



# VELANKANNI IRLA CALLING

SEPTEMBER  
2020

NOVENA SPECIAL

## 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 September, usually brings a festive atmosphere in our Parish because of the Annual Novena in preparation for the Feast of Nativity of Our Lady of Velankanni. Unfortunately, this year due to Covid-19 Pandemic, we have to conduct the Annual Novenas in a different method namely through live streaming.

The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady. We have three celebrations to Our Lady during this month. On 8th September we celebrate Nativity of Our Lady, on 12th September Holy Name of Mary and on 15th September Our Lady of Sorrows.

There are many Marian feast days celebrated in the Catholic Church, but the principal ones are the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, the Annunciation, the Assumption, the Immaculate Conception and the Nativity of Our Lady. The Feasts of Our Lady are very dear to us.

The feast of the Nativity of Mary, celebrated on the 8th of September, is closely connected with the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Mary who is prepared by divine providence to be the Mother of Jesus-the son of God, is conceived in the womb of her mother Anna, her father being Joachim, without the stain of sin and her birth is considered by the Church as a Solemn event. Our Lady's birthday has been described as "the hope of the entire world and the dawn of salvation". That is why the Liturgy of the day says: "Let us celebrate with joy the birth of the Virgin Mary, of who was born the Son of Justice... Her birth constitutes the hope and the light of salvation for the whole world... Her image is light for the whole Christian people". St. Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. This Feast provides us with an occasion for praise and thanksgiving in honour of the personal sanctity and vocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary as the mother of the Lord Jesus.

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

September 6th - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	If two agree on earth to ask anything it will be granted by my Father in heaven.
September 13th - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus tells Peter he must forgive his brother seventy times seven
September 20th - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	This Gospel relates the parable of the workers who came late to the vineyard but received the same pay.
September 27th - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	In this Gospel Jesus tells the parable of the two sons sent to the vineyard by their father

Let us pour out our prayers and petitions to Our Lady of Velankanni, who will bring our requests to her son Jesus Our Lord.

May Our Lady of Velankanni intercede for us all. I wish you all Happy Feast of the Birth of Our Lady. May the Lord bless you all and may Our Lady of Velankanni intercede for all of us.

*Fr. Ravi Thanaiah Marneni*

**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.

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

RESPECT FOR THE PLANET RESOURCES: WE PRAY THAT THE PLANET RESOURCES WILL NOT BE PLUNDERED BUT SHARED IN A JUST AND RESPECTFUL MANNER.

### *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.

### PANDEMIC RESPONSE: SSVP REACH OUT TO OUR AIDED FAMILIES

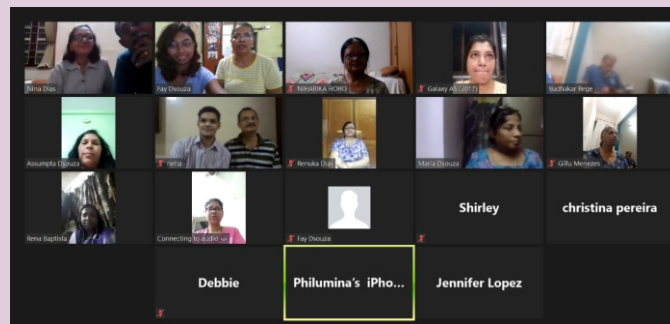
During the COVID-19 pandemic, our Society of St. Vincent de Paul has constantly made efforts to give relief to our aided families in the form of cash and food grain hampers. On 1st August, 2020, exercise books, biscuit and snack packets, dole and 50% college fees were given to our aided family members to help them tide over their difficulties at this critical juncture.

We are grateful and thank our benefactors and well wishers who have willingly come forward to assist and support the Conference in its endeavours.

Jennifer Lopez



### MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE DEPARTED SOULS OF ST JOHN BOSCO COMMUNITY, UP PAKHADI



The loss of a family member leaves a void behind that gets difficult to fill. In these times of COVID19 it is extremely challenging for us to visit our grieving families. But we wanted to express our solidarity in prayer, reaffirming that we stand together as a community. We wanted to lift up each of the grieving families to Lord, truly believing that He will heal us all.

Interacting with each other virtually is now the new normal. Accordingly, we the community of St John Bosco, Up Pakhadi organized a memorial service for all the departed souls of our community on Aug 22, 2020 at 8pm. We specially prayed for Marcelene Gomes, Patsy Alvares, Louis Vaz, Charlie Lewis, Harrod Pereira and Chaggas Fernandes who recently journeyed to their heavenly abode. The memorial service though conducted via Zoom was interactive and well participated by our community members. A true reflection of the community gathering together in prayer and solace for each other.

God willing times will soon change and we will get to meet and pray together as a big family soon. But till that moment we continue to sing of the glory of the Lord, praying for ourselves and our community. Amen

Fay D'Souza

### SUNDAY e-SCHOOL: VIANNEY SUNDAY E-FELICITATION

Vianney Sunday – a day specially dedicated to all our priests – generally is grand affair with felicitation and speeches which echo our thanks and prayers to the priests of our parish. On this day, this year, something different was planned from the Sunday School. Catechists and Children from Class 1 to Class 9 were asked to send their photos of them holding a poem of blessing as well as a message for our priests. A video was created and sent as a token of our appreciation to all the priests in our parish for their tireless service to our parish. Let us always keep these, our shepherds, always in our prayers and that the Holy Spirit may always guide them as the work in the Lord's vineyard.

Sunday School Team



## VIANNEY SUNDAY CELEBRATION BY PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Sunday, 9th August was earmarked to be a day of celebration; for the priests in our parish and around the world. The day being dedicated to St. Jean Marie Vianney, Cure D'Ars, is a day where we celebrate the contributions of the priest in our Parish community and also pray for God's choicest blessings on them. This year, a rather small gathering of PPC members, SCC animators and youth gathered together (following the prescribed measures) to felicitate the parish fathers. This small felicitation program, emceed by Gayle, began with a prayer service by the Youth followed by two speeches from Sancia Chettiar and Stanley D'Souza. This was followed by a felicitation of all the priests with cake, handmade cards and a small token of gratitude. Frs. Rajkumar and Mateus spoke a few words. Fr. Ravi who was present virtually, also thanked everyone present for this gesture. The program came to a close with a hymn, followed by a small fellowship. Our dear sisters of St. Ann, who recently celebrated the feast of their patroness on 26th July, were also felicitated on this day.



## SUNDAY e-SCHOOL: FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CATECHESIS BEGINS

'In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God.' These words of St Paul echo our thoughts especially for the commencement of classes for those candidates preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Times are uncertain. But the Lord works in mysterious ways. The final phase of Sunday school going online began during the end of July as messages were sent across to the children preparing for these two important Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Classes began on 2nd August for First Holy Communion and 8th August for Confirmation.

Online discussions and live sessions are conducted for Confirmation using the Diocesan Catechetical Centre approved schedule. Candidates are currently dealing in a discussion and understanding of Beatitudes and the Decalogue along with Life skills. All this is possible through the commitment of these candidates to attend the classes at 5 pm via Google Meet.

First Holy Communion classes are conducted at 11.30 am using the videocall feature. Essential Prayers are revised with the students along with discussion on topics as scheduled by the Diocesan Catechetical Centre. Simple activities are assigned as homework assignments. It is a joy to see that the First Holy communicants are excited to learn and be enriched in their faith.

Classes will continue online in the same manner for Regular Sunday School till lock down norms are lifted. We thank the Parents for their constant support and also thank the children for their regular attendance and enthusiasm to submit their assignments on time.

Sunday School Team

Death: 14.08.2020 Mr. Chagas Fernandes - St. John Bosco Community, Up Pakhadi

31.08.2020 Mr. Rocky Fonseca - Our Lady of Fatima Community, Irla Village



## PREPARATION FOR THE 53RD ANNUAL NOVENA:

Every year until 2019, our parish would be hustling-bustling around with invitations, church decorations and veneration hall set-up, finalising the Themes, choir practises, Usher's meetings and other meetings: lots of planning takes place during the days leading up to the nine days and the feast day.

This year was different. Preparation for the Novenas were slightly different but still the same. Everything would be going online; the 53rd Annual Novenas were happening but they would be accessible online through Live streaming portals (keeping in mind all the restrictions and norms due to the COVID-19 Pandemic).

Here are some experiences from the Marathi, Tamil, Konkani and English novena services.

### Marathi Team:

From the very beginning Mother Mary is praised and worshiped as the Mother of God. We intercede to her with all our problems and sufferings, since she is our mother. Our Lady of Vailankanni is the Indian image of Mary our mother. Many devotees make a Holy pilgrimage to Irla every Saturday. This binds us to the Indian devotional stream. We see the concern, love, sacrifice and repentance of the people. A lot of devotees are cured, their hearts are transformed by the blessings and intercession of Vailankanni Mata. This year being the Covid 19 pandemic threat, it was not possible to celebrate the Annual novena service on a grand scale. Maintaining the Government norms and guidelines, all precautions were taken while recording the online masses. Proper social distancing was maintained. Only few choir members were present for the recording.

In this dreadful time of the pandemic, Mr Charlie D'Silva and his team came all the way from Dahisar to help in singing and readings. Ramond Creado helped in singing and playing harmonium. Here we would like to proudly mention that from last 35 years, Mr Charlie Dsilva has been coming to Irla every Saturday to play harmonium for the Marathi masses. His devotion, dedication and commitment is highly appreciated.

We would like to thank Frs. Glenn and Trevor, who inspite of the fear of corona virus, celebrated novena masses. Their homily highlighted and explained the themes chosen for this year's Novena. Lectors and choir did their role very well. In the time of this dreadful pandemic, this online novena masses recording was done smoothly and successfully.

We thank Fr Ravi Marneni Parish priest of Irla shrine for his invitation and extending his full support and co-operation. I thank each and every one for their contribution and support. May Mother Mary intercede for their good spiritual, mental and physical health.

### Tamil Team:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ...

I am James Jebamani, from St Vincent Pallotti Church, Vijay Nagar, Marol (Tamil Choir), Rev. Fr. Chinnappa CPPS had invited us to sing for Irla Church Feast during the year 2018. With the blessings of our Mother Mary, we were asked to come and sing for the 1st Saturday of every month for Tamil Mass and our journey continued...With the grace of our Lord and the blessings of Mother Mary, we were invited again to sing this year's Novena and the Feast Day Mass. It was nothing but the call of our Mother Mary. Though this year we all are experiencing days & months of devastation due to COVID-19, Mother Mary is always there to intercede for us and shower the blessings from heaven.

We are thankful to Rev. Fr. Ravi & Fr. Rajkumar and the Fathers doing Tamil ministry in Mumbai, Tamil Chaplains Rev. Fr. Ruban CPPS, Rev. Fr. Maria Antony CPPS, Rev. Fr. Xavier CPPS, Rev. Fr. Peter CPPS and Rev. Fr. IlayaRaja CPPS.

We would also like to thank and appreciate the efforts and hard work done by Mr. Anil (sacristy), Mr. Clayson and Mr. Trilochan for their technical expertise. Thank You Jesus, Thank you Mother Mary.

### Konkani Team:

When the lockdown was announced in March 2020, owing to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, little did we expect that we would be having online services at our Annual Novena in September. But as time passed, this possibility became more of a reality we had to accept. Nevertheless, Fr. Ravi Marneni, Parish Priest, was determined to have the Annual Novenas as per the usual schedule followed every year, so that, we did not miss out on the 'Annual Novena' experience. This year's theme, 'Immaculate Mary empowering us to overcome our sinfulness', was aptly chosen to suit these troubled times.

As soon as we were informed of the online novena service, we reached out to the 5 priests viz. Fr. Henry D'Souza (Thane), Fr. Philip D'Souza (Juhu Tara), Fr. Jodman Pereira (Khar), Fr. Cajetan Pinto (Powai) and Fr. Cleophas Braganza SDB (Wadala). All of them lovingly and willingly accepted the invitation, and were very eager to record and celebrate the novena services, despite the ongoing challenges. However, all choir members could not make it for the recording of the novena services, on account of their advanced age or travel distance. We missed their presence dearly.

This year has been a rather unusual experience for all of us, with no live and active participation by the choir along with the congregation. As we sit in our homes and partake in the novena service that has been pre-recorded, we truly miss the rich spiritual experience of the mass celebrated in church. Nonetheless, it seems like Mother Mary is making her presence felt in our homes and lives, as always.

We sincerely thank the Main Celebrants, who came from length and breadth of Mumbai, despite the heavy rains. We also thank all the choir members who helped in making the service lively.

We are grateful to Fr. Ravi Marneni, Fr. Rajkumar, Anil (Sacristian). Sr. Fatima and Sr. Theresa for their support and cooperation extended to the priests and choir members.

We look forward to the 54th Annual Novena with the same enthusiasm and devotion. We trust in Our Lady of Velankanni and intercede to her, for protection from Covid-19.



### **English Team:**

It's been a different experience for all of us who have participated for this year's Novena's service. We feel blessed to have been part of this year's Novena. It has been a rather unusual experience for all of us, with no live and active participation from the congregation, we became the choir, reader and congregation for each mass which was streamed live all these 11 days. Just a handful of us Youth: three in the choir and a reader (or two) these nine days, maintaining the social and physical distancing norms, participated wholeheartedly during these nine days.

Due to these unfortunate circumstances, most of us this year had to partake in the novena service from the comfort of our home. However, these live-streamed English masses brought this Marian Devotion and the Eucharist into our homes and lives. We are ever so grateful to our Parish priest for giving us and those involved, this opportunity to animate the English Liturgy for this year's Nativity Devotion.

## **53rd ANNUAL NOVENA**

### **FLAG HOISTING ON THE EVE OF THE 53RD ANNUAL NOVENA - 29TH AUG. 2020**

The 53rd Annual Novena commenced on the eve of 29th August with flag hoisting. The evening of 29th August began with the recitation of the Holy Rosary which was followed by singing of Marian hymns. With fanfare (virtually), the Flag was blessed and hoisted by the Parish priest Fr. Ravi as the Ave Maria was played, signalling the call to the commencement of the 53rd Annual Novenas. The inaugural mass celebrated at 7 pm by Fr. Ravi and Frs. Rajkumar and Mateus was live-streamed via YouTube and Facebook Live due to the Lockdown restrictions.



### **LIVE STREAMING OF THE ENGLISH MASS AND NOVENA SERVICE**



### **BLESSING OF THE SICK BY FR. ASHLYN CHAND 5TH SEPT. 2020**





**FEAST MASS CELEBRATED BY FR. RAVI MARNENI & FR. RAJ KUMAR MADRI**



**SOLEMN HIGH MASS CELEBRATED BY HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP BARTHOL BARETTO**



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