



# LOCUSTS & HONEY

*PVS: Family as bond between God & Community in Service*

For Private Circulation

Vol. 2, No. 37

10 September, 2006

**Parish Team:**

**Fr. John Rumao.**

**Fr. John Lopes**

**Fr. Gerry Fernandes**

**Fr. Victor Dalmat.**

**Fr. Joy, assisting**

**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 8 p.m. on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.stjohnthebaptistthane.com)

## Ephphatha – Be Opened

Hi, I am Ephphatha. That’s my new nick-name. Earlier I was nicknamed as Dumb-Ass. But I am not an ass. I am far smarter than any of my villagers. I was called dumb-ass, they say, because I could never utter a word. All that I could do was a.a.a.a - a kind of unisyllable sound which I myself could not hear. I was born both deaf and dumb. All my life I was feeling uneasy. People, relatives all avoided me. They never sought my company. In fact my parents and brothers and sisters were ostracized on account of me. They kept us out of society. People thought I was deaf and dumb because of my parents’ sin. I was thought to be born in sin. The rejection was terrible, almost driving me to suicide. People have sympathies for the blind but not for the deaf and dumb.

Looking at the way the people enjoyed life, I used to wonder. I could only make signs for whatever I needed. But the others would open their mouths and pass messages and interact, I knew not how. They would engage in merry-making, dance on rhythms I could not hear, have fun with each other and laugh loudly. But it meant nothing to me. I was really a dumb-ass, being handicapped in hearing and speech. Rejected by society, unwelcomed at any celebration, neglected by everyone, I was terribly dejected.

Life was misery for me till that day – the day when a wonder-worker entered our village. There was a commotion on the village street. Everyone was pushing in the crowd. People were thronging close to a man with a beard and long hair. Some people brought to him a blind man; he touched him and the man began to see. He was so happy, he started dancing with joy there and then. A lame man was brought; he too was healed and started walking straight. I never knew I also had a handicap, not knowing what hearing and speaking means. But people around me literally picked me up and took me to that wonder-worker. He took me by hand a little away from the crowd; then he put his fingers into my ears, and he spat and touched my tongue and looking up to heaven, he did something and then he said to me something. And what a wonder! I could at once hear all sorts of sounds, people talking. Even I began to talk all of a sudden. My a.a.a.a at once changed into meaningful utterances. I began to make sense. Everyone in the crowd was overjoyed and started to praise God, saying “He has done all things well; he even makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.”

It was then that I came to know the beautiful world of sound. I was enthralled listening to the whole gamut of sounds in several octaves and rhythms, human voices with infinite number of shades, all sorts of sounds made by birds chirping in the air and animals howling in the land. I could even hear raindrops falling, windpipes whistling, waves roaring, clouds thundering and marvelled at it. I soon discovered that I could sing so well that people would invite me to sing at every gathering. I began to lead the singing in my synagogue. God is so wonderful in his creation of sounds, colours and languages!

What is even more astounding for me is that he has also opened my heart to the cries of humanity and to the inner voice. I was a dumb-ass, yes, but physically. I now see this being deaf and dumb can also be a spiritual and social handicap. It can be very often deliberate. It may be because one is so engrossed in one’s selfish pursuits that one has no time to hearken to the inner voice of God or to the needs of one’s neighbours. I thank Jesus for giving me the gift not only of physical hearing and speech ability but also of listening to the Word of God, praising Him incessantly and being of help to my neighbours. I am Ephphatha and I love to be called Ephphatha.

23rd Sunday of the year – 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2006.

**This week's Announcements, 10<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2006.**

- On Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September, the feast of the TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS will be celebrated.
- On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows will be celebrated.
- Parish Council meeting will be held at 10.30 a.m. in the meeting room On Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. and not on 10<sup>th</sup> September.. The members will please collect the agenda from the Sacristy.
- The meeting of the CWF members will be held on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> September..
- *The collection at Masses on last Sunday, amounted to Rs.,24,069.00*
- *The collection from the box in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour frame amounted to Rs1,405.00.*

**11/9 to 17/9 This week's readings:**

11/Mon	I Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5; Lk 6:6-11
12/Tue	Most Holy Name of Mary I Cor 6:1-11; Ps 149; Lk 6:12-19
13/Wed	St John Chrysostom, bp dr - mem I Cor 7:25-31; Ps 44; Lk 6:20-26
14/Thu	THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS - Fst, Nm 21:4b-9 or Phil 2:6-11; Ps 77; Jn 3:13-17
15/Fri	Our Lady of Sorrows - mem Heb 5:7-9; Ps 30; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
16/Sat	Sts Cornelius, Pp, & Cyprian, bp mm - mem I Cor 10:14-22 Ps 115;; Lk 6:43-49
17/Sun	Is 50:5-9a; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35.

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

There are ever so many laughable stories about mothers-in-law in general. But the Tirunelveli incident reminds one of a lawyer who wired one of his clients: "Your mother-in-law passed away in her sleep last night. Shall we order burial, embalming or cremation?" Back came the reply: "Take no chances; order all-three"

**COUNCIL OF ASSOCIATIONS**

*The Council of Associations will have one and a half hour session on SPIRITUALITY for all the members of all the parish associations and cells/ministries on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September from 6.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. in the Pavilion.*

*There will NE 'PARISH 'ASSOCIATION DAY' celebrated on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in the quadrangle. All the associations have to present items.*

Kind attn: Fr John Rumao  
Parish Priest

Dear Father,

Apropos your article in the Locusts & Honey dated 27.08.06 inviting feedback on the subject matter, as one of the Parish families, we object to the inclusion of our Church in the Heritage list.

Inclusion will not only give Outsiders indirect control, but also will invite undue interference in our Church activities. While we take pride in the consideration of the historic and architectural significance, we cannot allow imposition on the sanctity & solemnity of our faith and beliefs or for that matter for the same to be put on parade. Even to consider it in the category of Grade III or any category or grade will not be advisable, for the obvious reasons already stated.

We totally agree with you, we are a living, functioning, fully operational Church - certainly not lying in ruin. And while we are all for inter-faith, growth and progress, our Church must always be kept sacred.

Sincerely,  
Mrs Matilda DeSouza & family

*N.B. Others are welcome to express their views, opinions, suggestions in writing without prejudice in a week's time. They will be placed before the Archdiocesan Heritage Committee for their guidance on submission to be made to the TMC Commissioner within the stipulated time.*

### THANE DEANERY YOUTH DAY

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2006, the Thane Deanery celebrated their Deanery Youth Day in St. John the Baptist High School Hall. 282 youth from parishes of Vikhroli, Kanjurmarg, Powai, Bhandup, Mulund, Wagle estate, Pokhran, Majiwada, Kalwa, Amarnath, Kalyan, Mumbra and St. John the Baptist, Thane, participated in this program.

The evening started at 4:30 pm with an opening prayer. We then played a few ice breakers which helped us to get acquainted with various people from different parishes. Br. Walter from the seminary then enlightened the audience on a very interesting and meaningful topic "CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH". He spoke whole-heartedly on various challenges that the youth of today have to face and how they are suppose to overcome them.

We were then put into various groups. With the help of these groups we played various interactive games, which the youth enjoyed to the fullest.

The evening was also graced by the presence of Fr. John Baretto, Director of the DYC and his team of office bearers. Fr. John thanked the Deanery Youth Committee for putting in so much effort to organize this programme. He also thanked the congregation for making it such a success.

Br. Godwin, Asst. Youth Animator for Thane Deanery then thanked Fr. John Rumao, who made his presence for awhile and the entire parish team of St. John the Baptist for letting us use the venue. He also thanked the youth who helped make this day possible.

The evening ended with a Jam session, which the youth thoroughly enjoyed.

We would like to thank Fr. Lincoln, Youth Animator of Thane Deanery for helping co-ordinate all activities for this event.

In all, this Youth Day was a great success and we look forward for this program next year.

- Gabriela Serpes.  
St. John the Baptist Youth group.

### AASARA AIDS [RPGRAM

Aasara is a registered NGO working for the empowennent and rehabilitation of street children's at Thane, Digha, Kurla, Kalyan and Neral. We are now in the 13th year of our Activities bringing meaning in the lives of under privileged street children. Having worked successfully for the needy street children's Aasara is now embarking on a new project i.e. "HIV / AIDS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION" Which is awarded by Avert Society. It was Fr. Joe D'Gama, Founder Trustee's long wish to start this kind of a project for street children due to the exposure, risk & lack of knowledge.

The Inauguration function of the Aasara avert project was held at the Stjohn Special School Terrace hall on 14th August 2006. It started with the welcome song presented by the girls of Neral Suraksha Shelter. Lighting of lamp by Most Reverend Bishop Agnelo R.Gracias Chief Guest along with the children. Followed by facilitation & speeches by the Chief Guest & Guest of Honor, Fr. John Rumao, Fr. Joe D'Gama, Fr.Rocky Banz & Sr.Jaishree. The Function also comprised of a Skit by the children on HIV / AIDS, its infection & Basic Prevention. Presentation of Aasara activates & Vote of thanks was given. Sponsorship in the form of free 200 cake slices by St.Anthony's Bakery, Rs.2000/- from Rotary Club of Thane Suburban & venue free of charge by Fr. John Rumao, which added to the success of event

Mrs. Hemani Rathod, Project co-ordinator, coordinated the event & gave substantial information on HIV/AIDS & Aasara's role in minimizing it in Thane District amongst a challenging target group of street children who are at risk.

The date 14th August coincided with the International Conference on Prevention & Awareness of HIV / AIDS at Canada, where India was a part of and Aasara's event was a small significant at the local city level

### MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Mr. John Lewis will be available for counseling in mental health on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in the Sevadham Room. You are welcome to meet him

### Hope and Life Movement

All the members of the Hope and Life Movement thank Rev.Fr. Rumao for the permission and the arrangement made in the Auditorium for Our Snacks Stall during the 9days of the Novena to Our Lady of the Mount .We also thank those who donate in kind or cash and all the others who patronized our stall.  
Thanks once again!

23rd Sunday of the year – 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2006.

## CHURCH CHOIRS

### English Choir

Mrs Belinda Lopes, Lily Dias, Rebecca D'silva, Bronwen Desouza, Sapna D'souza, Cassandra D'souza, Dalareen Alvares, Arlene D'souza, Francisca D'souza, Pramila Nunes, Natasha Mary Ann Hendricks, Karen Naadan, Clarissa Alvares, Neha D'cunha, Lavina Pinto, Victor Modeaux, Randal Nunes, Sunil Domingo, Dylan Hendricks, Clifton Almeida, Chris Caubo, Savio Gonsalves, Yoric Hendicks, Agnelo Serpes, Dilip D'souza, Amar Komban, Ian Augustine, Jordana Lobo, Petrina Alphonso, Candy Drego, Princila Jadhav

### Children's Choir:

Mikhail Mascarenhas, Rini Saldhana, Shiny Cardoza, Nikita Noronha, Anesha Lopes, Enlarie Saldhana, Joshua Mendonsa, Julie Rodrigues, Oliver Rodrigues, Ruth Lobo, Shalet D'mello, Linnet D'mello, Clothilda D'souza, Xavier D'souza, Mystica Vaz, Darrin Santa Maria, Joyce Thompson, Cresenchia Almeida, Aunty Enid, Martina Martis, Ashieen Vierra

### Konkani Choir:

Mr. Stany Martis, Jesse, Mr Valerian, Mrs Lucy, Mrs Rosy, Mr. Thomas

### Marathi Choir:

Ivan Ferro, Ignatius Bhalerao, Dominic Jadhav, Joseph Rosario, Joseph Fernandes, Anthony Lopes, Reena Rosario, Julie Cardoz, Maria Fernandes, Lizie Saldhana, Barbara Vaz, Alex Miranda, Marcus Alvares

The Locusts & Honey is proud of various choirs who enrich our Sunday Liturgical celebration with their talents for singing and playing keyboards. It also appreciates the singing of those who come forward to sing at the daily Masses. We invite all talented people to come forward, join various choirs and give praise to God. It is said, "He who signs prays twice."

## CHILDREN'S CORNER- Bible Study

### LESSON 3

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

1. In what language did the Apostle Matthew write the Gospel?
2. For whom did Matthew write?
3. What is the peculiarity of the Gospel of Matthew?
4. When did he write the Gospel?
5. How many generations are there from Abraham to Christ?
6. In the genealogy of Christ, four women are mentioned by Matthew. Is there a special reason for it?
7. How does Matthew describe Joseph, the husband of Mary?
8. Who prophesied that Christ would be Emmanuel?
9. What is the meaning of Emmanuel?
10. Why was Herod frightened?
11. What did the wise men give to Jesus?
12. Where did Joseph take Jesus and Mary?
13. How long did they live in Egypt?
14. Who ruled after Herod?
15. How did Jesus get the name Nazarene?
16. What was the food of John the Baptist?
17. When Jesus was baptized, how did the Holy Spirit come upon him?
18. What is the difference between the baptism of John and ours?
19. How many days did Jesus fast before being tempted by the Devil?
20. Who is the brother of Simon Peter?

*Children, once again we start our Bible quizzes. Answer the set of questions appeared in the previous issue of July 16<sup>th</sup> along with the above set of questions by 17<sup>th</sup> September and hand over your answer-sheets to Fr. Victor or Sr. Ancy. Please, remember to write your full name, address, the lesson nos. and the questions nos. on your answer sheets. The questions need not be re-written on your answer-sheets. Those who get maximum answers correct will be given prizes.*

*---Parish Priest.*

NEW MEMBERS		
NAME	<i>Dt. Of Baptism</i>	<i>Dt. Of Birth</i>
Tulip Andrades	06.08.2006	05.07.2006
Alisha Braganza	06.08.2006	30.06.2006
Krish Almeida	13.08.2006	28.06.2006
Sarah Ferrao	20.08.2006	11.07.2006
Siddhant Xavier	20.08.2006	21.07.2006
Mark Cornelius	20.08.2006	15.07.2006

## UNITED IN CHRIST

Date	Bride	Bridegroom
05.08.2006	Ms Jennet M.Rodrigues	Mr. Francis F.Cabral
26.08.2006	Ms Hemangi Gohil	Mr. Danny Rosario
27.08.2006	Ms Sonia Kori	Mr.Simon G.Fernandes

OF LATE MEMORIES	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
12.08.2006	<i>Melda Serpes</i>
13.08.2006	<i>Anthony D'mello</i>
17.08.2006	<i>Ambrose Desouza</i>
18.08.2006	<i>Gabriel Alphonso</i>

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