

LOCUSTS & HONEY

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly Vol. 2, No. 46 12 November, 2006

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 12.00 **Midnight.** 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



GIVING FROM THE HEART!

One night years ago a cloudburst stranded a newly-wed couple on a remote country road. Unable to go any farther, they got out of their car and set out on foot toward a dimly lit farmhouse.

When they reached the farmhouse, an elderly couple, carrying a kerosene lamp, met them at the door. Explaining their predicament, the young man asked:

"Could you put us up until morning? A place on the floor or a few easy chairs would be fine."

Just then a few grains of rice slipped from the young lady's hair and fell to the floor. The elderly couple glanced down at it and exchanged a knowing glance.

"Why surely, children," said the elderly woman. "We just happen to have a spare bedroom. You get your things from the car while my husband and I freshen it up a bit."

The next morning the newly-weds got up early and prepared to leave without disturbing the elderly couple. They dressed quietly, put a ten-dollar bill on the dresser, and tiptoed down the stairs.

When they opened the door to the living room, they found the old couple asleep in chairs. They'd given the newly-weds their only bedroom.

The young man had his wife wait a minute while he tiptoed back upstairs and put another five dollars on the dresser.

That story is a modern illustration of the beautiful story of the widow in today's gospel.

Like the widow in the gospel, the elderly couple gave not from their surplus and what they could spare. Rather, they gave from their own meagre resources. Moreover, in both cases they gave not only generously but also joyfully and from the heart.

It has been said that there are three kinds of givers: grudge givers, duty givers, and thanks givers. Grudge givers say, "I hate to give"; duty givers say, "I ought to give"; thanks givers say, "I want to give." In other words, grudge givers give reluctantly and with a certain amount of resentment

Duty givers give reluctantly too, but with a sense of true obligation. Thanks givers, on the other hand, give freely and from the heart. The story of the widow in today's gospel and the story of the elderly couple in the farmhouse are both beautiful examples of thanksgiving. Neither gave under constraint Neither gave under obligation. Both gave from the heart.

This week's Announcements, 12 November, 06.

- *Today the parish council meeting will be held at 10.30 a.m. in the pavilion.*
- *Today, 12th Rev. Fr. Felix D'Souza will conduct a session for heads of associations from all the deanery parishes in the school hall at 5.00 p.m.*
- *the Joyful Noise Party on the 12th November 2006 from 11am to 3pm at St. John Baptist School Hall.*
- *There will be retreat for Confirmation students on Saturday & Sunday, i.e. on 18th & 19th November from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. in the school hall. Participation is compulsory for all wanting to receive confirmation this year*
- *Night Adoration on Saturday, 18th November at 12.00 midnight in the Eucharistic Chapel.*
- *We will be taking a pilgrimage of parishioners to Our Lady of Velankani Church, Uttan- Bhatya on Sunday 19th November free of cost. Pilgrim buses will leave school premises at 8.00 a.m. Give names to the parish office by 15th November.*
- *CWF committee meeting on Sunday, 19th November, 2006.*
- *'World Communication Day' will be celebrated on Sunday, 19th November, 06.*
- *The collection at Masses on last Sunday, amounted to Rs.,,26,630.00*
- *The collection from the box in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour frame amounted to Rs3,370.00.*
- *All souls' day Mass intentions amounted to Rs.18,166/-*

This week's Liturgical Readings:

13/Mon	Tit 1:1-9; Ps 23; Lk 17:1-6
14/Tue	Tit 2:1-8,11-14; Ps 36; Lk 17:7-10
15/Wed	St Albert the Great, bp dr Tit 3: J -7; Ps 22; Lk 17: 11-19
16/Thu	St Margaret of Scotland Or St Gertrude, vg Phlm 7-20; Ps 145; Lk 17:20-25
17/Fri	St Elizabeth of Hungary, rel - mem 2 In 4- 9; Ps 118; Lk J 7:26-37
18/Sat	Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter & St Paul 3 In 5-8; Ps III; Lk 18:1-8
19/Sun	Is 2:1-5; Eph 2:Jn 14:15-21.

**SPECIAL SESSION FOR HEADS OF
ASSOCIATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS &
CELLS**

From all the parishes of Thane Deanery.

**Speaker: Rev. Fr. Felix D'Souza
Venue: St. John the Baptist School Hall.
Date: Sunday, 12th November, 2006.
Time: 5.00 p.m.**

OSTEOPOROSIS CAMP

The Free Osteoporosis Detection and Awareness Camp was held on 29th October 2006 at St. John's From 10.00AM to 1.30 PM.

Sixty nine parishioners got themselves tested .It was heartening to note that a numbers of parishioners showed marked improvement as compared to their earlier reports. Calcium tablets were made available at a concession. Free counseling was also rendered. A special thank to the Fr. John Lopes for providing the computer facility that was needed to conduct the test.

Health Cell

Smile, Giggle, Laugh!

Rev. Simple Simon once drove his car into another at a cross-roads. His was not damaged, but the stranger's car was crushed.

"Ring me up and tell me how much the repairs cost. I'll pay the bill," he told the stranger and started to drive away.

"What's your phone number?"

"It's in the telephone directory," the man of the cloth called back.

"What is your name?"

"Oh, it's in the telephone directory, too!"

An absent-minded clergyman was standing in a bus, holding on to the rail with one hand while his other hand clutched a Holy Bible. Seeing restlessness in the face of the clergyman, a sympathetic fellow-traveller said, "Is there anything I can do to help you, parson?"

"Why, yes, there is, if you don't mind," said the distraught minister. "Would you mind, please hold on to the rail so that I can get my bus fare out?"

**'An Evening of Praise & Worship'
On Tuesday, 14th November at 7.70 p.m.
In St. John the Baptist Church**

Join the 'Vigil Lights in Praise' in a time of live contemporary praise & worship with an ethnic sound, an experience to treasure.

Age : No bar Entry: Free

The cost: To spread this news and get along with you as many as possible.

Moreover, this evening would also include the launch of the Hindi & Instrumental version of the album 'No One But You'.

Jude Murzello

For The Vigil Lights in Praise Foundation

Letter to the Editor.....

Dear Fr. John Rumao,

I wish you would ask your parishioners to give their comment on our Parish Bulletin 'Locusts Honey.' My wish is that every bit of it makes very interesting reading.

When I open 'Locust & Honey's I search for my medicine bottle,' Smile, Giggle, Laugh! It is such a good peg to put your emotions on the right track, especially when you feel worn out with mounting tensions. One week I did not get this column and felt disappointed .

I do also enjoy the articles that appear on the first page, including telling us which Sunday of the year it is.

Your painstaking effort in bringing out ' Locusts & Honey as a weekly bulletin is very much appreciated.

We can always rise higher.

Ella Almeida

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ISSUE!

We propose to bring out a special issue of the Locusts & Honey on the occasion of Christmas. Original articles, essays or poems of about 300-350 words will be published in the issue. Zones are welcome to present a reports of their activities and progress in the issue. All written material preferably on CD should reach the parish office latest by 10th December, 2006. The special Christmas issue will be the last issue of Locusts & Honey, volume two

St. Michael's Zone Report

175 members of Pratap-Khopat-Narlipada Zone, celebrated the Feast of their Patron Saint, St. Michael on 2nd Oct 2006, with a special Mass, celebrated in the Pavillion Hall at 9 AM. We are thankful to our Sp. Director, Rev.Fr. Victor Dalmat for celebrating the Mass for us and his inspiring homily on the importance of Youth and their care. The Liturgy was prepared by our animator Cynthia D'Souza and the hymns were sung by our choir led by Martina & Stanley. Children who were to receive Confirmation in April 2007 were solemnly blessed by the Priest and the Community. Special prayers were recited for the success of our children in their forthcoming examinations and also for the tiny tots present, by Fr. Victor.

After the Mass, a very enlightening slide presentation was screened by our Coordinator, Mervyn Gonsalves, on the importance of service to others. This was linked to the formation of Clusters in our Zone. The simple presentation was very much appreciated by all. Clarifications were sought and given by Mervyn.

The celebration ended with distribution of snacks, cake & cold drink arranged by Nita Francis, Renoy Caterers.

We are grateful to Fr. John Rumao for allowing us the use of the Pavillion Hall, sound, LCD Projector and laptop for the slide presentation.

"All Work & No Play makes Jack / Jane a dull person" - PICNIC

On 29th Oct'06 the Animators / Youth Members and those who help us out at our programs, alongwith their families (40 persons), went for a picnic to Yevoor Hills. Through our Animator, Mr. Augustine Almeida, we got a fantastic Farm House with a swimming pool (with swans, guinea fowls, hens, etc. to add to the natural surrounding) which also had a variety of fruit and other herbal trees. With Idlis and tasty coconut chutney for breakfast and veg pulao, mixed vegetable curry and delicious chicken curry not to forget the various games to keep us active post lunch session, all enjoyed themselves and were thoroughly relaxed. Fellowship was indeed enjoyed by all present. It was indeed a memorable day for all. A one day picnic to Kandala for the Zone is now scheduled for 18th November 2006.

Mervyn Gonsalves (President) & Cletus Lewis (Secy), Zonal Coordinators

St. Michael Zone (Narlipada – Pratap – Khopat)

Holy Cross Convent School is organizing a "CROSIAN FUN FAIR" on the 17th , 18th & 19th November 2006 from 5.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. Contact the Holy Cross School Office for Entry Passes and other details. . Parishioners are requested to patronize the above event.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE

On the occasion
of 'The Eucharist & the Family Year

The Parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church as parish-family are invited to make a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Velankani Shrine at Uttan Bhatya on **Sunday, 19th November 2006** to mark the closing of the Eucharist & The Family Year.

- Buses will be provided for travel to and fro from St. John the Baptist School premises free of cost.
- **Buses will leave at sharp 8.00 a.m.**
- Buses will not pick up people on the way to Uttan – Bhatya.
- Prayers, specially Rosary prayer will be recited in bus on the way to the Shrine;
- Mass will be offered in the Shrine
- After Mass pilgrims will return to Thane by noon.
- Parishioners/families may unite under their zonal coordinators and animators to join the pilgrimage.
- No snacks or drinks will be provided.
- You may carry your own provision.
- Zonal leaders are expected to lead the pilgrimage from your zone and reach the church by 7.45 a.m. to board the buses in the school premises, from where the parish pilgrimage begins at 8.00 a.m.
- Those wishing to join the pilgrimage are requested to write their names, address, zones and telephone numbers on a slip of paper and hand it over to the parish office latest by 15th November.
- The young, the old, children, senior citizens all are welcome to join the pilgrimage.

All parishioners are encouraged to join the pilgrimage. A fleet of buses going on a pilgrimage will be a grand expression of parish-family unity.

--Parish Priest.

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 this set of questions along with the next set of questions together. Please, remember to write your full name, address, the lesson nos. and the questions nos. on your answer sheets. Hand over your answer sheets to Fr. Victor or Sr. Ancy after completing both the sets. The questions need not be re-written on your answer-sheets. Those who get maximum answers correct will be given prizes.

---Parish Priest.

AN INVITATION TO ALL COUPLES

This year, 2006, **Engaged Encounter** is celebrating its Silver Jubilee. To mark this occasion **Engaged Encounter** is planning to have a special Thanksgiving Eucharist followed by an Evening of fellowship, games and dinner on **Sunday, 10th December 2006, at St. Joseph's High School Hall, Hill Road, Bandra.** Invitation cards at Rs.50/- per couple, are available at the Retreat House, Bandra or with anyone of the following couples:

John & Merlin - 2665 1681/982078 81 80 James & Bernice - 2851 3451

Sylvan & Leela - 2521 3446/9869 0 1 21 84
Floyd & Maljorie - 9322 15625

To enable proper catering, please collect your invitation cards at the earliest. It will be a memorable evening for couples. Come and you will not be disappointed!

+ Bishop Agbelo.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

There will be retreat for Confirmation students

On Saturday :- 18th Nov –2006

& Sunday :- 19th Nov-2006

Time :- 9.00a.m. to 6.00p.m.

Participation is compulsory for all wanting to receive confirmation this year

APPEAL FROM

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ASSOCIATION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, THANE

The members of the Society of St.. Vincent De Paul will be doing house-to-house collection for for the CHRISTMAS BAZAAR and GIFTS given to all poor adopted families of our Parish. Please be generous. If you are a regular contributor of 1 % tithing, you may feel free to ignore this appeal.

For those who trust in God Life is changed not 'ended

God never wastes a heart-ache
... and He never wastes a care,
He never wastes a teardrop
... nor a moment of despair.
He never wastes a burden
... that so often we endure,
He takes them and He fashions them
... to make our lives more pure.
All things that come into our lives
... He's purposed that He would,
Take each and every one of them
..., and turn them into good.
So when the pathways dreary
... and you feel so sad and blue,
Remember, He turns heartaches
... into blessings just for you.

--Betty Purser Patten

*A tribute of love
from his near & dear ones*

QUOTABLE QUOTES

The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother. THEODORE HESBURGH

None but a coward dares to boast that he has never known fear.BERTRAND RUSSELL

The biggest enemy of future success is past success. AZIM PREMJI

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY ON 19th November 2006

As we celebrate World Communications Day, the Church in the Archdiocese of Bombay, invites all professionals in the field of Media and Communications to volunteer their expertise / services towards a Diocesan Body. This Body will work to ensure that all media consumers are formed for a responsible and critical use of the media, and use the media to promote a culture of life. You may enlist immediately after this Mass, on a form available at the Parish Office.

NIGHT ADORATION

Attendance at “Night Adoration” has been far from satisfactory. From this month onward it will be begin at 12 midnight in the Eucharistic Chapel winding up with the Sunday 6.00 a.m. Mass in the church. Perhaps the above timing may be found more suitable to many more!

This November month ‘Night Adoration’ will be held on Saturday, 18th November, 2006 at 12.00 midnight.