



VELANKANNI IRLA CALLING

DECEMBER
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,

There is a wave of excitement and expectation as December draws closer and as we enter into the season of Christmas to celebrate the Incarnation of God's only Son. Waiting and preparation are the two key words for the first 24 days of December. Christmas brings much-needed joy amid the Corona virus pandemic. It is a commemoration and celebration of God's self-giving love in His only son Jesus Christ. In these unprecedented times our lives should be lived in the works of love, charity, forgiveness and above all in docile to the Spirit of God.

The Immaculate Conception is a solemnity celebrated on December 8th. We recall with joy Mary's preservation from all stain of original sin from the first moment of her existence, by the foreseen merits of Christ. God touched her life in an extraordinary way, because He chose her to be the mother of His Son. For this, she was born Immaculate. Not because of any merit on her part, but because of God's grace. The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season of Advent and are represented by the liturgical color purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remaining days of December marks the beginning of the Christmas season. The liturgical color changes to white or gold — a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.

The story of Christmas is about love — love in the midst of bleakness, cruelty, or just plain consumerism and busy-ness. Our God cannot be held in Heaven, but comes to us to break in to the hardness or the loneliness of our hearts. The birth of Christ brings us a message of hope to this pandemic soaked world, that God still loves the world. Every human being is very precious in the sight of God. He does not want anyone to be lost. Therefore, the feast of Christmas invites the suffering humanity to live our lives in way of God's Precepts thus giving meaning and hope to each other. Focus of the Liturgy

The Gospels for the Sundays in December are taken from St. Mark, St. Luke and St. John. the following readings are from Year B and Cycle 1:

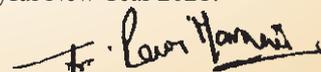
December 6th -2nd Sunday in Advent	The Gospel is about John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness.
December 13th - 3rd Sunday in Advent	The crowds question St. John the Baptist asking him who he is?
December 20th - 4th Sunday in Advent	This Gospel recounts the story of the Angel Gabriel's appearance to Zechariah in the temple.
December 27th - Holy Family	This Gospel recounts the prophecy of Simeon.

John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." That is what we who celebrate Christmas as disciples of the God revealed in Jesus Christ are called to do in our lives. We are called to be followers of this God. It is indeed also a call that can be understood by those who have not found Jesus but who are seeking what is good. All of us can work to bring this message of Christmas to anywhere where darkness still prevails.

The darkness has indeed not yet been dispelled. How can we celebrate this night of peace and not be aware of the fact that we live in a world where peace is more than fragile, where conflicts rage and fester and where the responses are often phrased in a language that is inflammatory rather than words and deeds of peace.

May the blessing of Jesus' love, Mary's wisdom, and Joseph's courage be upon you especially in these challenging times of our living.

With this message, I wish you all Happy Christmas and Joyful New Year 2021!
God Bless you all!


Fr. Ravi Thanaiah Marneni, PIME
(Parish Priest)

Parish Team:

Parish Priest – Fr. Ravi T. Marneni, PIME
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 DECEMBER 2020

FOR A LIFE OF PRAYER: WE PRAY THAT OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST
BE NOURISHED BY THE WORD OF GOD AND A LIFE OF PRAYER.

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.



MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR THE YEAR 2020 AMOUNTED TO Rs. 73,600/-.

Thank you for your generous contribution.

SSVP's DIWALI REACH OUT TO OUR AIDED FAMILIES

On Saturday, 7th November, 2020 at 10.30 am, our aided families gathered in the Prayer Hall, to receive a Diwali hamper, items of which were sponsored by different benefactors. At the outset, our Parish Priest, Fr. Ravi, and our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Raj Kumar, said a short prayer invoking God's blessings and wishing the families "A Very Happy Diwali". Then began the distribution of the Diwali hamper. There were food grain items like maida, rawa, sugar, moong dal, gram flour and cooking oil. In addition, plastic containers, packets of chocolates, biscuits and snacks and ready-made dresses. A total number of 50 packets were distributed. Used clothes received earlier, were also distributed to those who desired them. We are very thankful and grateful to all our benefactors who have always responded to our needs to help our poor and marginalised families. We also thank Fr. Ravi and Fr. Raj Kumar for their unstinted support and co-operation. The families returned home joyous and content.

Mrs. Jennifer Lopez



ONLINE PRAYER SERVICE ON THE ALL SOULS' AND ALL SAINTS' DAY by ST. ANTHONY'S COMMUNITY

November 1st and 2nd are two days set apart in the church's liturgical calendar as those of us still living unite our hearts with, and in a special way remember, the faithful departed, whether they be in heaven or in purgatory. Community of St. Anthony's got together online at 8.00 p.m. via Zoom for a Prayer Service conducted on these two days by the SCC Animators.

The All Saint's day prayer service united us in reflecting on a scripture reading followed by praying and singing together the Litany of Saints (as composed by John Becker), this was followed by Intercessory prayers and petitions.

On All Souls' day, the community met together and reflected together on a scripture reading and Psalm. This was followed by recitation of Chaplet for Holy Souls in Purgatory, Litany for the Holy Souls. The prayer service culminated with a reflection on the Hymn 'I know my Redeemer lives' and intercession and prayer for the deceased in the parish and community.

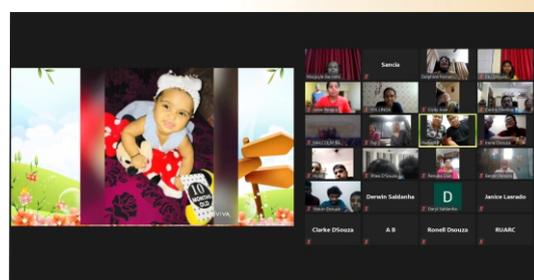
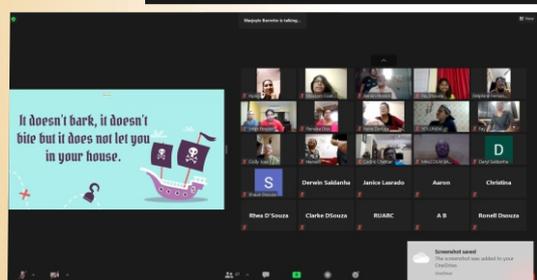
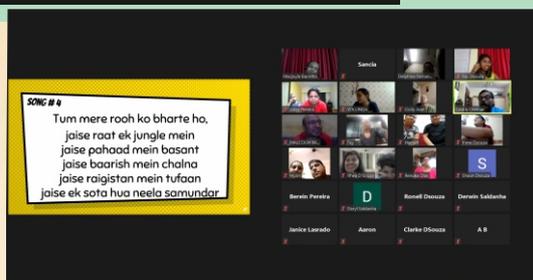
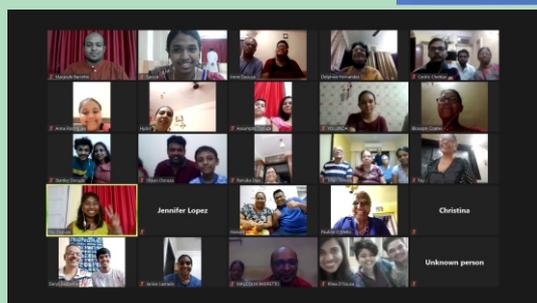
These two days, for us Anthonians, became the perfect time to think about our own life and reminded us that to continue to put our Faith in the Lord Jesus, the Soon and coming King.

SCC Animators of St. Anthony's Community.

THE GRAND GAME NITE

The evening of 14th November was different for many of those who logged into to participate in the Grand Game Nite. This evening of games was conducted online with the help of the Youth group and few PPC members. To create hype for evening, a series of mobile based, e-games were held and winning participants earned points for the respective communities. The games during the week leading to the Grand finale had SCC animators encouraging their community members to participate in the small snippet games like puzzles and quizzes. The Grand Finale on 14th November that took place live via Zoom began at 8 pm with Fr. Ravi who flagged off the evening with an opening prayer. The games were commissioned and were the brainchild of the Youth group, who organised Fancy Dress pageant, Dhamakedaar Trivia, Treasure Hunt and a Hatke Antakshri which kept everyone on their feet and had everyone don their thinking hats. Since it was children's day, a surprise video was played at end of the evening and this fun-filled fellowship came to end. Overall with a total score of 455 (inclusive of the challenges conducted preceding the Finale), Holy Family Community stood first in the Score Tally.

Congratulations!! Holy Family community for winning the mega event!! St John Bosco community for winning the 2nd place. We thank all the families from the 7 communities for the amazing participation and enthusiasm and comradeship shown during this event.



CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD DAY OF THE POOR BY OUR PARISH

Nov 15 was celebrated as Day of the Poor. This year the parish in coordination with SVP and Bombay Catholic Sabha provided utility items to the poor. Accordingly, these families were invited to the church at 10 am and the utility items were distributed to them. At the onset, Fr. Ravi said a short prayer invoking God's blessings upon on the families. A big thank you to the volunteers and well-wishers who participated in this small outreach. Let us remember the Holy Father's message for 2020 which is a reflection on Sirach 7:32: "Stretch forth your hand to the poor". As Catholics called to practice mercy, we should make this an intentional day of compassionate action, especially when we consider Christ's words from the Gospel of Matthew: "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt. 25:40).



FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING: EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

On the occasion of the feast of Christ the King, on 22nd November 2020, a live telecast of the adoration was broadcasted immediately after the 9 am mass. This adoration scheduled from 10am to 12 noon was conducted by the 7 SCC communities. 2 members from each community conducted the adoration as per time slot. Themes were assigned to each SCC community to lead those attending from their respective homes in reflection, prayers and adoration of the Eucharistic Lord. The Music Ministry led the congregation at home in meditative singing. Due to the current situation, it was ensured that the lock down protocols and SOPs were maintained.



Our Lady of Health of Velankanni Church, Irla invites the faithful to join and celebrate Mass in Church from November 29, 2020

To make the Eucharistic celebration meaningful and safe for you and others, please adhere to the below mentioned guidelines :



Please arrive at least 10 minutes before the celebration starts. At the entrance, there will be a thermal scan. Please use the hand 'sanitizer' before entering the church. No Holy Water founts will be available. Please enter the church in silence and reverence.



It is mandatory to wear your mask continuously, even during the Eucharistic celebration. Only 2 people will be allowed to sit in a pew.



Holy Communion will be distributed at the end of the mass, outside the church. Please receive the communion in your hand and in a prayerful manner exit the church.



Please do not touch the statues while venerating. No offering in the form of flowers and candles will be allowed.



Elderly above 60 years and children below 10 years are requested not to attend mass in church. This is for their safety.

Mass Timings:

Saturday Novena Mass*: 06:30am and 06:30 pm

Sunday: 07:00 am, 09:00 am and 06:30 pm

Mon to Fri: 07:15am

***Novena Masses till further notice will be in English.**



Fr. Ravi Thanaiiah Marneni
Parish Priest



May this festive season
be filled with the sweet sound
of the laughter of loved ones
in your home
and the beautiful hymns
that are pleasing to God
and His angels up above.

Merry Christmas



May the Lord Jesus Christ grant you and your family peace and renew your strength for the new year ahead!