



VELANKANNI IRLA CALLING

**JANUARY
2021**

Church of Our Lady of Health of Velankanni

FROM THE DESK OF PARISH PRIEST

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

As an unprecedented year 2020 comes to a close and a New Year beckons to hope that something new is coming and in the promise that we can face the future unafraid. As people of faith, we stand in the confidence that God, who began a good thing in us, will see it to fruition. We acknowledge that 2020 has been a year of challenges and a time of trial for not only for us but the world as we have faced the COVID-19 pandemic. This unpredictable ride of 2020 has made our living life quite hard for each one of us. COVID-19 has stretched out, our relationships, shattered our dreams, and distanced us from one another and even our faith. The whole world went on a Lockdown; number of positives cases and deaths has left us in pain and sadness. The Corona Virus pandemic did not only wreck our health and sanity, but also left quite a lasting impact on most of our lives and our dear ones. We all should accept the fact that with every passing year, one should leave behind the bad memories and mistakes. So now, as we embrace the upcoming year, 2021 let us all be positive and cheery with shining spirits and aspirations for the future. We should vow to not let the negative times affect us in looking forward to the future and working hard to achieve our dreams and ambitions. We will continue to hold on to hope and persevere for a brighter and better tomorrow. The upcoming start of a new decade has never seemed more promising. So, let us all embrace the New Year with much-needed hopes and happiness. Let 2020 become a distant memory and celebrate the upcoming year with a lot of joy and happiness. With social distancing norms and curfews in place, ringing in the New Year will not be the same as it used to be.

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, which is celebrated on 3rd January. The first ten days of January falls under the liturgical season known as Christmas which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). The remaining days of January are the beginning of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is used in the Offices and Masses of Ordinary Time.

Focus of the Liturgy, the Gospel readings for the Sundays in January are taken from St. Matthew, St. Mark and St. John: from Year B, Cycle 1.

January 3rd - Epiphany of the Lord	This Gospel is about the Wise Kings visit to the Christ Child.
January 10th - Baptism of the Lord	This Gospel is about Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan.
January 17th - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	In this Gospel, Jesus says to Peter, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas"
January 24th - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	In this Gospel, Jesus calls Peter and Andrew to be fishers of men
January 31st - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus frees the man with the unclean spirit.

In the first part of January, we continue to rejoice and celebrate Christ's coming at Bethlehem and in our hearts.

We have the wonderful feast of Mary, Mother of God, where we honour Mary's highest title, and then we journey with the Magi to the crib as they bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to adore the savior of the world on the feast of Epiphany. We reach the culmination of this season by drawing the curtain with the feast Baptism of Our Lord by St. John the Baptist. Finally, we have to remove our decorations and enter into the liturgical period known as Ordinary Time where we devote ourselves to the mystery of Christ in its entirety.

Blessing of Gratitude to the Lord:

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Dear God, Thank You not only for Your countless blessings but for the challenges that draw us near to You. Thank You for the hard moments when You gave me, the strength to wait out the storm. Jesus, You are so good. Whatever storms come into my life, You are my Rock and my Shelter. Thank You for Your sustenance that fills me, Your light that surrounds me, and Your love that never fails. In Jesus' Name, Amen
Happy New Year 2021!

With Blessings!

Fr. Ravi Thanaiah Marneni
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 Elamthuruthy

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 JANUARY 2021

Human Fraternity: May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

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.

DEATH: Ms. Flory Fonseca, Our Lady of Fatima Community, Irla Village

O.L. of Health Velankanni Church, Irla invites the faithful to celebrate Mass in Church from November 29, 2020

To make this 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 fountains 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 follow instructions of the ushers.
- Please do not touch the statues while venerating. No offering in the form of flowers and candles will be allowed.
- A box marked 'Church Offerings' has been placed at the entrance of the church. Please put in your offering as you leave church after mass. There will be no box collection during offertory.
- 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. As and when additional services are introduced, parishioners will be informed.

Fr. Ravi Thanaiah Marneni
Parish Priest

WELCOME BACK.

Sunday 29th November 2020: After almost 9 months, the church opened its doors to the faithful. Following the SOP and guidelines, the volunteers and Parish Fathers welcomed the parishioners and devotees to partake in the Holy Eucharist in the church.



SSVP CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Our Christmas celebrations for our Study Class children and aided families was held in the Prayer Hall on Saturday 12th December, 2020.

At exactly 10 am, 17 eager faced children entered the Hall together, very excited to meet Santa Claus. Our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Raj Kumar, was present along with some SVP members. We missed the presence of our Parish Priest, Fr. Ravi, who was away on duty. At the outset, Fr. Raj Kumar, invoked God's blessings on the children, our aided families and members. He blessed the Christmas hamper and other gifts which our benefactors had so generously donated. He also prayed for the repose of the soul of our dear departed Vincentian, Sr. Flory Fonseca.

On Santa's entry, the children burst into song singing "Jingle Bells". Santa Claus went about greeting all the children. In a short programme, some of the children sang carols, while others spoke about Christmas meant to them, in English and Marathi. The programme wound up with Santa distributing gifts to all the children present.

At 10.30 am we started the distribution of the Christmas hamper to our aided families comprising of ration items viz. flour, sugar, oil, 3 different dals, 2 small Five Star chocolates and rice. There were also plastic containers and snack packets with cake, wafers, biscuits and sweets.

Seeing the smiles and happy faces of the children and the families, brought us joy, as in a small way we could help to bring them Christmas cheer. We are thankful to Fr. Ravi and Fr. Raj Kumar for their constant support and cooperation. We are immensely grateful to our benefactors for their support in our various activities.

-Jennifer Lopez



BCS IRLA UNIT'S OUTREACH TO NAIR HOSPITAL

Bombay Catholic Sabha Irla Unit donated sugar test machine along with 500 lancets to Ward No. 6 Nair Hospital.



BCS IRLA UNIT'S CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

The Bombay Catholic Sabha Irla Unit distributed chocolate powder and biscuits donated by Reuben Mascarenhas to 90 needy families on 14/12/2020 and 19/12/2020.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

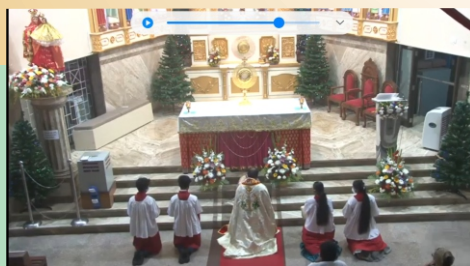


FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On 27th December, 2020 which was the feast of Holy Family, Melvin Lopes and Wesley Nadar received Jesus for the first time. We congratulate them and their family. Let us pray for Melvin and Wesley that they filled with strength and grow just like Jesus.



THANKSGIVING ADORATION AND SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD



GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS

The Parish Priest Fr. Ravi and Assistant Parish Priest Fr. Rajkumar celebrated the Holy Eucharistic Service for Sr. THERESA and Sr. MARY at The Church of Our Lady of Velankanni, Irla as they begin their Golden Jubilee Year from Tuesday 29th December 2020. We the Parishioners of Irla, wish both of them all the very best and pray that God our Almighty showers His choicest blessings upon them.



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