

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. 03 20 January, 2008

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.

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



“There is the Lamb of God.” (Jn. 1:29)

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord marked the setting out of Jesus on his mission. In the words of prophet Isaiah the universal mission of Jesus was oriented towards reinstating the Kingdom of God. But the question still remains as to how was Jesus going to go about his programme? The liturgy of today is a response to this question. It is significant to remember that in the fourth Gospel we are told that John the Baptist did not know who the Messiah would be (cf. Jn. 1:31). But he was aware of the signs that would enable him to identify the Messiah (Jn 1:33). These signs were fulfilled at the Baptism of Jesus (Mt. 3: 16-17). After envisaging the signs fulfilled concerning the Messiah, that is, the descending of the Spirit ‘like a dove’ from heaven and stay on him (cf. Jn.1:32) the next day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming to him and said, “There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (Jn 1:29). By uttering these words John the Baptist subtly insinuates at the mission of Jesus. Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world? They contain three identifiable Old Testament allusions.

In the Old Testament the lamb, because of its innocence and mildness played an important role in sacrifices. Earlier in the book of Genesis, it was Isaac, who asked his father Abraham “where is the lamb of sacrifice?” (Gen. 22:7). This question was answered by John the Baptist centuries later when he referred to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (cf. Jn. 1:29). God had at last provided the Lamb – Jesus. Again the song of the suffering servant of Isaiah compares the suffering servant of God with the lamb that is led to the slaughter: like the sheep that before it shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth (cf. Isa. 53:7). Alike the Suffering servant Jesus went through his Passion without opening his mouth. Even more importantly, Jesus was crucified on the feast of the Passover and from that moment on could only appear as the true Passover Lamb. Just as the Paschal Lamb was the symbol of deliverance from political slavery of Egypt, John the Baptist was saying that it was also a symbol of deliverance from the spiritual slavery of sin. “For God did not sent His Son to judge, but to be the Saviour.” (Jn. 3:17)

John the Baptist, in other words, tells us that Jesus is the Suffering servant foreshadowed in Isaiah, the Passover lamb and Lamb provided by God in place of Isaac. Therefore his mission consists in dying on the Cross patiently like a sacrificial lamb. The liturgy strongly emphasizes that Jesus Christ is one who shared our history.

Dn. Oniel Rodrigues

This week's announcements
January 20, 2008.

1. *On Friday, 25th January the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul is celebrated.*
2. *January 18-25 is celebrated as Christian Unity Week. You are requested to pray for the unity among all Christians.*
3. *Next Sunday will be celebrated as **Vocation Sunday.***
4. *Saturday, 26th January, The Republic Day. At 7.15 a.m. Flag Hoisting in front of the Church.*
5. *Saturday, 26th January, Night Adoration at 11.00 p.m.*
6. *The collection at Masses last Sunday, amounted to Rs.26,985. 00*
7. *The collection from the box in front of the Perpetual Succour amounted to Rs. 7,425/-*
8. *A gold chain has been found on 1st January, 08. The owner may claim it from Parish Priest.*

This Week's Liturgical Readings

21/Mon St Agnes, (M) 1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 49:8-9.16bc-17.21&23; Mk 2:18-22
 22/Tue 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 88:20.21-22.27-28; Mk 2:23-28
 23/Wed 1 Sm 17:32-33.37.40-51; Ps 143:1b.2.9-10; Mk 3:1-6
 24/Thu St Francis de Sales (M) 1 Sm 18:6-9;19:1-7; Ps 55:2-3.9-10a.10b-11.12-13; Mk 3:7-12
 25/Fri Conversion of St Paul, (F) Acts 22:3-16; Ps 116:1bc.2; Mk 16:15-18
 26/Sat Sts Timothy and Titus (M) 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Tit 1:1-5; Ps 95:1-2a.2b-3.7-8a.10; Lk 10:1-9
 27/Sun Is 8:23-9:3; 1Cor1:10-13; Mt4:12-23.

Smile, Giggle, Laugh!

A pretentious poet reportedly lamented to Oscar Wilde that the reviewer neglected his poems. "It's a conspiracy against me," he cried, "a conspiracy of silence. What shall I do?" "Join it," Oscar Wilder advised him.

* * *

"Waitress," shouted the impatient diner, "do I have to sit here all night and starve?"
 "No, Sir, we close at nine o'clock."

* * *

The tourist asked the farmer if it was possible to catch the three o'clock train by taking a short cut through the fields.
 "Sure," said the farmer. "and if the bull sees you, you might even catch the two o'clock express."



PRE-BAPTISM CATECHESIS SESSIONS

Pre Baptism Catechesis Sessions will be held on 20th January 2008 and 27th January 2008 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 27th January 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 18th January 2008. A certified copy of the Marriage Certificate will have to be attached to the Registration Form.
 Fr.John Rumao (Sp..Dir.)

PRO-CANA GET TOGETHR AT THANE.

The Family Cell Thane Deanery organizes 'PRO-CANA GATHRING' for eligible bachelors and spinsters not more than 35 years old **on 26th January, 2008 from 8.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist School – Hall.**

Last date for registration is extended to 25th January 2008.

Contactt: Mr. Desmond (Family Cell) on c. 9869243203.

ST. GONSALO GARCIA FEAST

The Feast of Gonsalo Garcia will be celebrated on 5th February 08 .Feast Mass will in the evening at 7.00.pm in Marathi. All are cordially invited

URGENT NEWS FROM ORISSA via SMS

Some 200 hundred people are mssing, four primary schools are burnt. These facts are hidden from the public. You are requested to pray for the suffering church.

**ST JOHN BAPTIST POLYTECHNIC
COLLEGE**

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

In Association with USHA International LTD
(USHA Shriram Group) Manufactures of USHA
Sewing & Embroidery Machines.

U S H A

Announces

Certificate Courses

- 1) Sewing & Designing (6 Months)
- 2) Embroidery Course
- 3) Sp. Blouse Cours,
- 4) sp. Salwar suit course,
- 5) Ladies Basic & advanced Course,
- 6) Men's basic & advance Course.

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

Contact - Yogita Kashyap (USHA Rep.)
Mob.986 788 4228

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**

Free Demo cum workshop
On 13th & 14th January, 2008.
Time 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Save The Planet Earth

We need to follow the path of sustainable development, It is nice to see civilization progress but without hurting nature's sentiment.



The amount of green house gases in the atmosphere is ever on the rise, There has been an increase in the average temperatures and in the Antarctica the melting of the ice.

Aren't we responsible citizens of planet earth ?

We then need to move into action before climate change begin to hurt.

Not much is asked for by mother nature,
A few good habits we need to nurture.

Conserve energy by switching off electrical appliances when not in use,
Save on fuel by avoiding unnecessary use of vehicles as we do not have much to lose.

Do not encourage or support deforestation,
The forests absorb carbon dioxide and provide us with oxygen.

Let us build up love in our children for the planet,
Without the company of lush greenery life on earth will be difficult to manage.

Let us pray for the political leaders in power,
May the good Lord give them the wisdom to think selflessly so as to save our children's future.

The earth is God's gift to you and me,
If we do not take the responsibility of preserving its beauty, then our children's tomorrow will never be.

Malcolm Nobre

QUEST



The Diocesan Vocation Service Centre (CDVSC) is organizing the QUEST Programme (A programme of interactive sessions where you get to meet with other youngsters who are also discerning a vocation.) for college students, working youth or others

It will be held on Saturday, 20th - .January 2008 at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Bandra from 9 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. This QUEST is special because it will be for men and women. The program will include the following topics besides quiz and games

1. The influence of MASS MEDIA in making our decisions.
2. The CHALLENGES of working in the Lord's Vineyard today
3. Basic COUNSELLING SKILLS "

Please confirm that you are coming by Thursday, 24th January 2008. Contact the Vocation Office

(Ph: 26422556/26555500/26431384/26441200) or email: callup@rediffmail.com Registration is free

LAMB OF GOD

When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him, he said "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." John spoke in the Aramaic language, the modern Hebrew of his time. The word for lamb was "thalya", also meant servant. Thus the Lamb of God meant also the servant of God.

Isaiah wrote." He is like a lamb led to the slaughter," In other words, Jesus the Lamb is perfect obedient to the Father. Isaiah also calls Him "the suffering Lamb" and therefore "the suffering Servant".

Jesus takes away the sins of the world by suffering .by letting the evils of sin hurt him. He lets the hatred and envy of the Pharisees hurt Him; he lets the selfness and ingratitude of the people hurt him. Thus he suffers all His life for our sins, until the violent death of Good Friday. In doing this, Jesus faced the real world as we know it. We all experience suffering from the sins of others, as well as from our own. Our anger, dishonest, stubbornness, fickleness-all our sins hurt others, as we each are hurt by others 'failings.

From every eye some tears must fall: we cannot escape suffering .Life is like the keyboard of a piano: first a white Key, then a black one: a white note of joy, then a black note of sorrow, yet somehow they blend into the perfect song. The very fact that we have teeth- which is good, especially when you have nice straight ones-also means that some day you may have a toothache, which can be pretty bad!

God never told us that this life on each would be only a mountain peak of joy. Rather, it is the road to that mountain peak! And there are plenty of bumps on this road. How much these bumps hurt you depends on how strong your moral and spiritual springs are. Do we say," God should not dare to plant any rosebushes in my garden .because roses have thorns and thorns hurt? If so, are we not saying. "God should not treat me the way He treated Christ, His only beloved Son!"

Fr.Victor Dalmet

Note for Locusts and Honey:

In view of the prevailing atmosphere in St. John the Baptist parish, Thane, as bishop-incharge of the Archdiocesan Heritage Committee, I am authorizing the Heritage Committee to collect the ancient artifacts and statues that are not being used in the parish. These will be preserved in the Heritage "Museum" with a board indicating that they belong to 81. John the Baptist Church, Thane. If ever, in the future, the parish were to undertake to build its own museum, they could be taken back to the parish.

I had spoken about this to Fr. John Rumao earlier and he had agreed to this, but we had not carried out this idea. We are doing so now.

+ Agnelo Gracias

Zonal Bishop

December 3, 2007.

N.B. For any queries, you may contact Fr. Warner D'Souza

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER- UTALSAR COMMUNITY.

The events celebrated in our Community from June to December 2007 (half yearly).

PARISH FEAST : Utalsar Community was appointed one of the Novena Days Monday, 18th June, and the Theme allotted was 'BLOOD PRESSURE'.

A special Liturgy was prepared. After the Mass a Presentation was given by one of our community members - Dr. (Mrs.) Benny Nagalur, with slides explaining the cause and precautions to be taken to maintain our Blood Pleasure.

On the 29th of July, the children and youth of our family Clusters felicitated the Parents in their respective homes, with PARENTS' DAY Greeting Cards made by them. They were accompanied by the animators. Parents appreciated and thank the children/youth by sweetening their mouth with chocolates.

4th/5th August, CLERGY DAY, Animators presented each of the four Priests of our Parish, with a Gift and a Greeting Card. A Dish was also presented to them on their Feast Day. Father Rumao expressed his appreciation and thanks also on behalf of the other Fathers.

PRAYER SERVICE was conducted on the 11 th of August, 2007, for the six Confirmation Candidates of our Zone, who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in February 2008. Animators, invoking the Holy Spirit, prayed over each one of them and presented each one with a Card and a Rose wishing them a safe and fruitful journey through life.

5th September, 2007, on TEACHERS' DAY, children were happy and excited to visit the Teachers of our community and greet them with a card made by the children themselves. Teachers were equally happy and appreciative.

OCTOBER -MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY ... Our Animators of the 10 Family Clusters went round informing all the families of their cluster the days scheduled and the Rosary was recited accordingly. At Azadnagar and Gokul nagar, the Statue of our Lady was taken in procession from home to home and the Rosary was conducted devotionally after which snacks and soft drink was shared. On the 31 st of October, 2007, in conclusion of the Devotion the Holy Rosary, was organized at the Community Cross; thereafter light refreshments were served. A good number of community members attended.

On 11 th November, CHILDREN DAY was celebrated, at the Holy Cross Convent open Hall at 7.00 p.m. Games and Quiz competitions were organized for the children. Six successful students of the S.S.c. Board Examination of March 2007, were felicitated and each of them was presented with a Gift on behalf of the Community. Refreshments were served and both children and parents had an enjoyable evening. Every child (even baby in arms) were given a take-away gift.

PATRON FEAST / ZONAL MASS - On December 3, 2007 - Feast of our Patron, St. Francis Xavier, our ANNUAL THANKSGIVING HOLY EUCHRIST was celebrated at the Holy Cross Convent Chapel at 8.00 P.M. A special Liturgy was prepared on the theme: "UNION WITH GOD AND PEOPLE". After the Distribution of Holy Communion, 19 Animators took their solemn Pledge and Commitment to serve and work to build a Christ-Centered Community. The Celebrant signed and blest each animator while the whole community invoked the blessing of the Holy Spirit singing SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD.

After the Mass a community Get-together was organized so that the families of our Community could interact with one another. A good number of families attended. Though the time was short, people enjoyed themselves and were happy to be together as one family. The Evening concluded with a sumptuous dinner.

To celebrate Christmas, 24 very poor families were given a Christmas Hamper of 1 Kg. Chicken and a Cake. The Chicken was graciously donated by one of our Community member .. The families expressed their joy and gratitude

We Animators thank Almighty God for being with us in all our endeavors to build our Community of love, service and fellowship. We pray that the Holy Spirit guide us to always work together in love, unity, cooperation and mutual understanding to build a Christ-centered Community. Thank You Jesus.

Iris Soeiro

Community Coordinator.

COMMUNITY WELFARE FUND SCHEME

From 1st January 2005 onward we have launched upon the community welfare fund scheme. Every earning member is urged to make his/her contribution of 1 % of monthly or yearly income towards community welfare and for charity towards the poor and the needy. Empty CWF envelopes are placed on the Church Support Boxes and on the side-altars. They are also available with your zonal representatives. You will also find them inside the Locust & Honey issues. Please, write your name, address, zone etc. legibly, put your contribution in it and put them in the 'Church Support' steel boxes or hand it over to the parish office. Receipts will be issued as Soon as possible.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ON ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY WELFARE FUND for 2008 -2011

| Zone | 2005-2007 | 2008-2011 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Brindavan | Mr. Audifax Sequeira | Mr. Audifax Sequeira |
| Cherai N | Mrs. Linda D'Souza | Mr. Alex miranda |
| Cherai S | Mr. Floyd Gonsalves | Mr. Floyd Gonsalves |
| Horta/ Mahageri | | <i>to be nominated</i> |
| Kolbad | Mrs. Jessie Sequeira | Mr. Nelson D'Sa |
| Kopat/Pratap | Mr. Isidore Gonsalves | Mr. Isidore Gonsalves |
| Kopri | Mr. George Susai | <i>to be nominated</i> |
| K'Villa | Mrs. Lourdes Almeida | Mrs. Lourdes Almeida |
| Lewiswadi | Mr. A.A. Lewis | Mr. A.A. Lewis |
| Naupada I | Mr. Allwyn Pinto | Mr. Agnel Raj |
| Naupada II | Mr. G. Rodrigues. | Margaret Mangaonwala |
| Rabodi | Mr. Assis Ferrao | Mr. Assis Ferrao |
| Satguru I | | |
| Anand Park | Mr. Hudson D'Costa | Mr. Hudson D'Costa |
| Utalsar | Mr. Horace Soeiro | Mr. Roland Almeida |

N.B. The new committee will meet on Sunday, 20th January, 2008 at 10.30 a.m. in the paish meeting room.
--Parish Priest.

We congratulate
Msgr. Felix Machado
of Diocese of Vasai
on the occasion of his
appointment
as Archbishop of Nasik
by Pope Benedict XVI

| CWF Collection for 2007 – 2008 | |
|---|-------------------|
| Year | Total Collection |
| Apr-07 | 83,913.00 |
| May-07 | 86,411.00 |
| Jun-07 | 79,360.00 |
| Jul-07 | 105,648.00 |
| Aug-07 | 110,066.00 |
| Sep-07 | 74,033.00 |
| Oct-07 | 87,242.00 |
| Nov-07 | 101,875.00 |
| Dec-07 | 145,185.00 |
| Total | 873,733.00 |
| Zonewise CWF contribution from April 07 to Dec. 07 | |
| BRINDAVAN | 163,960.00 |
| CHERAI NORTH | 52,075.00 |
| CHERAI SOUTH | 60,375.00 |
| HORTA MAGHERI | 27,185.00 |
| KHOPAT | 86,395.00 |
| KOLBAD | 76,650.00 |
| KOPRI | 49,765.00 |
| KVILLA | 71,188.00 |
| LOUISWADI | 52,435.00 |
| NAUPADA I | 59,740.00 |
| NAUPADA II | 61,635.00 |
| RABODI | 35,050.00 |
| SATGURU / ANAND PARK | 27,520.00 |
| UTALSAR | 48,050.00 |
| UNKNOWN | 1,710.00 |
| TOTAL | 873,733.00 |

ATTENTION YOUTH!!!

On 27th January 2008, the PYAT (Parish Youth Animating Team) is organizing a half-a-day programme for all the youth of the parish. **The programme will kick-off with the Eucharist at 9.15 a.m. followed by ice-breakers, refreshments and data-collation in the hall.** Requesting all the youth to attend in large numbers.

The PYAT is also organizing a **three-day Lenten Mission (8th, 9th and 10th February 2008) exclusively for the youth of the parish from 7.00 to 9.00 in the evening.** Themes for the Lenten mission: **8th - Boy-girl relationship and human sexuality, 9th - Life-management, 10th - Youth and God.** Entreating parents to encourage the youth to attend the Lenten