

VELANKANNI IRLA CALLING

FEBRUARY
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

The calendar turns a new month –February. Though it is the shortest month of the year, yet is rich in Liturgical activity. The Church year contains seasons and days that highlight times of Christ's life which may shed light into our busy, darkened world. February contains many festivals. The month of February is dedicated to the Family. It begins with the feast day of Presentation of our Lord on 2nd ('Candlemas'). This year the first 16 days of February fall during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time which is represented by the liturgical color green. Green, the 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. The remaining days of February are the beginning of Lent. The liturgical color changes to purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is a combined feast, commemorating the Jewish practice of the purification of the mother after childbirth and the presentation of the child to God in the Temple and his buying back (redemption) from God. It is also known as the Feast of the Purification of Mary, and the Feast of Candlemas. It is also called the Feast of Encounter (Hypapante in Greek) because the New Testament, represented by the baby Jesus, encountered the Old Testament, represented by Simeon and Anna. Joseph offered two pigeons in the Temple as sacrifice for the purification of Mary after her childbirth and for the presentation and redemption ceremonies performed for baby Jesus.

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

February 7th - Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	The Gospel recounts Christ's cure of St. Peter's mother-in-law.
February 14th - Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	The Gospel is about Christ healing a leper.
February 21st - First Sunday of Lent	Jesus is tempted by the devil in the desert.
February 28th - Second Sunday of Lent	The Gospel relates the story of the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mt. Tabor.

LENT:

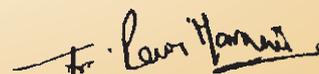
The holy season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on February 17th. This is indeed a holy season, in which we are called to renew our hearts and minds in the spirit of our baptism. Though not a holy day of obligation, Catholics are strongly encouraged to attend Mass or other service on Ash Wednesday. The ashes, made from burnt palm branches of the previous Palm Sunday, are placed on our foreheads as a symbol of our desire to do penance. In biblical times, to sit in "sackcloth and ashes" was an expression of the penitent's desire and commitment to change his/her ways, to be more obedient to the will of God. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday stand out each year as days of fasting and abstinence.

It is a Season of Reflection, Renewal and Preparation. The Theme for Lent 2021 is "A New way forward" is inspired by Pope Francis' Words in Laudato Si' highlighting God's infinite presence throughout both the highs and lows of our lives, we face obstacles and challenges that change our world and lead us to adapt in unexpected ways.

This forty-day journey can become, for us, an extended conversation with God. God's power, our weakness. God's provision, our emptiness. God's abundance, our scarcity. God's righteousness, our imperfection. God's wisdom, our confusion. And a conversation with God can become the foundation for a conversation among God's people.

God is not finished with us yet. We now have these forty days. We are finite, God is infinite. And this is at the heart of Ash Wednesday—the way of the cross, which is God's great agenda.

May God bless us and guide us throughout this coming Lent.


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 FEBRUARY 2021

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

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 an efficacious control of the outbreak, for healing of those who are affected, for the victims and their families. We thank you for blessing the efforts of our research scientists working on the development of a vaccine. We pray that these vaccines be effective in combating the virus and its mutants, and in controlling the spread of the pandemic. We pray that the vaccine be available for all our people even the poor and those in rural areas. We pray for the doctors, nurses and health workers who are in the frontline of this battle, that they be kept safe And have the strength and courage to continue their heroic efforts. 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.

MARRIAGE: Irene Pinto and Rendol D'Souza (20.12.2020) (St. Jude's Community, Irla Bridge)
Judy D'Souza and Mangesh Halande (10.01.2021) (St. John Bosco's Community, Up-Pakhadi)

DEATH: Mr. Augustine Pacheco (07.01.2021) St. Jude's Community (Irla Bridge)

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

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

'We have come to worship Him.' - Mt. 2:2

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is the manifestation or revelation of the divine nature of Jesus Christ to the world. The feast commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child Jesus. The feast of manifestation, or Epiphany, is traditionally celebrated the 12th day after Christmas, January 6th. In the Archdiocese of Mumbai, this feast was celebrated on 3rd January this year.

The three Magi's were enacted by our Parishioners in an innovative way with solemn procession, presentation of gifts and later the Book of Gospels to begin the Liturgy of the Word of God. Like the Magi, may we also journey and be attentive, untiring and courageous on the path to find the invisible God who was born among us.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FR. RAVI!

Thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration on the Birthday of our Parish Priest.

On 5th January 2021, the birthday of our dear Parish Priest - Fr. Ravi Thanaiah and Sr. Nathaline Pereira of the Missionaries Sisters of Immaculate was celebrated with a Eucharistic Celebration at 7.15 am. After the 7.15 a.m. Eucharistic celebration, Vera Fernandes welcomed parishioners present at the holy mass to wish Fr. Ravi and Sr. Nathaline, and also said a short prayer for their well-being. Gayle D'Souza read out a birthday message for Fr. Ravi on behalf of the youth. Fr. Ravi cut his birthday cake for the 49th time in his life. Cicily Jose on behalf of the Parishioners presented Fr. Ravi and Sr. Nathaline a bouquet, after which Fay D'Souza handed over a gift to Fr. Ravi, on behalf of the PPC Members. After this, those present helped themselves to cake and coffee.

Let us continue to pray for Fr. Ravi to the Almighty to keep him in good health to continue with the good work that he's been doing on behalf of PIME.



OLVC CHURCH IRLA: AWARD RECIPIENT FOR ALL INDIA CHURCH CRIB COMPETITION 2019

The first-ever Nativity scene (or Christmas Crib, as we commonly know it to be called) recorded in history was created by St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis was concerned that the meaning of Christmas was becoming lost. Christmas crib in parishes and around the Gauthans (local hamlets) have always been gaining attention; not only for people to pray but also to admire the creativity used.

In our parish, the youth have been preparing the Church Cribs which have been always presented with the out-of-the-box thinking. In 2019, the Church Crib was prepared using lights and fruit boxes giving the crib a rustic aesthetic and unique appearance. This very Light & Box crib received the first place in the All India Church Crib Competition at Sarvajanic Kristi Janmotsav 2019 and was presented by Mobai Gauthan Panchayat.

This award was announced to parishioners as a surprise by Fr. Ravi himself on the occasion of his Birthday.

Kudos to the Youth whose brainchild won this laurel for the church. Keep up the great work!



BIBLE QUIZ 2021: THE BOOKS OF GENESIS AND EXODUS.

In his Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis*, Pope Francis instituted the Sunday of the Word of the Word which will be held every year on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. In 2021, was celebrated on January 24th.

And what better way to celebrate this day, than to do it with a Bible Quiz. The details of the Bible quiz were shared with all community and from the 7 communities, we had 5 communities participating. It was great to see that some of the communities had asked the Children and Youth to participate in the quiz.

The communities were asked to prepare themselves on the first two books of the Bible. The Quiz was conducted in Fr. Venturin Hall. The Quiz master of the day was Macjoyle Barretto and Score and Time Keeper was Fay Dsouza. Fr. Daniel, who was also present, along with Fr Mateus were Judges of the day.

The event began with the enthronement of the Bible followed by a prayer by Fr. Mateus.

There were 5 rounds conducted which consisted of fill ups, jumble words, quote the verses with help of the Bible, MCQs, etc. Sandwiched among these were two bonus rounds which were crossword and word search. A surprise Bonus crossword on St. Joseph was also included in the bonus round keeping in mind the Year of St. Joseph.

After some highs and lows; and some gasps, St. Paul's Community was declared as the Winners of the Bible Quiz 2021 and St. Anthony's Community was the runner-up.

This event ended with a Thanksgiving prayer.

We, thank those who participated and those organised the Bible quiz this year. Our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Mateus and Fr. Daniel for gracing us with their presence. And finally, a big Thank You to Fr. Ravi and Fr. Rajkumar for their support and guidance.



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