

LOCUSTS & HONEY

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly

Vol. 3, No. 15

08 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: 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 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 1st Friday

Night Adoration:

at 10.00 p.m. on last Saturday

Office Timings: 9.00 a.m. to 12.30

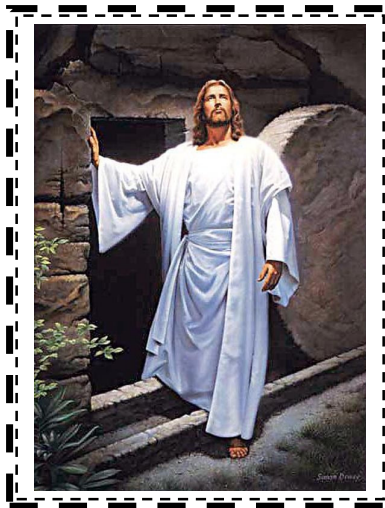
5.00 p.m. to 07.00

Sunday: 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.

Parish Tel. No. 2534 8671; 2543 5411

Website: www.stjohnthebaptistthane.com

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HE HAS RISEN

Death is not the end of the story. There is one more chapter. This is the most important chapter because, as the saying goes, they who laugh last laugh best. And in the last chapter of the story of Jesus we see him rise from the dead in all glory and majesty. He is vindicated. His enemies are shamed and confused. Jesus regains his eternal glory with the Father. He is the Lord who will prevail over all humankind, his enemies included. For us his embattled followers this is good news.

It is good news to know that truth is immortal. We can suppress Truth, accuse it of being a lie, condemn it, torture it, kill

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

Easter Sunday –08 April, 2007.-

*This week's announcements
April 01, 2007.*

**We wish all our parishioners and
all the families JOY & PEACE of
the RISEN LORD!**

1. at 8.15 a.m. Easter Vigil.
2. Easter Sunday Masses at 6,7,8, & 9.15 a.m.
No Evening Masses .No Evening Masses.
3. Next Sunday, the feast of Our Lady of Hope,
Ghormal will be celebrated. Masses will be at
8.15 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. in English and the
Feast Mass will be in Marathi at 10.45 a.m.
Rt. Rev. Bishop Agnelo Gracias will be the
main celebrant. There will be buses running
up and down for all the Masses one hour
before each Mass from Thane Church.
4. 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.
5. Novena of Divine Mercy devotion is held at
3.00 p.m. with Mass at 3.30 p.m. daily during
this week. **The Feast of the Divine Mercy will
be celebrated on Sunday, 15th April with the
feast Mass at 3.30 p.m.**
6. On Sunday 15th March the sacrament of
CONFIRMATION will be administered to our
youth by Rt. Rev. Bishop Percival Fernandes at
6.30 p.m. Mass.
7. 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,
Passo Committee and all those who were
involved in some way or the other in making the
parish Lenten events grace-filled.
8. The collection at Masses on last Sunday,
amounted to Rs.324780.00
9. The collections from Perpetual Succour box
amounted to Rs1897.00

This Week's Liturgical Readings.

9/Mon	Ac 2:14,22-33; Ps 15:1-2a&5,7-8,9-10,11;Mt28:8-15
10/Tue	Ac 2:36-41; Ps 32:4-5,18-19,20&22; In 20:11-18
11/Wed	Ac 3:1-10; Ps 104:1-2,3-4,6-7,8-9; Lk24:13-35
12/Thu	Ac 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab& 5,6-7,8-9; Lk24:35-48
13/Fri	Ac4:1-12;Ps 117:1-2&4,22-24,25-27a;Jn21:1-14
14/Sat	Ac4:13-21;Ps 117:1&14-15ab, 15c-16a&17-18,19-21;Mk 16:9-15
15/Sun	Divine Mercy – Act 5:12-16;Rev.1:9-13,17-19; Jn 20:19-31.

**ANNUAL FEAST OF
OUR LADY OF HOPE,
GHORMAL
ON SUNDAY,
15TH 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

Smile, Giggle, Laugh!

A man at a concert

- he had 3 ladies in front of him complaining about their health.

"My lungs are bad," said one.

"My liver is terrible," said another.

"My spleen is spent," said the third.

Fed up, the man said. "Will you please shut up. I have come here to hear a concert - not an organ recital.

**CLOSING OF THE LITURGICAL
COURSE on 25th March, 2007.**

Celebrating God's Saving Works

'What marvels, what marvels, the Lord has done wonders for us.' All the participants of the Basic Course in Liturgy,

echoed the sentiments of the psalmist as they assembled a month after their examination, to



08 April, 2007.-

receive their Certificate in Basic Liturgy, at the hands of His Lordship, Bishop Ferdinand Fonseca.

When most of them started off on their Diploma Course, they wondered how they'd go through a whole year. Yet all of them enjoyed every minute of it and as Roshni D'Souza (of St John the Baptist's Thane) put it in her testimony, 'missing even a day was out of the question.' Fr John Rumao, welcomed the gathering and acknowledged that it's been a dream to have Courses like this, now on the Central Line. Most programs are held along the Western suburbs and the long hours spent traveling make it impossible for our people to attend. He spoke warmly of Fr Gerry's initiative and continued involvement as Co-ordinator that enabled the dream to translate into reality. Different individuals shared their testimonies. Reena John (of St Anthony's, Kalwa) charmed the audience, when she spoke of her growth during the course, with the child in her womb on the one hand and the expansion of her mind on the other. Fabian Sequeira (of St Joseph's Vikhroli) and Gracy Abreo (of St Francis Xavier's Parksit) all acknowledged the role of the different Resource persons and the hospitality of St Johns. The Thane Group enthralled the audience with a song, composed by Ida D'Silva, that so beautifully summed up what the group had learnt. Their solos and chorus were well-timed and they got the audience not just tapping their feet but singing along. The Vikhroli Greep led by Mike Dias and Jovita Fernandes presented 'The Paschal Mystery,' simultaneously lifting a simple power point program to drama at its best, while moving the audience to a higher spiritual realm.

Fr Savio Rodrigues, Secretary of the Archdiocesan Liturgy Committee (ALC) reviewed the exam performance and Bishop Ferdie analysed with passion and a dash of humour the Who, When How and Where of Liturgy and the ground as yet to be covered. Then came the all important moment when the Certificates were distributed and smiles flashed among the Thane Group as all the ten who did the course passed. Ida D'Silva, Cynthia Sequeira, Rebecca D'Silva, Roshni D'Souza and Ruby D'Souza were among those who passed with Honour. Cajetan Fernandes on behalf of the ALC proposed the Vote of Thanks. It being the eve of the Annunciation, the evening concluded with the Magnificat, thus placing our Liturgists in the hands of Mary our mother and role model.



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 Kumar 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.

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, 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 Incable TV for telecast, Mr. Eustace D'Cunha for LCD projection, Passo Committee and all those who were involved in some way or the other in making the parish Lenten events grace-filled.

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.

MASS-TIMINGS IN THE MONTH OF MAY 2006 from 1st May to 31st May 2006

On Sundays: at 6.00, 7.00, 8.00 & 9.15 in the morning and At 5.30 in the evening.

There will be no 6.30 p.m. Mass and no 10.30 a.m. Mass in Kopri Chapel.

On Weekdays: Masses at 6.00, 6.45 a.m. and at 7.00 p.m.

No 6.30 a.m. Mass in the Holy Cross Convent.

PARISH COUNCIL 2007 to 2010
Zonewise Members nominated/elected

The following members will be representing their zones. Except Cherai South, where elections were held, the others have nominated their members who have come unopposed to the parish council 2007 -2010.

Brindaban	Mr Joseph Francis Fernandes	1.
	Mr Michael (Larry) Gonsalves	2.
Cherai N	Mr Ignatius Bhalerao	3.
	Ms Leena Rodrigues	4.
Cherai S	Mr.Cyril Fonseca	5.
	Mr.Kirk Gonsalves	6.
Horta Margeheri		7.
Khopat	Mrs Lidwin Fernandes	8.
	Mrs Mercia D'silva	9.
Kolbad	Mrs Linda Miranda	10.
	Mrs Jessie Sequeira	11.
Kopri	Mr.Gilbert E.Fernandes	12.
	Mr.Nickel Susai	13.
K'villa	Mr. Francis Vaz	14.
	Mrs. Lourdes Almeida	15.
Louis wadi	Mrs Rosie Rodricks	16.
Naupada I	Mrs Hortencia Barretto	17.
Naupada II	Mrs Juliana Aguiar	18.
Rabodi	Mr. Sebastian D'Souza	19.
	Mr. Ashley Raivellor	20.
Satguru / Anand Park	Mrs Ruby D'souza	21.
Utlasar	Mrs Iris Soeiro	22.
	Mr.Oliver Fernandes	23.

We appreciate the election committee's work in conducting the elections very systematically .A big thank-you to the members.

--Parish Priest & the Team.

St. John the Baptist Church, Thane.
OUTREACH PROGRAMME
By Bro. Trevor lewis of Jeevan jal
Ministry (Catholic Prayer Group)
From 19th to 22nd April, 2007.
At 7.00 p.m. Mass followed by
Outreach Programme.
Venue: School Quadrangle

“ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE”

certificate courses of six months' duration in

FASHION DESIGNING

Course Fee –Rs.500/- per month or Rs. 3,000/- for full course.

Course content : Fashion Embroidery designing,

Fashion Designing Programme,

Tailoring & Dress-making

Fashion Garment manufacturing

Handwork decoration

*Phone
Number
64109529*

Location : St. John the Baptist Special School Building, 2nd 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 2nd April, 15th April & 30th April, 2007.

NO QUALIFICATION, NO AGE BAR.