

LOCUSTS & HONEY

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly

Vol. 3, No. 47

18 November, 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: 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

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.

PARISH VISITATION

This Tuesday Parish Fathers will visit K'Villa .

World Communications Day

Theme: "Children and the Media: A Challenge for Education"

Today we are celebrating the India Communications Day. All of us have been profoundly impacted by the communication revolution around us. Even children and youth are much influenced by TV and the Internet. Recognising this, early this year Pope Benedict XVI announced the theme of the 41st World Communications Day as, "Children and the Media: A Challenge for Education". While we benefit from the all pervasive media, the Holy Father wants us to sensitise children to the harmful effects of some means of communication through media education.

We acknowledge that the media are "Gifts of God" to humanity. However, they can build or destroy, make or mar human lives and relationships between individuals and groups. Let us appreciate and thank God for the wonderful gifts of communications media. Let us recognize the numerous possibilities of using them for entertainment, education and enhancing relationships between people. Also let us be aware of their harmful influences and acknowledge our failure to be critical and discerning consumers of media. We have to be sensitive to our responsibility to help children keep away from the harmful use of media and personally for abusing or misusing them.

In his message for the World Communications Day, Pope Benedict XVI focuses on how proper formation can help children learn to be truly free. He looks at how the knowledge of how to exercise their own freedom in the social context in which they find themselves, can help them develop a profound joy of life. For this reason, the Holy Father appeals to Church members, families and schools to provide an effective education in the use of the media

The Holy Father reminds us that children need to be accompanied as much as possible as they interact with the media and where the risk of confusing reality with fiction exists. Ideally, parents, teachers and parish communities should become knowledgeable of the languages and techniques used by the media in order to be better selective of what they offer, to assist children in discernment and in making better choices. General criteria based on principles such as beauty, goodness and truth can offer good guidelines in selecting programmes, content or even videogames.

--extracts from CBCI Booklet.

***This week's announcements
November 18, 2007.***

1. *This week Tuesday Fathers will visit K'Villa.*
2. *Sunday, 18th November will be celebrated a 'World Communications Day'.*
3. *Night Adoration will be held on Saturday, 24th November, 07 at 11.00 p.m. onwards*
1. *Sunday, 25th November is the feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ the Universal King. It is also the day of XIII Hours' Adoration of the Eucharistic Lord. The adoration turns are given separately in this bulletin. Please, adhere to your turn.*
4. *The collection at Masses last Sunday, amounted to Rs.24,925 00*
5. *The collections from the Perpetual Succour image box amounted to Rs.4,865.00*

This Week's Liturgical Readings

19/Mon 1 Mac 1:10-15,41-43,54-57,62-64; Ps 118:55&61,134&150.155&158; Lk 18:35-43
 20/Tue 2 Mac 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-3,4-5.6-7; Lk 19:1-10
 21/Wed The Presentation of the BVM - mem Zech 2:14-17; Ps Lk 1:46-47,48-49,50-51,52-53,54-55; Lk 12:46-50
 22/Thu S. Cecilia, vg m - mem 1 Mac 2:15-29; Ps 49:1-2,5-6,14-15; Lk 19:41-44
 23/Fri (G/RIW) Or S. Clement I, Pp m Or S. Columban, ab 1 Mac 4:36-37, 52 -59; Ps 1 Chr 29:10,11,12,13; Lk 19:45-48
 24/Sat (R) .Ss, Andrew Dung-Lac, pt & Comps, mm - mem 1 Mac 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-3,4&6.16b&19; Lk 20:27-40
25/Sun O.L. Jesus Christ the Universal King – 2 Sam 5:1-3; Col.1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43. – A Day of XIII Hours' Adoration.

Smile, Giggle, Laugh!



As any devout Catholic will tell you, going to confession allows people to get a lot off their chests. Sometimes too much. I was waiting my turn at the confessional when I heard a priest admonish one penitent, "Please limit your confession to your own sins."

--BEATRICE ROORIGUEZ

A WOMAN rubbed a lamp and a genie came out. "I'm a one-wish genie. What will it be?"

"See this map? I want these countries to stop fighting so we can have world peace."

"They've been at war thousands of years. I'm not that good," he said. "What else do you wish?"

"Well, I'd love a good man. One who's considerate, loves kids, likes to cook and doesn't watch sports all day."

"Okay," the genie said with a sigh. "Let me see that map again."

XIII HOURS' ADORATION

November 25, 2007

The zone-wise adoration visits will be as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 10.30 to 11.30 a. m. | Kopri / Parish Pastoral Council /Lewis Wadi / SVP members |
| 11.30 to 12.30 p.m. | Shrirang, Satguru, Anand Park, Azad Nagar / Lectors |
| . | Khopat, Pratap./ Hope & Life Movement / Women's Cell |
| 12.30 to 01.30p.. m. | Rabodi 1&2 / Youth NaupadaII / Charismatic Prayer Group |
| . | Mahagiri and K'Villa / Legion of Mary Cherai North |
| 02..30 to 03.30.p. m. | Cherai, South Naupada / Divine Mercy Prayer Group |
| . | Kolbad / Ladies / Men Sodality |
| . | Utalsar, Vikas, Sumer / Sacred Heart League |
| 04.30 to 05.30 p. m. | Brindavan / Eucharistic Ministers |
| | Common Adoration for all |

AT 5.30 P.M. MASS IN THE CHURCH, followed by Concluding Service – Procession, Sermon by Rev. Deacon and Final Benediction. NO 6.30 P.M. MASS.

*N.B. please, note the procession will start from the church main door, move onto the Ahilya Devi Road towards Jambli Naka, turn left via Archie's onto the old Bombay-Pune Road, move towards the Dagdi Shala, enter into the Ahilya Devi Road, moving eastward to enter the church premises from the gate near the Christ the King Statue and assemble on the quadrangle for final preaching and benediction. There will be **NO MASS in the church after the final Benediction.***

N.B. Parishioners will club together zone-wise and walk in the procession with the banners of their respective zones leading them in the procession.

18 November, 2007.

Fullerton India are organizing a Free Eye Check Camp on Nov 18th, 2007 in the Pavilion from 9.30 a.m. onwards. All re welcome to check

UNITED IN CHRIST		
Date	Bride	Bridegroom
20.10.2007	Monica G.Charles Sextus	Stefans Lewins
27.10.2007	Sonia P. D'souza	Gerard R.R. D'souza

OF LATE MEMORIES	
Date	Name
05.10.2007	Abraham Fernandes
11.10.2007	Mary Shetty
13.10.2007	Philomena Miranda
15.10.2007	Anthony Pires
16.10.2007	Gnana Selvam
28.10.2007	Esabel Picardo

COMMUNITY WELFARE FUND COMMITTEE

Three years go we launched upon the 1% tithing scheme. Since then the response of the parishioners and well-wishers has been very heartening and commendable. Without any mechanism of reminders or compulsions, our devout and committed parishioners have been religiously making their 1% tithing contribution towards the community fund. In keeping with the Bishop's circular as to the disbursement of the fund, a committee of representatives from every zone has been formed. This committee has been regularly meeting every month to study the applications for medical assistance and disburses funds accordingly. The committee has now completed its term of three years and has to be replaced with the fresh representatives or the earlier ones re-elected as may be the case. The core-groups of all the zones are therefore requested to choose their representatives from their respective zones at their monthly meeting and give their names to the parish office by 17th December, 2007. You may re-elect the previous representative for another term, if you wish to. While selecting your representative, kindly, keep the following points in mind: 1. your representative should be willing to attend the CWF monthly meetings regularly; 2. the person chosen should be willing to visit the needy applicant/person from your area; 3. the chosen representative should have empathy towards the needy. The name of the selected representative with his address and telephone number should be written on a paper in the format given below and hand over to the parish office. *Copies of this form are available in the office.*

Zone Name _____ Date _____

At the core-group meeting of zone....., held on.....,Mr/Mrs/Ms residing atTel. No.....has been selected/ elected/nominated/re-elected as our representative on the CWF committee for Jan.2008 to Dec. 2010.

Proposed by..... seconded by...
CWFC membership accepted by [rep].
Zonal coordinator's signature..... Date.....

On behalf of the parish and those who have been financially assisted, I want to place on record the services of the out-going CWF committee. All the outgoing members will agree with me that for the last three years we have learnt a lot from this exercise of disbursement of funds to the poor and needy; it has opened our eyes to the mental and emotional trauma people have to go through when faced with a huge medical expenses. As a caring community of believers we have to do a lot more for the sick, the poor and the marginalized. We all gratefully appreciate the regular contribution of 1% tithing made by our earning members of the parish community and pray for God's blessings on them.

The list of the outgoing CWF members

Brindavan	Mr. Audifax Sequeira
Cherai N	Mrs. Linda D'Souza
Cherai S	Mr. Floyd Gonsalves
HortalMahageri	--
Kolbad	Mrs. Jessie Sequeira
Kopat/Pratap	Mr. Isidore Gonsalves
Kopri	Mr. George Susai
K'Villa	Mrs. Lourdes Almeida
Lewiswadi	Mr. A.A. Lewis
Naupada I	Mr. Allwyn Pinto
Naupada II	Mr. Gordon Rodrigues
Rabodi	Mr. Assis Ferrao
Satguru I	--
Anand Park	Mr. Hudson D'Costa
Utalsar	Mr. Horace Soeiro
PPC secretary	Mr. Eustace de Cunha

--Parish Priest.

St. Francis Xavier, Utalsar Community will be celebrating their Annual Thanksgiving Zonal Mass on Monday, 3rd December, 07 at the Holy Cross Convent Chapel at 8.00p.m., being the Feast of their

NEWS FROM THE SODALITY:

The Sodality thanks the parishioners for donations in cash and kind and for patronising the sweets and snack stall held in aid of the Missions and various charitable institutions. The total amount collected is Rs 68,504/- A Cheque for Rs 40,000/- is being sent to the Society for the Propagation of Faith, Archdiocese of Bombay, for the Missions.

The balance amount is being distributed among various charities such as Prem Daan ,Ma Niketan ,Aasara, Naya Jivan,Muktha Jivan , REAP, Clergy Home and for snacks to the inmates at Mental hospital at Christmas.

God Bless you all abundantly for your generosity

The result of the sodality Hamper raffle, in support of various charities, held on 1st November, 2007 is as follows

1 st Prize	Ashley Almeida,	Majiwada
2 nd Prize	Jayden Lopes,	Cherai
3 rd Prize	Kevin D'sa	Kolbad

UNDERSTANDING YOU GOD

Dearest God

I have spent too many years,
Trying to understand your ways,
Comprehend the perfection of your creation
And the mystery of all suffering.
My head cannot get it all right
And may be that's the reason why,
Though I call myself 'senior Citizen,'
You still call me, 'Child.'

But this I know for sure,
That though I cannot see you,
Yet I can feel you,
Before me and behind me,
Beside me and above me,
Psalm 91:4 says,
I am under your wings,
Covered by your pinions,
This makes me feel confident,
I am safe after all.



Thank you Lord for sending us angels
To banish all our fears,
Thank you for your goodness and mercy
All the days of our life.
You are our refuge, our fortress,
Our protector, our deliverer,
Our defender, our comforter
No one else can we trust.



Ella

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

The Saviour is waiting

The Saviour is waiting to enter our hearts,
To keep Him waiting so long does not look good on our part.

Why should we involve ourselves in world's activity !
Tell me, in life is this our only necessity ?

Kitty parties, glamour and fashion has become a common trend,
Competition amongst youngsters seems to never end.

Acquiring money and status is likely to go on endlessly,
Will it ever come to a halt, is what I keep asking myself repeatedly.

Pride and ego keep surfacing on and off,
It makes no difference to us, but to the Saviour it hurts Him very much.!

Envy and jealousy are injurious to the heart,
The Saviour is waiting patiently to enter, why don't from them we finally depart !

Gone are those old days when people used to sing the Lord's praise,
Today people seem to have been lost in the crowd loosing on God's grace.

All the money and property we possess are absolutely worthless,
We need to be rich spiritually as our hearts for Him is priceless.

The Saviour is waiting to enter our hearts,
Let us welcome Him for He loves us just too much.

Malcolm Nobre

SENIOR COLLEGE Queries.

1) *At most only 20% of the college strength would be made up of students from the Parish. Balance 80% would be outsiders. Is it then worthwhile spending our scarce resources in terms of land, money and management time on this project? It may be better to spend our money and effort to give extra coaching to our students to help them get into good colleges, or into other professional courses.*

Ans.: The proposal of a Catholic minority senior college at Thane is meant for the Thane **region** and at the moment St. John the Baptist High School and Junior College is in a position and privileged to extend its services to this region even in the field of higher education. An overview of the surroundings will show that no other parish such as Airoli, Dombivli, Kalva, Mumbra, Majiwada, Pokhran, Wagle Estate or Kalyan, Ulhasnagar, Ambarnath has any of the facilities required for a senior college. Besides over the years the St. John the Baptist Church/school has served all these areas as a **mother** church in the past and as a **mother** educational institute to the children of these areas for their high school and junior college aspirations. Though only 20% of the college strength may be made up of students from this parish, the Catholic minority degree college will be allowed to admit 50% students from Catholic community as per the Supreme Court ruling and that itself will be our joy that we still continue to be a mother institute sheltering all. Moreover, like St. Andrew's Senior College imparting value education and good formation to their senior college students, some day, the proposed senior college at Thane under our Catholic management will be able to mould good citizens for the future of our country. It will be then worth spending every pie on excellent education and good discipline the alumni of this institute will receive.



Any extra coaching in the form of tuitions is beyond the scope of formal education and as such the church cannot misuse its funds on mal-practices in education such as tuitions – a thing which is decried by every sensible educationist and even the Government of the day..

2) *Today after completing school, there are various career opportunities which go beyond Arts, Science and Commerce. Our proposed college would cover only a few streams, and will therefore not meet the needs of our students fully.*

Ans.: There are hundreds of opportunities and careers in the field of education. I don't think any college in the world can brag about running all

these courses in every field of science on the same campus. I think it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. What we propose is to start with a humble beginning. Today's sapling will one day grow into a pimple tree, where all the birds of the air will find shelter! We propose to begin from the premises of St. John



the Baptist and expand and add more courses as we find a campus-like vast grounds to house this seat of wisdom.

3) *The present ambience of St Johns Church and School is just adequate in terms of open spaces. Any extra structures would make the whole place very congested and unmanageable.*

Ans.: Our church and school are located on a plot admeasuring nearly 20000 sq. meters, i.e. nearly five acres of land. There is ample place and FSI to add a little more as suggested in the earlier article, as the same will be covering mostly the area of the illegal pavilion structure. What may be more advisable



is to reduce the intake of students in the primary,

and secondary sections in years to come by bringing down the number of divisions from today's six to four in each standard, as present strength of Catholic students is 30% and make use of those classrooms for accommodating more courses in higher education. This will eventually create the kind of ambience we want.

4) *Normally, a College and School should not be in close vicinity. College life is totally different from school life and cross pollination of culture, will be disastrous to the school children. We should therefore not plan any structure for the college (in case we decide to go ahead) in the present Church and School compound*

Ans.: It is ideal to have a college and a school in different locations away from each other. However, at the initial stage it may not be possible, if we are really

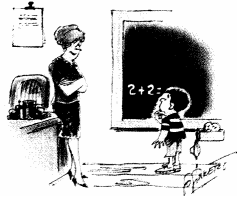


serious about wanting our junior college grow vertically. With the proposed additional structure in place of the illegal pavilion structure, an access can be opened specially for senior college students adjacent to the special school building on the Veer Sawarkar Road, as long as the senior college classes continue to be on the premises of the junior college. This may help maintain overall ambience in the complex.

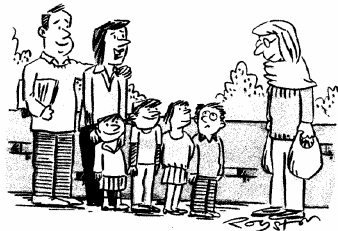
Traditionally the first delivery would take place at mother's place. It is the same when the proposed senior college is to take birth.

5) *To improve future prospects of our Parish students what we really need is to give them superior inputs at the school level. To do this, we urgently need to improve the standard and infrastructure of St John's School.*

Ans.: The suggestions under clause 5 can be looked into and parish students can be given a boost in whatever manner possible. However, our proposal of a Catholic minority senior college is for entire Thane region, making higher education available within the reach of all Catholic students and students of other faiths, imparting them the best of values coupled with the convent discipline our institutions are known for.



Cardinal Newman has said somewhere that a thousand difficulties do not make a thing impossible. A paradigm shift from the angle of the view-point of difficulties to the view-point of the good an institute of higher learning can do to the



society may help us see its worth and importance. We therefore need not harbour perceived fears which will cripple us from doing something for generations to come. Finally, the Acts 6:39 reminds us in the words of Gamaliel that, "If it (this senior college proposal) is of God, you cannot overthrow it---lest you be found to fight against God"

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 needv.

Dear Father(s),

The Diocesan Human Life Committee (DHLC) has teamed up with the Centre for Gandhian studies at K. J. Somaiya College to organize a Symposium on the Value of Human Life at the Prayer Hall of K. J. Somaiya College, Vidyanaagar, Vidyavihar, Mumbai on December 1, 2007 from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. The topic will be treated from the medical, legal and ethical points of view.

Parishioners wanting to attend the Symposium, may give their names to the DHLC Office on 2281-5762 during office hours.

In Christo,

Agnelo Gracias
Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay