

LOCUSTS & HONEY

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly Vol. 3, No. 5 28 January, 2007

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

Love

Many of you will recognize the name of Eli Wiesel, the renowned Jewish theologian and prolific author. In his book, *All Rivers Run To The Sea* he tells of his family, living in Hungary during the dark days of the WWII. His family was waiting for their time to come, for the Nazis to arrive at their door and take them to labor camp. He tells about a peasant woman by the name of Maria. Maria was almost like a member of the family. She was a Christian. During the early years of the war she continued to visit them, but eventually non-Jews were no longer allowed entrance to the ghettos. That did not deter Maria. She found her way through the barbed wire and she came anyway, bringing the Wiesels fruits, vegetables, and cheese.

One day she came knocking at their door. There was a cabin that she had up in the hills. She wanted to take the children, of which Eli was one, and hide them there before the SS came. They decided after much debate to stay together as a family, although they were deeply moved at this gesture.

He writes of her: Dear Maria. If other Christians had acted like her, the trains rolling toward the unknown would have been less crowded. If priests and pastors had raised their voices, if the Vatican had broken its silence, the enemy's hand would not have been so free. But most thought only of themselves. A Jewish home was barely emptied of its inhabitants before they descended like vultures. I think of Maria often, with affection and gratitude, he writes, and with wonder as well. This simple, uneducated woman stood taller than the city's intellectuals, dignitaries and clergy. My father had many acquaintances and even friends in the Christian community, not one of them showed the strength of character of this peasant woman. Of what value was their faith, their education, their social position, if it did not arouse their love. It was a simple and devout Christian woman who saved the town's honor. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging symbol. If I have prophetic powers and a faith so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give everything I have to the poor, but have not love, I am nothing. [Cor.1, 12:31-13:1-13]

Peace rules the day when Christ rules the heart.



This week's announcements
January 28, 2007.

- *Tuesday, 30th January will be celebrated World Day of Peace*
- *Friday, 2nd February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It is also the 1st Friday of the month. It will be celebrated as Day of Consecrated Life. The evening 7.00 p.m. Mass will be begin with the blessing of candles at the Grotto, followed by a procession to the church for Mass. There will be the usual half hour adoration of the Eucharistic Lord.*
- *Copies of Charisindia magazine are on sale outside the church.*
- *Sunday, 4th February will be the 1st Holy Communion Day in our parish. There will be a special Mass for 1st Holy Communicants at 10.30 a.m.*
- *Sunday, 4th February at 10.00 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Hope Church, Ghormal.*
- *The collection at Masses on last Sunday, amounted to Rs.34,540.00*
- *The collections from Perpetual Succour box amounted to Rs.1,687.00*

This Week's Liturgical Readings.

29/Mon	Heb 11:32-40; Ps 30:20-24; Mk 5:1-20
30/Tue	Heb 12:1-4; Ps 21:26-28,32; Mk 5:21-43
31/Wed	St John Bosco Mem, Heb 12:4-7,11-15; Ps 102:1- 2, 13-14,17-18; Mk 6:1-6
1/Thu	Heb 12:18-19,21-24; Ps 47:2-4,9-11; Mk 6:7-13
2/Fri	Presentation of the Lord fst Mal 3:1-4; or Heb 2:14-18; Ps 23:7-10; Lk 2:22-40
3/Sat	St Blaise Bs & Mar & St Ansgar Bs Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 22:1-6; Mk 6:30-34.
4/Sun	Is 6:1-2a,3-8; 1Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11

" Dilkhush Special School, at Juhu, Mumbai, runs a Teacher's Training Centre, wh~re a Diploma Course in Special Education is held. It is a full time course, approved by R.C.I. Delhi. Admissions have begun."

VACANCY FOR A CLERK
at St. John the Baptist School
Secondary Section, Thane
Candidates 12th Std Pass with
Thorough Computer Knowledge,
Age below 35 Yrs may meet the
Principal during Office Hours

Smile, Giggle, Laugh!

It was an exclusive party. Among the many VIP's present, was an Ambassador whose eyesight was not too good.

When dancing commenced, he saw someone with whom he wished to dance. Approaching the person he said: "Hello you beautiful lady in red, may I have the pleasure of this waltz?" "Certainly not," was the answer. "In the first place this is not a waltz, it is a tango. In the second place I am not a beautiful lady in red, I am the papal Nuncio."

A Sunday school teacher asked one of the six-year old students:

'Tomy, where does God st3.y?' Pat came the reply: 'In the bathroom, Sir.'

" What," shouted the shocked teacher, "who told you that?" "My father, Sir," came the innocent reply. , Every morning he comes down with a towel round his neck, stands in front of the bathroom and shouts, "Mv God! You are still inside."

A V Enterprises

Job Recruitment group Services

Contact: 9860082950/ 9960961116. Telephone: (95250)2505885 /6991354

Recruitment is Going on, (Short list) Employees Urgently Required Large Number Of Employees for Multinational Companies, Rush Interview Open For International And Domestic Call centers, All types of Administration Staff, Tele Callers, Data Entry Marketing Mangers, Marketing Executive, And Many Other Jobs

ST. JOHN'S HEALTHCARE CENTRE

St. John's Health Care Centre is located behind the St. John the Baptist Special School Building near the Church Cemetery. It cares for the poor and the marginalized people who look for free health and medical guidance.

From 1st February 2007 it will remain open for free service as follows:

Monday to Saturday from 10.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

Wednesdays & Sundays: 05.00 p.m. – 07.00 p.m.

Medics at service:

1. Rev. Sr. Amala, Para-medic – available from Monday to Saturday from 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.
2. Dr. Rita Fernandes, NHA; M.A. (Socio+ Counseling) – Mondays from 10.00 to 11.00 a.m.
3. Ms. Clara Correia, NH – Wednesdays & Sundays from 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

N.B. Those who have excess medicine –left over and NOT passed the expiry date, are requested to give that medicine to the Health Care Centre.

January 17, 2007

To: The Rev. Parish Priest / Priests-in-charge
in the Archdiocese of Bombay

Dear Father (s),

Thursday, February 1, 2007 is the day citizens will go to the polls to elect Corporators to the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. Since the Municipality is responsible for services that meet 75% of the daily needs of our households there is so much at stake for the city in these elections. The elections enable us to decide by whom and how we wish to be served.

My message to all our people on this occasion: Do vote and vote wisely. It is of greatest importance that the citizens of Mumbai should vote, especially all our parishioners. We must not only vote but vote wisely for those who will serve this city, improve its facilities, spend themselves for working for others, and have a special heart for the poor and the underprivileged.

Catholics living within the limits of Greater Mumbai should see a special role for themselves. Our Lord has called the faithful "the leaven in the dough", the substance that transforms flour into the bread we eat. We must take the initiative to transform our society, influencing our neighbours of all faiths to be responsible voters.

At our recently concluded CCBI Plenary Assembly one of our main decisions was to empower the laity to animate the temporal sphere. Getting our people to be more "civic conscious" is a step in this direction.

I request the Clergy and the SCC leaders on the weekends of 20th/21st and 27th/28th January 2007 to encourage our people to participate in the elections and to vote responsibly and wisely in the forthcoming elections.. All our parishioners are encouraged to start a campaign of prayer in the days leading up to the elections. It would be appropriate if petitions for this intention are made at the Prayer of the Faithful during these two weekends.

With kind regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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Archbishop of Bombay



The Feast of OUR LADY OF HOPE,

Ghormal will be celebrated on

Sunday, 29th April, 2007.

QUOTATIONS for PAINTING

The painting of the interior walls and the ceiling of the church will be taken up shortly. Quotations for painting are invited latest by 5th February, 2007. The selection of the colour, shade etc. will be decided later. Your quotation should include your rates on various types of colour and the brand. No scaffolder, ladders etc. will be provided.

BIBLE - THE WORD OF GOD

(February 2007) Mark 4: 3 -9: The sower

1. An appropriate hymn - "The more we hear of the Word of God"
2. A brief period of silence
3. Read the Gospel text: Mark 4: 3-9
4. Read the following Input slowly and clearly:

Mr. Fernandes was very excited one Sunday morning. He said to his parish priest, "Father, I have just been through the entire Bible for the fifth time". "My dear Mr. Fernandes", said the parish priest, "it is not important how many times you have been through the Bible but how many times has the Bible been through you?"

While reading the Bible is good and of utmost importance, it is the fruits that we produce by reading the Word that really matter the most. When using the Bible we keep in mind the 3 R's -READ, REFLECT, RENEW.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus exposes the various types of surfaces on which the seed falls: the pathway, rocky ground, thorny bushes and good soil. The seed sown is exposed to various factors and takes root accordingly. Lying on the pathway, the birds come and devour it. Rocky ground has not much soil and so the seed quickly withers. The thorny bushes choke the seedlings and they do not grow. It is only the rich soil that produces a great harvest.

Verses 13-20 of chapter 4, explain the different types of people and their attitude or reaction to the word that is sown. Factors like Satan (the evil one), trials and persecutions, the cares of the world, riches and pleasures destroy the word and do not allow it to take root in the hearts of human beings. Thus the word dies and does not produce any fruit.

5. Spend a few moments in silent reflection
6. Questions for discussion
 - i) Of the 4 types of surfaces presented, which one am I? Why?
 - ii) What kind of good fruits have I produced in these past years?
 - iii) Do I have a Bible at home? How do I go about reading the Word of God?
7. Sharing in groups
8. Intercessions
9. Concluding prayer
10. An appropriate concluding hymn: -"We are one in the Spirit".



The Cry of the aborted foetus

Mother dear
 Why didn't you
 Let me see your face
 And feel the love
 And warmth
 Of your sweet embrace
 For months I waited
 In the darkness
 And I cling on to you
 Why was I throttled
 So cruelly
 Was there nothing
 You could do

I want to walk
 Beside you
 I want to hold
 Your hand
 And care for you
 Dear Mother
 As no one can
 But I am a mass
 Of clotted blood
 I am – NO MAN

Dorothy Serpes



"RINGS & RAINBOWS - 2007 "

The Sunday before Valentine's Day is celebrated as World Marriage Day. On 11th February, 2007 Parish Family Cell is organizing "Rings & Rainbows 2007" for the entire Thane Deanery at St. John's Pavilion commencing with the Eucharist at 5.30 p.m. followed by an interactive session on "Communication between Couples", continuing with unwinding & intermingling, sharing married life experiences, fun, games and ending with dinner. Invitation Cards priced at Rs. 1001- are available at the Church office, Parish Family Cell Members & Desmond & Marina (9869243203)

Please, pray for the health of Rev. Fr. Herculan Silveira, former principal of St. John the Baptist High School and Junior College and the founder of St. John's Special School. He is very critical and is admitted to Shanti Avedna, Bandra.

Global Warming: A cause for concern

The earth's atmosphere is turning warmer day after day. Being responsible citizens of this world we need to take this matter seriously.

The cause for global warming is mainly due to our dependence on fossil fuels as an energy source, and the destruction and burning of the forests by man, both of which causes the release of carbon the so-called green house gases. If this trend is allowed to continue in the years to come we may have to face serious consequences. The present sea level will rise several meters high due to the dramatic shrinkage of ice cores in the Antarctica and the Arctic regions. Droughts and floods will become more frequent, followed by incidence of water-borne diseases and spread of infectious disease by mosquitoes. Moreover, millions of our brethren living in the coastal areas will lose their homes as land will be covered by water.

We need to save our planet, and preserve its beauty for many generations to come. For this purpose we have to

- Improve our energy efficiency by switching over fossil fuels to renewable energy sources like wind, solar and geothermal energy.
- Use public transport as an alternative to individual vehicle that will save energy, curb air pollution and prevent traffic jams.
- Prevent felling of trees as they provide oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- Follow the principle of sustainable development by preserving fertile agricultural lands, rivers and several acres of green pastures

--Malcolm Nobre

LEGION STALL

Rev. Sisters Amala and Joan will run the Legion Stall on Saturdays & Sundays. Those subscribing for the Examiner copies are requested to contact the sisters for your regular copies and payment of subscription

ay -28 January, 2007.