

LOCUSTS & HONEY

For Private Circulation

Vol. 2, No. 34

20 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

BE WISE, BE SOBER, BE THANKFUL

There are two birds that fly over deserts: One is the hummingbird and the other is the vulture. The vultures find the rotting meat of the desert, because that is what they look for.

They thrive on that diet. But hummingbirds ignore the smelly flesh of dead animals. Instead, they look for the colorful blossoms of desert plants. The vultures live on what was. They live on the past. They fill themselves with what is dead and gone. But hummingbirds live on what is. They seek new life. They fill themselves with freshness and life. Each bird finds what it is looking for. We all do.

That is the essence of Paul's teaching: In life, there are two birds. The one bird looks for foolishness and stupidity, the other looks for wisdom. The vultures seek to fill themselves with the rotting flesh of drunkenness and debauchery, the hummingbird sobriety, freshness, and the Spirit. In the desert of this world you have your scavengers who are angry and ungrateful, but you also have those who hum a grateful hymn of thanksgiving. The irony is that you find what you are looking for.

In the fifth chapter of Ephesians Paul outlines proper behavior for good living. In our short passage he admonishes his readers to be careful how they live. He is brief and to the point. Three things we must do: Be wise, be sober, and be thankful. It's a short list but if we can orient our daily lives around these three—be wise, be sober, be thankful—we will transform not only our lives but also the lives of our family, friends, church, and neighbors.

To realize St. Paul's ideal of Christian life, Jesus, however, offers a new key to true life: accept His spirit, surrender to the claim of His will, allow Him to enter the stream of everyday living; and, in this commitment, all we say and do will reflect the influence of His life within us. "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him."

20th Sunday of the year –JUSTICE SUNDAY - 20th August, 2006.

This week's Announcements, 20th August, 2006.

- Sunday, 20th August will be celebrated as "Justice Sunday".
- 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.
- On Sunday, 20th August, the CWF committee will meet at 10.30 a.m. in the meeting room.
- Parish Fathers will be visiting Cherai on Monday & Friday this week.
- On Sunday, 27th August the Deanery Youth Day will be celebrated at St. John the Baptist Church, Thane from 4.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.. Entry fee is Rs.30/-.
- Novena in honour of Our Lady of Velankani at Kopri will start from 29th August. Novena Mass will be at 7.15 p.m. daily.
- Novena in honour of Our Lady of the Mount will start from 30th August in our church. The evening 7.00 p.m. Mass will be the Novena Mass.. Parents are requested to encourage your children to attend the Novena Mass regularly.
- 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.,,23,327.00*
- *The collection from the box in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour frame amounted to Rs1,615.00.*
- *The collection at Masses on the Feast of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary amounted to Rs. 14,255.00*

21/8 to 27/8 This week's readings:

21/Mon	St Pius X, Pp - mem Ezek 24: 15-24; Ps Deut 32; Mt 19:16-22
22/Tue	The Queenship of Mary - mem, Is 9: 1-6,Ps I 12; Lk 1:26-38
23/Wed	St Rose of Lima, vg Ezek 34: I-II; Ps 22; Mt 20: 1- I 6a
24/Thu	St Bartholomew, Ap - Fst, Rev 21:9b-14; Ps 144; In 1:45-51
25/Fri	St Louis Or S. Joseph Calasanz, pt, Ezek 37:1-14; Ps 106; Mt 22:34-40
26/Sat	Ezek 43:1-7a; Ps 84; Mt 23:1-12
27/Sun	Jos 24:1-2a.15-17.18b;Eph 5:21-32;Mk 6:60-69.

OFFICIAL

Justice Sunday, 20th August 2006

Every year, the Sunday after Independence Day of our country is celebrated as Justice Sunday. After all, of what use is independence, if we do not enjoy the freedom that can come only from justice? Amidst the growing phenomenon of bribery and corruption, the Church in India is invited, this year, to reflect on the theme, "towards a corruption free society".

Our country has a fast developing economy in the world. The media highlights the growth in the share market. The cities are fast improving. This leads us to reflect on some basic questions: Is our growth and social welfare reaching out to the weakest persons in our society? Are we free from corruption? India ranks 83rd in the list of least corrupt countries. On a scale where ten is the cleanest, India gets a score of just 2.8 (The Economist, Oct. 2003).

Hence, on Justice Sunday, the Church invites us to reflect on the causes and effects of corruption and on our Christian obligation to fight it. The Justice and Peace Commission of the CBCI has given us ten commandments to build a corruption free society. A workshop has been planned in each deanery of the archdiocese on ways to combat corruption. Literature and posters have also been sent to parishes and institutions. For further details you may contact the Justice and Peace Commission, Mumbai - Tel. 28756953 or 28749023.

Let us capitalise on the graces of this Justice Sunday so as to respond generously to its call to free ourselves, first of all before we condemn others, from all practices of corruption in our lives.

+Bishop Bosco Penha
Archdiocesan Administrator

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

20th Sunday of the year –JUSTICE SUNDAY - 20th August, 2006.

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.

PRAYER FOR CHINA

Virgin of Sheshan, help of Christians, 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)

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.

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."

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.

PRE-BAPTISM CATECHESIS SESSIONS

On 3rd & 17th September, 2006.

Pre-Baptism catechesis sessions will be held on 03rd and 17th September, 2006 from 5p.m. onwards in the Parish Meeting Room. All parents –to –be of their first child should compulsorily attend these sessions. The session on 17th September, 2006 will have to be attended by the parents along with the child's God-parents chosen for the child. Registration will be accepted in the parish office latest by 01st September, 2006. A Certified copy of the Marriage Certificate should be attached to the registration form.

Fr. John Rumao, (Sp. Director)

DEANERY YOUTH DAY

On 27th August, 2006

From 4.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Venue: St. John the Baptist Church, Thane

Entry Fee: Rs. 30/- per youthj.

Registration with The Deanery Youth Committee.

All the youths from our parish are expected to attend the Deanery Youth Day. Please, contact Fr. Victor Dalmet..

**NOVENA IN HONOUR OF OUR
LADY OF VELANKANI, KOPRI
NOVENA MASS DAILY AT 7.15 P.M.**

DATE	DAY	CELEBRANT
29 August	Tuesday	Fr. John Rumao
30 August	Wednes	Fr. Victor Dalmet
31 August	Thursday	Fr. Baptist Lopes
01 Sept.	Friday	Fr. Peter D'Cunha
02 Sept	Saturday	Fr. Victor Dalmet
03 Sept	Sunday	Fr. John Lopes
04 Sept	Monday	Fr. John Lopes
05 Sept	Tuesday	Fr. Thomas D'Souza
06 Sept	Wednes	Fr. Thomas D'Soua
07 Sept	Thursday	Fr. Baptist Lopes
08 Sept.	Friday - FEAST	Fr. John Lopes

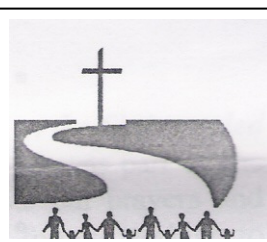
N.B. Bus will leave the school premises daily at 6.15 p.m. for the nevena at Kopri Chapel.

**THE EUCHARIST AND FAMILY
"Family Pilgrimage"**

The year of the 'Eucharist and Family' is coming to an end. As the months of September/October are approaching, Bishop Agnelo Gracias advises to mobilize families for a "Family Pilgrimage" to Mount Mary, Bandra or other Marian Shrines. It would be nice if this year every family prepares and undertakes together this Marian Pilgrimage. There is a lot of spirituality attached to Christian Pilgrimages.

A Pilgrimage is a universal religious experience and a typical expression of popular piety. The Church has encouraged pilgrimages throughout her history. A Pilgrimage has various dimensions:

- . The original and essential quality: A pilgrimage, or 'journey to a shrine' is both a moment in and parable of our journey towards the Kingdom. It is a journey of conversion: In journeying towards a shrine the pilgrim moves from a realization of his own sinfulness and attachments to interior freedom and an understanding of the deeper meaning of life. The pilgrim returns from a genuine pilgrimage with the intention of "amending his life", and ordering it more closely to God.
- . The penitential aspect of pilgrimage is complemented by a festive aspect which also lies at the heart of pilgrimage. The joy of a Christian pilgrimage is a continuation of the joy experienced in Israel's pious pilgrimage to Jerusalem: "I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'let us go up to God's house'" (Ps 122, 1).
- . Pilgrimage is essentially an act of worship: a pilgrim goes to a shrine to encounter God, to be in His presence and to open his heart to Him. During his visit to the shrine, the pilgrim uses different kind of prayers: prayers of praise and adoration; prayers of thanksgiving; prayers in discharge of a vow; prayers imploring the graces necessary in life; prayers asking for forgiveness of sin. Frequently, the pilgrim's prayers are directed to Our Lady, or Saints who are regarded as powerful intercessors with God.
- . The pilgrim who journeys to a shrine is in a communion of faith and love not only with those who accompany him on the "sacred journey" (cf. Ps 84, 6), but with the Lord himself who accompanies him as he once accompanied the disciples on the road to Emmaus (cf. Lk 24, 13-35).



- --adapted from 'Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy'