

LOCUSTS & HONEY

For Private Circulation

Vol. 2, No. 17

23 April, 2006

Parish Team:**Fr. John Rumao.****Fr. John Lopes****Fr. Gerry Fernandes****Fr. Victor Dalmat.****Fr. Joe Rodricks**

Bro. Joseph Pimenta, deacon

Vice-President PPC:

Mr. Francis Fernandes

Parish SCC Coordinator:

Mrs. Margaret Mascarenhas.

APC Representative:

Mr. Anthony Alphonso

PPC Secretary:

Mr. Eustace D'Cunha

CWF Secretary: Jessie Sequeira**Mass Schedule:**

Sunday: 6,7,8,9.15 a.m.

5.30 p.m.

Weekday: 6 & 6.45 a.m., 7.00 pm.

In Holy Cross Convent: 6.30 am.

Mass in Marathi:3rd Sunday at 7. a.m**Mass in Konkani:**4th Sunday at 7. a.m.**Tamil Mass:** 2nd Sunday at 11.00 am**Confessions:** Saturday: 6 to 7pm.**Baptisms:** Sunday: 10.15 am**Marriages:** Weekday at 5.15 pm.

Sunday: 5.30 & 6.30 pm

Funerals: Any day: 10 to 11.45 am

4 to 5.00 p.m.

Sacrament of the sick:

Any time 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 [Eng.]

On Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m.

Divine Mercy Devotion: On Fridaysat 6.00 p.m. except on 1st Friday**Night Adoration:**at 8 p.m. on 2nd Saturday;

at 10.30 p.m. on last Saturday

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.

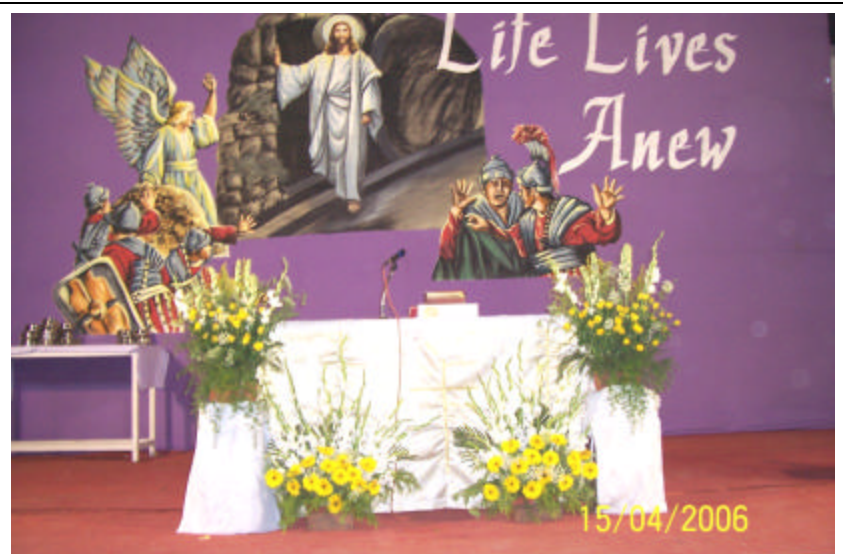
Website:

www.stjohnthebaptistthane.com

Why look for the living among the dead?

A nun working in England tells the following story. A few weeks before Easter the father of one of the pupils from the convent school was involved in a horrible accident. While burning some branches in his garden he accidentally set himself on fire, and died as a result of the burns. Naturally the family went into deep shock and a pall of grief settled over the house. His wife was so distraught that she couldn't go to the garden where the accident happened. However, some days went by, and Easter came around. On Easter Sunday afternoon the nun visited the family again. She was expecting to find them grief-stricken. But she got a very pleasant surprise. As soon as she stepped into the house, she sensed that the gloom had lifted, and she got a feeling of peace, even of joy. "Something has happened here," she said to the mother. "I can sense it." To which the mother replied, "This morning my sister and a neighbouring woman came to visit me. They asked me to go out into the garden to get some fresh air. I became almost hysterical at the thought of going into the garden. But convinced that it would help me, they insisted, so eventually I went out with them. Slowly we walked down to the place where the fire happened. As we approached the spot my whole body began to shake. But suddenly, I don't know how or from where, the words of the gospel came to me: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen." At that moment it was as if a heavy load was lifted off my back, and I felt a great sense of peace and joy."

Flor McCarthy in 'New Sunday & Holy day Liturgies'



This week's Announcements, 23rd April, 06.

- ✂ *This is Sunday is the feast of Divine Mercy. The Feast Mass will be at 3.30 p.m.*
- ✂ *The annual feast of Our Lady of Hope Church, Ghormal will be celebrated on Sunday, 30th April. Masses in English will be at 8.15 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. The feast Mass will be in Marathi at 10.45 a.m. Buses will leave the school premises for every Mass one hour before the Mass.*
- ✂ *From 1st May till 31st May, there will be daily three Masses in the church at 6.00 a.m., 6.45 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. and on Sundays at 6.00 a.m., 7.00 a.m., 8.00 a.m. 9.15 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. There will be no 6.30 p.m. Mass and no Mass in the Kopri Chapel.*
- ✂ *In the month of May, the Rosary prayer will be recited at 6.30 p.m. at the Grotto.*
- ✂ *Maundy Thursday Offerings amounted to Rs. 33,617.00*
- ✂ *Good Friday Veneration Offerings (for Holy Land) amounted to Rs.51,749.00*
- ✂ *Offerings at Easter Mass amounted to Rs.36,824.00*
- ✂ *Offerings at Masses on Easter Sunday, amounted to Rs.,25,935.00*
- ✂ *Offerings from Lenten Alms Boxes for the cause of the seminary amounted to Rs. 22,826.00*
- ✂ *Offerings at Stations of the Cross amounted to Rs. 8,194.00*
- ✂ *Offerings in front of nails & crown amounted to Rs. 669.00*
- ✂ *The collection from the box in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour frame amounted to Rs1,620.00.*

24/4 to 30/4 This week's readings :

Mon.	<i>St Fide/is of Sigmaringen, pt m Ac 4:23-31; Ps 2; Jn 3:1-8</i>
Tues.	St Mark, Ev - Fst 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 88; Mk 16:15-20 Ac 5:17-26; Ps 33; Jn 3:16-21
Wed.	Ac 5:27-33; Ps 33; In 3:31-36
Thurs.	<i>St Peter Chane!, pt m Or St Louis M. Grignon de Montfort, pt Ac 5:34-42; Ps 26; In</i> 6:1-15
Friday	<i>St Catherine of Siena, vg dr - mem</i>
Satur.	Ac 6:1-7; Ps 32; In 6:16-21
Sunday	Acts 3:13-15,17-19, St.Jn 2:1-5;Lk 24:35-48.

CHILDREN'S CORNER- Bible Study

38. ANOTHER NAME

Each of the following persons have another name. Can you match them?

1. Peter 2. John 3. John the Baptist 4. Herod 5. Luke
6. James and John 7. Joseph 8. Abraham 9. Paul 10. Hosea

- a. dreamer b. forerunner c. beloved disciple d. fox
- e. beloved physician f. rock g. father of nations h. sons of thunder
- i. prophet of God's love j. vessel of election.

40. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF

Jesus reveals himself through the various statements he made. Fill up and complete the statement

1. I am the -- -, the - - - - -, and the --- (In 14:6)
2. I am the - - - - - and the life. (In 11:25) 3. I am the --- shepherd. (In 10:11)
4. I am the - - - - and - - - - - the branches. (In 5:5)
5. I am the - - - - - of life. (In 6:35)
6. I am the - - - - for the sheep. (In 10:7)
7. I am the - - - - of the world. (In 8:12)
8. I am the real - - - - and my - - - - - is the gardener. (In 15:1)

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41. INVITATIONS OF GOD

God always invites persons for a particular mission. From the given statements can you identify the persons involved?

1. Come with me, and I will teach you to catch men. (Mt 4:19)
2. He said to him, "Come, follow me." (Mt 9:9)
3. Come to me, all of you who are tired. (Mt 11 :28)
4. If you want to be perfect, go and sell all you have and give to the poor and then come and follow me. (Mt 19:21)
5. If anyone wants to come with me, he must forget self, carry his cross and follow me. (Mk 8:34)
6. Hurry down, because I must stay in your house today. (Lk 19:5)
7. Come and see. (In 1:39)
8. Come and dine. (In 21: 12)
9. Come over to Macedonia and help us. (Acts 16:9)
10. Mortal man, go to the people of Israel and say to them whatever I tell you to say. (Ezek 3:4)

Children, answer the above quizzes and the ones that will appear in the next bulletin together and submit them to Fr. Victor Dalmet or any of the sisters by 27th May.1

---Parish Priest.



Ms. Anola's Creation.

Vocation Live-In Camp organized by us (Pilar Fathers) to help, guide and encourage young boys to choose the right career.

For: Std 8th to 12th, boys.

Place:: Holy Cross Church - Juhu Tara.

Dates: April 26th. To 28th.

Program: Experience, Talks, Jokes, Games, Music, Prayer And much more.

Requirement: Toilet articles, bed sheet, towel, note book, Games dress, etc.

Contact: Fr. Salvador Rodrigues

Holy Cross Church, Juhu Koliwada, Santacruz W.

Tel. No. 26600074/Cell. 9819277821

T.O.P FOR ALL S.S.C. / ICSE STUDENTS

Can you visualize teenagers 84 in number giggling, swaying down the road into St.John Baptist school hall Thane for the (TOP) Teenager orientation programme on 30th March 2006, conducted by Bro Ryan Alex. Goregaon seminary

At the start of the programme at 9.30a.m .The youth from different parishes like St.Joseph (Vikhroli) St.Anthony of Padua (Kalwa) St.John the Baptist (Thane), Our Lady of Mercy (Pokhran) Our Lady of Fatima (Majiwada) who had just packed up their study books were anxiously looking forward to Bro Ryan's tips on how to face the world and not be puppets of others. The talks were serious and also encouraging .It gave us an idea on how the way of thinking differs from one to the other. The games we played kept us on ours toes. Each groups performed skits and before we found new friends whom we look forward to meet in future

We thank D.Y.C. (Bandra), Fr.Victor and the youth group of St.John who spared no efforts to make this event a successful one and a big thank you to Br.Ryan Alex who held us in rapt attention .We hope many more enlightening programmes are held for us in future

By **Gabriela Serpes**



PRAYING WAY OF THE CROSS FOR THE HOMEBOUND



CHERAI ZONE – WAY OF THE CROSS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

GOD IS LOVE – Encyclical.

Pope Benedict XVI has issued his maiden encyclical letter to the universal Church on “**DEUS CARITAS EST**”. He begins his encyclical with the statement, “God is Love” and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. [1Jn 4:16] Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction. “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should have eternal life.” [Jn 3:16]

Pope describes God’s love as both **EROS** and **AGAPE**. It is eros not in the sense of worldly love in its crude form as found in ancient cultures but as purified in the context of the Old Testament Biblical sense

The Pope cites two images from the Scripture: one from the Jacob’s ladder with angels ascending and descending, meaning God’s love moving down to us and our love response back to Him – describes this love as something **divine**. And the second is the “Song of Songs” a poem which expresses that God as a lover in search of His beloved, that is His chosen people, in today’s context those who have received the gift of faith in Jesus. “You are all fair my love, And there is no spot in you. Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me from Lebanon. You have ravished my heart.” [SoS 4:7ff.]

Eros as found in a genuine love relationship between husband and wife is committed to each other, fascinating for the great promise of happiness in drawing near to the other, less concerned with itself and increasing seeking the happiness of the other, more and more concerned with the beloved. It bestows itself and wants to be there for the other. It has an element of ecstasy, feeling of intoxication. It is eternal, wanting to be eternally belonging to each other. It is also forgiving each other. In this sense God’s love for us can be described as “EROS.” To quote Prophet Hosea, “How can I give you up? My heart recoils within me, my compassion grows warm and tender...”, says the Lord. [Hos 11:8-9] EROS with the above characteristics culminates into AGAPE, benevolent love, forgiving love in spite of Israel’s infidelity.

So great is God’s love for man that by becoming man he follows him even into death, and so reconciles justice and love.[Encyclical] Jesus Christ is this incarnate love of God. In Him love of God and love of neighbour are now truly united as two sides of the same coin. Jesus as a **Good Shepherd** in search of the lost sheep, or **Father of the prodigal son** describes God’s searching and forgiving love. Jesus in the parable of the **rich man**

and the **good Samaritan** shows us how to give expression to God’s love in concrete love for our neighbour. **In Jesus God is made visible and in a needy neighbour Jesus is made visible.** In 1 Jn. 4:20, “he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.” In Mt.25:40, “As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.”

Love of neighbour, grounded in the love of God, is first and foremost a **responsibility for each individual member of the faithful**, but it is also a responsibility for the entire ecclesial community at every level; from the local [zonal] community to the particular [parish] church and to the Church universal. As a community, the Church must practice love. “All who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need.” [Act, 2:44-45.] “Believers hold all things in common and that among them, there is no longer any distinction between rich and poor.” [Act 4:32-37]

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY: first of all it is the **simple response to immediate needs** and specific situations, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for and healing the sick etc. secondly it is **independent of parties and ideologies** and **thirdly it is not to be used as means for conversions.** Love is free.

ESSENTIALS FOR PERSONNEL OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES: They should be **moved by Christ’s love**, whose hearts Christ has conquered with his love, awakening in them a love of neighbour. “The love of Christ urges us on.” [2 Cor. 5:14] They should be **open to work in harmony with other organizations** in serving various forms of need, with distinctiveness of Christ’s service/love. “I must give to others not only something that is my own, but my very self.”. They must be **Humble, and not feel superior to the needy**. –Christ took the lowest place in the world – the Cross – and by this radical humility he redeemed us. After service, “We are useless servants.” [Lk 17:10] **They must not be moved by an ideology but by prayer**, like Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. We need this deep connection with God in our daily life – by prayer. They must **not fall prey to the teaching of fanaticism** and terrorism. They must have an authentic religious attitude through a personal relationship with God and an abandonment to his will. They must have **faith in the power of God**. Christians continue to believe in the “goodness and loving kindness of God” [Ti. 3:4] as Jesus on the Cross; “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” [Mt. 27:46.] And they must be filled **by faith, Hope and charity which go together**