

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION IN OUR PARISH

Congratulations to Asha Mary Dass, Sera Fernandes, Velancia Fernandes, Jason Fernandes, Peter Manuel and Zivan Misquitta who were conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation by His Lordship, Bishop Barthol Barretto on Sunday, 8th March, 2020. We are proud of each of you with your different talents, gifts and charisms that God has given you in your life. We hope that this is not the end, but a new beginning in your relationship with Jesus Christ. As you are young in your lives, you can begin a new and essential type of life to follow our Saviour by putting him first. Open your hearts through the sacrament of Confirmation, and you will grow.



Lenten Mission: RETURN TO THE LORD, YOUR GOD (Joel 2:13)

The Lenten Missions in our Parish was held on 6th, 7th and 8th of March 2020. It was conducted by Rev. Fr. Augustine Mundackatt (VC) and Brother Raghu. It was so inspiring and knowledgeable and no one should have ever missed this opportunity to attend and listen to God's Word and the promises God has for us in His Word. Some of the main features of this missions was The Holy Eucharist, Confession and Suffering.

It was interesting for us to know that Brother Raghu was born a Brahmin Hindu and converted to Christianity around 8-9 years ago. He shared with us his testimony where he mentioned that he studied all holy books of all religions and was convinced that all religions mention that Christ Jesus is the only way to receive salvation. (i.e. to be with God forever in heaven).

Brother Raghu told us that when we offer to God at the offertory; our suffering, our trials and whatever requests/ petitions we may have e.g. a job, financial help, someone who is sick and needs healing etc., and during the "Holy Holy", when the priest raises the host to heaven, the angels come down from heaven and carry all that you have offered to God the Father in heaven. If we knew this fact, our church would be full not only on Sundays but also during the daily masses. We would all go back home, happy and contented knowing full well that all our prayers are answered according to His will and plan for us. But we on the other hand, go back home after Mass - with the same burdens that we came with because we don't know or believe that God has taken our burdens.

On suffering, Brother Raghu explained to us that God does not give us suffering. God is love and He only loves us and blesses us. He does not have suffering and therefore He cannot give what He does not have. Though when we suffer, God allows suffering for His greater glory and He has a purpose for it. Example - the suffering JOB when through. This was an eye opener to us, for we often hear people say, "God has given us this suffering."

It was sad to see that many of our parishioners did not take the advantage of this wonderful opportunity to increase their knowledge of the Word of God and His promises.

We are very grateful and thank our Parish Priest Fr. Ravi for arranging this mission for the benefit of the parishioners of Our Lady of Lady of Velankanni Church, Irla.

-Blossom Coates



Death: – Mr. Charlie Lewis St. John Bosco's Community (Up-Pakhadi), 08.03.2020

Editorial Team: Fr. Ravi Marneni (Editor), Clayson Fonseca, Susan D'Mello, Vera Sequeira, Macjoyle Barretto.



VELANKANNI IRLA CALLING

APRIL 2020

Church of Our Lady of Health of Velankanni

FROM THE DESK OF PARISH PRIEST

Dear Parishioners, Devotees and Pilgrims of Our Lady of Velankanni,

April boast the most solemn and sublime event of human history: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ - the pascal mystery. Though the way to the Resurrection was the Via Crucis, the Sacrificial Lamb of God is now and forever Christ our Light, the Eternal High Priest of the New Covenant. His sorrowful mother, the Stabat Mater of Good Friday is now the jubilant Mother of the Regina Caeli.

We the members of Christ's Mystical Body exalt in the mystery by which we were redeemed. If in Baptism we were buried with Christ, so also will we share in his resurrection. By is death we were reborn; "by his stripes we were healed." (Is 53-5) Easter, the epicenter of time, is the event that links time and eternity. It is indeed "the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it." (Ps 118:24)

Focus of the Liturgy: The Gospel readings for the Sundays in April are taken from St. Mathew, St. Luke and St. John and are from year A, Cycle 2.

April 5th - Palm Sunday	The Gospel is the reading of the Passion of our Lord.
April 12th - Easter Sunday	The Gospel tells of the visit of Mary Magdalene to the empty tomb.
April 19th - Divine Mercy Sunday	The Gospel relates the story of doubting Thomas.
April 26th - 3rd Sunday of Easter	The Gospel relates the story of the disciples encountering Jesus on the road to Emmaus

We continue throughout the entire month our cry, "Christ is Risen, Christ is truly Risen." The Feast of Divine Mercy offers us the opportunity to begin again as though we were newly baptized.

The unfathomable mercy of God is made manifest today if we but accept His most gracious offer. Easter is the feast of feast, the unalloyed joy and gladness of all Christians. This truly is "the day that the Lord has made" From Sunday to Sunday, from year to year the Easter of this earth will lead us to that blessed day on which Christ has promised that HE will come again with glory to take us with Him into the kingdom of His Father.

During His revelations to St. Faustina, Our Lord requested a number of times that a feast day be dedicated to D ivine Mercy and celebrated annually on the first Sunday after Easter. Furthermore, He instructed her to have an image created of His Divine Mercy in the way that He appeared to her.

Here are the revelations written by St. Faustina in her Diary

- Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (Diary, No. 300)
- I want the image solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly to that every soul may know about it. (Diary, No. 341)
- This Feast emerged from the very depths of my mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depths of my tender mercies. (Diary, No. 420)

Fr. Ravi Marneni

Fr. Ravi Thanaiah Marneni, PIME
(Parish Priest)

Parish Team:

Parish Priest – Fr. Ravi T. Marneni,
Asst. Parish Priest – Fr. Jaya Prasad
Yekula, CPPS

Sisters of St. Ann:

Sr. Fatima
Sr. Teresa Elamthuruthyl

Parish Office Timings:

Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday: Closed.
Sunday: 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Donation & Mass Offering:

At donation stall from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Book stall:

Monday to Thursday:
2 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. FRIDAY HOLIDAY.
Saturday: 7 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Sunday: 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Mass Timings / schedule:

Saturday (Novena):

6.30 a.m. English
8.00 a.m. Tamil
2.30 p.m. Marathi
3.30 p.m. Marathi
4.30 p.m. Konkani
6.30 p.m. English

Sunday:

7.00 a.m. English – Parish Mass
9.00 a.m. English – Children's Mass
6.30 p.m. English – Youth Mass

Weekdays:

6.30 a.m. & 7.00 p.m. (English)

Baptism:

Sunday during 9 a.m. Mass.

Confessions:

Fridays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
or on request

Sick calls:

Anytime on request.
SCC animators / PPC member /
Eucharistic Minister to be informed.

Funeral:

To inform Parish Priest or
SCC Animators.

Sunday school:

7.45 a.m to 9 a.m.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2020

FREEDOM FROM ADDICTION: WE PRAY THAT THOSE SUFFERING FROM ADDICTION
MAYBE BE HELPED AND ACCOMPAINED

ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2020.

In View of the Coronavirus Pandemic, All Meetings and Activities are cancelled.

Please Continue to Recite the Prayer for the Control of Coronavirus

Almighty and merciful God, who show your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before you asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for healing of those who are affected, for the victims and their families. We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found. We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS FR. RAVI MARNENI ON BEING ELECTED AS THE REGIONAL SUPERIOR OF P.I.M.E.-INDIA.

Installation of Rev.Fr.Ravi Thanaiah Marneni as Regional Superior of PIME INDIA

On 20th March, 2020 during the Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr. Marneni Ravi Thanaiah, Regional Superior the installation of the new Regional Council took place. Fr. Berchman and Fr. Juvvula could not be present for unavoidable reasons.

At the beginning of the Celebration, the Delibera was officially read out by Fr. Nallamelli Prakasa Rao and Fr. Durgam Melchior Raja gave a brief introduction about each member of the new Regional Team. The Eucharist was attended by various priests, nuns, and seminarians and it was followed by fraternal reception. Fr. Marneni, on behalf of the Regional Council thanked all the members of the Region and those who attended the celebration.



Our Dearest Parish Priest - Fr. Ravi Marneni has been appointed the Regional Superior of PIME - India. To celebrate this honour Fr. Ravi was felicitated by devotees at the respective Novena Service and Masses on Saturday 7th March 2020 and on Sunday, 8th March 2020 by the parishioners during the Parish Mass. The Various Parish Associations also felicitated him during the 9.00 am mass.



"Dear Fr., May you use your many talents & gifts with generosity and faithfulness, to serve God and to lead your Fellow Priests of the PIME. Our Prayer for you is that, May our Good Lord fill you with wisdom & knowledge that comes from Above as you take up the new role as Regional Superior in India of the PIME. As you cherish this elevation gift from God, all we can say is, 'Thanks be to GOD'. May God bless and keep you safe in His arms, as you continue to serve Him."

(An excerpt from the congratulatory address by Ms. Vera Fernandes)

PILGRIM STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our church organised the Pilgrim Walk the Way of The Cross visiting the following 14 churches in the Diocese of Vasai



St. Roque Church, Gokhivare



St. Michael's Church, Manickpur



St. Alphonsa Forane Church, Manickpur



St. Gonzalo Garcia Church, Barampur



Our Lady of Grace Cathedral, Papdy



Mother of God Church, Pallet



St. Mary Magdalene, Mulgaon



Our Lady of Mercies Church, Mercers



St. Peter's Church, Koliwada



Shrine of Our Lady of Remedy, Remedy



St. Thomas Church, Sandor



St. Francis Xavier, Giriz



St. Gonzalo Garcia, Vasai Fort



Infant Jesus Church, Evershine Nagar, Vasai E

Around 60 Pilgrims accompanied by our Parish Priest and Asst. Parish Priest walked the Way of the Cross reflecting on the Last moments of Jesus on His way to Calvary. Each stations had the Pilgrims reflect on different social issues faced by us in our Lives. Real issues that helped us reflect with Jesus' suffering and our own personal trials and tribulations. As we reflected on each station, we were comforted by the soothing words of Jesus -Be not afraid, I am with you always.

Another aspect of this pilgrim stations of the cross was also the visit to the churches. Every respective church had a story to share- a story of how our Catholic faith took roots in this our very soil, a story of very own son of the soil St. Gonsalo Garcia, and a standing testament of this our very faith in the Living Christ. A highlight was visiting the Cathedral of Our Lady of Grace, Papdy and the Ruins of a Jesuit Church at the Vasai Fort. Both these churches are standing testament of a rock-solid faith that withstood time and wars. Let the churches we visited become a constant reminder to always build our Faith on a rock (like the Wise) and not on sand. We thank Berein for the arrangements with churches and food.

We owe a big sincere thank you to our Parish priest and all those who helped organise this Spiritual journey.

CATECHISTS TRAINING PROGRAMME: Mission SONshine

Mission SONshine /appreciating our faith was the leitmotif of the training programme organized for all the parishes under the aegis of the Central Suburbs Deanery on Sunday, 23rd February, 2020 at St. Francis Xavier's School Hall, Vile Parle. The program started with an Opening Prayer by St. Joseph's Juhu. The resource person for the evening was the very affable, jovial and lively Fr. Magi Murzello, of St. Andrew's Parish with his equally energetic team of Genevieve and Alice. After putting us at ease with his self-deprecating humour, Fr. Magi divided us into three groups and asked us to think out of the box and use challenging names for our team. We had 007 JAMES BOND, CRUSADERS AND THE ROCKSTARS. All that the teams had to do was to decode a puzzle as the alphabets kept coming to us one by one. The first to crack the code: "INSTEAD OF BEING QUESTION MARKS FOR CHRIST, WE NEED TO BE EXCLAMATION POINTS", were the Crusaders. Fr. Magi went on to explain that we as Christians are poor advertisers of our religion and hence if we cannot appreciate our faith how can we hand it down to our kids whom we catechize? He went a step further and reiterated the fact that if we are ashamed to go a step further to make it meaningful for our kids, and make them love to come to Sunday School, we should gracefully step aside and make room for others. He further enumerated the innovative and creative ways the Andreans (St. Andrews parish) celebrate feasts and solemnities to make it a fun learning experience for the children. A few examples - On the feast of St. Luke, Holy Family Hospital doctors are invited, on the feast of St. Martha, they felicitate the maids and cooks of the parish. On Thanksgiving Day a tree of Gratitude is placed in the church where everyone pins a "thank you card" on it. On Good Friday to Easter Sunday, theme: WOE to WOW. Their themes for the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday gel with the raging current topics like social media, women's issues and climatic change. To keep our spirits high, there were plenty of action songs like the Banana Shake, when we rocked, rattled and rolled in our aisles. So much so, no one wanted the session to come to an end. Before closing, each participant was gifted with a box of BEE ATTITUDES FOREVER by Fr. Magi, a proverb for each day of the year and a pencil filled with mustard seeds. The message going out that even if our faith is like a mustard seed we should not despair. It can grow into a huge tree providing shade to all who nest under it. Though the session lasted for three hours, no one was in a hurry to leave. Everyone was still glued to their seats and requested for more such creative sessions. Finally, a word of appreciation to our Deanery Coordinator, Ms Alzira Fernandez for her untiring and unrelenting commitment to whatever she undertakes. May she continue to keep the CSD banner flying higher and higher. We also thank our Spiritual Director, Fr. Omar for his guidance and support.

-Vera Sequeira