was horrified to see his son in the gallery pelting the congregation with small pebbles. Before he could get out a word of reproach, the young son said, "You tend to your sermon, Daddy, and I will keep the congregation awake."

The pastor finally decided he must talk to the richest member of the congregation, no matter how much it hurt.

"Why," he asked the rich man, "do you fall asleep when I am delivering my message?"

Answered the rich man, "Would I fall asleep if I didn't trust you?"

HOME COMING DAY

PLEASE HOLD ON LORD!

Someday it will be Home Coming Day,
I hope it won't be too soon, Lord,
I've grwn so attached to this earth,
And all it holds.

My people too
Parting sure would be difficult,
It you could only let it be slow,
It won't be much of a shock.
Please, don't call me too soon, Lord,
Because there is so much to do,
There are future plans to be drawn,
Loans to be cleared,
Marriages to be settled,

Property matters to be discussed,
Sins to be confessed,
Enemires to be forgiven
And a will to be made,
So please – Hold On Lord!

Lord, I want to leave this world in peace,
Having no regrets,
Fulfilling the tasks I was assigned to do,
To the best of my ability,
So that I continue to live,
In the minds of people
Long after I have left them.
Plese, till my work is completed,
HOLD ON, LORD!

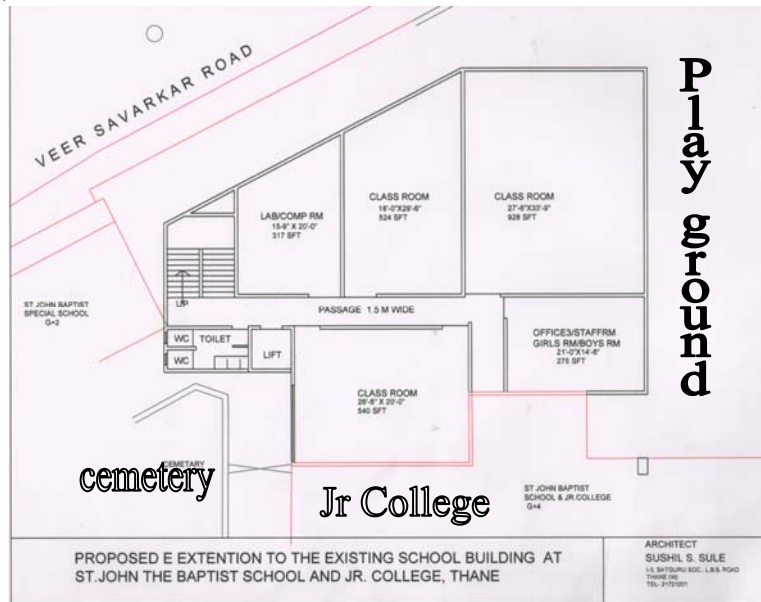
Lord, I want everything in order,
Before I tell you I am ready
And waiting for your call,
But who am I to dictate to my God
The how and when I leave planet earth?
Make it Lord as you have planned,
I'LL START GETTING READY FOR IT
FROM RIGHT NOW.

--Ella.

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

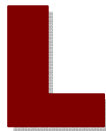
SENIOR COLLEGE

As required by the University of Mumbai, an application has been submitted to the university for permission to open one division of each of the following courses with effect from June 2008. They are FY B.Com, BNS, B.Sc. (IT) and B.Sc. (Computer Science). In all 240 students will be admitted if permission is granted. The first few years while in infancy stage, the college classes will have to be conducted in the premises of St. John the Baptist High School and Junior College. In addition to the facilities available with the junior college, we propose the following plan for



the consideration of parishioners. You are welcome to give your written suggestions in a week's time.

1. This plan is based on an earlier plan proposed by Fr. Simon Borges during his tenure as parish-priest. It is meant to replace the unauthorized structure of the pavilion which has to be pulled down as per commitment to the TMC.
2. It is to be constructed where the present pavilion and the canteen is located in front of the school office and principal's office.
3. The ground floor will be on stilt similar to the auditorium, fully open for multi-purpose use, with a canteen in a suitable corner, leaving the access to the Healthcare center and to the special school on the rear side open. Thus space occupied by the pavilion also will remain open like the auditorium under the junior college building.
4. **The open ground in front of the junior college auditorium right up to the Veer Savarkar Road extending to the church garages will remain open for play, parking and for other use.**
5. The proposed building will be linked to the junior college and to the special school building for free movement of staff and students from one section to the other.
6. The proposed building will have four floors in alignment with the junior college building in an "L" shape front elevation.



7. The proposed building will add 10000 sq. ft floor area to house 15 to 20 class-rooms of different sizes and shapes to cater to the present need of the senior college.
8. As stated above at the inception of the senior college, the classes will have to be accommodated in the present set-up of St. John

the Baptist High School & Junior College, sharing its infra-structure of junior college library, staff-rooms etc, along with this additional space made available by construction of the proposed building.

9. When the senior college is shifted to a new more spacious location, the proposed building can be used either for the extension of

the junior college, or for the special school or to have polytechnic courses or to house the K.G. section.

10. We need to prepare our minds to welcome the proposed senior college as a sign of pride, honour and prestige to our Christian minority. We have been pioneers in education, which is our apostolate. Our high school and junior college is in high esteem. The proposed senior college is one more feather in our cap. We may have to put up with the inconvenience of college-culture. But in my understanding it is one of the ways of preserving our school/college/church premises intact. We will have our ex-students and parents on our side to support us, as they did in the past. Secondly, even if we avoid having a senior college in our vicinity, there may be someone else who someday think of having a massive project of a senior college in the very same vicinity, when we will have no voice. I know, not every one will share my perceptions, but it should not be too late to reverse the course of history, if we fail to act here and now.
11. If the above plan finds acceptance, it will then be submitted to Archbishop's House and the Municipal Authorities for their approval.

--Parish Priest.

Parish Youth Day

The Parish Youth Group is organizing the Parish Youth Day which is to be celebrated on the 24th of November at 09.00 a.m in the Parish School Hall. All youth between the age 15 – 25 are invited to attend this event and be part of the celebration. Registration fee is Rs. 40/- per head. For further details please contact Fr. Victor Dalmet

32nd Sunday -- 11 Nov