

# NATIVITY DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY OF HEALTH OF VELANKANNI ANNUAL 53<sup>rd</sup> NOVENA PROGRAMME 2020

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

Welcome to 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Novena to Our Lady of Velankanni, Irla! Due to severe situation caused by Covid-19 pandemic, physically attending the novenas is not possible this year. This is the first time in the history of the parish we encounter such situation, yet, the masses and novenas will be streamed online. It will be made available daily on the following media channels in English, Marathi, Konkani and Tamil and can be accessed anytime from the following media channels. Please share this information to all your friends and relatives.

God bless you all!

Fr. Ravi Thanaiah Marneni PIME, Parish Priest

	<a href="http://www.velankannichurchirla.org">www.velankannichurchirla.org</a>	
	Church of Our Lady of Velankanni Irla Live	
	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/VelankanniChurchIrla">www.facebook.com/VelankanniChurchIrla</a>	
	Hathway Channel no 516 and all over Maharashtra on various Channels	

QR CODE FOR YOU TUBE LIVE

**SATURDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST FLAG HOISTING AT 6.30 P.M**  
**BY FR. RAVI MARNENI, PARISH PRIEST**  
**FOLLOWED BY MASS IN THE CHURCH AT 7.00 P.M**

**NOVENA DAYS: SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST TO MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

## HOLY MASS & NOVENA TIMINGS

<b>6.00 A.M</b>	<b>MARATHI</b>	<b>1.45 P.M</b>	<b>MARATHI</b>
<b>7.15 A.M</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>3.00 P.M</b>	<b>MARATHI</b>
<b>8.30 A.M</b>	<b>TAMIL</b>	<b>4.15 P.M</b>	<b>KONKANI</b>
<b>9.45 A.M</b>	<b>MARATHI</b>	<b>6.45 P.M</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>

**SATURDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 11.00 A.M**  
**PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE SICK (ONLINE)**

**FEAST DAY: TUESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

<b>5.00 A.M</b>	<b>MARATHI</b>	<b>10.00 A.M</b>	<b>MARATHI</b>
<b>6.00 A.M</b>	<b>MARATHI</b>	<b>2.45 P.M</b>	<b>MARATHI</b>
<b>7.15 A.M</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>4.00 P.M</b>	<b>KONKANI</b>
<b>8.30 A.M</b>	<b>TAMIL</b>	<b>5.30 P.M</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>

**7.15 P.M SOLEMN HIGH MASS IN ENGLISH**

**PARISH FEAST DAY: SUNDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**  
**MASS TIMING: 7.15 A.M IN ENGLISH**

IRLA, VILE PARLE (WEST) MUMBAI - 400056, TEL: 26713719

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



# VELANKANNI IRLA CALLING AUGUST 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

In the history of our Parish it is for the first time we have to shut the doors of our church and it is saddening to note that personally we have to forgo in attending the Annual Novena to Our Lady of Velankanni at Irla.

History narrates that Irla, situated just off S.V. Road between Vile Parle and Andheri is a well known landmark, thanks to the Shrine of Our Lady of Health of Velankanni. It was in October 1967 that the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME) touched base in Irla. At the midnight Mass on December 25, 1968, Rev. Fr. Bruno Venturin (PIME) announced that he would build a Chapel for the people of Irla and the Chapel (now named the Prayer Hall) was officially inaugurated on 14th April 1968 (Easter Sunday). In 2018 we in a grand scale celebrated its Golden Jubilee. We never imagined or dreamt that we would encounter such a saddened situation like this of Pandemic Covid-19 could halt all our celebrations.

However, we have found other means of reaching to you all to participate in the Novena to Our Lady of Velankanni. It will be streamlined online through different media channels.

The month of August is dedicated to The Immaculate Heart of Mary. The entire month falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time.

Focus of the Liturgy: The Gospel readings for the Sundays in August 2020 are taken from St. Matthew and are from Year A, Cycle 2.

August 2nd - 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time	In this reading, Jesus feeds five thousand with five loaves and two fish.
August 9th - 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time	In this Gospel Jesus tells Peter to walk on the water.
August 16th - 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Jesus is approached by a Canaanite woman begging for her daughter to be healed.
August 23rd - 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time	In this Gospel Jesus makes Peter the first Pope and gives him the power to bind and loose.
August 30th - 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

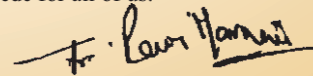
Since we are not going to be personally present at the Shrine of Our Lady of Velankanni, we can watch all the masses live on different media channels. This pandemic hiatus raises a question to me and to all of us: Are we mightier than God?. The Word of God says "But you are a mere man. So who are you to talk back to God? Scripture says, "Can what is made say to the one who made it, 'Why did you make me like this?' "(Isaiah 29:16; 45:9)

We take pride in so many things in this world but in front of an invisible tiny microorganism corona virus, we proved ourselves that we are fragile, weak and nothing.

The whole world has come to stand still because of a small virus. Therefore, as St.Paul says; "If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD." (1Cor1:31). Let us take pleasure in the works of God rather than boasting in our achievements.

I hope and pray this 53rd Annual Novena to Our Lady of Velankanni which will be hosted on various platforms should enable us to humble ourselves before the Mighty God and pray through the intercession of Our Lady of Velankanni for Good Health, the spread of COVID 19 may end and everyone may enjoy.

May the Lord bless you all and may our Lady of Velankanni intercede for all of us.

  
**Fr. Ravi Thanaiah Marneni, PIME**  
**(Parish Priest)**

## Parish Team:

Parish Priest – Fr. Ravi T. Marneni,  
Asst. Parish Priest – Fr. Rajkumar  
Madri, HGN

## 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.

Society Road, Irla, Mumbai - 400 056, India. Tel: 2671 3719, Website: [www.velankannichurchirla.org](http://www.velankannichurchirla.org).

Parish Bulletin (For Private Circulation Only)

## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2020

PRAY FOR THE MARITIME WORLD: WE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE WHO WORK AND LIVE  
FROM THE SEA AMONG THEM SAILORS, FISHERMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

### *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.**

## SUNDAY e-SCHOOL: CATECHISM CLASSES GO ONLINE

Welcome to Sunday School Online! (Who would have thought, years ago, that you would hear this phrase.) The last time Sunday school was held in our church was on 15th March 2020 and after 3 long months, we greeted our children again, this new academic year, ONLINE. Keeping in mind that regular schools have transitioned to online learning, we thought that our Faith education, too, should continue - online. Awesome isn't it? But how? The Sunday school team had a meeting – online; creating a plan for the same. With the guidance and suggestion of our Parish priest, we planned to transition to online mode of learning in phases.

Our first phase was to update the database of all the Children of parish studying from Sr. KG to Std. 11 in the current Academic Year 2020-2021. Parents of these children were requested to fill a google form. [If you still haven't enrolled your child, please do so by clicking the following Link: <https://forms.gle/z7JWuvYU8LsouM2r9>]

Our second Phase was to create Class-wise WhatsApp groups. This group would be used to relay information and also post the video links which are pre-recorded videos prepared by the Archdiocese (Diocesan Catechetical Centre, Bandra). An introductory message was shared and the Catechist for the respective class-group was introduced. Few guidelines were shared.

We began our first class on 12th July 2020 at 11 am. Now, every Sunday at 11 am, the catechist releases the link to the video which should be watched carefully by the children along with their Parents. Each video comes with an assignment/activity. A schedule is assigned for the submission and children are marked their attendance on submitting their assignment. We did face few teething issues; now everyone's getting used to this new mode of Faith enrichment. Children are sharing extremely good assignments and this brings a smile on our faces. We are now moving to the next phase: Starting classes for those preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation respectively. Candidates, you will be informed about your schedule for Catechesis. We know that the God's guiding hand is there as we enrich the faith of these young ones. We thank the support of our Parish Fathers and the Archdiocese of Bombay for this new venture. We are grateful to SCC animators and PPC members who helped us during this phase of moving online. We thank you Parents for your support and do continue sharing the faith with your children. To you dear children, your assignments are proof that you are enjoying and learning a lot from these classes and also growing more in faith; continue to grow in faith and love. We surely will meet you soon.

As we move through this year, we ask you all dear parishioners to continue praying for these children as they enrich their faith and come more closer to God.

-Sunday School Team

## TRIBUTE TO PARENTS AND GRANPARENTS

Life is a viscous circle, a child of today is a parent, then a grandparent tomorrow. Exodus 20: 12 ' Honour your Father & Mother that you may live a long time in the land the Lord your God is giving ' Yes , dear parents You first give us life & then give us your life .So if there was a word in the English Dictionary whose meaning conveyed more gratitude & respect than the word ' Thank- You' we would be saying that word to you dear parents & grandparents both who are with us & who are in Heaven with God.

All we know is God gives us life with pleasant & sad moments but as parents & grandparents you always try to change even those sad moments into pleasant ones ,that friendly smile may be all that was needed to raise our spirits high and a gentle touch upon the arm would surely stop a heavy sigh. Oh , not forgetting it's your prayers that help us climb the tallest mountains every time we got to them. When we wanted to climb higher you became our ladder or a hot air balloon. When we wanted some support you came together.

When everything felt cursed you appeared as our boon. We rested on your shoulders whenever we wanted a better view. Your arms dear parents were always open when we needed a Hug. Your heart understood when we needed a friend. Your gentle eyes were stern when we needed a lesson. Even in the words of Abraham Lincoln " All that I am ,or hope to be I owe it to my mother." Mathew Jackson says ' Behind every young child who believes in herself / himself is a parent who believed first. Yes ,dear parents it was your strength & love that guided us & gave us wings. You are the unsung heroes of each of our lives, if we are where we are today you were the people who sowed the seeds of greatness. You taught us as Frank Clark very aptly said the most important thing that a parent can teach a child is to live life & move ahead without them. If ever you could look into our hearts how quickly you would see the special place you hold there& how much you mean to us. Our best memory dear parents is to recall the gift of your presence, the greatest gift of all.

So dear Lord, we place all parents in your hands, bless them with good health & happiness, watch over them with tender love , keep them close to one another in this life & in the next.

SSC Animators of St. Anthony's Community

## PANDEMIC RESPONSE: THE BOMBAY CATHOLIC SABHA (IRLA UNIT)

### Financial Aid Distribution

On 11th July 2020, the Bombay Catholic Sabha Irla Unit distributed Rs.3000/- per family as Pandemic aid to 10 financially weak families of the parish. This was done in co-ordination with SVP. We began with a prayer by Fr. Rajkumar who thanked the donors and prayed in a special way for all the families of the parish. We thank all the donors for their generosity. God bless you and your family! We also thank Fr. Rajkumar for his presence.

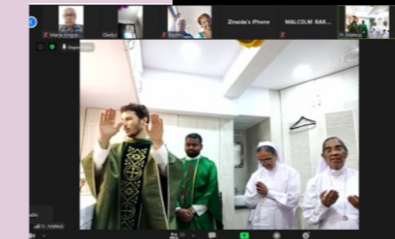
### Grocery Distribution

The Bombay Catholic Sabha Irla Unit distributed Groceries to 52 families of the parish on 18th and 48 families on 19th July, 2020. We are thankful to Mr. Reuben Mascarenhas, a parishioner and member of AAP Party who donated the groceries. It was nice of Mr. Richard Mascarenhas his dad to be present. We began with a prayer by Fr. Mateus who also celebrated his birthday on 18th July. He prayed for all the families of the parish and thanked Reuben for his generosity. Both Fr. Rajkumar and Fr. Mateus distributed the groceries. In all, 100 Catholic and Non-Catholic families were helped with groceries in the 2 days.



## ST. ANTHONY'S COMMUNITY PARENT'S DAY MASS

A day we normally wait for anxiously 26th July the feast of St Anne & St Joaquim coz its a day we pay a tribute to our parents & grandparents saying thank you for being such wonderful people in our lives. Its was a day we got to show case the talents of our children & youth of our parish. Unfortunately this year because of the Pandemic this was not possible physically, so St Anthony's Community had it done virtually. Fr Mateus & Fr Raj celebrated the Eucharist. Families of the community joined in at 9 am on Sunday the 26th. It was great joy seeing the members of our community after a gap of many months. The smile & enthusiasm spoke it all. Parents & grandparents were felicitated after the service. Srs Fatima & Theresa who were present for the service were wished as it was their feast day. It was a day surely we all would remember Online Parents Day.



### SCC Animators of St. Anthony's community (Kadri Park, Kripa Nagar and Gokul Divine)

