



# 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. 12

23 March, 2008

## REJOICE, THE LORD IS RISEN!

### 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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 7. a.m

**Mass in Konkani:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 7. a.m.

**Mass in Hindi:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 7.00 a.m.

**Tamil Mass:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Biblical Intercessory Prayer –Mondays 7.30pm

**Divine Mercy Devotion:** On Fridays

at 6.00 p.m. except on 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

**Rosalie R Convent (SVP) - 9867252981**

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*We have been justified and saved  
by His Life.*

*Let us be united in Him*

*- to be the Apostles of Peace and love*

*- to be the Light of the World*

*- to be the messengers of Joy of the*

*Resurrection*

**Wish you all a Blessed Easter!**



***This week's announcements***  
***March 23, 2008.***

1. *Easter Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March Masses in the morning at 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 9.15 a.m.- all in English. No evening Masses.*
1. *For Easter house blessing kindly bring the holy water bottles given to you in previous year and collect holy water that will be kept near the sacristy. The house blessing cards will be available in the sacristy.*
2. *Novena of Divine Mercy devotion is held at 3.00 p.m. with Mass at 3.30 p.m. daily during this week from Monday to Sunday.. **The Feast of the Divine Mercy will be celebrated on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> March with the feast Mass at 3.30 p.m***
3. *The collection at Masses last Sunday, amounted to Rs 33,302.00*
4. *The collection from the boxes in front of the statue of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour amounted to Ra.2,405.00.*

***This Week's Liturgical Readings***

24 Mon Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 28:8-15  
 25 Tue Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22; In 20: 11-18  
 26 Wed Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 24:13-35  
 27 Thu Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 24:35-48  
 28 Fri Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2 and 4,22-24, 25-27a; In 21:1-14  
 29 Sat Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21; Mk 16:9-15  
 30/Sun Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pet 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

***Smile, Giggle, Laugh!***



Harry: I don't think I deserve a zero in this test, Sir!  
 Teacher: I agree, but it is the lowest I can give!

-----contributed by Percy

AFTER HER KIDS begged her for weeks, a mom finally gave in and bought them a hamster. But just as she'd feared, she was the one who ended up taking care of it.

One evening, she sat them down and asked, "Why did you even want that darn thing? How many times do you think it would have died if I hadn't been looking after it?"  
 "I know Mom,' her son said. "Once."

ADAM JOSHUA SMARGON

**Pre Baptism Catechesis Sessions** will be held on 30th March 2008 and 6 th April 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 6th April will have to be attended by Parents along with the God-parents of the newborn baby. Registrations will be accepted in the Parish Office latest by 25th March 2008 & A. - certified copy of the Marriage Certificate will have to be attached to the Registration Form.

Fr. John Rumao (Sp .. Dir.)



***OUR LADY OF HOPE CHURCH,***  
***Ghormal***  
***Feast on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.***

***Masses in English at 8.15 & 9.30 a.m.***  
***FEAST MASS IN MARATHI,***  
***At 10.45 a.m.***  
***Tamil Mass at 12.30 p.m.***

**Youth Announcement**

The ICYM, Bombay (Diocesan Youth Centre, Bandra) is organizing the TEENAGERS ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ("TOP") for you on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2008 from 9.30am. to 4.30p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church Thane. Students or their parents are requested to collect the invitation letter from the Youth Desk outside the Church after this Mass.(or wherever or from the Parish Office etc.) Details of the programme are available on this invitation letter. Please collect one and register as soon as possible .Parents are requested to encourage their children to attend "TOP programme

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

This is to inform all our parishioner that the Parish Youth group will be organizing an "Easter Egg Hunt" for the Sunday children on Easter Sunday 23.03.08 after the 9.15 am mass .All the children of Parish will have an awesome chance to collect lots of delicious Easter Eggs for them selves .All parishioners are kindly requested to send their children to participate in this event

Parish youth Group

**FIRST HOLY  
COMMUNION DAY  
SUNDAY, 13 APRIL  
MASS AT 10.30 A.M.**

**CONFIRMATION  
ON FRIDAY, 18 APRIL  
08 AT 7.00 P.M.  
BY RT. REV. BISHOP  
FERDINAND  
FONSECA**

### **The Story of the Cross**

Lost in the darkness of sin,  
When man had turned weak  
from within.

ABBA our heavenly Father  
sent His only begotten Son,  
To save man from the clutches of Satan.

Christ lived among men and to them preached  
the good news,  
He healed the sick and cured the deaf and the mute.  
But He was crucified by His own loved one,  
They chose Barabbas rather than Christ  
who was once their own.

His journey to Calvary was not easy,  
People mocked and abused Him freely.  
He was provided with a heavy cross,  
Onlookers just watched as the tired Lord  
fell many a times on the rock..

His body was covered with blood and wounds,  
And there was none to cater to His woe,  
Through His delicate palms went pass the iron nails,  
He cried out in agony but nobody  
among the crowd to share His pain.

Christ forgave His enemies,  
He was made to die a criminal's death  
for no fault of His.  
He willingly obeyed His Father's wish,  
He accepted death to save us from our sins.

The Lord's death on the cross is not the end,  
He has promised us He will rise again.  
As we await the dawn of Easter,  
To celebrate the resurrection of  
Christ our Saviour.

**Malcolm Nobre**

**HELLO DOCTOR MOBILE DENTAL  
FACILITY IS AVAILABLE IN OUR  
PARISH ON WEDNESDAYS &  
SATURDAYS.**

Quality treatment is provided at concessional  
rates and is open to all .We require a band of  
good volunteers to support this project.  
Those desirous please give your name to  
Rev. Sr. Benedicta or Ms. Clara Correia.

### **ST JOHN BAPTIST POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE**

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

#### **Announces**

**FREE ELEMENTARY  
Sewing & Tailoring ( one Month)  
From 1 April onward**

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

#### **Contact**

**Or Sr. Bena on 64109529/25348671-256  
Or on Cell 9867252981**

**On Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
Timing – 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.**

**In the Polytechnic office on 2<sup>nd</sup> flr of St. John  
the Baptist Special School, Thane**

Christianity begins where religion  
ends—with the resurrection of Christ.

## THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Booklet for free  
distribution.

*Just one for a family*

*Available at the Legion Stall.*



### Lectio Divina – Praying the Word of God

"If the practice of Lectio Divina is promoted with efficacy, I am convinced that it will produce a new spiritual springtime in the Church" (Benedict XVI, Sept. 2005).

The name Lectio Divina, translated "sacred reading," was first popularized by the Benedictines, and consists in prayerfully meditating on the verses of Scripture in such a way that the exercise becomes a life-giving encounter with the biblical message. God's word throws light on our daily experiences in life, and in turn we discover our own life experiences and situations in the message of the Bible. Thus, through lectio divina, the message of the sacred text becomes a living word giving life and light to our daily journey in life. Already in the O.T., the psalmist had recognized,



"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps 119:105); and in the NT we have Jesus' emphatic declaration, "The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life!" (Jn.6:63).

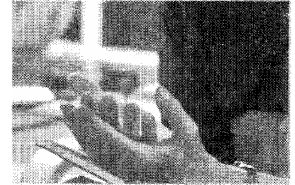
The method of lectio divina is quite simple. There are basically four steps:

**LECTIO**, or a careful and reverential reading of the text chosen. (preferably from the liturgy on any given day.). This reading or listening is very different from the speed reading which modern Christians apply to newspapers, books and even to the Bible. Lectio is listening both in a spirit of silence and of awe; we are listening for "the still, small voice of God" that will speak to us personally - not loudly, but intimately. We read slowly, attentively, gently listening to hear a word or phrase that is God's word for us this day.

**Meditatio**, or meditation on the reading, in order to understand the text in its context, and more

importantly, to enter into the text and recognize our own place in it. Here the memory and imagination must be active; we must re-read the passage, seeking to draw its basic meaning, to find its important components: what is this passage saying? We reflect for a few minutes on a word, a line, a verse of the text, in order to search out the meaning of the passage: what is said here? Once we have found a word/passage in the Scriptures that speaks to us in a personal way, we can take it in and "ruminate" on it (the image of the ruminant animal quietly chewing its cud was used in antiquity as a symbol of the Christian pondering the Word of God). Christians have always seen a scriptural invitation to lectio divina in the example of the Virgin Mary "pondering in her heart" what she saw and heard of Christ. Through 'meditatio' we allow God's word to become His word for us, a word that touches us and affects us at our deepest levels.

**Oratio**, or prayer, understood both as dialogue with God, that is, as loving conversation with the One who has invited us into His embrace; as *consecration*, offering to God parts of ourselves that we have not previously believed God cared for. In this consecration-prayer, we



allow the word that we have taken in and on which we are pondering to touch and change our deepest selves. Just as a priest consecrates the elements of bread and wine at the Eucharist, God invites us in lectio divina to hold up our most difficult and painful experiences to Him, and to gently recite over them the healing word or phrase He has given us in our meditatio. In this consecration-prayer, we allow our real selves to be touched and changed by the word of God; we are then led to thank God for the grace received through the sacred passage, as well as for the new thing that God is doing in our lives through his word.

**Contemplatio**: we simply rest in the presence of the One who has used His word as a means of inviting us to accept His transforming embrace.

No one who has ever been in love needs to be reminded that there are moments in loving relationships when words are unnecessary. It is the same in our relationship with God. This wordless, quiet rest in the presence of the One who loves us has a name in the Christian tradition - contemplation. We practice silence, letting go of our own words, simply enjoying the experience of being in the presence of God.



Lectio divina has no other goal than spending time with God through the medium of His word. The amount of time we spend in any aspect of it, whether it be *meditatio*, *oratio* or *contemplatio*, depends on God's Spirit, not on us. It is a way of allowing the Scriptures to become again what God intended that they should be - a means of uniting us to Himself.

One may begin this exercise with an opening prayer to the Holy Spirit and conclude with a thanksgiving prayer.

--from *God's Word Nourishes!*

### Ministry of the Word

The 3rd of February, 2008 (Bible Sunday) was a day of reckoning for 20 candidates of the Diocese of Mumbai who were commissioned as Ministers of the Word at St. Pius Collage, Goregaon on the completion of their 2 year Bible study course.

I was one of the fortunate candidates from this parish who could successfully complete the course, all due to the sponsorship and support given to me by the Parish priest Rev. Fr. John Rumao. Incidentally this year is earmarked by the Church to be the year of the Word of God where emphasis is given to imbibe the word of God by the faithful and where the need for more Lay Ministers of the Word is the need of the hour.

In the growing restlessness of the world to achieve its end, the Church has given clarion call that the only fulfillment for mankind is found in the Word of God. So the need for more Lay Ministers of the Word is the utmost urgency for lay people to take the benefit of the Bible study courses held at St. Pius Collage, Goregaon. In our Parish the Bible Study classes are held every Sunday evening at 7.30 in the School Classroom of St. John the Baptist High School adjacent to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Do not miss this opportunity to experience what Jesus promised through His Word "I have come to give you life and life in abundance".

RICHARD FERNANDES



### EASTER HOUSE BLESSING.

*Kindly, collect the holy water kept outside the sacristy and a prayer card from the sacristy..*

*Easter house blessing to be performed by the heads of the families at the stroke of the church bell at 12.00 noon.*

### A WORD OF GRATITUDE

*We fathers on behalf of the parish express our sincere thanks to all those who were directly involved in the liturgical celebration of Lent, such as the choirs, the Parish Liturgical Team, Eucharistic Ministers, volunteers & ushers, altar servers, helping hands at the sacristy work such Mrs. Margaret Menezes, Anthony, Sisters, ladies for making host, Mr. Nazeer of Awaj Radio for stage, chairs and lighting, Ms Anola for the backdrop Mr. Johnny for sound system, Mr. Ignatius Fernandes for close circuit TV, Mr. Norbert of In-cable TV for telecast, Mr. Eustace D'Cunha for LCD projection, Mr. Marcus Alvares and Passo Committee and all those who were involved in some way or the other in making the parish Lenten events grace-filled. May the peace of the Risen Lord dwell with you!*



The  
Joy of  
Easter



Easter symbolizes the dawn of a new day,  
Jesus Christ has risen from the dead today.

For our sins Christ faced crucifixion,  
He rose again for our justification.

It is to sin that we must die,  
To live a life of love bringing us closer to the most High.

The old man with his evil deeds must be put to rest,  
To live holy lives we must try our level best.

If we have risen with Christ says St. Paul,  
We must seek heavenly things that are most important of all.

Easter season always reminds us of something special,  
Dying to sin and rising to a new life that is eternal.

At the Easter mass we renew our baptismal promises,  
We must assure the Lord that we belong only to Him by singing His praises.

This is the day that the Lord has made,  
Let us all rejoice and praise His holy Name.  
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Wishing one and all a very Happy Easter,  
May the blessings of the resurrected Lord be with us this year.

**Malcolm Nobre**

### QUEST PROGRAM

There will be a full-day QUEST Programme for SSC or college students, or working men who are looking for more information about the Diocesan Priesthood.

This will be held on the Ordination Day - Saturday, 5th April, 2008 at the St Pius College, Goregaon. For further details please look up the notice board."

*N.B. Those interested are requested to give their names either to the Parish Office or Fr. Victor Dalmet. Depending upon a sizable number, arrangements will be made for a transport.*



### *Easter Message*

#### **EASTER – THE PROMISE OF IMMORTALITY.**

All people, everywhere, and of every time, long for immortality. The ancient Egyptians used special ointments and wrapped bodies in cloth making them mummies hoping that if they could keep the flesh from rotting they could provide immortality. The ancient Romans made immortality part of the politics of the state declaring that the Emperor was an immortal god and therefore should be obeyed by mere mortals. (On his deathbed the Emperor Tiberius, the same emperor ruling when Jesus died, sarcastically said, "I think I am becoming a god.") In modern history the wealthy have looked for immortality by granting huge bequests to construct museums, and other buildings named after themselves. Others look for immortality, as the ancients did, in sports. There are even people who take cryogenics seriously. They have their bodies or their heads frozen immediately after they die. They figure that when a cure for death is found, they can be defrosted and live forever, even though their teeth might be chattering for all eternity.

If you go through ancient Rome, you will come upon two distinctive sets of tombstones. There are those of the pagan Romans with words on them such as "Farewell" or "Nevermore." Then there are the other tombs, those in the catacombs, the tombs of the departed Christians. These tombs have inscriptions such as "Until we meet again." and "Alive in the Lord." Christians have been given that which people for ages have longed for: immortality.

*"Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried with him so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have been united to him by likeness to his death, so shall we be through a like resurrection."*

This passage is taken from Paul's letter to the Romans. Jesus did something the world had never seen. He totally emptied himself of his own needs. He lived completely for others. He died for others. He never allowed selfishness to have any part of his existence. This lifestyle resulted in his death at the hands of those who could not bear his holiness. But the result of his death was a transformation of reality. He was raised up. And those who would join him in the gift of themselves to God through others, would also be raised up.

Immortality. That's what Easter is about. Immortality was granted through the death of Christ to those who lived the Life of Christ.

## HOUSEWORKERS MEET

For the last few years the Women's Cell outreach to the Houseworkers has been merely at a social level, restricted to the Christmas party. This year we were pleasantly surprised to find almost 40 houseworkers attending the Health Awareness Workshop on the 16th of March.

Barbara Vaz welcomed the group warmly and introduced the main speaker, Ms Clara Correia. The session that followed was as interesting as it was entertaining and as informative as it was lively. She spoke in fluent Marathi and used simple everyday experiences to convey important home-truths. The women were most enthusiastic about answering questions, especially when they saw the pile of prizes that could be won.

Fr John Rumao thanked Clara and introduced the next speaker, Sr Bena. Besides 'tun' and 'mun' they needed to also concern themselves with 'dhun.' Sr Bena spoke forcefully about the need to save, the advantages of the savings scheme for every woman and the value of unity in collecting, recycling and generating funds, so as to avoid the clutches of the moneylender. Heather Serpes thanked the speakers and the group of women for their whole-hearted participation. The women left that evening with the assurance that more such sessions will be held in future.



## WOMEN'S DAY BLAST

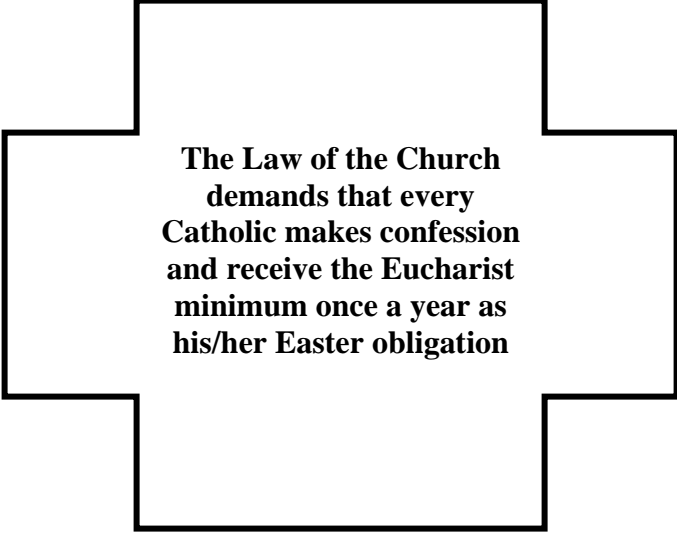
Women's Day celebrations must not be missed this year. For a special rocker of a party is being organised by the Parish Women's Cell at St John's School Hall between 8 and 10.30 pm on Saturday, 29th March, 2008, for all those young women between the ages of 25 and 95! Forget about your families for a few precious hours and get set to have the time of your life. It promises to be an evening of non-stop fun, food and frolic. I

Coupons are available at Rs 50/- only (inclusive of dinner) with

Amber 9821334422, Barbara 9969323803, Erica 9821241807, Heather 9819989969, Linnet 9892205705 & Marcia 9820448542.

## Vatican's List of New Mortal Sins

- 1) Genetic modification
- 2) Carrying out experiments on humans
- 3) polluting environment
- 4) Causing social injustice
- 5) Causing poverty
- 6) Becoming obscenely wealthy
- 7) Taking drugs



**The Law of the Church  
demands that every  
Catholic makes confession  
and receive the Eucharist  
minimum once a year as  
his/her Easter obligation**



