

LOCUSTS & HONEY

For Private Circulation

Vol. 2, No. 10

05 March, 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**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**OFFICIAL*****HOLY SEASON OF LENT***

The holy season of lent starts this year on March 1st. The purpose and the practices of this period of grace in the Church have been described at length in the article published here below.

All religions, be they Christian or not, feel the need to set aside some time every year for the inner purification of their followers, in order to enable them to do penance for the faults they have committed. The Catholic Church spends seven weeks in this exercise which culminates in the commemoration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our lord Jesus Christ.

For Catholics, however, the season of lent entails not just the performance of some extra pious practices - all praiseworthy, of course, like fasting, abstinence, almsgiving, Way of the Cross, etc. - but it is a precious moment to review the depth of their knowledge and love of Jesus and of their commitment to the poor and the marginalized around them. They will seriously examine the coherence of their relationships with the Church and her teachings, with their brethren 'in Christ and their neighbours of other faiths, and they will consider how best such relationships could be corrected, if necessary, or further enhanced for the greater glory of God. It is in this context that they will choose penances among or besides those mentioned in the article below, courageously opting for those which go against the grain of human nature or are particularly difficult or repugnant to their inclinations, for the sole purpose of giving stronger witness to Jesus Christ, the Risen lord and Saviour, and better service in the building up of God's kingdom on earth.

I request that the contents of this Official be communicated to the faithful at all the Masses on Saturday and Sunday, March 4th and 5th next.

I wish the clergy, religious and lay faithful in our Archdiocese a grace-filled season of lent 2006.

+Ivan Cardinal Dias,
Archbishop of Bombay

.This week's Announcements, 5 March, 06..

- ☞ *Sunday, 5th March Mass at Our Lady of hope Chapel, Ghormal at 10.00 a.m. The bus leaves the school premises at 9.00 a.m.*
- ☞ *Children's Way of the Cross will be on Sundays at 4.30 p.m.*
- ☞ *The International Women's Day is celebrated on Wednesday 8th March.*
- ☞ *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, the Way of the Cross in English at 7.30 p.m.*
- ☞ *On Sunday, 12th March the parish council will meet at 10.30 a.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.*
- ☞ *The collection at Masses on last Sunday, amounted to Rs.,22,337.00*
- ☞ *The collection from the box in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour frame amounted to Rs1,355.00.*

6/3 to 12/6 This week's readings :

Mon.	Lev 19:1-2,11-18; Ps 18:8-10,15; Mt25:31-46
Tues.	Sts Perpetual and Felicity, mts Is 55: 10-11; Ps 33:4-7,16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wed.	St John of God, Jon 3: 1-10; Ps 50:3-4,12-13,18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thurs.	St Frances of Rome Esth 14:1,3-5,12-14;Ps 137: 1-3,7-8; Mt7:7-12
Friday	Ezek 18:21-28;Ps 129:1-2,3-4,5-8; Mt5:20-26
Satur.	Deut26:16-19; Ps 118:1-2,4-5,7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday	Gn 9:8-15;1 Pet 3:18-22;Mk 1:12-15

INTENTIONS FOR MARCH '06.

Holy Father's General Intention: That young people who are searching for the sense of life may be understood, respected and accompanied with patience and love.

Missionary Intention: That, throughout the Church there may grow that shared missionary awareness which favours the collaboration and exchange of those who work in the missions

CHILDREN'S CORNER- Bible Study

31. FAMOUS SAYINGS OF ST. PAUL.

Find the sources of these sayings.

1. If God is for us, who can be against us?
2. We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him.
3. I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance and I have kept the faith.
4. I am most happy then to be proud of my weaknesses, in order to feel the protection of Christ's power over me.
5. I keep striving to win the prize for which Christ Jesus has already won me to himself.
6. Help to carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ.
7. I maybe able to speak the language! v~ m.en and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
8. Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his through our union with Christ, so that we would be holy and without fault before him.
9. May you always be joyful in your union with the Lord. I say it again, rejoice!

32. THEY WEPT

Who are they?

1. She stood crying outside the tomb. Jn 20: 11
2. He went out and wept bitterly. Mt 26:75
3. Both were crying as they kissed each other.
1 Sam 1:20
4. He wept. Jn 11:35
5. Stood behind Jesus, by his feet, crying and wetting his feet with her tears. Lk 7:38

&&&&&

33. BIBLICAL TREES AND FRUITS.

In the Bible certain trees and fruits are mentioned. Which among these are not found in the Bible?

1. Sycamore tree
2. Vine
3. Palm tree
4. Olive tree
5. Poplar
6. Cedar
7. Bramble
8. Gum tree
9. Oak tree
10. Mango
11. Coconut tree
12. Almond tree
13. Grapes
14. Figs
15. Oranges
16. Evergreen
17. Pineapple
18. Pomegranate
19. Banana
20. Guava

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

---Parish Priest.

COMMON PRACTICE OF PENANCE IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BOMBAY

"All Christ's faithful are obliged by divine law, each in his own way, to do penance. However, so that all may be joined together in a certain common practice of penance, days of penance are prescribed. On these days, the faithful are in a special manner to devote themselves to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity and to deny themselves by fulfilling their obligations more faithfully and specially by observing fast and abstinence" (Can. 1249).

The days of Common Practice of Penance are Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and every other Friday in the year.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting.

The new Code of Canon Law has left it to the Episcopal Conference to determine, in place of abstinence, other forms of penance, specially works of charity and exercises of piety. In virtue of this, the CBCI at its meeting at Nagpur in February 1984, had decreed that the obligations of abstinence can be fulfilled by choosing certain other forms of prayer or penance or works of charity, besides the traditional one of abstinence from meat.

In the Archdiocese of Bombay the faithful may observe the days of common practice of penance by choosing from anyone of the following .

1. Making the Way of the Cross or a Visit to the Blessed Sacrament or a Meditation on the Lord's Passion.
2. Prayerfully reading the Scriptures or Praying the Liturgy of the Hours.
3. Preparing for the Liturgical Service (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday) by reflecting on the readings as a family.
4. Giving 10 % of one's daily wage in charity on days of common practice of penance
5. Donating Blood
6. Offering voluntary service to a Social/Charitable Institution through the parish CCO/SCCs.
7. Offering a meal to a poor family of another faith.
8. Abstaining from meat preparations if meat is part of one's regular diet. (Meat soup is allowed; so too animal fats may be used by way of condiment).
9. Missing anyone meal: breakfast, lunch or supper.
10. Taking strictly vegetarian meals, without even fish and eggs.
11. Abstaining from alcohol and/or smoking, for those who use these.
12. Avoiding all beverages like tea or coffee, or sweet drinks, between meals.
13. Avoiding films, television and other forms of recreation on the days of common penance.

Lenten Alms :

The Lenten Alms collected this year has been earmarked for St. Pius X College, Goregaon: Diocesan Seminary of Bombay.

Easter Duties:

Easter Duties would require that the Christian faithful who have been admitted to the Blessed Eucharist, receive Holy Communion at least once a year during the Paschal time, unless for a good reason the precept is fulfilled at another time during the year (Can.920). The faithful are reminded that those who have reached the age of discretion are bound to confess their grave sins at least once a year (Can.989). In the Archdiocese of Bombay, the Easter Duties can be fulfilled this year between Ash Wednesday, March 01, 2006 and Pentecost Sunday, June 04, 2006

+Archbishop Ivan Dias.

WOMEN TODAY IN A CHANGING FAMILY

The Women's Desk of the Archdiocese of Bombay is holding a programme to mark International Women's Day on March 5, 2006, from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Convent Hall, Bandra. There will be a Eucharistic Celebration, followed by a workshop titled: "*Women Today in a Changing Family*" All Parish Women's Cells, members of Family Cells and Family Movements, Women's Organizations, members of Bombay Catholic Sabha, Hope and Life, Women Religious and interested persons are cordially invited. For Registration, contact: Rita Caavalho - 9892112707/2813 2266.

READING THE BIBLE THROUGH WOMEN'S EYES:

There will be a one-day Training Programme titled "*Reading the Bible through Women's Eyes*" to be held on Thursday 30th March at Salvation Seva Kendra, Dadar from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Being 'Gudi Padva', it is a Public Holiday. So we invite members of the Parish Women's Cells, Family Cells, Bible Cells and Women SCC Coordinators to take part in the programme. For Registration, contact: Rita Carvalho - 98921 12707/2813 2266

+Bishop Bosco o

OSTEOPOROSIS DETECTION CAMP - A REPORT....

The St. John the Baptist Health Cell in collaboration with Elder Pharmaceuticals conducted the Bone Mineral Density Test on 26th February 2006, Sunday. 114 people got themselves tested for the same. 42 had normal Calcium levels, 62 were Osteopenic (low Calcium levels) while 10 were Osteoporotic (porous bones). Shelcal tablets were given at concessional rates with free counselling.

A study of the camps held so far since 2004 indicates that around 55% of our parishioners are osteopenic, this condition can be reversed if one pays attention to the diet. Leafy vegetables, milk and inclusion of plenty of salads in the daily diet will be beneficial in the long run. However in women, hormones also play an equally important role in maintaining Calcium levels.

The Parish Priest Fr. John Rumao and the Health Cell members thank the parishioners for attending this camp in large numbers. Please keep reading the Locust and Honey for future courses and camps.

-Clara Correia.

N.B. The Lenten Services program appeared in the previous issue had several printing mistakes. The corrected version is given given below.

LENTEN SERVICES 2006.			
DAYS	DATES	SERVICES	TIME
Ash Wednesday fast & abstinence	1st March	Masses: Morning Evening	6.00, 6.45 & 7.30 a.m. 5.30, 6.30 7.30 p.m.
Mondays	In Lent	Screening of Biblical Films	7.30 p.m.
Wednesdays	In Lent	Way of the Cross in Marathi	06.15 p.m.
Wednesdays	In Lent	Power Point Presentation on selected themes	After 7.00 p.m. Mass
Thursdays	In Lent	Way of the Cross in Konkani	07.30 p.m.
Fridays	In Lent	Way of the Cross in English	07.30 p.m.
Saturdays	In Lent	Penitential Service	6.30 p.m.
Sundays	In Lent	Way of the Cross in English for children	04.30 p.m.
Palm Sunday	09 th April, 2006	Blessing of palms, procession & Mass Bishop Bosco conducts Animotrs' meeting	8.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.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; Last Supper Holy Hour	05.00 p.m.. 07.30 p.m. 10.30 p.m.
Good Friday	April 14, 2006	way of the cross	
fast & abstinence		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	
		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.

CONFIRMATION – 18TH February, 06.



CONFIRMATION DAY



18th February 2006 will go down memory lane for the young adult of our Parish. 95 regular and 21 adults were administered the Sacrament of Confirmation by Bishop Bosco Penha. The entire ceremony was meticulously planned by the animators Sr. Jessie, Lena Collasco, Dunstan Rebello, Horace Soeiro, Bonny D'Souza, Stanny Martis, Marcus Alvares and Deacon Joseph Pimenta under the guidance of Fr. Rumao and his team of fathers. They spared no pains in training the confirmants.

The parents extended their unstinted co-operation in sending their children regularly for the classes and even during the holidays for the Recollection and Retreat.

On this day each confirmant pledged to render yeoman service to the different organisation in the Parish.

They were even generous in their love offering which amounted to Rs. 10,451/-. God bless them and their endeavour.

Ms. Lena Collasco

HUNGER STRIKE

As a part of the ongoing agitation against the "Hanging Garden – Promenade" at the Ahilya Devi Road in front of the Church and School and also against the disruption of the "Public Hearing" at 5.00 pm on Sunday - 19th February 2006 and man-handling of the organizers and audience, a hunger strike was organized by JAAG in front of the Thane Municipal Corporation on Friday the 24th of February 2006. There were around 100 people of all walks of life who fasted from 10.00am to 8.00pm. A steady stream of well-wishers and supporters visited the venue through out the day, lending moral support to those who had undertaken the fast. There were a large number of people who kept the protest fast but could not be present at the venue for various reasons. A number of people voiced their concern and opinion about the proposed structure. Members of various organisations, Mr. Subhash Kale former Deputy Mayor and Mr. Milind Patankar former Chairman of the Standing Committee of the BJP addressed those present and pledged their support to this agitation.

It was decided that an independent survey of the traffic, pollution level etc. at peak hours on the streets around the Masunda Talao be undertaken, for this a large number of volunteers are required, kindly register your names at the parish office. **A meeting of the volunteers will be held at 6.00pm on Sunday – 5th March 2006 in the pavilion**

To,
Rev. Father Principal Supervisor and teachers
Sub:- Parents experience about the night stay.

That day when my child came home from school. He handed over to me a form and requested me to read it and sign it. But when I read that form I was shocked, because I had heard about summer camps being held, but it was the First time I heard about a night stay being for the small kids. I was very happy and so was my child because when I saw his face he was really willing to attend this night stay. That time I decided to send him for this new experience and I immediately signed the Form.

I would really like to thank Rev .Father Principal for bringing confidence in the Supervisor, the teachers, and the whole of the staff acting behind this new Programme and giving them the moral support needed to o through this historical Programme in the history of Thane.

The Programme was absolutely fabulous and the result could be made out when the children had a grand departure at 10.00clock in the morning the next day .The glory on the kids faces showed that they were very happy with this new experiment and the organizers of this new event i.e. Principal, Supervisor teachers, and the staff were ruled as clear winner by these small kids, and their parents.

I would once again like to appreciate the school authorities along with the staff for making this new Programme a very big success by their 100% efforts. I praise your efforts and pray to God to always help you in conducting many more new programmes and making them a grand success.

Thanking you

Yours Faithfully
Dharmendra Jain
28.02.06

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

ON SUNDAY, 30th APRIL, 2006.

MASSES AT 8.15, 9.30 IN ENGLISH

**AT 10.45 A.M. FEAST MASS IN
MARATHI.**

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SUMMER CAMPS.

There are THREE Camps being organized by the Salesians of Don Bosco, this Summer:

1. Mission Camp to Gujarat, March 27 - April 02
For boys of Std. X & XII, College & Working Youth
 2. Leadership Camp to Boscowadi, Uttan For boys of Std. VII, VIII, IX and X
 3. Vocation Camp to Don Bosco Lonavla. For boys of Std. VII, VIII, X & XII, College and Working'
- For details, kindly refer to the notice board

**Rt. Rev. Bishop Bosco will conduct
animotrs' Meeting
on Sunday, 26th March, 2006
from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. All the zonal
coordinators and animators will please, keep
the above date free for the session.**