

LOCUSTS & HONEY

For Private Circulation

Vol. 2, No. 14

02 April, 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 6.15 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**We Become His Sons!**

There is a story that comes out of the Bedouin culture. "Bedouin" is the Aramaic name for "desert dwellers." These people live much as the characters of the Old Testament did.

During a heated argument, according to this story, a young Bedouin struck and killed a friend of his.

Knowing the ancient, inflexible customs of his people, the young man fled, running across the desert under the cover of darkness, seeking safety. He went to the black tent of the tribal chief in order to seek his protection. The old chief took the young Arab in. The chief assured him that he would be safe until the matter could be settled legally.

The next day, the young man's pursuers arrived, demanding the murderer be turned over to them. They would see that justice would prevail in their own way. "But I have given my word," protested the chief. "But you don't know whom he killed!" they countered. "I have given my word," the chief repeated. "He killed your son!" one of them blurted out. The chief was deeply and visibly shaken with his news. He stood speechless with his head bowed for a long time. The accused and the accusers as well as curious onlookers waited breathlessly. What would happen to the young man?

Finally the old man raised his head. "Then he shall become my son," he informed them, "and everything I have will one day be his." The young man certainly didn't deserve such generosity. And that, of course, is the point. Love in its purest form is beyond comprehension. No one can merit it. It is freely given. It is agape " the love of God. Look to the cross. At the cross we encounter love in its purest form.

*The young Bedouin is every repentant sinner. The tribal Chief is our loving heavenly Father. The son killed by the Bedouin is Jesus Christ hanging on the Cross, to become a source of eternal salvation through His obedience, to all who obey Him [Hebrews 5:7-9]. Through His death we **become His Sons!***

This week's Announcements, 02nd April, 2006..

- ☞ *Sunday, 2nd April, Mass at Our Lady of Hope, Ghormal at 10.00 a.m.*
- ☞ ***Sunday, 2nd April is the first death anniversary of Pope John Paul II.***
- ☞ *Way of the Cross in Marathi on Wednesday at 6.15 p.m.*
- ☞ *Way of the Cross in Konkani on Thursday at 7.30 p. m*
- ☞ *Friday, 7th April is the First Friday of the month. The Way of the Cross in English will be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament at 7.30 p.m..*
- ☞ ***During the season of Lent, Lenten alms are collected in aid of the seminary. Two boxes are placed on the side -altars for your Lenten alms.***
- ☞ ***Sunday, 9th April is Palm Sunday. Palms will be blessed at the Grotto before the 8.00 a.m. Mass followed by a procession round the basket ball ground to the entrance of the church.***
- ☞ ***On Sunday, 9th April, the parish council meeting will be held at 10.30 a.m.***
- ☞ *The collection at Masses on last Sunday, amounted to Rs.,24,268.00*
- ☞ *The collection from the box in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour frame amounted to Rs1,610.00.*
- ☞ *The collection from the outside boxes amounted to Rs. 1,030.00*

3/4 to 9/4 This week's readings:

Mon.	Dan 13: 1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62; Ps 22: 1-4,5-6; In 8: 1-11
Tues.	St Isidore of Seville, bp, dr Num 21 :4-9; Ps 101 :2-3,16-21; In 8:21-30
Wed.	St Vincent Ferrer, p, r, Dan 3: 14-20,91-92,95; PsDan3:52-56; In 8:31-42
Thurs.	Gen 17:3-9;Ps 104:4-9;Jn8:51-59
Friday	St John Baptist de la Salle, p. Jer 20: 10-13; Ps 17:2-7; Jn 10:31-42 :
Satur.	Ezek 37:21-28; Jer 31: 1 0-13; In 11 :45-56
Sunday	Jer 31:31-34;Heb 5:7-9;Jn 12:20-33.

CHILDREN'S CORNER- Bible Study**38. ANOTHER NAME**

Each of the following persons have another name. Can you match them?

1. Peter 2. John 3. John the Baptist 4. Herod 5. Luke
6. James and John 7. Joseph 8. Abraham 9. Paul 10. Hosea

- a. dreamer b. forerunner c. beloved disciple d. fox e. beloved physician f. rock g. father of nations h. sons of thunder i. prophet of God's love j. vessel of election.

40. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF

Jesus reveals himself through the various statements he made. Fill up and complete the statement

1. I am the -- -, the - - - - -, and the --- (In 14:6)
2. I am the - - - - - and the life. (In 11:25) 3. I am the --- shepherd. (In 10:11)
4. I am the - - - - and - - - - - the branches. (In 5:5)
5. I am the - - - - - of life. (In 6:35)
6. I am the - - - - for the sheep. (In 10:7)
7. I am the - - - - of the world. (In 8:12)
8. I am the real - - - - and my - - - - - is the gardener. (In 15:1)

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41. INVITATIONS OF GOD

God always invites persons for a particular mission. From the given statements can you identify the persons involved?

1. Come with me, and I will teach you to catch men. (Mt 4:19)
2. He said to him, "Come, follow me." (Mt 9:9)
3. Come to me, all of you who are tired. (Mt 11 :28)
4. If you want to be perfect, go and sell all you have and give to the poor and then come and follow me. (Mt 19:21)
5. If anyone wants to come with me, he must forget self, carry his cross and follow me. (Mk 8:34)
6. Hurry down, because I must stay in your house today. (Lk 19:5)
7. Come and see. (In 1:39)
8. Come and dine. (In 21: 12)
9. Come over to Macedonia and help us. (Acts 16:9)
10. Mortal man, go to the people of Israel and say to them whatever I tell you to say. (Ezek 3:4)

Children, answer the above quizzes and the ones that have appeared in the previous bulletin together and submit them to Fr. Victor Dalmet or any of the sisters by 10th April

---Parish Priest.

LENTEN SERVICES 2006.			
DAYS	DATES	SERVICES	TIME
Palm Sunday	09th April, 2006	Blessing of palms, procession & Mass	8.00 a.m.
Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday	April 10, 11, 12, 06	CONFESSIONS	at 5. p.m. to 8.30 p.m.
Maundy Thursday	April 13, 2006	Mass for the sick;	05.00 p.m..
		Last Supper	07.30 p.m.
		Holy Hour	10.30 p.m.
Good Friday <i>fast & abstinence</i>	April 14, 2006	way of the cross	
		Marathi	07.00 a.m.
		Konkani	08.00 a.m.
		English – Youth	09.00 a.m.
		- Adults	10.00 a.m.
		- Children	11.00 a.m.
		Malayalam	12.00 noon
		Tamil	01.00 p.m.
		Liturgical Service followed by Passo	06.00 p.m.
Holy Saturday	April 15, 2006	Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows EASTER VIGIL	07.00 a.m. 08.30 p.m.
Easter Sunday	April 16, 2006	Masses: Morning NO EVENING MASS	6.00, 7.00, 8.00, and 9.15 a.m.

DON BOSCO YOUTH SERVICES, MATUNGA, IS HAVING "**YOUTH PASCH 2006**" FOR WORKING BOYS AND GIRLS FROM WEDNESDAY THE 12TH OF APRIL TO EASTER SUNDAY THE 16TH OF APRIL, 2006 AT DON BOSCO, LONA VLA. THE FEE WILL BE RS.800/- AND REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF DON BOSCO YOUTH SERVICES FROM 10.00 A.M. TO 7.45 P.M. OR WITH YOUR PARISH PRIEST. YOU MAY ALSO REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION FORMS VIA E-MAIL. THE LAST DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS 3RD APRIL, 2006. (FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE LOOKUP THE PARISH NOTICE BOARD).

OBITUARY

The obituary editor of a newspaper was not one to admit his mistakes easily. One day he got a phone call from an irate subscriber. The caller complained that his name had been printed in the obituary column. "Really?" replied the editor calmly. "And just where are you calling from?"

PROMENADE ISSUE!

God blesses the sincere efforts and prayers. The Thane Plus of March 25, 2006 flashed a very heartening news that the proposed hanging garden in front of the church and school on Ahilya Devi Road is voted out in favour of the public cry against it. Thanks to the members of the Standing Committee, the Thane citizens can continue breathing fresh air around the heritage Masunda Lake. The Locusts & Honey thanks and appreciates the efforts of the JAAG and other NGOs as well as all those who actively registered their disapproval of the proposed hanging garden.

CHERAI SOUTH FAMILY GET TOGETHER

The Chera South Zone had their Annual Family Get Together on 25th Feb 2006 at St. John's Pavilion. Being the year of the Family - the theme of the program focused on the Family. Sr. Carol- Principal of Holy Cross Convent - Primary Section gave a talk on "Sharing on Family Values". The talk was based on the family on par with the Holy Eucharist. It was well appreciated by all present. Our Sincere thanks to Sr. Carol. This was later followed by games for all age groups. There was good participation of the young and the old. There was a lot of interaction that took place, new families were introduced. Last on the day's programme was Dinner a buffet which was enjoyed by all. We are grateful to Hy-Cil Caterers for their good service. The evening was well spent in the company of family and friends. We thank each and every member for coming and making it a success.

--Coleen Abreo.

**THE ANNUAL FEAST
OF
OUR LADY OF HOPE CHURCH,
GHORMAL.**

ON SUNDAY, 30th APRIL, 2006.

Masses: AT 8.15, 9.30 a.m. IN ENGLISH

**AT 10.45 a.m. FEAST MASS
(IN MARATHI)**

Main Celebrant: Msgr. Francis Correia.

**PARENTS SHOULD PRAISE
SOMETHING IN EACH CHILD
EVERY DAY**

Praise, wisely bestowed, is a powerful stimulant to the growth and development of children. Their longing for approval is instinctive and compelling and they never cease striving to win it.

An understanding word, a bit of praise will warm their spirit and lift the weight of their mind. Their work will improve, their attitude will change because they are happier.

Then praise good deeds, praise good men, praise something in each child everyday. If there is only one good line in his drawing, praise it. If there is one good phrase, even one colourful word in his compositions, praise that. If there is nothing else that in honesty you can praise, then praise his eyes. They're beautiful and especially so when lighted with affectionate understanding of your approval.

All glories to the Father

Elderly Joke - Three old ladies are sitting in a diner, chatting about various things. One lady says, "You know, I'm getting really forgetful. This morning, I was standing at the top of the stairs, and I couldn't remember whether I had just come up or was about to go down."

The second lady says, "You think that's bad? The other day, I was sitting on the edge of my bed, and I couldn't remember whether I was going to bed or had just woken up!"

The third lady smiles smugly. "Well, my memory's just as good as it's always been, knock on wood." She raps the table. With a startled look on her face, she asks, "Who's there?!"

27 March, 2006.

Dear Prisoners,

I take this privilege to thank our Parish Priest Rev. Fr. John Rumao for sponsoring my fees towards the Pre Para Professional Training held at Sahaya Justice and Peace Commission /ICOR, Dombivli for Thane Deanery. All parishes from Vikhroli to Ambarnath come under Thane Deanery

Sahaya is managed by Rev. Fr. Edward D'Souza, Trustee and Director of Sahaya. Rev. Fr. Edward D'Souza is also the Head of Thane Deanery and Parish Priest of Infant Jesus Church, Dombivli.

The programme was conducted by distinguished facilitators like Rev. Fr. Alwyn D'Silva of St. Pius Church, Goregaon and Rev. Fr. Barthelo, Parish Priest, Lourdes Church, Kalyan.

I am presently engaged with Aasara and this training will help me in my commitment to carry out the duties assigned to me. Aasara is a registered Non Governmental Organization (NGO) which works for the empowerment and rehabilitation of Street Children and Child Labourers. It is one of the very few NGOs in Thane to rehabilitate any child at any stage

Tennyson D. Fernandes,
Parishioner.

**WAY OF THE CROSS: TO BRIGHTEN UP THE
HOME-BOUND**

Cherai South had the 'Way Of The Cross' - A visitation to the homes of the home bound, on the 19th of March, attended by more than 50 members of the Community. It commenced with the Opening Prayer and the First Station said by a priest at the Cherai Cross in the village. Thereafter each Station was recited at the homes of the sick and the aged with a personal prayer for each of them. Around 13 homes were visited on this 'Way Of The Cross'. It ended with the Closing Prayer at the Second Cross in Cherai, with a sense of completion. God Bless all who did their bit to brighten up the lives of the home-bound.

The Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem

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We find the first references to a rough sketch of the Way of the Cross marked out with holy places only towards the end of the 13th century. The devotion itself began to spread in the 16th century. Today we are so used to seeing this pious practice as a normal part of religious life in Jerusalem, that we can hardly imagine a period when it did not exist; so we look for the reasons to explain such a state of apparent indifference.

It is true that for a long time preachers and spiritual writers tended to see Christ as the Risen One, or as the Child of Bethlehem, rather than as the Man of Sorrows. For them the Cross was a victory emblem rather than an instrument of torture. It is also true that artists preferred the theme of the Good Shepherd, Christ in Majesty, or Christ Pantocrator. They saw the crucified Saviour as a triumphant king rather than as a sacrificial victim. If however we read certain liturgical prayers from the 3rd or 4th century, we can easily see that the memory of the Passion was not foreign to Christian piety. In fact it was at the heart of this piety, since from the very beginning the Eucharist perpetuates and re-enacts the sacrifice of the Cross.

Devotion to the Passion was expressed in a simple and moving way by the veneration of relics which recalled one or other of the last moments of Jesus. Pilgrims faithfully went to pray for instance before the so-called pillar of the scourging, on Mount Sion. There are also the many would-be relics of the Passion, which abound in the treasuries of monasteries and churches in both East and West. This devotion was also expressed in stone, through the construction of sanctuaries, even outside Jerusalem, dedicated to some episode of the Passion. The Good Friday liturgy and procession is another example of this devotion, but all this was still far removed from our present devotion of the Stations of the Cross.

The 14th century is rightly held to be all-important in the history of the Way of the Cross. Obviously we are still far removed from the Way of the Cross with its 14 stations, and the pious practice of today's devotion; but the seed was sown, and impatient to grow. Three things then happened which in the long run proved decisive. The first two are directly related to the Way of the Cross in Jerusalem. First, the definite localisation of the Praetorium on the site of the Antonia Fortress. Second, the appearance of the elements which were to give rise to the "stations". Though of a more general order, the third factor was also to have a decisive influence. It was caused by the grave crisis into which the Western world was sinking; a crisis which, by the reaction it provoked, fostered a spiritual and moral climate favourable to reflection on the sufferings of Christ.

In view of the fact that from the first half of the 17th century the Way of the Cross with 14 stations was so widespread in the West, one could easily suppose that from then on, uniformity was an acquired thing. In reality however, and for a long time to come, pious Christians favoured a variety of forms. Many regions remained faithful to seven stations, others followed the twelve stations of Adrichomius, adding on the burial; others again kept to nineteen stations. Polish Christians preferred a form which had eighteen stations; as for religious in Peru, in 1659 they set up a Way of the Cross with twenty seven stations.

It seems moreover, that popular enthusiasm was lacking, in response to the hopes of those religious who had set themselves the task of spreading devotion to the fourteen stations in their own countries. This form of the devotion was helped to final supremacy, by the backing it received from the Popes and by the apostolate of the Franciscan St. Leonard of Port Maurice. The situation in Jerusalem was equally confused, even after Fr. Eleazar Horn's efforts to adapt the stations of Adrichomius to the Way of the Cross. Here also, to reach uniformity it needed time, both in respect of the nomenclature of the stations and for their localisation

HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP BOSCO ENTHUSES CO-ORDINATORS AND ANIMATORS

His Lordship visited Thane on the 26th of March 2006. The purpose behind his visit was to refresh the Co-ordinators and Animators of the different communities in our Parish - to make the S.C.C. more successful. In keeping with the parish pastoral programme for the year 2005 - 06, this was the third input session for the animators. We were served tea and Snacks.

Our Parish Priest, Fr. John Rumao welcomed the animators. The Session began by 6.30 pm with Prayer and a Reading from the Scriptures. A Sharing on the Reading was done thereafter, which was followed by a group discussion on the ways and means on how to make the functioning of the S.C.C. in our parish more vibrant. Guidelines were given in a handout prepared by His Lordship himself. Around 70 were present for this Session which was highly appreciated by all.

The Session gave a lot of encouragement and boost to the co-ordinators and animators to put in more effort for the success of the S.C.Cs which could be possible with each community breaking up into clusters of 8 to 10 families. If this could be put into practice then our goals could be achieved to a large extent.

Our thanks to His Lordship Bishop Bosco in spending his time with us and giving us his valuable suggestions. We will endeavour to do our best. It ended with dinner, thanks to the generosity of the Parish Priest..