

# LOCUSTS & HONEY



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THANE.**

For Private Circulation Parish Weekly

Vol. 2, No. 49

03 December, 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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 7. a.m.

**Mass in Konkani:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 7. a.m.

**Tamil Mass:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.stjohnthebaptistthane.com)

## OFFICIAL

Archbishop's House

November 10, 2006

To all Parish Priests, Principals, Heads of Religious Institutions of Women and Men.

**ANNUAL ADVENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER AND  
DISEASE**

Jesus' words, "I have come in order that you might have life-life in all its fullness" (Jn-10: 10) has a special significance during the season of Advent when we show our concern for those afflicted by any type of suffering or deprivation.

Today our society is confronted with a global issue of land degradation i.e. 'Desertification'. This phenomenon has affected the natural potential of the ecosystems. Thus the ecological imbalance caused due to desertification has a direct impact on the people in terms of vulnerability to food shortages, depletion of natural resources and deterioration of the environment. The cause of land degradation could be attributed to human activities and climatic variations thus converting fertile land to dry lands over a period of time. Since desertification impairs the ability of land to support life, we must realize that vegetation plays a crucial role in protecting the soil, since due to its capacity to develop powerful roots systems it ensures strong protection against soil degradation. Realizing the interdependence on nature we must work towards a process that promotes sustainable solutions for conserving our environment.

Identifying this as a major concern, Centre for Social Action in collaboration with Caritas India (an organization of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of India) is proposing this year's theme for the Advent Campaign against Hunger and Disease as "Save Mother Earth Care for Nature". Through this campaign Centre for Social Action intends to create awareness and bring about sustainable changes in the areas of protection, preservation and conservation of our Mother Earth.

In this context, I request you to raise resources through this Advent Campaign in assisting the above-mentioned cause. I urge you to contribute generously through the Parish Priest or directly to the Director of 'Centre for Social Action', Eucharistic Congress Bldg, 5 Convent Street, Mumbai 400001. Your contribution could be sent either in cash or cheque drawn in favour of 'Centre for Social Action'.

Contribution made to this cause are exempted from Income Tax (SOG)..

With Cordial regards, I remain

Yours in Christ,  
Sd/-

+Bishop Bosco Penha  
Archdiocesan Administrator

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – 03 December, 2006.



## Announcements, 03 December, 06.



- Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December is first Sunday of the Advent Season. It is also the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the patron of the Archdiocese. The morning 9.15 Mass will be in Konkani. The Utalsar Zone will be celebrating their annual zonal Mass on the occasion of the feast of the patron saint, St. Francis Xavier at 6.30 p.m. Mass in the church
- Today Mass at Our Lady of Hope Church, Ghormal at 10.00 a.m. A bus will leave for Ghormal at 9.00 a.m. from the school premises..
- During Advent season a box will be placed on the side altar for your advent offerings
- Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December is feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- The collection at Masses on last Sunday, amounted to Rs.,,21,306.00
- The collection from the box in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour frame amounted to Rs6,422.00.
- 1% tithing contribution for the month of October 2006 amounted to Rs. 58,632.00

### 04/12 to 11/12 This week's readings:

- 4/Mo S. FRANCIS XAVIER, pt -Sol  
Jer 1:4-8 or Ac 17:22-28;  
Ps 70:1-2,3-4a,5-6ab,15ab&17;  
2 Cor 4:7-15 or Eph 3:1-13; Lk 10:1-16
- 5/Tu 1 st week of Advent  
Is 11:1-10; Ps 71:1-2,7-8,12-13,17;  
Lk 10:21-24
- 6/We 1 st week of Advent S. Nicholas. bp  
Is 25:6-10a; Ps 22:1-3a,3b-4,5-6; Mt 15:29-37
- 7/Th S. Ambrose, bp dr - mem  
Is 26:1-6; Ps 117:1&8-9,19-21,25-27a; Mt 7:21,24-27
- 8/Fri IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Gn 3:9-15,20; Ps 97:1,2-3ab,3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6,11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- 9/Sa S. John Diego Cuahltlatoatzin Is 30:19-21,23-26; Ps 146:1-2,3-4,5-6; Mt 9:35-10:1,6~8.
- 10/Sun Bar 5:1-9,Phil 1:4-6,8-11;Lk 3:1-6

The Sodalist will be celebrating the feast of their patroness "Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception" on Friday, 8th December 2006. All Sodalists are requested to attend the Feast Mass at 7.p.m. in the Church followed by a Get –together in the auditorium.

President

## NAUPADA II -- Zonal Eucharist

The Zonal Eucharist of Naupada II was held on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 in the St. John the Baptist Pavilion. The Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Gerry and participated by over 200 members of the zone. Fr. Gerry during his address to the zone stressed on the formation of clusters and the benefits the Christian family community will acquire. He also emphasized on the concepts of love and the enrichment associated with it through sharing caring and loving all members of the zone. He discussed the issue of adolescence and explained the various issues connected with it, as it seems to be growing problem, little which is understood by others.



As the evening wore on it was filled with games in which all the members young and old participated and the winners were rewarded with prizes. Snacks served were appetizing and

the zonal together end with the members carrying home good memories wishing for many more in the future.

Reported by  
Desmond & Marina Dsilva



### Smile, Giggle, Laugh!

Bishop Gilbert Burnet was notorious for his absent-mindedness. Driving in a horse carriage with the Duchess of Marlborough, after her husband's disgrace, he likened this general to Belisarius.

"But," said the Duchess eagerly, "How come it that such a great warrior was so miserably and universally discredited?"

"Dh, madam," exclaimed the distraught prelate, "He had such a brimstone of a wife!"

\*

9. The gloomy Archbishop Temple resigned the See of Dublin on grounds of ill-health and old age and settled in London. Once he and his wife visited Dublin and stayed with Archbishop Lord Trunket as his guests. Sitting in his old chair in the dining hall, he lapsed in memory and looking at his wife, remarked, "I am afraid, my dear, that we must put this cook among our failures."



### Ageing

Ageing is a challenging time  
 When your 'body and mind  
 are on the decline  
 Your hearing impaired  
 and your eyesight dim  
 You are lumpy and dumpy  
 no longer slim  
 Your knees are shaky  
 and your steps are slow  
 Your face is all wrinkled  
 it has lost its glow  
 You look into the mirror  
 and say it can't be  
 Is that woman really me?  
 You can hear the music  
 that's floating along  
 And you recall the words  
 of your springtime song  
 You want to get up and  
 dance  
 to the rhythmic beat  
 But with painful arthritis  
 you are glued to your seat  
 Ah! Dear me!  
 Now all you can say  
 "I am really old  
 Lord take me away"  
 - Dorothy Serpes

### As Night Falls

Lord now as I come  
 to my journey's end  
 stand by me Lord  
 not as a judge  
 but as a friend  
 Lay your hands  
 upon me Lord  
 and help me  
 breathe my last  
 like a flickering  
 candle flame  
 as the night shades  
 falling fast  
 Peacefully  
 and prayerfully  
 without a struggle  
 or a groan  
 put your arms  
 around me Lord  
 and gently  
 take me home  
 - dorothy serpes



## SEASON OF ADVENT



and spiritual expectation.

A time of  
 preparation for  
 Christmas, when  
 the first coming  
 of Christ is  
 recalled....minds  
 are directed by  
 the memorial of  
 Christ's second  
 coming as the end  
 of time. Hence a  
 season of joyful

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent –03 December, 2006.

### XIII HOURS' ADOARATION

*This years' XIII hours' adoration was well attended, thanks to the zonal leaders and animators who took interest to get the zonal people to spend an hour in prayer before the Eucharist Lord. The closing service too was quite impressive. The Parish Team and sisters are grateful to all those involved in making this annual feature a spiritual experience for all of us. Thanks to Mr. Nazeer of Awaj Radio for stage, chairs and decoration, the choir for leading the congregation in singing, Mrs. Margaret Menezes & Anthony for altar decoration, Mr. Marcus Alvares with the volunteers and ushers and all the parishioners who attended the prayers throughout the day.*

*A meeting of all the SCC coordinators will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.00 p.m. in the meeting room with the PPC secretary regarding the progress of the common crib for Christmas 2006. Please, come with a proposed costing for your themes*

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*The Heads of the Associations, organizations and cells will have a meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December after 7.00 p.m. Mass.*

### CHRISTMAS 2006 TENTATIVE PROGRAM

DATES	DAY	TIME	PROGRAMS
Dec. 17	Sunday	6 - 11.30am & 5 to 8 pm 7.00 p.m.	Christmas Bazaar Group Singing Cont.
Dec. 18, Dec. 19 Dec. 20	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	5 to 8 pm	Confessions
Dec. 22 & 23rd	Thursday Friday	6 to 10 p.m.	Float + Carol Singing all over Thane.
Dec. 24	Sunday	06.30 p.m. 10.00 p.m. 10.30 p.m.	No Evening Mass Carol Singing & Skit <b>MID-NIGHT MASS</b> Crib & star contest
Dec. 25	Monday	06.00 a.m. 07.00 a.m. 08.00 a.m. 09.15 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass No Evening Masses
Dec. 26	Tuesday	04.00 p.m.	Sunday School X'mas Tree
Dec. 27	Wednesday	07.30 p.m.	Singing (Solo & Group) contest
Dec. 28	Thursday	07.30 p.m.	Fancy Dress Contest for children
Dec. 29	Friday	05.00 p.m.	Senior Citizens' X'mas Tree Get-to- gether
		7.30 p.m.	Group Folk Dance Contest & Prize distribution
Dec. 30	Saturday	10.00 a.m.	Healing Mass & X'mas party for the sick & Homebound
		12.00 noon.	Lunch for the poor
		07.00 p.m.	Family Day Function
Dec. 31	Sunday	06.30 p.m. 10.00 p.m. 11.00 p.m.	No 6.30 p.m. Mass Holy Hour New Year Mass
Jan . 01	Monday	06.00 a.m.	New Year Mass
		07.00 a.m.	New Year Mass
		08.00 a.m.	New Year Mass
		09.15 a.m.	New Year Mass
		05.30 p. m.	Evening Mass
		06.30 p.m.	NO 6.30 P.M. MASS
		08.00 p.m.	New Year 2004 Blast

*N.B. There will be also crib, star and rangoli contests in addition to children's fancy dress, solo/group singing and group folk dances[national/international]. The Zones are to take part in all the above contests. Zonal leaders and coordinators will, please, start working on it. More information will be available with Fr. Gerry, Sports & Cultural Committee and in-charge people.*

*2. We are also planning to go round the Masunda Lake and other areas etc. singing carols in Hindi and Marathi with a Christmas-Scene-Float. Parishioners who can spare their trucks/vehicles and have talents to work for the above plans, please, meet the Parish Priest or Fr. Gerry Fernandes.*