



LOCUSTS & HONEY



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly

Vol. 3, No. 43

21 October, 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

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

This week's gospel message:

PERSISTENT PRAYER

If prayer were not necessary, surely Jesus Himself would not have spent so much time at it. He really didn't need prayer for self – improvement. But it was His example that made the disciples ask, "Lord, teach us how to pray," They witnessed the power that prayer gave to the life of Jesus. St. Luke shows us Jesus regularly at prayer. He also gives us many of our Lord's teaching on prayer, as in today's Gospel.

In teaching prayer, Jesus stressed two points: 1) Be sincere, pray from your heart, make your prayer honest. He contrasted real prayer with the shallow lip-service of the Pharisees. 2) Stick with it, persevere, make it a constant habit. Thus He told the parable in today's Gospel to stress 'the necessity of praying always and not losing heart' (18; 10)

Prayer is the beginning of heaven. It means getting close to God, who is heaven. A good Christian teaches others how to pray; it is the greatest gift he can give them. Good parents teach prayer to their youngster; they teach the young ones that they come to church to talk to God, not each other. They teach their children how to give God the best time of their day, because He deserves it.

Sister Laura Hesch, O.S.B., Indian missionary in Minnesota, used to read from a dairy of notes kept by her grandfather, Anton Otremba, who as a young man had made a pilgrimage on foot to Rome from Germany. In his notes he wrote, "Every minute I am close to God. These are the happiest days of my life." Sister Laura, used to say that her grandfather's dairy of that pilgrimage was really a book of prayer. We can well believe it, since he writes, "Every minute I am close to God." That happens when we take our Lord's advice and form a daily habit of prayer: we come ever closer to God, and experience the deepest happiness.

Fr. Victor Dalmet

PARISH VISITATION

This Tuesday Parish Fathers will visit Kopri.

***This week's announcements
October 21, 2007.***

1. *Today Mission Sunday is celebrated. A colourful Mission Sunday leaflet has been printed, and will be available outside the sacristy on Mission Sunday. This leaflet has been prepared as a possible tool to encourage more and more persons to get involved in the Mission of the church, as individuals or as members of Parish Cells*
2. *Today the meeting of the CWF committee will be held at 10.30 a.m.*
3. *Saturday, 27th October Night Vigil at 10.30 p.m.*
4. *October is the month of the Rosary. The Rosary is recited at the grotto at 6.30 p.m. Communities/zones may organize daily Rosary at some convenient place and time.*
5. *The collection at Masses last Sunday, amounted to Rs.30,560.00*
6. *The collections from the Perpetual Succour image box amounted to Rs2700.00.*

This Week's Liturgical Readings

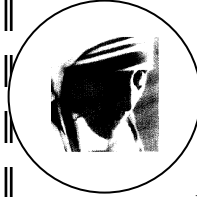
22/Mon Rm 4:20-25; Ps Lk 1:69-70,71-72,73-75; Lk 12:13-21
 23/Tue S. John of Capestrano, pt Rm 5:12,15b,17-19,20b-21; Ps 39:7-8a,8b-9,10,17; Lk 12:35-38
 24/Wed S. Anthony Claret, bp Rm 6:12-18; Ps 123:1-3,4-6,7-8; Lk 12:39-48
 25/Thu Rm 6:19-23; Ps 1:1-2,3,4&6; Lk 12:49-53
 26/Fri Rm 7:18-25a; Ps 118:66&68,76-77,93-94; Lk 12:54-59
 27/Sat BVM Rm 8:1-11; Ps 23:1-2,3-4ab,5-6; Lk 13:1-9
 28/Sun Sir35:12-19;2 Tim 4:6-8,16-18;Lk 18:9-14

Mission Sunday Leaflets.

A colourful Mission Sunday leaflet has been printed, and is being made available in bulk to the parishes. This leaflet has been prepared as a possible tool to encourage more and more persons to get involved in the Mission of the church, as individuals or as members of Parish Cells. Parishes are invited to set up a Mission Sunday stall to be organized by Heads of all Parish Cells. At the stall, the list of cells is put up for public viewing, and members can keep themselves available to speak to parishioners who wish to know more about these cells. Those truly interested in offering their service could be given the leaflets. If they hand in their names as prospective cell members, the Heads will have to follow up with the help of the telephone numbers that have been left behind.

+Bishop Bosco

RADIATING CHRIST



Dear Jesus,
 help me to spread thy fragrance
 everywhere I go;
 flood my soul with thy spirit and
 life;

penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly
 that all my life may only be a radiance of thine;
 shine through me and be so in me
 that every soul I come in contact with
 may feel thy presence in my soul.
 Let them look up and see no longer me, but only
 Jesus.
 Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine
 as thou shinest,
 so to shine as to be a light to others.
 The light, O Jesus, will be all from thee; none of
 it will be mine.
 It will be thou shining on others through me.
 Let me thus praise thee in the way thou dost love
 best
 by shining on those around me.
 Let me preach thee, without preaching, not by
 words but by my example,
 by the catching force,
 the sympathetic influence of what I do,
 the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to
 thee. Amen

Smile, Giggle, Laugh!



. THE JUDGE was in a merry mood 'on Christmas Eve as he asked the prisoner, "What are you charged with?"

"Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the defendant.

"That's not an offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing this shopping?"

"Before the store opened."

A DRUNK walked into a lounge. After staring at a beautiful woman who was sitting at the bar for ten minutes, he sauntered over and kissed her. She jumped up and slapped him silly.

"I'm sorry," he said.

"I thought you were my wife. You look just like her."

"Ugh. Get away from me, you worthless, insufferable, no-good drunk!"

she yelled.

"Wow;" he said. "You even sound like her."

**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

Diploma & Certificate Courses

1). Sewing & Designing (6 Months)

1. Fashion Sketching & Designing
(Colure scheme & combination)
2. House hold Items (Apron, Cushion
Cover, Multi Panled, Curtain, Wall
hanging etc)
3. Women's wear (Blouse, Sal war kurta
(5style), Night Wear, Trouser etc.)
4. Men's Wear (Kurta Payjama, Jacket,
Shirt, Trouser, Night Suit etc.)
5. Children's Wear (Sun Suit, BabaSuit,
Shorts, Frock (Party), Dungarees,
Bath gown, Bib, Toddlers frock, etc.

**2). Professional Embroidery Course (6
Months)**

- Machine Embroidery on semi
industrial machine
- Hand Embroidery (100 Stitches
basic)
- Hand Embroidery (30 Stitches,
Designer Stitches)
- Janome Machine Embroidery
(Picco, Kaj, Designer Stitches on
Machine)
- Khatla Work (Zardozi)
- Traditional Indian Embroidery
- Embroidery on Half Shuttle
Machine
- Colure scheme & Matching for
designer wears.

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

Contact - Yogita Kashyap (USHA Rep.)

M0b.9320718998, 9322591425

on Saturday 2 p.m. to 5 pm.

**and on Sunday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the
Polytechnic office on 2nd flr of St. John the
Baptist Special School, Thane**

Sodality The Sodality will be putting up a sweet &
snack on the 20th & 21st October. The collection
will go in the Aid of the mission .Please patronize
--Veda Rebello

NEW MEMBERS		
Name	<i>Dt. Of Baptism</i>	<i>Dt. Of Birth</i>
Nigel Rebello	09.09.2007	30.07.2007
Rhea Cheraparambil	23.09.2007	19.06.2007
Lisa D'souza	30.09.2007	21.08.2007
Rachael Pereira	30.09.2007	20.09.2007

UNITED IN CHRIST		
Date	Bride	Bridegroom
25.09.2007	Lalita Chavan	Joaquim Sequeira

OF LATE MEMORIES	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
04.09.2007	<i>K.V. Thomas</i>
04.09.2007	<i>Rita P.A.Dorin</i>
10.09.2007	<i>Annamkutty Iypunny</i>
14.09.2007	<i>Joseph Rozario</i>
20.09.2007	<i>Noel M. Sherman</i>
30.09.2007	<i>Anthony T.Pereira</i>

**SR.HELEN MARY
RECEIVES
SPECIAL BLESSINGS**



Sr.Helen Mary sister of Noel de Cunha and late
Hubert de Cunha of Cherai is in the 95th year of
her life.

She is a Daughter of Cross and will completer
70years as a religious on 22nd Oct. 2007.

We give GLORY AND THANKS TO GOD for
these blessing and pray that she be richly
rewarded for answering her call and not sparing
herself from active service to the best of her
ability.

Ella

YOUTH CORNER

The ICYM –Bombay is organizing two camps for college and working youth during Diwali Vacations. Those who are interested kindly contact the Parish Youth Animator Fr.Victor Dalmet. Or the Diocesan Youth Centre, Bandra.Details are on the Parish notice board.

FUN & FANTASY CAMP: 01-03 NOVEMBER 2007 AT GORAI

This is a camp for XI & XII Std Boys and Girls who are members of Parish Youth Movements and Neighbourhood Groups. The camp fees are fixed at Rs.500/-per head. With board and lodge, inclusive of travel. Registration forms are available with Parish Youth Animator. The deadline to submit the Registration form to the DYC, Bandra is October 26, 2007.

SERVICE SEEKERS CAMP: 06-08 NOVEMBER 2007 –A MISSION EXPERIENCE AT PURUSHWADI, MAHARASHTRA, for Senior College and working youth. The camp fees are fixed at Rs 500/- per head, with board and lodge and inclusive of travel. Registration forms are available with Parish youth Animator. **The deadline to submit the Registration form to the DYC, Bandra is October 30, 2007**

STAYING ON THE RIGHT TRACK

He hearts you murmur and complain,
Because life does not go your way,
Hear His still Small Voice say,
'MY WAY PLEASE,
STAY ON THE RIGHT TRACK'

You thought the twenty four hours of the day
Were all reserved for you,
Remember one tenth of your time and talents
And money too,
Belongs to God,
So STAY ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

You are not the Master of your life,
To dictate the working of your day,
Take your orders from the Holy Spirit
Who knows better,
That's STAYING ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

Early each morning spend fifteen minutes
Reading and listening to God's Word,
Make no excuses
Receiving food for your soul,
Be firm- STAYING ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

Are you clinging to your possessions
Release-let go-the more the better,
Sow rich seeds of love
And reap an abundant harvest,
STAYING ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

Lastly ,daily attendance at a Eucharistic Celebration
And receiving your Lord,
Also remembering Mother Mary
Praying your daily Rosary,
There's no feeling life's blows
For grace overflows,
Just by STAYING ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

Ella

Family cards

Family cards with individual family information are ready. The zonal leaders/coordinators/parish council representatives will please collect from the parish office these family cards for their zones for verification of data, get them corrected and updated and then return the corrected cards to the parish office for computer data correction and for final copy of the family cards. The cards will then be laminated and handed over to respective families. All are requested to cooperate.

MILESTONE HE JoY of aVOCATION:-

The Editorial board of your parish weekly bulletin is pleased to announce a new monthly feature starting this week on the occasion of **MISSION SUNDAY** in our archdiocese. This column will feature the religious vocations (priests, nuns and religious lay brothers) that have been born, bred and nurtured in our parish, thereby not only edifying those who are in the service of the Lord's vineyard but also to motivate and generate interest in our young children of the present and future generations to answer "**THE CALL**" when it comes from our Lord without hesitation, and with due support and encouragement of their families and SCC Communities. As an added incentive your family too gets featured in this column.

Starting today we feature **Rev. Sr. Helen Mary - F.C.** who, as known records show, is the oldest living religious vocation from this parish at 95+ years of age.

Therefore the Editorial Board along with our parishioners extends our **Hearty Congratulation** to Sr. Helen Mary F.C., and her family, who tomorrow, the 22nd Oct 2007, completes her **Sacerdotal Platinum Jubilee** -70 years, as missionary of our Lord in his vineyard.

Presently at the congregation's provincial house in Bandra, she steadfastly looks forward to continue serving the Lord with sincere thanks and gratitude for the vocation she has received and for the support and encouragement she has recd from her congregation the "**Filles de la Crois**", her family, and neighbours in her early days as a Nun. She served her congregation in their many convents all over the country, as a teacher and

educationist, with emphasis on empowering the poor and abandoned children.

Sr. Helen Mary, also known as Milly, is the daughter of the Late Charles Thomas & Rita Clara deCunha of Cherai & sister of Noel / late Mary & late Hubert & late Sylvia.

She is aunt to Jude & Glenda (Bandra), Carl, Anne & Myron Pereira (Kurla), late Lionel & Vera, Blanche & Godwin Lewis (Canada), Andrea & Keith Pereira (Canada), Zelma & Flavian Creado (Kurla), Eustace (our parish SCC Coordinator) & Susan, Francine & Darryl DaCosta (Canada) & Joelle & Ryan Fernandes (Pokhran-Thane)

She is also the grand Aunt of Lalitha / Rahul / Kristoff / Kristy / Warren / Garren / Brunelle / Simone / Jeanelle / Kriselle / Farrell / Jared / David / Naarra / Andre Charles / Stacy Sue / Nefretti Maria / Kurt / Reid / Halle / & Maschanka..

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

There will be a prayer rally for all associate members of the Apostleship of Prayer on Sunday, 21 October, 2007 in the church at 4.30 p.m. followed by 5.30 p.m. Mass. All are requested to attend.

VACATION BIBLE JOY

The Parish will conduct the Vacation Bible Joy programme for school children from Stds. IV to IX from 12th November to 20th November at 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon. The nominal registration fee is Rs. 25/- per child. Forms for registration will be available in the parish office. Please, register latest by 5th November, 2007.

SENIOR COLLEGE – QUERIES AND SUGGESTIONS.

[Please, note you are welcome to give your suggestions in writing to any of the following statements made vis-à-vis with the proposed senior college. This will help us arrive at the appropriate decisions and directives]

The proposed senior college at Thane will bear the name of St. John the Baptist Senior or Degree College of Commerce. The present Church and School trusts will be responsible for its management and growth, unless the higher ups plan otherwise. There will be a local managing

committee like the school committee of the school and junior college, to attend to the senior college affairs and to help the principal in administration.

The suggested Streams for the 1st year:

Commerce – 1 division of 100 to 120 students

B. Sc [IT] - 1 division of 60 students

BMS - 1 division of 60 students

As per the present trend it appears that there is a bigger rush for Commerce stream, very few for Arts and The Science stream requires three separate large labs. Ms. Marcia D’Cunha at the get together on 7 October 2007 in the pavilion raised a question that according to Professor Dr. Fleur, vice-principal of St. Xavier’s College, Dhobi-talav, the commerce students in the senior college go out for tuitions and hardly attend college regularly. It appears that in this case it may not be advisable to open Commerce stream, while for merely professional courses such as BMS, B.Sc.(IT), BMM, the University of Mumbai does not give permission. On the other hand to think of an engineering college with its several different specialized courses and their requirements of extensive labs and premises may well be out of our reach! Besides, such colleges with their specialized courses cater only to the few merit holders and very high achievers. Most of our Catholic students and those from the marginalized, the poor and the under-privileged barely come up to that level. Our proposed college is expected to serve not the most intelligent students of high caliber but the students who may not be able to find admission to esteemed colleges in the city or ill afford to do studies far away from their homes or may not be able to compete with rich lads of the city. The option of the Church is for the poor and the marginalized.

Good staff & good management: - I guess, this is but natural and no one in the world would feel good to engage poor staff and have a poor show. But many a time all our dream worlds get actualized with the ground realities in which we are planted. The insurmountable teething problems we face at the initial stages redefine our high expectations, ambitions, dreams, ideologies and so on. Problems such as a poor number of students opting to enter the portals of a new college in preference to well-established aided colleges, the qualified and well-experienced faculty unwilling to take risk in opting to work in a fresh new college as against the well established and well secured colleges, where service benefits are well-defined, finding an efficient balanced principal having a doctorate plus minimum 15 years senior college teaching experience, getting adequate accommodation for starting the first year senior college classes after receiving the university’s permission normally

towards the end of May for the June academic year, inviting qualified faculties through advertisements in the university's ad-format, scrutinizing them, running the college without the grant and only on the prescribed fees which is not adequate for the payment of salaries of the staff, having funds to equip the labs and to have minimum required furniture for class-rooms etc., to set up a suitable library and many such problems is not the work of any in-experienced person nor those opponents who at best can impede the progress of the community.

Ms. Clara Correia at the get together suggested that we should try to get a good staff. This will happen once the senior college becomes full-fledged with full-time workload to engage full-time well-qualified staff in time to come.

Mr. Joe D'Cunha suggested that the Jesuits should be asked to manage the college. It is true that the Jesuit priests of the Society of Jesus are well known for higher education. They have several famous universities all over the world to their credit. Their Loyola College in Chennai and St. Xavier's College in Mumbai are ranked among the first ten and fifteen in the country. We are very proud of them. However, the Society of Jesus itself is finding it hard to man many of their higher education institutes without engaging qualified lay professionals. If the Jesuits are short of hands, from where are they to find one for our college, unless of course we are ready to encourage our children and youth to become a Jesuit/Diocesan/ Dominican priest to run senior colleges? But will our children and youth be encouraged to join the seminary with the kind of rejection and persecution our priests are subjected to?

Minority Institute? The St. John the Baptist High School and Junior College has a minority status and it is the management of this institute that will be obtaining the permission for senior college. If the proposal is realized our senior college will be a minority institute which will be allowed to fill up 50 % seats from the minority community.

Government Grant: I am told, presently the Govt. of Maharashtra does not give permission to open new colleges on grant-in-aid basis. The professional courses are permitted only on no grant basis. The fees structure for Commerce stream is approximately Rs. 4000/- per student per annum; for B.Sc (IT) Rs. 10,000/- per student per annum for the first thirty and Rs.20,000/- per student per annum for the remaining the 30; for BMS course Rs. 8,500/- per student per annum. These are a few parameters that might clear some haze from the minds of some confused people.

Mr. Floyd Gonsalves raised two questions at the get together meeting. He said that the letters of support published in the Locusts & Honey were forced, that the people were asked and compelled to write those letters. I am not aware of this fact. However, it appears that according to Mr. Floyd Gonsalves the proposed senior college is not the need of the people nor it is desired by them. To us both from the written support and from what the well-wishers say, there should have been a Catholic college much earlier. There have been nearly 60 written supports received by me. In case any of them feel, he/she has been forced to write, I would be pleased to know more about it.

Secondly, Mr. Floyd Gonsalves has alleged that the proposal of the senior college is a kind of a ploy for the present Parish Priest to get his term extended as he would be required to manage the affairs of the senior college. Let all the parishioners of Thane know that I am least interested in staying a day longer in any parish once the bishop of the diocese decides to transfer us. We continue to work wherever we are sent with the power of Christ's calling and our commitment to work for God's kingdom not minding the cost.

Let us not confuse the job with the personalities. Nobody is indispensable. After crossing the seventies nobody will pose a big threat and cause anxiety to anyone, as Mr. Floyd fears. The success of all proponents and opponents of the proposed senior college lies in rallying round and working together under the leadership of our priests to give our community a status and prominence in the society through our excellent educational institutions of higher learning and to pass on to the next generation an ideal tool in their hand to help them improve the quality of life, that they should spontaneously say, "we are indebted to and proud of our elders who were so thoughtful that we have a senior college at our backdoors to take good education and fly.., fly....., fly..... far into the world of opportunities." --Parish Priest.