

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS



St. Paul's Community



St. Anthony's Community



St. Jude's Community



Holy Family Community



St. Joseph's Community



St. John Bosco Community



Our Lady of Fatima Community



**Marriages:** 22nd Dec 2019: Alwin D'silva – Germaine Agnelo D'souza; 26th Dec 2019: Rohit Kotian – Jovita Maisie Pinto

**Deaths:** 31-12-2019 Rita Roman Misquitta – From Irla Village

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



# VELANKANNI IRLA CALLING

JANUARY  
2020

Church of Our Lady of Health of Velankanni

### FROM THE DESK OF PARISH PRIEST

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

Let us joyfully welcome the New Year 2020. Let us begin the New Year with the blessings of the Lord. The start of a new year is a great time to celebrate the accomplishments we made in the previous year and to look forward to achieving more in the coming year. It is the time to reflect and give thanks for the past year, celebrate small victories, make decisions to change, and embark on new beginnings with fresh start. I am very sure the New Year 2020 will have many surprises, new challenges and unimaginable inventions. But we should always remember the Lord is author of TIME. He will guide everything. The psalmist says; "You crown the year with Your bounty, and Your paths overflow with plenty. (Psalm 65:11)

Edith Lovejoy Pierce says; "We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

In the first part of January we continue to rejoice and celebrate Christ's coming at Bethlehem and in our hearts. The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, which is celebrated on January 3. We have the wonderful feasts of Mary, Mother of God, where we honor Mary's highest title. The Council of Ephesus affirmed the full deity of Christ and unity of His person by saying that Mary did indeed bear God in her womb. Mary is the "Mother of God" in the sense that, since Jesus is God and Mary is the mother of Jesus, she is the mother of God. The Word became flesh (John 1:14), and Mary mothered Him.

Next we follow the Magi to the crib as they bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh on Epiphany. Finally we reach the culmination of this season with the Baptism of Our Lord by St. John the Baptist.

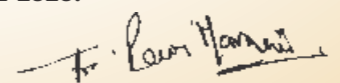
Focus of the Liturgy: The Gospels for the Sundays in January are taken from St. Matthew and St. John and are from Year A, Cycle 2 of the readings.

<b>January 5th</b> - Epiphany of the Lord	This Gospel is about the Wise Kings visit to the Child Jesus.
<b>January 12th</b> - Baptism of the Lord	This Gospel is about Jesus' baptism by John in the river Jordan.
<b>January 19th</b> - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	This Gospel is about John the Baptist proclaiming "Behold the Lamb of God".
<b>January 26th</b> - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	In this Gospel, Jesus calls Peter and Andrew to be fishers of men.

We have the meaningful Priestly blessings for the New Year in the book of Numbers. "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)

**Wish you all Happy New Year 2020!**

May 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 JANUARY 2020

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR EVANGELISATION:  
Promotion Of World Peace: We Pray That Christians, Followers Of Other Religions  
And All People Of Good Will May Promote Peace And Justice In The World.**

MONTH	ACTIVITY
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	Solemniy, Mary, Mother Of God. Masses At 6.30 Am And 7pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	The Most Holy Name Of Jesus, First Friday Adoration To Be Conducted By St. Joseph's Community, Comprising Azad Lane And Vishnu Baug. 3pm Chaplet Of Divine Mercy
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Bible Study After 6.30 Pm Mass
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Solemnity Of The Epiphany Of Our Lord. Birthday Of Our Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Ravi Marneni
12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Feast Of The Baptism Of Our Lord
18 <sup>th</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christian Unity Week/prayers For Unity To Be Recited At All Masses During This Period
19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Vocation Sunday / Prayers For Vocations To Be Recited At All Masses
25 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Conversion Of St. Paul
26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Sunday Of The Word Of God. Also India's 71 <sup>st</sup> Republic Day
30 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	World Day Of Peace
31 <sup>st</sup> Friday	Memorial Of St. John Bosco

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



The Parish Community rejoices and celebrates with the families of Abigail Gonsalves, Clement Creado, Carol D'Souza, Raina Lopez and Jitesh Khaka as they received Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist on 8th December 2019. Let us all pray for them and their Families.

### THE JOY OF GIVING

20th December was a memorable day for our SVP children. A Christmas party was arranged for them in the Prayer Hall at 6.15 pm. There was a lot of fun and excitement in the air as the children assembled. The children were put in groups and the evening began with a game where the groups had to make a Christmas tree. Necessary decorations were given to them in time limit specified. They made such beautiful Christmas trees -- some out of used plastic bottles. Santa Claus came in distributing sweets and entertaining the children. More games were played and prizes were distributed which were all sponsored. Fr. Ravi, who graced the occasion with his presence, spoke to the children and wished all those present. Fr. Jayaprasad, our Spiritual Advisor and Bro. Karthik also graced the occasion. A hearty meal, sponsored, was served to them by all the SVP members who were in attendance. Beautiful return gifts sponsored by our well-wishers and donors were given to them. You could see the joy on their faces when leaving for their homes.

- Gilhermine Menezes. President S.V.P



### ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The Parish Christmas tree was organised on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2019. 33 children waited patiently for the program to begin. Ms. Blossom Coates compered the entire event. Exciting spot prizes, lucky draws and games were held for children from 1 year to 12 years old. Snacks and Juice boxes were given which were enjoyed by the children. After a set of games, the children let their hair down to dance to the tunes of latest Bollywood and Latin beats.

The most awaited moment came- Santa was escorted into the hall by



our Parish team: Ers. Ravi and Jaya Prasad, along with Bro. Karthik, to the string of Christmas Music where children frolicked around Santa Claus. Fr. Ravi spoke to the children and wished them a Blessed Christmas. Santa Claus also spoke to the children and gave them a small message: to be good children like Jesus. After which, Santa Claus began to distribute the gifts which he brought along with him from North Pole.

The entire program ended with a group snap and lots of sweet memories to be taken home to cherish.

A big thank you to our Parish priest, Fr. Ravi and a shout out to all those who, in their own way, made this day quite rockin'.

- The Sunday School Team

### CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR NEIGHBOURING SOCIETIES

A Christmas programme was held on 22.12.2019 at 7.30 pm in the Prayer Hall for our Non-Christian brethren of SBI Quarters & Dil Pazir. The programme was organised by Bombay Catholic Sabha. Totally 30 person's attended the programme.



There were games organised for them by Blossom which they thoroughly enjoyed. Ruby was the Santa Claus for the evening. Fr. Ravi thanked them for their cooperation during the Annual Novennas. The programme ended with a group photo. They all promised to come again.



### RINGING IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Nothing says Christmas is coming better than a light chill in the air and the warmth that fills the church premises as the Senior Citizens Association hosts their annual Christmas Bazaar - and this year was no different. The annual fundraiser organised on the 14th and 15th of December had



delicious homemade specialties, festive treats and beautiful Christmas decorations for patrons to indulge in. A lucky dip where participants could take a chance to win fun prizes or go home empty handed added an extra bit of fun while the much looked forward to annual raffle didn't disappoint with several participants taking home an array of gifts and surprises.

On behalf of the Senior Citizens Association a big thank you to everyone for your enormous support. We look forward to seeing you next year.