

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING



Jesus Christ, King of Kings, Lord of Lords!

A feast day, of the Everlasting King of the Universe, a reminder to us all, a reiteration of our allegiance.

This year the procession to welcome the King started from the church led by Fr. Ravi and Fr. Jayaprasad. The faithful walked in pairs praising the King, in form of hymn and prayer. First halt and blessings at Our Lady of Fatima, Irla Village community. The adoration area was artistically decorated, a beautiful sanctuary for the Almighty. Second halt and blessings, St. John Bosco community of Up Pakhadi, another amazingly decorated worship area near the Holy Cross. Final halt Recreation centre, again, beautifully decorated by the communities of St. John Bosco and Our Lady of Fatima. Here we heard the inspiring sermon by Fr. Ravi, singing of the litany of praise, intercessory prayers by representatives from each of the communities and benediction. The finale, blessings to all the communities gathered.

– Fay D'souza

VINCENTIANS IN SERVICE TO THE PARISH



St. Vincent De Paul, members of N.W. III, 13 conferences celebrated their annual festival Eucharist Celebration on 23rd November 2019 at Holy Family Church, Chakala at 7.00 p.m. followed by fellowship dinner which was attended by all our SVP members.

Mrs. Rovina Castelino was felicitated for completing 25 years of service to

the poor. Blossom Coates and Meena Dias took the Pledge as Vincentians. It was well organised by the host conference.

– SVP Team

Death: 23.10.2019 – Mr. Valerian D'souza – St. Anthony's community, Kripa Nagar. (Regret the error in date printed in November issue)
26.11.2019 – Mr. Anthony Fernandes – Holy Family Community

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



VELANKANNI IRLA CALLING

DECEMBER
2019

Church of Our Lady of Health of Velankanni

FROM THE DESK OF PARISH PRIEST

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

The month of December is filled with Season of Advent and Christmas Season. For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the first Sunday of Advent. In this new liturgical year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense endeavors to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us.

The liturgy of Advent focuses on remembering Christ's first coming at Bethlehem which then directs our mind to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. The readings focus on the people of the Old Testament awaiting the Messiah, John the Baptist, heralding the way for Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary and her maternal preparations. The Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the 'Light' to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives.

St. John Henry Newman said that "Advent is a time of waiting; it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance."

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

December 1st – 1st Sunday in Advent	Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming.
December 8th – 2nd Sunday in Advent	The Gospel is about John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness.
December 15th – 3rd Sunday in Advent	The crowds question St. John the Baptist asking him who he is.
December 22nd – 4th Sunday in Advent	The Gospel is about the revelation to St. Joseph of Mary's virginal conception.
December 29th – Holy Family	This Gospel recounts the Holy Family's flight into Egypt.

After all the preparations are done during four weeks of Advent, we will finally reach the celebration of Birth of Jesus. Because Christ came, we have a joy that transforms our lives. The Almighty God became Immanuel, 'God with us,' so we can spend eternity with him.

The incarnation of Christ is explained in the letter of St. Paul to Galatians 4:4-5: "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so we might receive adoption as sons." These two verses affirm four aspects of the good news of the incarnation.

- The Timing of the Incarnation is Good News**
- The Source of the Incarnation is Good News**
- The Manner of the Incarnation is Good News**
- The Purpose of the Incarnation is Good News**

With these reflections I wish you all the Blessed Season of Advent and Joyful Christmas Season.

God Bless you all!

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.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2019

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR EVANGELISATION: That people who are involved in the service and transmission of faith may find, in their dialogue with culture a language suited to the conditions of the present times

Date	Day	Occasion/Feast
1st December	Sunday	First Sunday of Advent and World Aids Day.
3rd December	Tuesday	Solemnity of St. Francis Xavier.
6th December	Friday	First Friday. Divine Mercy chaplet at 3 p.m. in the Church. Half Hour Adoration to be conducted by St. John Bosco – Up-Phakhadi.
7th December	Saturday	Bible study after 6.30 p.m. Novena Mass.
8th December	Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent. First Communion in the Parish during the 9 a.m. Mass.
9th December	Monday	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
10th December	Tuesday	United Nations Human Rights Day.
14th December	Saturday	Christmas Bazaar organised by Sr. Citizens Association.
15th December	Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent. Christmas Bazaar organised by Sr. Citizens Association.
19th - 20th December	Thursday to Friday	Confessions for the house bound in the morning.
22nd December	Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Advent-Christmas Tree for Parish Children.
23rd December	Monday	Confessions for adults and children in the evening from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
24th December	Tuesday	Christmas Eve: Solemnity of the Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Zone wise Carol singing at 10.15 p.m. followed by midnight mass.
25th December	Wednesday	Christmas Day. Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Announcement for Mass will be made. No evening Mass.
26th December	Thursday	Martyrdom of St. Stephen.
27th December	Friday	Feast of St. John Evangelist.
28th December	Saturday	Feast of Holy Innocents. Blessing of children during the evening mass.
29th December	Sunday	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
31st December	Tuesday	New Year's Eve. Holy Hour to be conducted by the Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion at 10 p.m. followed by Mass at 11 p.m.



CHILDREN'S DAY FUNCTION ORGANISED BY THE SVP

This year the Children's Day was celebrated on 14th November for the children belonging to the adopted families of SVP of Our Lady of Velankanni.

The celebration began at 6.30 p.m. We were glad to have Fr. Ravi and Fr. Xavier at the very out set to wish the children 'Happy Children's Day'. Thereafter photographs were taken of the children along with Fr. Ravi and



Fr. Xavier and the teachers who spend so much of their time at the SVP study class. Thereafter we had games like musical chairs and bursting the balloons were the children enjoyed themselves and had so much fun. The SVP members were fortunate enough to have the sponsors "Terribly Tiny Tales" who gave the children a box of snacks each, stationery and prizes to the winners of the games.

The children really enjoyed themselves and the fun ended around 8.30 p.m.

– Blossom Coates



ELDER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Walt Disney says "Growing old is mandatory, but growing up is optional".

This was elucidated very well on 12th November, when the senior citizens of our Parish met to celebrate 'Elders Day'. Invoking the blessings of the patron saints, St. Joachim and Anne, the programme took off to a flying start, with cake and coffee being served. This fuelled the spirit of enthusiasm, as over 40 members participated in the fun loving games organized. The groups enacting nursery rhymes took us all on a joyful trip down memory lane reliving the memories of toddlerhood. A game of houseie, and a game to charge the memory cells were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Louis Horst says, "Dance for yourself. If someone understands, good. If not, no matter." This was the mood that had everybody on the floor, swaying to some foot tapping music rendered by our enthusiastic DJ.

The presence of Father Xavier added charm to the occasion.

The participants eagerly gave suggestions for future events. Some of these included, organizing a picnic, visits to the institutionalized, and conducting a holy hour on a periodic basis.

A nice lunch was shared by all and many spot prizes were given adding on to the surprise element of the function. Each one left with a joyful heart, smiling faces and a twinkle in their eyes. After all, in the words of an old song, "You will never grow old while there's love in your heart"

Hats off to the team, who made sure everyone had a great time!!!

– Nina Dias



WORLD DAY FOR THE POOR - NO ONE IN WANT



To commemorate the World Day for the Poor celebrated on November 17, 2019, the SVP in our Parish took the initiative of collecting provisions. Boxes were kept at the church entrance to collect food grains, pulses, sugar and oil. Weekly announcements acted as reminders. Accordingly, 40 hampers were made with the support of our generous parishioners, benefactors and our Parish Priest.

On November 17 after the 6:30 p.m. mass each of the recipient of the hampers, nominated by the SCC communities, assembled in the prayer hall. Mrs. Phillomina D'souza welcomed and briefly told them the significance of the day in Marathi. Fr. Ravi blessed all and then distributed the hampers along with Fr. Xavier.

Each recipient left with hampers of provision, a saree and grateful hearts, thanking the Almighty for this bounty.

– Fay D'souza



PSALMS COME ALIVE

The title above sums up the entire program in one phrase. The Sunday School section of our Catechesis Programme took part at the Deanery Level Psalm Festival on 17th November at St. Xavier Church, Vile Parle. The program took place on the Primary School Quadrangle at 6 p.m.

Around 14 students took part in the program accompanied by two Catechists, and their parents. The Children perform a Skit-cum-tableau as they recited Psalm 1 and Psalm 19.

Students from Classes 2 to 9 took part in this festival and did a wonderful job!

We wish to thank the Parents who send their children for such an amazing exposure, to the parents who helped us on the day of the event, for the Catechists who helped throughout the practice phase.

– Sunday School Team



SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY (SCC) RALLY 2019

With the ever-increasing pollution, the hike in population and the constant threat of global warming and climate change, it is the responsibility of the Church as spiritual leader to bring people together, whilst spreading awareness about these issues. Asking the people to act on it NOW before it gets too late!

And so, The Parish SCC community gathered as one big family for the SCC Rally on Nov 10, 2019. We had a dual message to spread, love and camaraderie among the SCC communities and our commitment to save Mother Earth. We therefore planned this event on the theme 'Sustainable Environment – My Responsibility'.

All good things begin in prayer, and celebrating the Eucharist is the best way to pray as a community. Bishop Barthol Barretto was the main celebrant, along with him was the Asst. Parish Priest – Fr. Jaya Prasad. To animate the Eucharist and get the communities involved, two representatives of each community walked down the offertory procession holding a slogan in their hands. These slogans were their pledge towards protecting and caring for our beloved Mother Earth. After communion, we also had Bishop Barthol Barretto plant a tree – a symbol of growth and also a step toward creating a sustainable environment.

The gathering that followed the mass, was attended by the enthusiastic parishioners, ready to step up and do their part as responsible citizens. The event was wonderfully coordinated by the SCC parish coordinator, who made sure each community had a part to play in making the rally a success.

The highlight of the evening was the communities putting up a performance on how one can create a sustainable environment, around themselves and the community at large. They did this with much fervour, entertaining the crowd whilst spreading the message. There were skits, dances, songs, speeches and even a factual presentation, all revolving around the rally's theme. Ending the evening with a box full of snacks, sponsored mainly by the communities themselves, the parishioners, went away with their hearts inspired, rekindling in them the desire to give back to our mother Earth, just as she has, ever since the beginning of time.

The SCC rally reiterated the bond of love and fellowship of Christ and the Church, that exists in our parish communities.

– Gayle D'Souza

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT – MY RESPONSIBILITY...
TRANSLATING TO D.O.T. – DO ONE THING TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD

