

# LOCUSTS & HONEY



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.**

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly

Vol. 3, No. 14

01 April, 2007

**Parish Team:**

**Fr. John Rumao.**

**Fr. John Lopes**

**Fr. Gerry Fernandes**

**Fr. Victor Dalmet.**

**Srs Amala & Joan – Pastoral Work**

**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

**Sunday School In-charge:** Sr. Ancy

**RCIA & School Catechism:**

**In-charge:** Ms. Ida D’Silva

**Mass Schedule:**

**Sunday: 6,7,8,9,15 a.m. & 5.30, 6.30 p.m.**  
**10.30 a.m. at Kopri Chapel.**

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

In Holy Cross Convent: 6.30 am.

**Mass in Marathi:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 7. a.m

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

**Tamil Mass:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 11.00 am

**Confessions:** Saturday: 6 to 7 p.m.

**Baptisms:** Sunday: 10.15 am

**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 [Eng.]**

On Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m.

**Divine Mercy Devotion:** On Fridays at

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

**Night Adoration:**

at 10.00 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; 2543 5411**

Website: [www.stjohnthebaptistthane.com](http://www.stjohnthebaptistthane.com)

## TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO DEATH!

*Unafraid to die*

*Voltaire was the 18th. century French atheist philosopher. All his life he openly proclaimed and preached atheism. He was a very brave and outspoken critic of religion. But when he neared his death, he started shivering and shuddering. He said to the doctor attending to him, “I will give you half of what I am worth if you give me six month’s life.” His doctor said, “Sir, you cannot even live for six weeks.” Then Voltaire despairingly said, “Then I will go to hell and you will go along with me.” Later, he died in despair. The prospect of death shook his convictions and composure. – Most people are terrified and petrified at the thought of death. They cannot face it. Jesus was marked for death. He knew he had come into this world and would have to die for men’s salvation, yet he was unafraid of death. He boldly enters Jerusalem where he knows he will be put to death. He has accepted his passion and its consequences- death, as coming from the hands of his Father, so he moves on fearlessly, choosing to suffer and die in obedience to the Father.*

*“The Passion of Christ”*

*One of the great blockbuster movies, which made ripples across the world was ‘The Passion of Christ’ by the Oscar winning Hollywood actor and director Mel Gibson. The movie is about the last twelve hours in the life of Jesus. In Texas, a 21 –year old man –Dan Leach, murdered his wife, Nichole Wilson, and stage-managed it as if she had hanged herself. The post mortem said it was a suicide. Her mother found her body on January 19th 2004 in her apartment. Two months later Dan Leach went and surrendered himself to the police, saying he was the one who murdered his wife and made it look like a suicide. When the detectives asked him why he had surrendered, he said, “After watching the movie-“The Passion of Christ” he was compelled to seek redemption.” – The whole movie is one unrelenting violence and bloodshed endured by Jesus –all for our redemption. The common reaction after watching the movie is either deep silence of the audience or tear stained cheeks. After watching the movie one man said, “No matter what you are – whether you believe in Jesus or not, you will begin to love Jesus, who suffered for you.”*

*John Rose in “John’s Sunday Homilies’*

*“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!”*

*--Jesus.*

**Palm Sunday –01 April, 2007.-**

***This week's announcements***

***April 01, 2007.***

1. ***Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> April is Palm Sunday. Palms will be blessed at 8.00 a.m. in front of the grotto followed by procession round the compound, leading to the main entrance of the Church for Mass.***
2. ***Confessions in preparation for Easter will be heard on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> April from 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.***
3. ***Maundy Thursday no Masses in the morning.***
  1. ***At 5.00 p.m. Mass for the sick and children in the church.***
  2. ***At 7.30 p.m. Last Supper Mass in the quadrangle.***
  3. ***At 10.30 p.m. Holy Hour.***
4. ***Good Friday Way of the Cross***
  1. ***at 7.00 a.m. in Marathi.;***
  2. ***at 8.00 a.m. in Konkani.;***
  3. ***at 9.00 a.m. in English for youth.;***
  4. ***at 10.00 a.m. for adults;***
  5. ***at 11.00 a.m. for children ;***
  6. ***at 12.00 noon in Malayalam.***
  7. ***at 6.30 p.m. Liturgical Service followed by Passo***
5. ***Holy Saturday***
  1. ***at 7.00 a.m. Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows;***
  2. ***at 8.15 a.m. Easter Vigil.***
6. ***Easter Sunday Masses at 6,7,8, & 9.15 a.m. No Evening Masses .No Evening Masses.***
7. ***Good Friday and Vigil services will be telecast live on In cabel net.***
8. ***For Easter house blessing kindly bring the holy water bottles given to you last year and collect holy water that will be kept near the sacristy. The house blessing cards will be available in the sacristy.***
9. ***K'villa Zone: The Way of the Cross will be held on 1st April 2007 (Sunday ) at 6.30 p.m. in the Holy Cross Chapel***
10. ***The collection at Masses on last Sunday, amounted to Rs.27,690.00***
11. ***The collections from Perpetual Succour box amounted to Rs1840.00***
12. ***From corridor boxes Rs. 217.00.***

***HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2007.***

<b>DAYS</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>SERVICES</b>
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	01 <sup>st</sup> April, 2007	8.00 a.m.	Blessing of palms, procession & Mass
<b>Monday, Tuesday, &amp; Wednesday</b>	April 02, 03, 04, '07	at 5. p.m. to 8.30 p.m	<b>CONFESSIONS</b>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	April 05, 2007	05.00 p.m. <b>07.30 p.m.</b> 10.30 p.m.	Mass for the sick; <b>Last Supper Mass</b> Holy Hour
<b>Good Friday</b>	April 06, 2007	07.00 a.m. 08.00 a.m.	<b>Way of the Cross:</b> in Marathi In Konkani In English: for youth for adults for children In Malayalam <b>Liturgical Service</b> followed by Passo
<b>Day of fast &amp; abstinence</b>		09.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 12.00 noon <b>06.30 p.m.</b>	
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	April 07, 2007	07.00 a.m.  <b>08.15 p.m.</b>	Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows <b>EASTER VIGIL</b>
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	April 08, 2007	6.00, 7.00, 8.00,9.15 a.m. <b>EVENING</b>	Masses: Morning <b>NO MASSES</b>

**Annual Feast Of Our Lady  
Of Hope,  
Ghormal  
On Sunday,  
15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2007.  
Masses at 8.15. 9.30 . 10.45 a.m**

**Summer Club**

The Youth of St. John's Church are organizing a Summer Club for your children and we wish to make their holidays memorable. We would appreciate it if you let your child join THE CLUB.  
Club Duration: May 1st-June 3rd.  
Timings: 9. 300m -12. 30 p.m. & 4. 30 p.m. -7.30 .p.m.  
Venue: St . John the Baptist Pavilion.  
To enroll and for further details contact: 9820843089, 983-3233959, 9920212986

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

21/Mon	IS42:1-7;Ps 26:1,2,3,13-14; In 12:1-11
3/Tue	Is 49:1-6; Ps 70: 1-2,3-4a,5-6ab, 15&17; In 13:21-33,36-38
4/Wed	Is50:4-9a; Ps 68:8-10,21-22,31&33-34; Mt 26:14-25
5/Thu	MAUNDY TIRJRSDAYIs61:1-3a,6a,8b-9;ps88:21-22,25&27; Rev 1:5-8;Lk4:16-21
6/Fri	GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION Is52:13-53:12; Ps 30:2&6ab, 12a-d, 12ef-13,15-16,17 & 25; Heb4:14-16; 5:7-9; In 18:1-19:42
7/Sat	HOLY SATURDAY
8/Sun	EASTER Sunday : Ac.10:34a,37-43;Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9.

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

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

1 April, 2007.-

## CLOSING OF THE LITURGICAL COURSE on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2007.



### Mother Teresa and I

[A testimony of an actress]

--by Lata Kushbuchandani

Her film career and personal life have been the focus of gossip magazines for several decades. What readers may not know is that our very own vamp Shashikala spent nine years of her life serving with Mother Teresa, a privilege many would give their eye-teeth for

[Shashikala's name has been announced for the Padmashri this year. Here is her life with the mother in her own words.]

I was passing through a period of extreme frustration in my life when

I went to visit my daughter Shaila in Kolkata. I saw Mother Teresa at the airport and felt a strange force pulling me to her. Once in Kolkata, I tried to get an appointment. But



Mother was ill at the time. I met Sister Agnes, her right hand. They thought that I am an actress and I was doing this for publicity. I told Agnes everything: my personal and professional troubles and felt sorry I couldn't meet Mother. The sister Superior told me that to serve here was not easy. I responded that I would do whatever they asked me to.

For three days they put me to cleaning toilets – and you can imagine toilets used by insane and sick people. Then they made me clean the dormitories. I did that too. Then they asked me to do dressing of leprosy patient and I did that. Then one day a very sick patient was brought in and they asked me to help with him. He was undressed and I saw maggots crawling out of his wounds. It was an unbelievable sight. I suddenly

understood that I had little to complain about. I had health, I had money, I was not dependant anyone. I was sent to dress a patient who had huge wounds and just looking at him was difficult. But I felt a current pass through me as if someone was giving me strength to do this work and I continued serving at the Home.

One day I told my daughter, let's try and see if Mother will meet me. We saw Mother talking to some foreigners and waited. After the visitors left, Mother called us and soon as I looked at her I broke down and cried my heart out. I told her, "Mother, god has given me everything but I have no peace within me."

She told me to come the next day. After that I served there for nine years, looking after the diseased and the wounded, feeding them, caring for them, holding them when they were dying. Mother sent me to different places –near Dum Dum to a kid' ashram, then to Nirmal Hriday where they had a home for destitute people. I served there .all this took my mind off my own situation. I told mother "I have forgotten my past". Mother replied, "past is like ash. Why hold on to it?" When I watched Mother, I learnt what service was she'd wear a sari that was torn and darned; her food consisted of one banana, a biscuit and cup of tea. It cost a rupee only. Even when she was ill she only ate that. Even if she was raging with fever she continued working. She'd give a discourse on Christ and we'd all listen.

She sent me to Asansol where only leprosy patients are kept. The work there was to sit on a stool, count the tablets given to leprosy patients and put them in small boxes. This drives you up the wall because you are bent over the table counting these tiny tablets. The patients live as normal a life as possible; they marry, they have kids if the kids have leprosy they are treated. I saw so much peace and contentment in these people. So often they had to get a finger or toe amputated-they'd go very normally and get it done like it was no big deal, there was so much acceptance in them.

I found myself changing. I had found a kind of peace within myself. I returned to the film industry. Mother cautioned me not to repeat my past mistakes. I had gone to Calcutta in 1989 and spent nine years in mother Teresa's ashram. My eldest daughter was suffering from cancer. One morning I felt heavy and suffocated. Suddenly a cross appeared on my left hand and the heaviness disappeared. Then the statue of Jesus appeared on my right hand. I called mother and told her this and she explained that Jesus is saying you will have to bear your own cross.

Again I saw Mother, Jesus and a child. This gave me hope that my daughter would recover but she passed away. I made her say the gayatri mantra, I told her to forgive all those who had harmed her and ask forgiveness from others. She did all this and passed away peacefully. I called mother and told her. She said that we will pray for your daughter's souls and then she said 'God bless you' in my ear thrice-something she never did.

The strength from her words sustains me till today. Marathi playwright Mohan Wagh wanted Mother to inaugurate his play. She obliged and his play All the Best became superhit. Once Saira Banu and Dilipsaab asked to meet mother-They came along with Naseem Banu; Mother was very happy. She loved seeing happy

couples and blessed them. They asked about Sanjay Dutt and she said she'd pray for him. Filmmaker Sawan Kumat Tak wanted to meet Mother and donated Rs 50 lakh to her ashram. Later he told me that he hadn't received a receipt that he wanted for tax purposes. I told mother and she personally wrote a note thanking him and sent the receipt.

My grand daughter Sonia wanted to meet Mother. Mother looked divinely radiant that day and her face was shining incredibly as she blessed us. Next day she passed away.

The Sisters told me that we were the last people she blessed, and that the letter to Sawan Kumar was the last letter mother wrote to anyone, so could they have it back if he didn't mind?

--extract from Mid Day.

**CHERAI (SOUTH) WAY OF THE CROSS.**



**Principles for Successful Christian Living**

God has given us two very important gifts in order that we may come through victoriously in this Christian Life, inspite of various trials that we may have to encounter. The Holy Spirit and the word of God are two such wonderful gifts. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand the Word of God in the way God wants us to receive it .In the Word of God the importance of praise is emphasized often .The Bible tells us to praise God even when we feel heavy or depressed .Isaiah 61:3 talks about a garment of praise for a spirit of heaviness i.e. always having an attitude of praise even in times of heaviness believing God to work on our behalf and not letting

situations determine our joy level. In



1Thessalonians, 5:16-18 St.Paul us says “Rejoice evermore pray without ceasing and in everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”

2 **Forgiveness** .For our prayer to be answered Jesus tells us to forgive all those who have hurt us .In Mark 11:26 Jesus says “If you do not forgive neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses” The Lord wants us to forgive as an act of our will even though they may not be feelings of forgiveness i.e. we do not hold a grudge against that person. Dialogue aims at understanding the other. Through the process of dialogue many misunderstandings can be got rid of thus reducing the possibilities of any person getting hurt .The Holy Spirit gives us the grace ( which is the power of God coming into situation to do what we could never on our strength) to forgive if we call on him. We initially forgive as an act of our will. Good feelings may come on later.

3. **Patience** : Isaiah 40:31 says : They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength” .As we pray and wait for God to hear us during which our attitude is one of praise not doubt or a grumbling attitude our patience along with an attitude of praise will bear results. The bible say God is able to do exceedingly above all that we ask of him” as we hold on patiently to what we have prayed for. He will work on our behalf. The God who made the walls of Jericho fall down giving victory to his people will cause all the obstacles and the problems that seem to overcome us fade as we obey his word and wait for his time of deliverance because he who has called us is “faithful” to his promises

**By Mr.Sanjay Almeida**

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

### Hope and Life Movement

The Members of the Hope and Life movement attended the annual Retreat at Vinahalya from the 9<sup>th</sup> March to 11<sup>th</sup> March 2007. Around 75 members from different Parishes of Mumbai attended the Retreat of which 13 Members were from our Parish. The retreat was conducted by Fr. Errol Fernandes. The Theme of the Retreat was "God's unconditional Love." Fr. Errol conducted the retreat in a very humorous, yet meaningful way. The holy hour was conducted by Fr. Selwyn Robin who kept us alive with his spiritual singing which brought us closer to the Lord. The Retreat ended with celebration of the Eucharist and all the members were asked to put in their resolution into the box during offertory.

Fr. Errol concluded by saying that the retreat did not end but it begins now and that we should not live in the past but lie in the **PRESENT**

**A widow**

## LIVE TELECAST

on In cable net

**Good Friday  
Service**

at 6.00 p.m. &

**Easter Vigil**

at 8.15 p.m.

*Don't Miss it.*

# "St. John The Baptist Polytechnic College"

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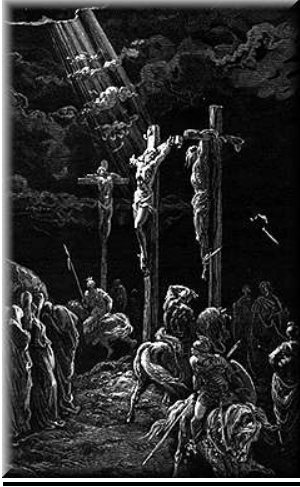
**Location :** St. John the Baptist Special School Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.  
Jambli Naka, Thane 400 601.

**Free Demo cum workshop :** Monday to Friday

from 10.00 a.m. -12.30 p.m & 4.00 p.m. -7.00 p.m.

**Courses commencing from 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 15<sup>th</sup> April & 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2007.**

*No Qualification, No Agebar.*



### **KNOW HIM**

He died that we might live,  
 To his enemies He said, 'I forgive'  
 He reached the height of agony and pain,  
 That by His loss we might gain.  
 He lay hanging above the earth for us to see,  
 The truest friend of you and me.  
 Lashes coloured his back blood red,  
 Holy Innocence to judgement was led.  
 He opened not His mouth to plead,  
 That by His stripes we may be healed.  
 The Good Shepherd sacrificed Himself for  
 sin,  
 A Divine Sacrifice for souls to win.  
 Arisen in Glory, He speaks, Dear Friends,  
 Feed my lambs till your breath ends.  
 Love, sacrifice, obedience led to Victory.  
**JESUS – The Greatest Name in History!**

**Ella Almeida**