

LOCUSTS & HONEY



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly

Vol. 3, No. 29

15 July, 2007

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 10.00 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 Message: GOOD SAMARITAN

Whatever his intentions may have been, thanks to the lawyer for questioning the Lord about our neighbour, because the answer came in a most touching and instructive parable," The good Samaritan". The parable brings to our minds very vividly what real Christian charity is. It confronts us with the question whether we too, are good Samaritans.

We know about the law of love. We know our sentence on the day of judgment will depend on our charity to neighbour. And so we ought to ask ourselves: Are we usually "good Samaritans" to our neighbour, the aged, the sick, the poor? Or do we pass by them quickly as though we didn't notice they need help, not necessarily out of malice, but with a poor excuse. Let someone else help them. I'm too busy right now-I have my own family to take care of -I'll be late for work, and other excuses

Many so-called "good" Catholics, when listening to a sermon on Our Lord's Passion and Cross, feel compassion and say to our Lord that they would do anything to relieve His suffering. Our Lord gives them the test of their sincerity when He says to us," As long as you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do it for me."

His "least "ones, His hungry, His poor are all around us within easy reach of any sincere Catholic today. It isn't the amount you give or the time you devote to the help and comfort of the afflicted that counts most. It's the sacrifice you make out of the blessings God gave you. Even the poorest and the busiest among us can find occasions when we can be of help to someone in need. We can and should all be good Samaritans.

--Rev. Fr. Victor Dalmat



RECOLLECTION FOR
SVB MEMBERS ON
SATURDAY 21ST July
2007 from 5.00 p.m. to
7.00 p.m. in the pavilion.

PARISH VISITATION

This Monday, 16 July Fathers will be visiting Cherai South. Animators are requested to accompany Fathers on their visits to families under your care.

..Walk a mile in others' shoes before you say no to their request for a new pair

15th Sunday – 15 July 2007.

***This week's announcements
July 15, 2007.***

1. *This Sunday, the CWF Committee will meet at 10.30 a.m.*
2. *The collection at Masses last Sunday, amounted to Rs 28,717.00*
3. *The collections from Perpetual Succour box amounted to Rs5,390.00.*
4. *The collection from corridor boxes amounted to Rs. 1457.00. Thanks.*

This Week's Liturgical Readings

16/Mon	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Ex 1:8-14,22;Ps 123:1-3,4-6,7-8; Mt 10:34-11:1 Zech2:14-17;PsLk 1:46-47,48-49,50-51,52-53, 54-55; Mt 12:46-50
17/Tue	Ex 2:1-15a; Ps 68:3,14,30-31,33-34; Mt 11:20-24
18/Wed	Ex 3: 1-6,9-12; Ps 102: 1-2,3-4,6-7; Mt 11 :25-27
19/Thu	Ex 3:13-20; Ps 104:1&5,8-9,24-25,26-27;Mt 11:28-30
20/Fri	S. Apollinaris, bpm Ex 11:10-12,14; Ps 115:12-13,15-16, 17-18;Mt 12:1-8
21/Sat	S. Lawrence of Brindisi, pt dr Or BVM Ex 12:37-42;Ps 135:1&23-24,10-12,13-15;Mt 12:14-21
22/Sun	Gn 18:1-10; Col 1:24-28;Lk 10:38-42

**International Eucharistic Congress
Essay Contest**

Catholic Students from STD VIII - X in Secondary Schools in India are eligible to participate. All India PRIZES: Students: 1st Prize Rs. 3000/-, 2nd Prize Rs. 2000/-, 3'd Prize Rs. 1000/Seminarians & Religious Sisters: 1st Prize Rs. 5000/ _,2nd Prize Rs. 3000/-, 3rd Prize Rs. 2000/-

Theme: The Eucharist, God's gift for the life of the world.

Type your essay, double-spaced, on one side of white foolscap paper with left and right margins. Please write your name, the complete address of your School

Students: Mail your essay to Dr. Valerie D'Souza, C/o Diocesan Catechetical Centre, 4 Kane Road, Bandra, Mumbai: 400050.

The last date to submit your essay: September 30, 2007.

PARENTS' DAY

29 July, 2007

Programme

6.30 p.m. – Special Mass for parents

7.30 p.m. – entertainment in the hall.

Entry passes at Rs.15/- per person.

N.B. Entry is restricted to parents only.

Passes will be available with zonal leaders till 22nd July, 2007.

**St. John's Healthcare
Corner:**



STROKE – PARALYSIS

A stroke occurs when the brain's blood supply is interrupted and lack of oxygen begins to damage brain cells, a severe stroke can be fatal.

Symptoms: * difficulty in walking, * mood disorders, * memory loss, *mental impairment.

Symptoms depend on stroke location Different regions of the brain handle different functions, strokes can impair the abilities of different sites.

Lowering Risk & Avoiding strokes:

- Control blood pressure. High blood pressure is a leading cause of stroke. Check it at least once each year, more often if you have a history of high blood pressure. The higher number (systolic) should be under 130 and the lower number (diastolic) under 85.
- Get checked for atrial fibrillation (AF). Atrial fibrillation can cause blood to collect in the chambers of your heart. which can form clots and cause a stroke. Your doctor can detect AF by checking your pulse.
- If you smoke, stop. Smoking doubles the risk for stroke. If you stop smoking today, your risk for stroke will begin to decrease.
- Drink alcohol in moderation. Drinking a glass of wine or beer or one drink each day may lower your risk for stroke, but it is harmful if taken in large doses. If you don't drink, don't start.
- Know your cholesterol. Lowering cholesterol reduces stroke risk. High cholesterol can be controlled with diet and exercise, but some people may need medication.
- Control your diabetes. Diabetes puts you at an increased risk for stroke so control it through diet and lifestyle modifications, and medication, if needed.
- Exercise daily. A brisk walk, swim or other exercise activity for as little as 30 minutes a day can improve your health in many ways, and reduce your risk for stroke.
- Avoid junk food. As much as possible, opt for high-fibre grains, legumes, fruit and vegetables.
- Avoid stress. Trust in God. Pray and be at peace with self, family members and neighbours..



15th Sunday – 15 July 2007.

Smile, Giggle, Laugh!

A financier sent a bad guy with his recovery man for collection. First day over, the financier asked the recovery man, while pointing at the tough guy, "How was the day with him?"

Recovery man: "It was an advantage as well as disadvantage to have him."

Financier: "What was the advantage?"

Recovery man: "The collections went up than usual."

Financier: "So, what's the problem?"

Recovery man: "He has kept the money with him!"

Father: "I don't understand why my son doesn't understand the value of money."

Friend: "Why don't you borrow some from him?"

SCHOLARSHIP

The Locusts & Honey would like to give a scholarship to the HIGHEST RANKING Catholic students presently residing in St. John the Baptist Parish who have obtained the highest marks at the SSC/HSC exams 2007. Those who have obtained more than 85% marks may submit their mark-lists with the information on telephone no., address and zone in the parish office by 20th July.

Please note, the names of the highest ranking first five students of SSC/HSC Exams 2007 will be published in the Locusts & Honey.

The first in the SSC and the first in the HSC Science/ Arts/ Commerce will be awarded a scholarship each.

NEW MEMBERS

Name	<i>Dt. Of Baptism</i>	<i>Dt. Of Birth</i>
Shalom D'souza	06.05.2007	27.02.2007
Nathan Antony	06.05.2007	24.03.2007
Kash Raj	13.05.2007	23.04.2007
Alston Fonseca	13.05.2007	18.02.2007
Alsten Rodrigues	20.05.2007	09.03.2007

UNITED IN CHRIST

Date	Bride	Bridegroom
06.05.2007	Melina C.Jaques	Jose A.M.C.Dias
06.05.2007	Pinky Saraf	Denis Fernandes
16.05.2007	Mercia Fernandes	Francis Fernandes

OF LATE MEMORIES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
11.05.2007	Jacob D'souza
20.05.2007	Christopher Aguiar
27.05.2007	Teodoline Fernandes

**ST.JOHN THE BAPTIST
POLY TECHNIC COLLEGE**

Venue – St John's Special School 2nd Floor

Jambli Naka Thane(W) Tel. 64109529

Announces Short- Term (6- months)

Week End Programme (Sat& Sun

Management Programs from June 2007

I. FASHION DESIGNING

II. COMPUTER COURSES

After- Any Graduation

After- H SC

Duration = 6 Months Twice a week 3hrs a day

Course Fees= 750/ p.m

Contact Prof. S.C.Kopra, Fashion

Designer Mob.9322875500

**** * * * * * * * * * *

For Admission & trainees Programs information

Contact: - Prof. S.C. Kopra Fashion Designer

Mob: - 9322875500 / 64109529

Don Bosco Recruitments Services, Matunga

has been retained by several Corporate, Multi -National, Banking Industry & Call Centers to recruit various staff. These positions carry attractive salaries, growth prospects and quality job profile for a challenging career.

All those interested, please contact DON BOSCO RECRUITMENT SERVICES and kindly ensure to make the best use of this opportunity. For further details, please refer the notice board.

IDO.N B'OSCIQ IREICRIUITIMENT SERVICES

Venue :- Don Bosco Recruitment Services Youth Services Bldg., Ground Floor, Matunga - East, Mumbai - 19.

Tel. Nos.:- 2411 8282 /2415 4646

Timing :- 09:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m, 02:30 p.m. - 05:30 p.m.

Monday to Friday E-Mail:-dbrsbosco@rediffmail.com

dbrs@vsnl.net

N.B. Read the church notice boards.



FACELIFT

This year our Parish had more than one reason to celebrate on the 24th of June, the first most definitely being the feast of our Patron Saint and the second being the much awaited "FACELIFT" of the Church Building. The restoration work undertaken by Fr. John Rumao and his team has made the religious structure come alive, thus making the space within radiant and luminous. Just like the human body needs to be pampered in the form of massages, facials etc., our heritage buildings also need to be plastered, painted and maintained from time to time.

Hope that the altar work which is the main focal point of the church is soon completed so that the 400 yrs old structure looks as good as new, as the old saying goes "Cleanliness is next to Godliness". Please keep up the good work.

--Roshni Pereira, Architect.

A SPORTING SPIRIT

We grumble our children watch T.V. too much
We grumble they waste time in chat-rooms
We grumble the cell-phones are glued to their ears
We grumble and speak of our fears:
Our children are heading for doom!!

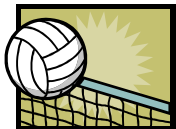
Looking back, as youngsters, what did we do?
Yeah, we hopped, we skipped and we played
We were outdoors whenever we could
Why now object their play in the Church
Compound
Where else should they rather be found??

No spaces around, no open ground
And this is an awful shame
So, just let them be, it sets their hearts free
To compete and have their games
To play Ball is part of the scene.



The church-goers, a detour can make
As they pass through the Gate
Keep to the left and via the Grotto go,
A sacrifice make, so the children can get
Just an hour or two to let off their stress!!
(SORRY!!! But Children just need to play!!
MRS. ENID ABREO

N.B. Children must stop playing fifteen minutes before the church service and be mindful of the people moving around.



h Sunday – 15 Ju

CHASTITY RINGS

With the increasing danger to human life on account of easy transmission of HIV virus through sexual contact and with millions dying of AIDS prematurely, one will certainly feel it very scary to be caught up in the mess for lack of continence. After all abstaining from going physical with a person of opposite sex is not something impossible, if one resolves to exercise self-control in matters of heterosexual relationships. One cannot undermine the danger inherent in unhealthy sexual contacts, when it is evident that a number of people have committed suicide the moment they have come to know that they have contracted AIDS or are HIV+. The electronic media unfortunately is fanning the passions of the young, who easily fall a prey to an urge to discover or to peer group pressures. It is a tremendous tension to the parents of growing children and a concern for the society to maintain social health.

One way to curb the spread of AIDS is to **make a commitment to self and to God to abstain from all sexual contacts before marriage.** All of us know well that both social and religious practices outlaw any liberty of any kind in matters of sexual contacts. Not for nothing sex is considered to be something sacred and allowed only in marriage with the spouse in total fidelity to each other. What social taboos, mores, religious practices have upheld in the past to keep society healthy has to be now promoted by one's choice to abstain from unhealthy relationships. This can be done by making a public commitment to self, to society and to God at a religious ceremony of one's choice to refrain from sexual contact till marriage ***by wearing a special ring on the third finger of the left hand.*** This ring will be replaced at the marriage by the wedding ring to be worn on the third finger of the right hand. This is a new movement already started in the west to help keep our youths from going wrong and impairing life with HIV+ and AIDS, where there is no point of return – only a dead end.

I suggest, we introduce this movement to this year's Confirmation youths with a swearing ceremony to seal their commitment to God. I invite our parishioners' views on this suggestion. Our youths are precious to our families, parish and the country. Life is so very valuable, it cannot be wasted away just on a momentary pleasure that ruins our dreams, our survival and the abiding promise of a wonderful life God has in store for each of us in a healthy balanced living!



A DEGREE COLLEGE

The article entitled "A Senior College " that appeared in the Locusts and Honey of 8th July, 2007 made interesting reading.

In this connection, four parishioners, Mr. Roland Almeida, Mr. Anthony Alphonso, Mr. Kirk Gonsalves along with this writer submitted a Memorandum to His Lordship Bishop Agnelo Gracias on 24th June, 2007 during his visit to our parish.

The Memorandum outlined the pressing need of a full fledged degree college to take care of the university education of the children of our parish and those of our neighboring parishes as well. The Memorandum requested His Lordship to obtain for us the necessary permission to launch the project. During the meeting Fr. John Rumao put forward certain points and figures pertinent to the issue. Thereafter, His Lordship assured us that he would put forward our proposal to the concerned ecclesiastical forum.

Hence, here is our appeal to all parishioners to pray for this approval.

Please lend your support to this project. Letters of support may please be sent to Fr. Rumao, so as to have the involvement of the entire parish community.

Let us make it a PARISH EFFORT rather than the " effort of a few". Let us CAUSE IT TO HAPPEN and not "leave it to happen ".

Date : 11th July, 2007.

Oliver Colaeo

Parish Team:

Fr. John Rumao.

Fr. John Lopes

Fr. Gerry Fernandes

Fr. Victor Dalmet.

Srs Amala & Joan – Pastoral Work

Vice-President PPC: Mr. Francis Fernandes

Parish 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

CONFIRMATION

(2007-2008)

The Catechetical Formation Program for those wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in April 2008 has begun. The same is conducted every Sunday between 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM in the school Audio-Visual Room (4th Floor- New Building). We aim to cover the following during this formation program:

- ✘ **Faith Formation Topics** - *on the Holy Trinity, our Christian Faith & the Church*
- ✘ **Intro. to Sacred Scripture**
- ✘ **2-Day Retreat**
- ✘ **Personal Commitment** - *by active participation in Mass, Personal Prayer & Community Service*
- ✘ **Ritual Celebrations along milestones in Liturgical Year** - *i.e. Acceptance into Confirmation Program, Presentation of the Our Father & the I Believe*
- ✘ **Prayer Services in the Small Christian Communities (SCC'S)**
- ✘ **Group Activities** - *Field Trips, Group Sharing, Self-Study Projects*

CONFIRMATION RETREAT (Sat, 28-Jul-07 - Sun, 29-Jul-07)

We would be conducting a 2-Day retreat for the Confirmation Students on the 28th July 2007 and 29th July 2007 (Saturday & Sunday).

**PARTICIPATION IS COMPULSORY
FOR ALL CONFIRMATION
STUDENTS.**