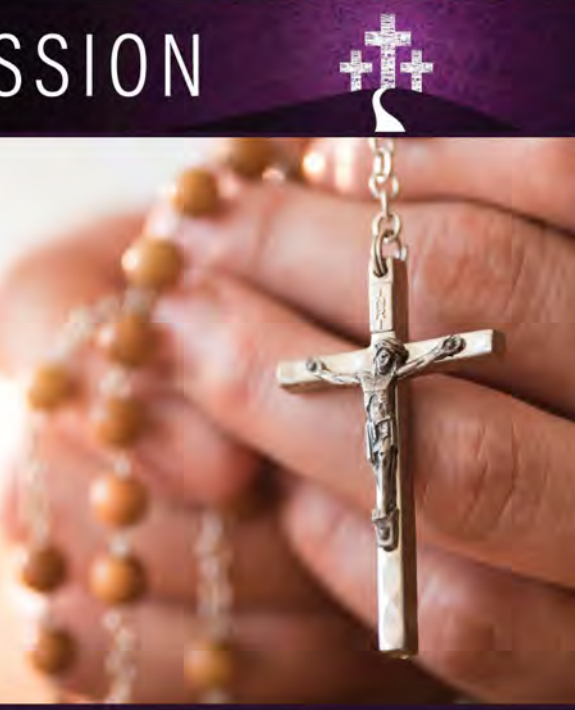


# LENTEN MISSION

*Return to  
the Lord,  
your God*

(Joel 2:13)



FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH TO SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020

BY REV. FR. AUGUSTINE MUNDACKATT (VC) & BR. RAGHU

DAY	DATE	MISSION TALK TIMING
FRIDAY	6 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020	AFTER 7.00 PM MASS 7.30 PM TO 9.30 PM
SATURDAY	7 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020	9.30 AM TO 1.00 PM 7.30 PM TO 9.30 PM
SUNDAY	8 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020	2.00 PM - 5.00 PM 7.30 PM TO 9.30 PM



**Church Of Our Lady Of Health Of Velankanni,**

Society Road, Irla, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai - 400 056 Tel. No. 022 - 2671 3719 |

Website: [www.velankannichurchirla.org](http://www.velankannichurchirla.org) | Email Id: [velankanni.churchirla@yahoo.com](mailto:velankanni.churchirla@yahoo.com)

## BOMBAY CATHOLIC SABHA IRLA UNIT WINNING CHALLENGER AWARD



Bombay Catholic Sabha Irla Unit recipient of Sabha award for the second year in a row on the Sabha Day celebrated on 23.2.2020. In 2019 received UPCOMING UNIT AWARD and 2020 CHALLENGER AWARD. Congratulations... Keep it up BCS Team - Irla Unit

**Marriage:** 14.2.2020 – Joanna Jessica Coates to Faizal Goli (Our Lady of Fatima Community, Irla Village)

**Death:** 19.2.2020 – Mrs. Marsilin Jockim Gomes, St. John Bosco's Community (Up-Pakhadi)

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



# VELANKANNI IRLA CALLING

MARCH  
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,

The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. The entire month falls during the liturgical season of Lent. During this month we will continue our journey to the Cross with our acts of penitence. We will reflect on our mortality ("Remember thou art dust") and the shortness of life ("and to dust thou shall return"). We will heed the call, "Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2)."

"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..." – Pope Benedict XVI.

Focus of the Liturgy: The Gospel readings for March are taken from St. Matthew. All are from Year A, Cycle 2.

March 1st - 1st Sunday of Lent	Jesus is tempted by the devil in the desert.
March 8th - 2nd Sunday of Lent	The Gospel relates the story of the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mt. Tabor.
March 15th - 3rd Sunday of Lent	This Gospel is about the Samaritan woman meeting Jesus at the well.
March 22nd - 4th Sunday of Lent	The Gospel tells the story of the blind man at the Pool of Siloam.
March 29th - 5th Sunday of Lent	This Gospel tells the story of Jesus bringing Lazarus back to life.

The Solemnity of St. Joseph is a special landmark this month in which we will celebrate the great honor bestowed upon the foster father of Jesus. Of all the direct descendants of King David, St. Joseph was outstandingly and beyond all comparison the most faithful, the most just, the most obedient, and the most holy. Joseph is a model to all men who choose to walk the way of the cross. St. Joseph: A Model for husbands and fathers. Husbands and fathers should learn from St. Joseph, especially in the manner he showed love for Mother Mary and the child Jesus, as well as in the way he demonstrated spiritual leadership in his family.

In 1870 Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church. He said "In the same way that he once kept unceasing holy watch over the family of Nazareth, so now he does protect and defend with his heavenly patronage the Church of Christ."

- St. Joseph: A man who obeys God and clings to his wife
- St. Joseph: A man whose vocation is more important than his career
- St. Joseph: A man who protects his family
- St. Joseph A man of work

St. John Paul II said, "Because St. Joseph is the protector of the Church, he is the guardian of the Eucharist and the Christian family. Therefore, we must turn to St. Joseph today to ward off attacks upon the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist and upon the family. We must plead with St. Joseph to guard the Eucharistic Lord and the Christian family during this time of peril."

*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.



## SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2020

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR EVANGELIZATION: CATHOLICS IN CHINA:**  
We Pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity

Date	Day	Occasion/ Feast
1st March	Sunday	First Sunday In Lent.
6th March	Friday	Stations of the Cross in the morning at 6.05 a.m. First Friday of the month. Divine Mercy devotion at 3 p.m. in the Church. <b>Lenten Missions by Fr. Augustine Mundackatt (VC) and Br. Raghu.</b>
7th March	Saturday	<b>Lenten Missions by Fr. Augustine Mundackatt (VC) and Br. Raghu.</b>
8th March	Sunday	Second Sunday Of Lent. Also Observed As International Women's Day. Sacrament of Confirmation administered by His Lordship, Bishop Barthol Barretto at the 9 a.m. Mass. Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting at 11 a.m. <b>Lenten Missions by Fr. Augustine Mundackatt (VC) and Br. Raghu.</b>
10th March	Tuesday	A Lenten Pilgrimage (Stations of the Cross in Diocese of Vasai).
13th March	Friday	Stations of the Cross in the morning at 6.05 a.m. and in the evening after 7 p.m. Mass conducted by Holy Family Community, Juhu Lane.
15th March	Sunday	Third Sunday Of Lent.
19th March	Thursday	Solemnity Of St. Joseph, Spouse Of The Blessed Virgin Mary.
20th March	Friday	Stations of the Cross in the morning at 6.05 a.m. and in the evening after 7 p.m. Mass conducted by St. Joseph's Community, Azad Lane.
22nd March	Sunday	Fourth Sunday In Lent.
25th March	Wednesday	Solemnity Of The Annunciation Of Our Lord. Pro Life Prayer recited At All Masses.
27th March	Friday	Stations of the Cross in the morning at 6.05 a.m. and in the evening after 7 p.m. Mass conducted by St. Jude's Community, Prem Nagar and Tata Compound.
29th March	Sunday	Fifth Sunday In Lent.

## VISIT TO NIRAMAY NIKETAN TROMBAY & SHANTI BHAVAN BY CONFERENCE OF OUR LADY OF VELANKANNI, IRLA



Five SVP members along with our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Jaya Prasad and our Ex- Asst. Parish Priest, Fr. Satish Adhav visited the Niramay Niketan (HIV/AIDS Care Centre and Leprosy Home) at Trombay and Shanti Bhavan, Home, for the aged, at Kalyan on 23rd January, 2020. We commenced our journey at 8.30 a.m.

At Niramay Niketan we were welcomed by sister Joylyn, Sister-in-charge of the Home at 9.10 a.m., she escorted us to the Chapel where the inmates were waiting for the Mass. Fr. Jaya Prasad and Fr. Satish offered the Mass for their Health and well

being. They joyfully participate in the Mass and joined in the singing. There were 32 inmates in the home out of which 8 were leprosy and the rest were TB/HIV patients. The Sister-in-charge briefed us on the history and progress of the Home. Sister Arti took us around to all the Wards. We also visited the OPD the laboratory and the Don Bosco Technical Centre and finally the kitchen. Where a wholesome diet is prepared and served daily. The Home is clean well maintained. After handing over our gifts of 5 Liters Cooking oil and 6 Kgs Ariel soap powder, our annual contribution and generous contribution made by our members we proceeded to Kalyan.

After the two hours drive, we arrived at Shanti Bhavan, Kalyan where we were welcomed by Sister Felicita and Sister Philomena. We were taken around in the Home, which houses 26 inmates, 11 male on the ground floor and 15 females on the first floor. We sponsored a lunch for the inmates. We joined in the delicious lunch prepared by three co-staff workers. We interacted with the male and female inmates and found them cheerful and happy. In fact a 97 year old lady entertained us with a Konkani song. The home is very neat and clean and well maintained. We distributed cakes of lifebuoy soap to all the inmates who were very pleased.

We donated 5 litres cooking oil and 6 kgs. of Ariel soap powder. Our Annual contribution and generous contribution was made by our members.

After having a hot cup of tea we returned home with pleasant memories of our visit. May God bless all the staff and inmate of these homes with his love and grace.

– Gilhermine Menezes

## ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MASS

St. Paul Community's Annual Thanksgiving mass was on 28.1.2020 followed by get together in the Prayer hall.

One of the smallest community with most of its members being Senior Citizen and housebound.

With all its challenges, still the unity is high in spirit and love witnessed by us in today's short and sweet celebration along with the representatives of other communities. May the Good Lord bless our Community and keep us united in love.

– SCC Animators of St. Paul's Community



## PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – CANDLE PROCESSION



## WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

World Marriage Day was celebrated in our Parish during the 7am Eucharist. Married couples entered in a solemn procession to the melodious rendition of the hymn: Come on and Celebrate, by the choir. After the homily, couples were requested to renew their marriage vows. Our celebrant Rev Fr. Carlos, in his homily, spoke about the sanctity of marriage. Today, this institution has literally fallen by the way side,



marital break ups at the drop of a hat, have become the new normal. Fr. Carlos exhorted the couples, to do all in their power to respect and withhold this sacred tradition. The Prayers of the Faithful, covered newly married couples, those facing challenges, those in difficulty and those grieving and bereaved. The Eucharistic celebration ended with A Thanksgiving Prayer by one of the couples, followed by a special blessing by the celebrant.

– Vera Sequeira

## ST. VALENTINE'S DAY



Bombay Catholic Sabha organised the Valentine's Day Celebration which began with the Eucharistic Celebration with renewal of Marriage Vows. This was followed by a get together which was attended by 52 parishioners including 23 couples. It was a great success.



## PILGRIMAGE TO SHRINE OF DON BOSCO'S MADONNA, MATUNGA



30 parishioners accompanied by our Parish Priest made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Don Bosco's Madonna, Matunga, on Friday, 31st January, for the festive Eucharist at 8 a.m., which was concelebrated by Fr. Ravi. The main celebrant's homily was mesmerizing to say the least. He spoke lucidly how today's youth are directionless and desolate. He reminisced how in the good old days, teenagers in Turin, roamed the streets with gay abandon and threw caution to the winds. Hence they were a threat to the citizens and were often thrown into prison for minor misdemeanors. Once when Don Bosco visited the prison he was saddened by their plight and felt that if they were properly guided and supported he could win them over. He started befriending the youngsters and tried to make God as attractive to them as possible. By his polite and kind ways he became a father figure and mentor to them. Then there was no looking back, the youth flocked to hear him, hence he is aptly known as the patron and apostle of Youth. The celebrant emphasized that even in our families we have

to handle our teenagers with love and compassion if we do not want them to stray. He mentioned that the youth are very precious in the eyes of God and hence by our attitude we can either make or break them.

After the Eucharistic every one was treated to a hot cuppa and sandwiches, courtesy Fr. Ravi. A word of thanks to Berin Pereira for his meticulous arrangements.

– Vera Sequeira

## HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY'S THANKSGIVING

Holy Family Community, Juhu Lane, celebrated their Annual get-together on 2nd February, 2020. We started off with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 6.30 p.m. and there after gathered in the Prayer Hall for Fellowship and dinner. Our Host for the evening was Clarke. He welcomed all and introduced our new SCC coordinator, Mr. Vivan Saldanha, who is also our Parish Council member. We began with a short prayer and Vivan thanked Fr. Ravi, Fr. Jaya Prasad, Sr. Fatima, Sr. Theresa and all our Community members for being present for this great event. Each and every game organized by Clarke was participated by both young and old. Sponsored prizes were given accordingly. Snacks were served in between the games. Thanks to Fr. Ravi, we could dish out a sumptuous dinner prepared by our own members. After a memorable evening we said good bye and thanked the Lord and Mother Mary for everything.

– Holy Family Community, Juhu Lane



## ANNUAL ZONAL THANKSGIVING



The end of January marks the feast of St. John Bosco. In celebration of the feast, St. John Bosco Community – Up Pakhady hosted their Annual Zonal Thanksgiving on the 15th of February 2020. The community gathered together at church to give thanks and celebrate the Eucharist as one community.

The feast continued at the Irla Recreation centre. It was a night of fun, laughter and togetherness, coupled with good music provided by Dj. Francis and a scrumptious buffet prepared by Mrs. Rosaline Perreira.

The strength and unity of the community came through with the fun-filled games and activities. The night ended with our bonds stronger than ever. We are grateful to the Almighty for all the blessings he continues to shower on our community.

– Gayle D'Souza

## BIBLE QUIZ



Bible quiz was conducted on 16th February. Five of the seven communities participated. Bro. Liju Jose conducted the quiz well with some Open Bible questions and Paper-pencil Quiz.

The quiz helped us to be more familiar with the chapters of the synoptic Gospels. (Mathew, Mark, and Luke). After every round, Holy Family Community emerged victorious as 'Winners of the Bible Quiz 2020'

Congratulations Holy Family community on winning. Congratulations St. John Bosco on emerging as the Runners-up. Congratulations St. Paul's, St. Anthony's and Our Lady of Fatima Community for your enthusiastic participation.

## CENTRAL SUBURBS DEANERY FAITH CELEBRATIONS

The students of Std 7th, 8th and 9th, of the Central Suburbs Deanery, attended the Faith Celebrations at St. Anthony's School Hall, Vakola on 16th February, 2020. Around 280 students from the seven parishes were present. The two themes for our Parish were WONDERFUL PRECIOUS ME AND ME AND THE MEDIA.

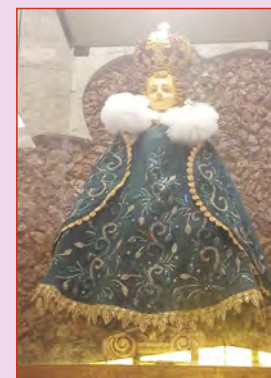
The opening prayer was done by Our Lady of Velankani, Irla, which also included action songs. After the first round of tasty snacks and tea, we were divided into groups with catchy names like small silver stars, smiles, big bright stars, different fruits, etc. Then came the ice breaker where we had to decode the different parts of the body. After this it was time for another round of snacks, followed by the Bible Quiz on our Sunday School syllabus. The most difficult part of the programme was on-the-spot skit based on the logo given to us. Our parish did a good job and were given a standing ovation. The climax was the Eucharistic celebration by Rev. Fr. Omar, whose homily was an inspiration for all the students.

The celebrations came to an end with take away snacks and chocolates. We had an enjoyable time and look forward to the next faith celebrations.

– Rita Ingle (Std. VII)



## PILGRIMAGE TO INFANT JESUS SHRINE NASHIK



A spiritual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Infant Jesus was organised by the Senior Citizens Association on 21st Feb 2020. We began our journey at 6.30 a.m. with a Rosary and singing hymns and prayers beautifully conducted by Uncle Natsu D'Souza. We were then served scrumptious breakfast.

The mass was celebrated by Fr. Canisius Menezes at 12 p.m. in which he gave a beautiful message "Faith translates into good deeds". It was indeed a beautiful spiritual experience. We returned feeling

truly blessed. We would like to thank Uncle Archie and team for organising such a beautiful pilgrimage and looking forward for many more.



– Raffellia Fonseca