

LOCUSTS & HONEY

For Private Circulation

Vol. 2, No. 21

21 May, 2006

Parish Team:**Fr. John Rumao.****Fr. John Lopes****Fr. Gerry Fernandes****Fr. Victor Dalmat.****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**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 7pm.**Baptisms:** Sunday: 10.15 am**Marriages:** Weekday at 5.15 pm.

Sunday: 5.30 & 6.30 pm

Funerals: Any day: 10 to 11.45 am

4 to 5.00 p.m.

Sacrament of the sick:

Any time 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 Fridaysat 6.00 p.m. except on 1st Friday**Night Adoration:**at 8 p.m. on 2nd Saturday;

at 10.30 p.m. on last Saturday

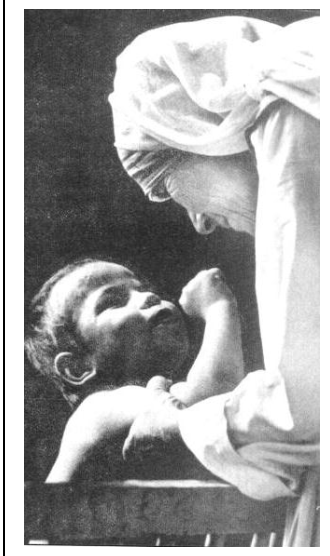
Office Timings: 9.00 a.m. to 12.30

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

Once there was a young man who was having doubts about the existence of God. So one day he paid a visit to a monk who had a reputation for holiness. He asked the monk,

'Do you believe in God?'

'Yes, I do,' the monk answered.

'On what evidence do you believe?' the young man asked.

'I believe in God because I know him,' came the reply.

'I experience the presence of God within me every day.' 'But how is that possible?' the youth asked.

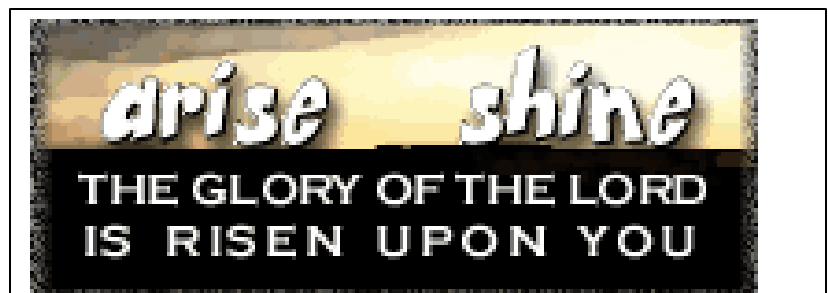
'When we love, we experience God, and doubt vanishes like early morning mist before the sun,' replied the monk. The youth thought about this for a while, then asked,

'How can I achieve this kind of certainty?'

'By acts of love,' came the reply. 'Try to love your neighbours; love them actively and unceasingly. As you learn to love them more and more, you will become more and more convinced of the existence of God and the immortality of the soul. This has been tested. This is the true way.'

The monk was only echoing the words of St. John: 'My dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God. Van Gogh said something similar: 'The best way to know God is to love many things. Love a friend, a wife, something, and you will be on the right way to knowing about God.'

Flor McCarthy, in 'New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies'



This week's Announcements, 21st May, 06.

- ☞ CWF Committee meeting today at 10.30 a.m.
- ☞ Next Sunday Rev. Fr. L. Hendricks MSFS Father from our parish presently working in Brazil will say his sacerdotal Silver Jubilee Mass at 6.30 p.m. in the church
- ☞ A gold tone lady's wrist-watch found after the 7.00 a.m. Mass on last Sunday. The owner may claim it from the Parish Priest.
- ☞ From Friday, 26th May commences the Novena in preparation for Pentecost.
- ☞ Saturday, 27th May, Night Adoration with Mass at 10.30 p.m.
- ☞ **Sunday, 28th May is the Ascension of the Lord**
- ☞ The collection at Masses on last Sunday, amounted to Rs.,21,487.00
- ☞ The collection from the box in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour frame amounted to Rs 1,458.00.

22/06 to 28/06 This week's readings :

- 22/Mon (WfW) *St Rita of Cas cia, rei* Ac 16:11-15;
Ps 149; In 15:26-16:4a
- 23Tue (W) Ac 16:22-34; Ps 137; In 16:5-11
- 24Wed (W) Ac 17:15,22-18:1; Ps 148; In 16:12-15
- 25Thu *St Bede the Venerable, pt/ St Gregory V/L Pp/ St Mary Magdalene de Pazzi,*
vg Ac 18:1-8; Ps 97; In 16:16-20
- 26/Fri (W) *St Philip Neri, pt - mem* Ac 18:9-18;
Ps 46; In 16:20-23a
- 27/Sat (WfW) *St Augustine of Canterbury, bp*
Ac 18:23-28; Ps 46; In 16:23b-28
- 28/Sunday: Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mk 16:15-20

Course on The Effective Use of Law in Our Social and Educational Ministries

by Fr. P.O. Mathew SJ (Advocate, Supreme Court, famous all over India for this course) and Sr. Annie Fernandes SHM (Lawyer).
Venue:- St. Pius Campus, Goregaon East from 27th – 31st: May, 2006 from 9.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m. and is open to all.
The Course Fee Rs.700/- Participants must bring their own lunch.
Those wanting to attend the course will be given scholarship. Register your name on the following contact: Andheri Sr. Blanche Rodrigues FC 26762312,26766906,2676302 26424021

CHILDREN'S CORNER- Bible Study**43. WHAT DID THEY SAY?**

Many people said various things about Jesus during his lifetime. Match the person with his saying

1. You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
2. Truly you are the Son of God.
3. He truly was the Son of God.
4. Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me.
5. We have found the Messiah.
6. Come and see the man who told me all that I have done. Is not this the Christ?
7. I know who you are: g. Evil spirit you are God's holy messenger.
8. Isn't he the carpenter's son?
9. This is my own dear i. Pilate Son, with whom I am well pleased, listen to him.
10. Are you the king of the Jews?
a. Peter; b. Centurian; c. Andrew; d Peter; e. Samaritan woman; f. Bartimaeus; g. Evil spirit; h. People of Nazareth; i. Pilate; j. The Father

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44. HIDDEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Read carefully each sentence and find out the name of a book of the Bible

1. These are facts about Jesus told by the evangelists.
2. Sonia got a job in her father's office.
3. The sparrow has a nest here.
4. Joe, let the boy go home.
5. There were judges in Israel.
6. She asked him to bite the apple.
7. The taxi took Jon ahead.
8. Lina, humble maid of the king!
9. Markings is written by Dag Hammarskjold.
10. A most amusing story was told about Jenny.

Children, answer the above quizzes and the ones that appeared in the previous bulletin together and submit them to Fr. Joe Rodricks or any of the sisters by 27th May.

---Parish Priest.

PRE-BAPTISM CATECHESIS SESSIONS

Pre-Baptism catechesis sessions will be held on 04th June 2006 and 11th June 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 11th June 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 June 2006.

A Certified copy of the Marriage Certificate should be attached to the registration form.

Fr. John Rumao
(Sp. Director)

Think beyond the obvious

THERE was once a priest so holy that he never thought ill of anyone.

One day he sat down at a restaurant for a cup of coffee, which was all he could take - it being a day of fast and abstinence, when; to his surprise, he saw a young member of his congregation devouring a massive steak at the next table.

"I trust I haven't shocked you, Father," said the young fellow with a smile.

"Ah! I take it that you forgot "that today is a day of fast and abstinence,"

said the priest.

"No, no. I remembered it distinctly." "Then you must be sick. The doctor has forbidden you to fast."

"Not at all. I'm in the pink of health.!"

At that, the priest raised his eyes to heaven and said, "What an example this younger generation is to us, Lord! Do you see how this young man here would rather admit his sins than tell a lie?"



Mr. Sanjay Almeida's Biblical Library



Good News to all Bible lovers



The Locusts and Honey congratulates Master Abraham George, a student of St. John's gave a brilliant performance at the Thane District Aquatic Championship and Selection Tournament held recently. He claimed a gold in 50 metre free style, a silver in 50 metre butterfly and 50 metre back stroke and a bronze in 200 metre individual medley.

HOLY WEEK EXPENSES

Holy Water Bottles (including Printing church Logo)	Rs. 8000.00
LCD Projector charges	Rs. 2600.00
Backdrop Expenses	Rs. 1062.00
Incable Telecast	Rs.12250.00
Printing of Hymn Sheets /	
House Blessing Cards	Rs. 5000.00
Sound system	Rs.13000.00
Total Amount Spent	Rs.41912.00
Good Friday Collection / Holyland	Rs. 51749.00
Lenten Alms / Diocesan Seminary	Rs. 22826.00
<i>N.B. The altar stage, chairs, lighting etc. were free service rendered by Mr. Nazeer of Awaj Radio.</i>	

A Christian video cum reading library has started in Thane for the first time with the purpose of making God's word more understood and loved.

The library consists of VCD's and DVD's and books. The VCD's are in movie form like David, Joseph, Samson & Delailah, St. Paul, Acts of the Apostles, St John and the Revelation being some of the movies which make understanding the Bible more exciting and easy.

Books on topics like faith, healing, God's purpose in suffering, Christian leadership, anointing etc. are available for reading

There is no service, deposit, registration charges. However the books must be returned within one week and the CD/DVD within two days.

Library timings are 09.30 a.m. to 06.00 p.m (Monday to Saturday)

The VCD/ DVD and books are available to all for viewing **free of cost** in order to enable everyone to watch these movies which are not available in other libraries.

Address: Mr.Sanjay Almeida, Grace Placements, Angel's Paradise, Next to Maharashtra Vidyalyaya, Veer Savarkar Path, Naupada, Thane – 400602

Tel: 55747633 / 25427073

[The Locusts & Honey congratulates and approves this private initiative of Mr. Sanjay Almeida under guidance of the Parish Priests.]

Special Message - "Skipper," the sailor said to his captain as he saluted, "A special message just came in for you from the admiral. I have it right here."

"Read it to me," the captain ordered. The sailor read, "You are without a doubt the most idiotic, lame-brained officer ever to command a ship in the United States Navy." The skipper responded, "Have the communication decoded at once!"

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PARABLE OF THE CAUTIOUS MAN

There was a very cautious man,
 who never laughed or cried.
 He never risked, he never lost,
 he never won nor tried.
 And when he one day passed away,
 his insurance was denied,
 For since he never really lived,
 they claimed he never died

Adult Faith Formation

How can Catholics claim that Mary was free from sin from the moment of her conception? This is not stated in the Bible, neither is the doctrine of Mary's Assumption into heaven stated in the Bible.

Well, once again this question presupposes a statement.

It presupposes that any doctrine that Christians believe in must be found in the Bible. This need not be true. There are certain elements in our faith which come from the lived traditions of the Church, traditions which are heavily influenced by the light of the Holy Spirit and the inspiration of the Bible.

Now, there are certain things which cannot be in the Bible, and which we accept nevertheless. The most obvious thing is the Canon of Scripture, the Canon of the New Testament. By Canon we mean the exact books that constitute the New Testament.. There was a time, for instance, in the second century, when people believed that the first letter of Clement, the Shepherd of Hermas and the letter of Barnabas (these were spiritual writers of the time) were part of the New Testament. So, it is only the Church (which is the Body of Christ and the guardian of the Truth) who can decide what belongs to the New Testament, and this decision was finally made about the year 400 of our era. It is part of the responsibility of the Church to authenticate matters such as these. It follows then that everything does not have to be in the Bible and the fact that the Assumption of Mary and her Immaculate

Conception are not explicitly found does not constitute a valid argument against its truth.

On the other hand however, we can say that the roots of these two doctrines namely, the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, are found in the New Testament. And I would look for the roots in Mary herself. She sums up the Church in her whole self. The angel told Mary that nothing is impossible with God. The same thing was said to the matriarch, Sarah in chapter 18 of Genesis, that nothing is impossible with God. So, what Sarah was in the Old Testament, Mary is in the New Testament. Mary also says in the Magnificat, "My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. The second phrase is taken from the Prophet Habakkuk who was talking in the name of all Israel. You will get it at the end of chapter 3 of Habakkuk, "My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. That is the collective chant of all Israel in Habakkuk, and Mary makes these words her own in the Magnificat.

If you read the Magnificat (Luke I: 46-55) carefully, you will see that Mary seems to think that the whole of salvation history in the Old Testament is focused on and concentrated in herself. So, Mary then is the Church in prototype, She is the Church



in its perfection. Now, what we all hope for in salvation is ultimately to be free from sin and to be free from death. And these two grave freedoms from sin and from death are already anticipated in the Blessed Virgin Mary, because she is the new Israel herself. She is, as

it were, the new creation, she is the Church in its perfection. Hence our belief that Mary was assumed into heaven. She is fully saved. the only creature we know of who is fully saved. So, she has experienced Jesus' own Resurrection in her own Assumption and she is also free from sin. So, I think that we can, if we look, find the roots of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception and of the Assumption of our Blessed Lady in the New Testament because primarily, Mary is the Church in its perfection, Mary is the people of God. in its perfection.

20/05/06

Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Cardinal Ivan Dias as Prefect of the Congregation of Evangelization of people. He has been asked to continue as administrator of the Archdiocese of Mumbai till he leaves to take over his responsibilities in the Vatican.

