



LOCUSTS & HONEY

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly

Vol. 3, No. 38

16 September, 2007

Parish Team:

Fr. John Rumao.

Fr. John Lopes

Fr. Gerry Fernandes

Fr. Victor Dalmet.

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:

PRODIGAL SON

The parable of the prodigal son is really the story of the forgiving father. Jesus told the incident to show us how God feels about those of us who know we are sinners, but want to return to God. He loves us and wants to celebrate that happy return with us.

It is very revealing to note what happened just before Jesus told this story. Luke tells us, "the sinners were all gathering around Jesus to hear Him." Why? What had Jesus done to attract these sinners, these people whom the Pharisees called the good –for nothings of society?

Jesus had just held out an invitation and a challenge. He had told the parable of the great supper, in which God invites many, but they all find excuses and fail to come. So then the king sends out his servants to invite others, because the first invited guests are busy making excuses. After this parable, Jesus challenges His audience to dare to be His disciples, because they are going to have to carry the cross with Him. And this attracts the sinners to Jesus! He is at the same time inviting them and challenging them to a new life, a greater life than they have ever known.

Just incase any of his listeners wonder, "Does he mean me?" Jesus tells the parable of the wayward son and the forgiving father. The parable says, "No matter how you think you have failed, your heavenly Father will receive you back with love, and He invites you to that new life in Him."

That is the invitation and the challenge which Jesus is holding out to each one of us. God's unfailing and unquestionable love for each of us comes through in the parable. We should note the role of the son in Christ's story. The father could not have forgiven the son, if the son had not returned to his father to receive it. The son was open and ready for forgiveness, because he was honest enough to see himself as he really was. He saw that his life was empty, that he had thrown away his real blessing for false ones, and that he would be infinitely better off returning to his Father.

Fr. Victor Dalmet

- **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:**
- **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 16, 2007.***

1. On Sunday 16th CWF committee meeting at 10.30 a.m.
2. The collection at Masses on last Sunday, amounted to Rs.34,834.00
3. The collections from Perpetual Succour box amounted to Rs 3725..00.
4. Children's love offering at Mother Mary's feast Mass amounted to Rs. 23,051.00
5. Collection in front of the statue of Our Lady of the Mount amounted to Rs. 7875.00

This Week's Liturgical Readings

17/Mon S. Robert Bel/armine, bp dr.1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 27:3,7,8-9; Lk 7:1-10
 18/Tue 1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 100:1-2ab,2cd-3ab,5,6; Lk 7:11-17
 19/Wed S. Januarius, bp m 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 110:1-2,3,4,5-6; Lk 7:31-35
 20/Thu S. Andrew Kim Taegon & Comps mm mem 1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 110:7-8,9,10; Lk 7:36-50
 21/Fri S. MATTHEW, Ap Ev - Fst Eph 4:1-7,11-13; Ps 18:2-3,4-5ab; Mt 9:9-13
 22/Sat BVM on Saturday 1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 99:1-2,3,4,5; Lk 8:4-15
 23/Sun Amos 8:4-7; 1Tim 2:1-8;Lk 16:1-13

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

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.

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|| 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.)	

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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
EUCARIST 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.

expecting their first child prepare themselves for this special event.

The church, a true mother, desires that the members of its family are given every opportunity to bring to maturity the seed of faith sown in them by God in Baptism, the Sacrament of Initiation into the church.

For the past several years the church is offering the would-be-parents, an opportunity to renew their own faith as they make a gift of it to their child in Baptism.

Couples who await the arrival of their first baby are led to a community catechesis of two consecutive Sunday evenings, nourishing them as they marvel at their experience of becoming co-creators with God.

The Diocesan Pastoral Centre has put together a very practical and profound set of sessions which are conducted with couples expecting the arrival of their first baby, as well as with godparents-to-be. These sessions lead the participants to reflect on the essential elements of baptizing infants within the parish community.

It is requested that the would-be parents attend the pre- baptism program immediately after the third month of pregnancy, reason being, when you attend these sessions during the early pregnancy stage, (and not really in the advanced pregnancy stage),you will experience the power of the Holy Spirit working within you and experience a tension free and happy pregnancy term. Indeed this is based on conviction, borne out by practice. It also helps to gain insight into the mystery of baptism as well as form proper attitudes for choosing name, godparents, etc.

Also, the would-be parents and godparents experience transformation and become aware of the beautiful moments gifted to them by God and this in turn has an impact on the child to be born. Couples experience an atmosphere of prayer at these sessions which are carried to their homes to relive the faith in their own families as well.

This program is an eye-opener for many, as most Catholics lack knowledge of the spiritual richness and the scriptural foundation of liturgical and sacramental prayers. This takes up the challenge from the Rite of Baptism which prays for the would-be -parents to be the first and best examples/teachers of faith to their children. It shows how in simple, ordinary, practical ways this can be done.

PRE-BAPTISM AND WHAT IT ENTAILS

There are key moments in the life of a family; the birth of a child is surely one of these. One of the

beautiful initiatives taken in our Archdiocese has been the Pre-Baptism Catechesis. It is essential that couples



Today's materialistic world is so busy trying to make ends meet with no time for self and family. We make advance preparations for giving the best physical, academics and social life for our children, but 'the spiritual is left out. Hence, this program has been devised to give that awareness and reflection for the would-be-parents /godparents; to assist them help the child imbibe sound moral values and experience the richness of spiritual life.

The main purpose is not to get on with the program, but to provide better foothold for God's action to take place. We have to reclaim the power of the Holy Spirit to live out our mission in the modern world.

Pre-Baptism Team.



FREE LUNCH SCHEME

Acts Ch 4:32-37 states that the believers were of one heart and soul and *nor was there anyone among them who lacked*. Our efforts to form small Christian communities like the ones mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles may still remain a pipe dream. However, we can attempt to try some of the salient features of those early Christian communities. One such feature could be to see that there is no one in want atleast a daily meal. In this connection I had once made a suggestion in one of my homilies that no one should go to bed on a hungry stomach in our parish. I had also talked it over with some people, members of the Welfare Fund Committee and Fr. Gerry Fernandes. All felt it could be tried. Hence I am placing before parishioners one easy and simple way of free meal scheme operation which could be tried for a year and continue if funds are available.

1. The scheme will be known as St. John's Free Lunch Scheme for one who cannot afford a day's meal.
2. Some 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 phone about it.

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 at about 12.30 noon.
8. The Canteen manager will collect the coupon and hand over a packet of lunch to be taken home.
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 once in a while that someone cares 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 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

You are welcome to give your suggestions in a week's time. Volunteers wanting to work on this scheme are requested to give their names to the parish office. We could then form a kind of a cell like the deacons in the Acts of the Apostle to handle this scheme.

--Parish Priest.

23rd Sunday -- 09 September, 2007.



NEW MEMBERS		
Name	<i>Dt. Of Baptism</i>	<i>Dt. Of Birth</i>
Myra E.Miranda	05.08.2007	10.01.2007
Elishka Soares	19.08.2007	04.07.2007
UNITED IN CHRIST		
Date	Bride	Bridegroom
18.08.2007	Rachel A. Fernandes	Vicky Saraf
26.08.2007	Jophy Kallarakkal	Daxvin
OF LATE MEMORIES		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	
07.08.2007	<i>Telesphore (Tellis) Lewis</i>	
10.08.2007	<i>Roque Menezes</i>	
23.08.2007	<i>George Archarya</i>	
31.08.2007	<i>Profin Fernandes</i>	

HOPE & LIFE MOVEMENT

Sept.8th: OUR LADY'S BIRTHDAY

This day somehow brings some sort of JOY in our hearts and we, the members of the HOPE & LIFE MOVEMENT are definitely experiencing the joy at the thought of being able to visit the Shrine of Our Lady at Bandra.

For making this possible, our sincere THANKS go to:Our Spiritual Director, Fr.Rumao who encourages, helps and supports our Movement.

Our gratitude goes to all the Committee members for not only making pickles, sweets & snacks but for also working at the sale of these items.

We are also grateful to all our members for their contribution in cash and kind, and also to the parishioners who supplied us with food products at cost price, for sale. Our efforts at getting an amount to finance our expenses for a trip to the Mount was mainly due to the Parishioners who patronized our stalls the entire week.

So to ALL of you;

A BIG THANK YOU & GOD BLESS!!

A Members



09 Septe

FUNERALS AND BURIALS NORMS

1. When some one dies in the family, one of the family members or a close relative will approach the parish office to inform about the death and to arrange funeral and burial details with the church. In case you are alone, you may request the help of your animator or a close neighbour known to you to approach the parish office for funeral details and burial.
2. **No undertaker has been authorized to work out the details of funerals and burials with the church.**
3. Roman Catholics of Latin Rite residing within the boundary of St. John the Baptist Church are parishioners of this church and come under the Archdiocese of Bombay and their spiritual, sacramental and pastoral care is the concern of the Parish Team. Roman Catholics of Syro-Malabar/Malankara Rite or of any other Rite have their own parishes which come under the Kalyan Diocese or their respective diocese and are attended to by their respective Parish Priests.
4. The St. John the Baptist Church cemetery is meant for the burials of parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church presently in-residence within the parish boundaries. Those who have shifted their residence elsewhere outside the parish boundary of St. John the Baptist Church belong to the parishes of their residence and are to be cared for by those respective parish fathers.
5. A vagabond person who has no one to claim and is known as a Catholic, after police clearance, if required, may be considered for a Christian burial on humanitarian ground. This kind gesture is not to be construed as precedence or a norm in any way.
6. If someone happens to be given a burial in St. John the Baptist Church Cemetery **for lack of sufficient evidence**, this material fact does not become precedence or a norm.



THE JOY OF BEING GOOD

John Adams was a leader in a small island called Picairn in the Pacific Ocean. He led a life of drunkenness, ribaldry and murder. One day he found an old Bible. Though he was not interested in it, it was the only book available on the island, and he started to read it. The word of God began to work in him, and eventually, he changed his life and became a new creation in Christ. He built a school and church and began to lead the children in Christian experience. Years later, a strong Christian community was formed on this island. The warm and pleasant behaviour of the people on this island attracted passengers who were sailing through the Pacific. In 1980 when a census was taken all the inhabitants of the island were Christians.

Turning away from God, there is destruction, death and wretchedness; turning towards the Lord, there is joy, life and blessedness. When John Adams turned away from the Lord, he was induced to drunkenness and death, but when he turned towards the Lord, he found joy, life and blessedness.

The three readings of today speak of similar characters. In the first reading it is the ungrateful people of Israel, whom, God redeemed from slavery. In the second reading it is the life of Paul. While he was ignorant of Christ, he was a fierce persecutor of the Church. When he experienced Christ on his way to Damascus he became a vibrant preacher of the gospel. Finally we find a similar character in the parable of the prodigal son. When the son turned away from his father he ruined his life but when he turned towards his father, he found joy and dignity in life.

Our turning from sinful life brings joy to everyone, to God who loves us so dearly, to our family members who are relieved of tensions caused by our sinful habits, to our neighbourhood which yearns for peace and calm in the community and to us ourselves it

promises good health, peace of mind and spiritual warmth and comfort.

Create Him Not The love of God is indescribable but a old Jewish legend does a pretty good job. It describes what happened when God created man. The legend says God took into counsel the Angels that stood about his throne. The Angel of Justice said; 'Create him not ? for if you do he will commit all kinds of wickedness against his fellow man; he will be hard and cruel and dishonest and unrighteous.' The Angel of Truth said, 'Create him not ? for he will be false and deceitful to his brother and even to Thee.' The Angel of Holiness stood and said; 'Create him not ? he will follow that which is impure in your sight, and dishonor you to your face.'

Then stepped forward the Angel of Mercy, God's most beloved, angel, and said; 'Create him, our Heavenly Father, for when he sins and turns from the path of right and truth and holiness I will take him tenderly by the hand, and speak loving words to him, and then lead him back to you.'

Brett Blair, eSermons.com