

LOCUSTS & HONEY

For Private Circulation

Vol. 2, No. 33

13 August, 2006

Parish Team:**Fr. John Rumao.****Fr. John Lopes****Fr. Gerry Fernandes****Fr. Victor Dalmet.****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**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.**

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 at6.00 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**The Comfort of Bread**

Immediately after fighting had stopped in World War II, American soldiers gathered up many hungry and homeless children and placed them in tent cities. Many of them were malnourished and in need of medical care. The soldiers shared their bread with them. However, the soldiers noticed the children were afraid to go to sleep at night. One of the soldiers tried an experiment after dinner--he gave the children a piece of bread to hold. The result was astounding. When they had the security of bread for tomorrow they slept like babies. It took away fear. Bread! There is a surplus of meaning in this word. The word evokes strong emotions like security, fellowship, the presence of God, provisions for the journey.

Security is one which we all cling to. We need security not only for earthly life but also for the life eternal. The fear of sin and evil is a constant hurdle in our life of peace. People all over the world rush to holy places to cleanse themselves from sin and evil or to holy sages to quail their consciences. Jesus has won victory over sin and evil through His death and resurrection. He claims that Satan has fallen like the lightning from heaven. Jesus therefore is the bread from heaven that through forgiveness brings peace to weary hearts who when receive this bread feel absolutely secure in His alms.

Fellowship is another emotion that gives rise by sharing bread. Jesus commanded His disciples to love one another and to serve. In the Eucharist we share Jesus the bread of life and thus become united as one family of God. It is no wonder the early Christians enjoyed this fellowship by sharing everything they possessed, because Jesus, the bread from Heaven shared Himself, His Body with us. In the Eucharist, Jesus offers Himself to us the bread of Heaven and thus unites us in fellowship.

Bread is a substance that sustains life. Life is indeed the creative action of God. Bread keeps that life going as it nourishes the life. Bread therefore in a sense effects the creative action in its nourishing power. It therefore is a reminder of God's presence and nearness to us. Jesus, the Son of God, as bread from Heaven is indeed the actual presence of God for us in the Eucharist.

And finally, bread is said to evoke the emotion of provision for the journey. No one sets on a journey without making an adequate provision for food. It is said that an army does not march on hungry stomachs. If you wish to reach your destination, bread is an absolute companion on the journey. Our life is a spiritual journey to our heavenly Father. Jesus is the Way. "No one comes to the Father except through Me. " Jesus is indeed that manna the Israelites ate on their journey to the promised land. Jesus is that bread, that constantly nourishes us on our journey to God. .

In the Gospel of St. John 6:41-51, Jesus openly claims that He is the living bread which came down from heaven....the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh." As we share this bread from heaven at the Eucharist, we are strengthened in security, fellowship, the presence of God and our sure provision for the journey.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

19th Sunday of the year – 13th August, 2006.

This week's Announcements, 13th August, 2006.

- Sunday 13th August will be observed as 'Prison Ministry Sunday'.
- Sunday 13th August, parish council meeting at 10.30 a.m.
- Tuesday, 15th August is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and also the Independence Day. It is a day of 'Sunday obligation.' Masses will be at 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 9.15 a.m. and at 7.00 p.m. There will be no 6.30 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Convent. The flag hoisting in front of the church will be held immediately after 7.00 a.m. Mass.
- Sunday, 20th August will be celebrated as "Justice and Peace" Sunday.
- The St. Paul's Fathers are having a book-exhibition in the auditorium. Please, patronize it.
- Sisters Amala, Joan and the social worker Mrs. Nirmala Patrick will be visiting your area and families. Please, welcome them.
- On Sunday 20th August we will be having a seminar on "**Right to Information Act**" in the pavilion from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. Also, practical guidance in problems with Ration cards / passports, housing, road, gutters etc. will be given. Those wanting to attend this seminar are requested to give your names in the Parish Office.
- Kindly, give your names for the Laity and Liturgical ministry training programs at the earliest. Further information read the Locusts & Honey and also handouts.
- *The collection at Masses on last Sunday, amounted to Rs.,,31,445.00*
- *The collection from the box in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour frame amounted to Rs. 2390.00.*

14/8 to 20/8 This week's readings:

- 14/ Mon St Maximilian Kolbe Pt M Mem Ez 1: 2-5, 24-28c; Ps 148; Mt 17: 22-27
- 15/Tue **The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- Sol Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab; Ps 44; I Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56 OR The Assumption of the BVM & Independence Day
- Sol pr Ms for India, Jdt 13:18-20; 14:9; Ps I Sam 2; Gal 5:13-17; Lk 1:46-55
- 16/Wed St Stephen of Hungary Ezek 9:1-7,10,18-22; Ps 112; Mt 18:15-20
- 17/Thu Ezek 12:1-12; Ps 77; Mt 18:21-19:1
- 18/Fri Ezek 16: 1-15,60,63 or Ezek 16:59-63; Ps Is 12; Mt 19:3-12
- 19/Sat St Jo~n Eudes, pt; Ezek 18:1-10,13b,30-32; Ps 50; Mt 19:13-15
- 20/ Sunday Prv 9:1-6; Eph 5:15-20; Jn 6:51-58

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 16th along with the above set of questions by 20th August 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.

19th Sunday of the year – 13th August, 2006.

**HOLISTIC LAY FORMATION
PROGRAMME**

By Archdiocese of Bombay

From

9th September to 18th November 2006

Venue:

St. John the Baptist's Church, Thane

The proposed timing will be from 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. on ten Saturdays beginning from 9th September.

- Eminent speakers will conduct the course.

- Register your name in the Parish Office by 15th August..

- Certificates will be issued on completion of the course

Smile, Giggle, Laugh!

Power Of Evangelisation

A Jewish businessman in Chicago sent his son to Israel for a year to absorb the traditions and culture of the Jewish people. When the son returned, he said: "Papa, I had a great time in Israel. And by the way, I got converted to Christianity."

"Gh no", said the father of the boy, "what have I done?" I sent him to learn the Jewish culture and he gets converted to Christianity".

He took his problem to his best friend, once again a Jew.

"Jacob", he said, I too sent my son to Israel and the came back a Christian. What can I do?"

"Funny you should ask me. I too sent my son to Israel and he came back a Christian. Perhaps we should go and ask the Rabbi.

They explained their problem to the Rabbi.

"Funny you should ask me," said the Rabbi. I too sent my son to Israel and he too came back evangelised. He became a Christian." "What is happening to our young generation!"

They decided to pray to Yahweh, telling him about their sons, and asked Yahweh for advice. As they finished the voice of Yahweh thundered from heaven, "It's funny you should ask me," said the voice;

"I too sent my Son to Israel ...born a Jew and he too converted."

A Father's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven

I am a father on earth.

You have given me this gift and responsibility.

Grant me the wisdom to carry it out.

Let my fatherhood be one of encouragement and support, not of expectations and control.

Let me protect my children, but not too much; advise them, but just a little.

Let me respect them as individuals, not as extensions of myself.

Let me be honest about my feelings toward them-including my anger, disappointment, hurt, excitement, joy and love.

Let me be firm without dominating them.

Let me be sensitive to their feelings without trying to change them.

Let me be there for them when they need me and get out of their way when they don't.

Let me offer them the roots of belonging and the wings of freedom.

Help me, Father in heaven,
to be a father on earth.

--Adapted from a prayer by Adolfo Quezada

PRAYER FOR CHINA



Virgin of Sheshan, help of Chris-tians, you are tenderly watching over the beloved Chinese people.

Virgin of Sheshan, Mother of Mercy, intercede with Your Son, the Redeemer of mankind, that those in pain may find relief and comfort and that so much suffering may not remain fruitless. Obtain light for those who guide the destiny of the Chinese nation, that they may not lack the necessary wisdom in searching for the good of all which has as its basis, respect for truth, justice and freedom.

(John Paul II)

Adult Faith Formation

Catholics do not speak in tongues, so they are not real Christians." This is what some people claim.

What the gift of tongues seems to mean in the story of Pentecost is that even though the apostles spoke only one language, all the people heard them speak in their own language, in the first languages. So the one language was equal to diverse languages in that manifestation of the speaking of tongues on Pentecost.

On the other hand, for St Paul, speaking "in tongues" refers to some sort of ecstatic utterance, and he does not seem to have too much respect for that gift. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul mentions a list of charisms. On this list, he puts the gift of tongues last.

Whether what we call the gift of tongues or talking in tongues today is equivalent to what St. Paul meant is not quite so clear. St. Paul specifically mentioned that when one speaks in tongues at these charismatic meetings, there should always be somebody there to interpret.. There is no interpretation of tongues in modern times charismatic prayer sessions. St. Paul insisted that the speaking in tongues should be accompanied always by the interpretation of tongues and that is not done today. Therefore, in the sense of what it means to speak in tongues today, it is ridiculous to say that Catholics do not speak in tongues. You have only to go to any of these charismatic meetings, and you will find our people praying in tongues there, in what praying in tongues seems to mean in our time. However, what is all important is not the way we pray but the fact that we do pray.

In conclusion, we can say that Catholics do speak in tongues and we hope also that they pray apart from speaking in tongues. The claim that Catholics do not speak in tongues and therefore, that they are not real Christians is thus clearly unfounded. You cannot identify real Christianity merely with speaking in tongues.

Parent's Day

The youth of Cherai (South) took the initiative to request the younger children to make Parent's Day cards for their parents; they also made some cards for those who could not make any. They also prepared twenty four posters on which all the Children wrote their personal messages to Parents to mark Parent's Day. The response was very good and all these charts were displayed round the School Hall and many parents read them with interest and were charmed by the messages and drawings composed by the children. Parents who attended the program thank all the Youth and Sunday School Children for the wonderful program put for them.

In search of a job?

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SEMINAR ON THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT

- There will be a Seminar on "Combat Corruption" in Thane Deanery on Sunday
- 20th August, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at St. John the Baptist Church Pavilion , Thane.
- Mr. Sailesh Gandhi a pioneer in matters of Right to Information Act will be the main
- Speaker for this seminar. He will be bringing his team along. After the talk his team
- members will help people who have problems with making Ration Cards / Passports. Also those needing redressal regarding housing, roads, gutters, electricity, water problems etc.
- will be given practical guidance to solve their problems. Parishioners may attend in large
- numbers. Please, give your names in the Parish Office.

OFFICIAL

Prison Ministry Sunday - August 13, 2006

On the occasion of the feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Church in India, in collaboration with the Prison Ministry India, is celebrating 'Prison Ministry Sunday' on August 13, 2006. Prison Ministry India is a voluntary organisation which comes under the CBCI Commission for Justice, Peace and Development working all over the country for the renewal, release and rehabilitation of prisoners. On this Prison Ministry Sunday, the Church once again encourages the believers in Christ to live the words of Jesus 'When I was in prison you came to visit me', contemplating the sorrowful face of the crucified Jesus in more than three lakh human faces languishing in the 1397 prisons of India. The Church tries to proclaim through the Prison Ministry the profound dignity of every human being even those condemned to death. Despite their criminal behaviour, they long for real love and affection. We shall join in spirit with all those who are engaged in this demanding ministry to bring back prisoners, victims and affected families into the mainstream of life.

In our Archdiocese, efforts are being made by the Prison Ministry volunteers to reach out to the prisoners and their families situated at Byculla, Arthur Road, Thane and Kalyan prisons and also to the children in the remand homes at Umerkhadi, Matunga and Mankhurd. We urge our Priests, Religious and Laity to get involved in this ministry and to offer encouragement and support to those volunteers who are engaged in this ministry.

+Bishop Bosco Penha
Archdiocesan Administrator

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, Cresencia 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."

TRAINING FOR LITURGICAL MINISTRY

An opportunity for the lay faithful to deepen their knowledge of the liturgy and acquire the necessary skills to prepare and animate meaningful liturgies

Organised by the Diocesan Liturgy Centre,
Bandra

BASIC COURSE IN LITURGY
August 2006 – March 2007

Venue: St John the Baptist Church, Thane

Dates: on **20 Sunday evenings** (5.00 pm to 7.30 pm) + two whole day sessions (Sunday/ Public holiday) & a one-day Recollection (Sunday)

N.B. Parishioners of St. John the Baptist will please give their names for the course to Fr. Gerry Fernandes by 31st July, 2006.

St. John 's Parish Feast

St. John the Baptist Church, Thane celebrated the Feast of the Patron on 25th of June 2006. The day began with a feast Mass at 9.15a.m. . The main celebrant was Rev. Fr. Ernest Fernandes, accompanied by the Parish Priest Fr. John Ruma and his team. In the evening a social was organized in the School Hall by the Parish youth group, Cultural Committee, P.Y.A.T. under the guidance of Fr. Victor & Parish team. The social began at 7.p.m. with a housie game to get the crowd in the mood. This was followed by the grocery game for couples, bombing the zones, bursting the balloons for kids. Delicious snacks were served and a tattoo artist kept the kids occupied. There were spot prizes for the couples with similar colour clothes the youngest kid present at the social etc., Not to forget the D.J. who kept the crowd going with his scintillating music. Fr. Joy declared the result of the inter-zonal matches and gave away the prizes. The climax of the social was a jam session from 9-10 p.m. Kids, youth as well as adults danced away to the beats of foot-tapping music. "All 's WELL THAT END'S WELL" The social was indeed a great success.

--Sonja D'silva

CAR PARKING

Car parking in the church and school premises is strictly prohibited, except those attending the services in the church, or visiting the school or parish office on business errand.

19th Sunday of the year – 13th August, 2006.