

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. 15

13 April, 2008



To the Holy Communicants

It is nice to see you receive Jesus today,
The heavens above have been waiting
for the dawn of this day.

Now that the good Lord has entered your hearts,
Let your actions be pleasing to Him so that
He no longer from you departs.

Always be obedient to your loving parents,
Listen to them and do not cause them pain.

Be obedient to your teachers at school,
Try to give your best performance so that they can be proud of you.

With your friends do not quarrel,
Share your things and with them always learn to mingle.

Do not make distinction between your friends who are either rich or
poor,
As little children you all belong to the one and only one heavenly
Father.

Always recite your prayers when you retire to bed and in the morning
when you arise,
Make it a practice, say it from your hearts and in the Lord's eyes you
will shine.

Do not be fussy while having your breakfast, lunch and dinner,
The food that you consume is provided by the Lord to whom you are
most dear.

Be a source of help whenever your parents call on you,
Give them priority as they are also a part of your life too.

Last but not the least, I take this opportunity to wish you dear little
children,
Congratulations ! May the good Lord shower His abundant blessings
and protect you from all evil.

Malcolm Nobre

Congratulations from us Fathers

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

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.

Biblical Intercessory Prayer –Mondays 7.30pm

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

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This week's announcements
April 13, 2008.

1. *Sunday, 13th April is the Day of First Holy Communion. The First Holy Communion Mass will be at 10.30 a.m.*
2. *Friday, 18th April will be Confirmation Day in our parish. Nearly 80 young youths will be confirmed by Bishop Ferdinand Fonseca at 7.00 p.m. Mass.*
3. *The collection at Sunday Masses, amounted to Rs27,880.00*
4. *The collection from the Statue of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour amounted to Rs. 4,960.00*

This Week's Liturgical Readings

. 14 Mon Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4; Jn 10:11-18
 15 Tue Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5,6-7; Jn 10:22-30
 16 Wed Acts 12:24-13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8; Jn 12:44-50
 17 Thu Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3,21-22,25 and 27; Jn 13:16-20
 18 Fri Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
 19 Sat Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 14:7-14
 20 Sun Act 6:1-7; 1 Pet 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12.

FOR YOUNG COUPLES

Snehalaya Family Service Centre is offering a new marriage enrichment programme for married couples called "TFE Basic Weekend".

on 19-20 April, 2008

at St Pius College, Goregaon.

To help couples:

- to enrich the marital relationship
- to make a good marriage better
- to overcome vexing marital issues

Enrollment Forms will be at the parish office.

HELLO DOCTOR MOBILE DENTAL

From April 15th, 2008

FACILITY IS AVAILABLE IN OUR PARISH ON Everyday from Monday to Saturday from 9.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m..

Quality treatment is provided at concessional rates and is open to all .We require a band of good volunteers to support this project. Those desirous please give your name to Rev. Sr. Benedicta or Ms. Clara Correia

Smile, Giggle, Laugh!



During a service one preacher made this announcement:
 "This being Easter

Sunday, we will now ask Mr. Vassilas to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Another church newsletter had this: At the evening service tonight, the topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and hear our choir practice.

Not to pick on the choir, but an announcement in one church read: Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones

***OUR LADY OF HOPE
 CHURCH, Ghormal***

***Feast on Sunday,
 27th April, 2008.***

***Masses in English
 at 8.15 & 9.30 a.m.***

***FEAST MASS IN MARATHI,
 At 10.45 a.m.***

Tamil Mass at 12.30 p.m



**MASS-TIMINGS IN THE MONTH OF
 MAY 2008 from 1st May to 31st May 2008**

On Sundays: at 6.00, 7.00, 8.00 & 9.15 in the morning and At 5.30 in the evening.

There will be no 6.30 p.m. Mass and no 10.30 a.m. Mass in Kopri Chapel.

**On Weekdays: Masses at 6.00, 6.45 a.m.
 and at 7.00 p.m.**

No 6.30 a.m. Mass in the Holy Cross Convent.

SUMMER CLUB

The Youth of St. John's Church are organizing a Summer Club for your children and we wish to make their holidays memorable. We would appreciate it if you let your child join THE CLUB.

Club Duration: May 1st-June 3rd.

Timings: 9. 30am -12. 30 p.m. & 4. 30 p.m. -7.30 p.m.

Venue: St . John the Baptist Pavilion.



So be more sympathetic

And do the best you can

Tomorrow they will not be here

They'll be gone to "The Promised land" "

--Dorothy Serpes (Age 83) March 2008

A Brief on the alienation of Asian Cable/Vasant Vihar Properties.

It's a common knowledge that the church of Thane had several landed properties on its name, Among them the following pieces of land, S. Nos. 297/3 admeasuring 2400 sq. metres, 298/1 admeasuring 3598.62sq. metres and 298/5 admeasuring 3950.19 sq. metres near Asian Cable, Vasant Vihar at revenue village Majiwada, Thane, Taluka & Dist. Thane were shown surplus under ULCA and part of it was reserved for a garden and a TP road etc.

The above pieces of landed property were infested with insoluble problems beyond our control.

1. There were some people by name Dhamode, descendants of the original tenant one Mr. Budya on the property who claimed to be protected Adivasi tenants.
2. The Dhamode brothers had appealed to Tahsildar and ALT, Thane in Tenancy Case under section 32-G and had won the case against the church. The order of the Tahasildar allowed them being so-called protected tenants to purchase the property at Rs. 2021/- or thereabout and deleted the name of the church from the 7/12 extracts of S. Nos. 297/3 & 298/1.
3. *The church had preferred an appeal to SDO, Thane in 1994 for exemption under section 88-B and the same was lost.*
4. The church then made a revision application against the above orders to MRT, Mubai. The application was sustained and the above orders in favour of Dhamode brothers were squashed and remanded the proceeding under sec. 32-G to the Addl. Tahasildar and ALT, Thane for fresh inquiry.

ST JOHN BAPTIST POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE

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

Announces

**FREE ELEMENTARY
Sewing & Tailoring (one Month)
From 1 April onward**

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

Contact

Or Sr. Bena on 64109529/25348671-256

Or on Cell 9867252981

On Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Timing – 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

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

Listen Young People

Listen dear youngsters
And try and understand
What the aged are going through
Give them a helping hand

You'll need a lot of patience
It's not an easy task
To put up with eccentricities
And the questions that they ask

You know they cannot help themselves
No matter how they try
Their lives are ebbing slowly
See the tear drop in their eye

5. The case then was under review by the SDO, Thane who in October, 2003, granted the exemption certificate to the church under 88-B
6. Accordingly the name of the church was entered in the 7/12 extracts of S. Nos. 297/3 and 298/1.
7. An appeal was made by the trust to the MRT, Mumbai against the judgment of the SDO, Thane upholding the actual possession of the property by Dhamode brothers 11/12/2003.
8. The Dhamode brothers, too, have gone in appeal to the MRT, Mumbai against the judgment of the SDO, Thane upholding *the ownership of the church* and granting the church exemption certificate under 88-B
9. Both the cases were for hearing .
10. This property at Vasant Vihar was shown as surplus with the trust under U.L.C. Act., which means the Govt. could acquire it with meager compensation to the trust.
11. This property falls in 'R' Zone for housing for the weaker section in the T.P. plans.
12. A part of the property was reserved for a garden/public library and T.P road.
13. The Dhamode brothers had sold and resold it entering in sale-agreement with several builders.
14. The Dhamode borthers had nearly twelve mud-houses on the property.

The above properties had caused endless headaches and loss of precious time of successive parish-priests fighting cases in the court. *Already sometime in 1995 or so late Fr. Leslie J. Ratus in his report to the Diocesan Estate office on the Asian Cable land, had stated the following options:*

- “Two options present themselves: 2.1. Pursue the legal course: But*
- a. How long will this take?*
 - b. Will this Course be ultimately in favour of the Church?*
 - c. even if the Church is ultimately successful, what do we do after that? We will be forced to sell to developers, because the plot: * has no access. * is already encroached, and will be probably be more so by the time the legal procedure is through.*
- 2.2. It is recommended that: right now the Plot be sold to developers on an "as is where-basis"*

basis. The advantages of this course of action are:

- a. The developer will handle such Current problems as litigation, the lack of access, the encroachment.*
- b. The sale of this plot will help finance other Church development plans of St. John's.*
- c. We may negotiate with the developer to provide accommodation for a sub-centre of the parish.”*

When I took charge of the parish affairs, I changed the previous advocate who had favoured a possible compromise between the tenants and the church trust. I then handed over the case to Advocate Mr. Dominic D' Mello, who ultimately succeeded in arguing the case in our favor. I myself had to attend the SDO's court several times to give deposition and visit various govt. departments to clear the property and get the 7/12 extracts changed in our name. The properties were not fenced nor could they be fenced at this stage without getting into further litigation. *It was near impossible to protect the property intact any longer.* Once I even had a threatening call to keep away from the Adivasi land. Any further delay might witness the illegal occupation by slum-dwellers or the kind. *Perhaps people who are usually up-in-arms against a sale of church property, could have offered themselves to take turns day and night years long to keep vigilance on the spot protecting such properties from further encroachment! But the well-known fact is that our own Catholics all over the city of Mumbai have not been able to protect their own ancestral properties. How would they then render a helping hand to protect the church properties?*

Some suggestions such as running a charitable hospital was not a financially viable proposition, though the present parish priest tried to take steps in that direction, proposed a plan for the permission of the Archbishop of Mumbai. Another suggestion was that we develop the property for housing for our own Catholics. It sounded good. But who would take the lead and remove the present occupants Dhamode brothers, who at one of their meetings with the present Parish Priest had offered to hand over the possession to us for a consideration of Rs. 2 crores to them. Fr.

Goudinho of old memories did develop a housing society at Mulund and the amount of ingratitude heaped on him is a known history. Questions are asked, "The Mulund land belonged to Thane Church, but there were no benefits to this church from the Mulund Housing Society." After learning the lessons from the past, history cannot be repeated. Besides any such housing scheme would benefit just a few families, who eventually in times of crisis would sell their flats to others and move out to some distant places. It is heard that the very Catholic Housing Societies in Mulund are now negotiating with developers for incredible returns. A day may come and we may find the St. Pius X Church & School surrounded with malls and high rise buildings with no Catholics in the parish!

What we needed to do was to take a very honest sincere stock of the situation from the point of maximum benefit to the Thane Church and parish. The property was presently under the administration of the director of the Diocesan Estate Office. The public notice for sale of the above property was issued by that office and the highest offer was staked for Rs. 600/- per sft., while the Govt. ready reckoner for a property with clear title and possession was rated at less than Rs. 400/-

It was then decided to alienate the property as-is-where-is basis. Public notice was given in papers, tenders were invited, bidding was done in the Archdiocesan Estate Office in the presence of late Fr. Tomy Kuruvilla. One Mr. Kamalakar Sawant won the bid as his offer was the highest. Meanwhile both Fr. Tomy Kuruvilla and Mr. Kamalakar Sawant passed away. The matter then was referred to the Charity Commissioner, Worli, Mumbai. Mrs. Sushila Kamalakar Sawant, the heir apparent of Mr. K. Sawant was then given more time to do the balance payment and take over the property, which she couldn't. The bid then was finalized on 31-07-2006 with Mr. Dilip Porwal whose offer was the highest. Moreover he made an immediate payment of entire consideration at one stroke in the presence of the Charity Commissioner. The Charity Commissioner then gave his nod and directed the Trustee to invest the sale proceeds as required by his order.

I remember, when I took charge of the parish in 2002, I was told that the Asian Cable Property at Vasant Vihar was **LOST** and that we were fighting a losing battle. And now to everyone's surprise, it has earned maximum revenue to the Trust. The church trust stood to gain in every possible way in this sale deal.

Here again God being witness to all the negotiations and transactions, there is absolutely no room for indulging in false baseless damaging rumours.

Parish Priest



Bishop Bosco Penha,
Our Lady of Salvation Church,
S.K. Bole Road, Dadar,
Mumbai 400 028. Tel.: 2431 0895
April 3, 2008

Fr. John Rumao, Parish Priest
The Parish Pastoral Council
locusts and Honey
St. John the Baptist Parish Thane

Dear Fr. Rumao and Friends,

I was very much inspired and encouraged by the feature that appeared on page 4 of "Locusts and Honey" dated March 16th. A lot of thinking has gone into the 22 Point Plan that has been drawn up for the Year of the Word of God at Thane. I write to thank you for this exercise and to wish you the Power of the Spirit in translating these plans into reality.

Thanking you once again and with affectionate good wishes,
Gratefully,
+Bishop Bosco
President
Christian Life Commission,
Archdiocese of Bombay

OLD TEXT BOOKS

Would like to help poor children in their studies? Please, donate your text books in use to the St. John's Text Book Bank,

THESE YOUTHS WILL RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT AT THE HANDS OF Most Rev. Bishop Ferdie Fonseca ON 18TH APRIL, 2008.

These teen-agers have been given instructions and specially prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation by the following staff: Rev. Fr. Gerry Fernandes, Sr. Jessie, Bonny D'Souza, Horace Soeiro, Lena Carvalho, Francis Vaz and Marcus Alvares. The Locusts & Honey thanks all of them for their services.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jessel Fernandes | 45. Priyanka D'Souza |
| 2. Brendon Miranda | 46. Neil Ghogale |
| 3. Invita Pereira | 47. Maclean Lewis |
| 4. Savio Carvalho | 48. Priyanka D'Souza |
| 5. Canute Tellis | 49. Prashant Menezes |
| 6. Joseph Lobo | 50. Janet D'Souza |
| 7. Emoid Thompson | 51. Kimbell Saldanha |
| 8. Brian D'Souza | 52. Renita D'Costa |
| 9. Levin Braganza | 53. Loraine Fernandes |
| 10. Keith Fernandes | 54. Raveena Shetty |
| 11. Avinkyra Paralikar | 55. Rohit Shetty |
| 12. John Fernandes | 56. Rochella Tauro |
| 13. Vicky Sebastian | 57. Reynold Carvalho |
| 14. Leroy Rodrigues | 58. Tracy Alvares |
| 15. Daisy Aranha | 59. Brian Pinto |
| 16. Nicole Xavier | 60. Akshaya Pimenta |
| 17. Nikita Martin | 61. Melissa Pinto |
| 18. Ginelle Serpes | 62. Hansel D'Silva |
| 19. Moru Menezes | 63. Merlyn Ramgel |
| 20. Roy D'Souza | 64. Elita Henriques |
| 21. Tony Francis | 65. Donita D'Mello |
| 22. Simone Catelino, | 66. Clayba Gomes |
| 23. Casilda Carvalho | 67. Marshal Fernandes |
| 24. Roven D'Souza | 68. Leena Taral |
| 25. Sonia Rehelo | 69. Nelson Fernandes |
| 26. John Salvador | 70. Steffi D'Souza |
| 27. Flora Philip | 71. Steven Dias |
| 28. Carl Faleiro | 72. Alria Fonsela |
| 29. Nishant Rehelo | 73. Juliet D'Souza |
| 30. Rebecca Fernandes | 74. Jennifer D'Souza |
| 31. Brian D'Mello | 75. Christopher Dey |
| 32. Jovita Pais | 76. Austin Rozario |
| 33. Namrata Coelho | 77. Sylvester Sequeira |
| 34. Melissa D'Souza | 78. Dylan Almeida |
| 35. Sharon D'Souza | 79. Kroshnov Gracias |
| 36. Boris Dias | 80. Bryna Menezes |
| 37. Rini Fernandes | 81. Melwyn |
| 38. Ivana D' Almeida | Padinjattinkara |
| 39. Divya D'Cunha | 82. Preeti D'Souza . |
| 40. Nicole Pereira | 83. Shalom Serpes |
| 41. Lily Orman | |
| 42. Fidel-Ann Ahreo | |
| 43. Neil Ghogale | |
| 44. Maclean Lewis | |

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DAY

April 13, 2008.

**THE LOCUSTS & HONEY
CONGRATULATES THE FOLLOWING
THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS
THIS YEAR**

Boys

1. Dylan Soeiro
2. Clavet Fernandes
3. Lenwyn Lobo
4. Jake Furtado
5. Ralph D'souza
6. Glen Countinho
7. Jason Crasto
8. Augustus Grace
9. Allister Sequeira
10. Trevor Alvares
11. Kiran Noel D'Souza
12. Clement Fernandes
13. Stanley Mergulhao
14. Christo Abraham
15. Russel Mathias
16. Gary Rebello
17. Victor Baptista
18. Harris Jose
19. Paltron Fernandes
20. Lenon Fernandes
21. Clyde Montero
22. Mario Anted
23. Russel Fernandes
24. Steven Fernandes
25. Krysh Freese
26. Ralston D'sa
27. Malcom John Lobo
28. Alric D'souza
29. Pritam Fernandes
30. Michel Fernandes
31. Joseph Castelinho
32. Justin Iyangan
33. Simon D'souza
34. Brian Vaz
35. Jewelson Fernandes

Girls

1. Angelina Pereira
2. Lydia Kori
3. Sahiban Crasto
4. Roselle D'cruz
5. Melina Lutchmaya
6. Krystel Vaz
7. Rebecca Biju
8. Velcita D'Souza
9. Angelica Fernandes
10. Sharon Braganza
11. Alisha Barreto
12. Jane Fernandes
13. Neha Gonsalves
14. Jessica Fernandes
15. Julia Fernandes
16. Arpita Gupta
17. Shreya Mangela
18. Anisha D'souza
19. Suzan Fernandes
20. Steffi Irani
21. Sharon Lobo
22. Riana Pinto
23. Jennifer Jose
24. Riya Bhonsale
25. Priti Kamble
26. Ermina D'Souza
27. Rachelle D'silva
28. Lovita mahale
29. Sharon Cardoza

Boys

37. Clinton Pereira
38. Mark Patel
39. Kristen Paul

The Locusts & Honey gratefully acknowledges the hard work of the following Catechetical teachers who prepared the above children for The First Holy Communion under the supervision and guidance of Rev. Fr. Victor Dalmet: Sr. Ancy, Sr. Julie, Sr. Anna Maria, Mrs Cynthia D'souza and Ms Nisha John.

CONGRATULATION!

Rev. Sr. Jessy James of Holy Cross Convent has successfully completed the IMFE in regular School Ministry this year. She has fared exceptionally well, securing A+.

A holy career change for some

Barney Henderson
Mumbai, April 9

WHEN NEIL Cerejo's girlfriend asked him one day, if he wanted to "get serious" and move the relationship on, he had no answer for her. What he really wanted was to move on to priesthood.

"I was 29 at the time and was enjoying my life and career, but I just had a higher calling to go and work for God," said Cerejo who is now 38 and well on his way to becoming a priest, having left his previous job as an IT engineer - and girlfriend in the past.

"The consensus from the "second career" trainee priests is that they realised their calling to the Church over a long period of time, before making the huge decision to pack up their careers and start the eight-year seminary course.

For 15 years, Alban D'Souza played guitar and sang at hotels and weddings, but decided that he wanted to give more to society than his musical talent.

"I did pop, jazz and rock shows - some say I'm still rocking," said the 42-year-old who also worked as a school teacher. "There were temptations all around and the challenge to change my whole life was huge, but at the end of the day my calling from God was very strong."

Other students at St Pius could not reconcile their beliefs with the world around them. When Savio D'Souza was 26, he became disillusioned with his friends who drank and smoked.

"I parted' ways with my friends because they took a darker path," D'Souza says. "My inner peace was lost. I had many sleepless nights and there were lots of tears. It was at this turning point in my life that I realised I should give my life to God and society."

barney.henderson@hindustantimes.com

YOUNG PEOPLE OF THANE, here is something you must read. May be, God has something in mind for you!

TECHIE TO PRIESTHOOD

- by Barney Henderson in HT

Looking for anchor of spirituality in aggressively consumerist Mumbai, young people are trading successful careers in various professions for the seminary

NEXT TIME you go to Sunday service, take a moment to talk to your priest. Chances are he was once a high-flying MBA and could give you a winning business idea along with spiritual guidance.

Switching from being a marketing executive at a multinational in the Gulf to training to be a priest in the tranquil surrounds of St Pius Seminary in Goregaon is quite a change, but Gilroy D'Costa is among a growing lot of young professionals entering priesthood as a second career.

He was doing up his tie one morning on his way to the office in Kuwait when he realised he had to change his life. He had an MBA and a top job, but was not satisfied.

"I enjoyed my job but I just realised that I could do so much more to help people," said D'Costa, who is now 30 years old and in his fifth year of priest studies. "I had always been motivated and spiritually connected, and I saw that morning that I could add so much more value to society by working through God than being in business."

Of the four trainee priests in the latest intake at St Pius, all have joined the Catholic church after working as a musician, lecturer, engineer or an info-techie.

"In the past, only boys - some as young as 15 - would be trained as priests. But today's liberalised young men, who choose to live and work where they please, are finding their calling at a later age," said Father Joseph Feliu, Spiritual Director of St Pius.

Also, the pressures and frustrations of modern life seem to fuel the trend of young professionals turning to the church.

"Globalisation and working for multi-nationals gets you the big dollars, but for many, there is a feeling of boredom and emptiness," said Dr Harish Shetty, social psychiatrist. "Doing something tangible for society fills that void and gives these men respect and credibility." But it is not always easy to train former professionals in priesthood.

"Although the men fully understand the lives of everyday people, they are perhaps more set in their ways and not as open as trainee priests joining after Class 12," said Father Harry Vaz, Rector of St Pius.

N.B. Priests of God may get bashing now and again. But the priesthood is still the best form of service to God and His people.