



VELANKANNI IRLA CALLING

MARCH
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 month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. The entire month falls during the liturgical season of Lent which is represented by the liturgical color purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. As we continue our journey "up to Jerusalem" during the month of March, three prominent ideas are proposed for our contemplation by the liturgy of Lent: the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, baptism, and penance.

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. 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."

On December 8, 2020, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter "Patris Corde" (With a Father's Heart) to mark the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph being named the Patron Saint of the Universal Church. He established a 'Year of St. Joseph' in order to celebrate this anniversary.

Holy Father describes this great saint as a beloved Father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows who always focuses on Mary and Jesus. This Year of St. Joseph is a gift to the Church during these difficult days. The Holy Father writes that it is his hope that, "Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," St. Joseph provides an excellent role model for us, especially for husbands and fathers.

According to the decree issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary on Dec. 8, there are 15 ways to receive an indulgence in the Year of St. Joseph:

- 1) Participate in a spiritual retreat for at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph.
- 2) Pray for St. Joseph's intercession for the unemployed that they might find dignifying work.
- 3) Recite the Litany of St. Joseph for persecuted Christians. Byzantine Catholics have the option of an Akathist to St. Joseph.
- 4) Entrust one's daily work and activity to the protection of St. Joseph the Worker.
- 5) Follow St. Joseph's example in performing a corporal work of mercy. These include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the imprisoned, visiting the sick, and burying the dead.
- 6) Perform one of the spiritual works of mercy, such as comforting the sorrowful, counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, admonishing the sinner, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving injuries, and praying for the living and the dead.
- 7) Pray the rosary together with one's family in order that "all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family."
- 8) Engaged couples can also receive an indulgence from praying the rosary together.
- 9) Meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer, because St. Joseph "invites us to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God's will."
- 10) Pray an approved prayer to St. Joseph on St. Joseph Sunday, the Sunday after Christmas in the Byzantine Catholic tradition.
- 11) Celebrate the feast of St. Joseph on March 19 with an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph.
- 12) Pray an approved prayer to St. Joseph on the 19th of any month.
- 13) Honor Joseph with an act of piety or approved prayer on a Wednesday, the day traditionally dedicated to St. Joseph.
- 14) Pray to St. Joseph on the Feast of the Holy Family on Dec. 27.
- 15) Celebrate the feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1 with an act of piety or prayer.

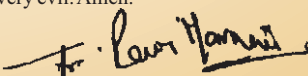
Focus of the Liturgy: The Gospel readings for March are taken from St. John and St. Mark. All are from Year B, Cycle 1.

March 7th - 3rd Sunday of Lent	The Gospel is about Christ driving the money changers from the temple.
March 14th - 4th Sunday of Lent	The Gospel tells about Nicodemus nocturnal visit to Our Lord.
March 21st - 5th Sunday of Lent	This Gospel tells the story of Jesus bringing Lazarus back to life.
March 28th - Palm Sunday	The reading of the Passion according to Mark.

Let us say this prayer to St. Joseph:

"Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen."

Wish you all Happy Feast of St. Joseph and a blessed Lenten Season!
With Blessings,


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 MARCH 2021

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

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.

BAPTISM: 06.02.2021 - Kyler Francis S/O Charles and Karishma Francis; 07.02.2021 - Janine Pereira D/O Hamel and Sharon Pereira
MARRIAGE: 06.02.2021 - Charles Francis and Karishma Haldankar; 07.02.2021 - Rensen Creado and Steffi Misquitta
DEATH: 27.02.2021 - Mr. Oswald Weel - Holy Family Community (Juhu Lane)

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*:

English: 06:30 am and 06:30 pm; Tamil: 8.00 am; Marathi: 2.30 pm; Konkani: 4.30 pm.

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

Mon to Fri: 07:15 am

Fr. Ravi Thanaiah Marneni
Parish Priest

SCHEDULE OF STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During the season of Lent, there will be an additional Mass every Friday at 6.30 pm. This will be followed by the Stations of the Cross led every Friday by the SCC communities of the parish. Please find the schedule below:

19th February, 2021: St. Joseph's Community
26th February, 2021: Holy Family Community
5th March, 2021: St. Paul's Community
12th March, 2021: St. John Bosco's Community
19th March, 2021: Our Lady of Fatima
26th March, 2021: St. Anthony's and St. Jude's Community

Please remember to follow the guidelines and SOPs set while attending these services.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, 28th March 2021: Blessing of the Palms* at the 7 am mass.

Mass as usual i.e. 7.00 am, 9.00 am and 6.30 pm

Maundy Thursday, 1st April, 2021: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 pm*

Altar of Repose after the mass. Adoration led by the SCC Communities. The schedule and themes will be communicated later.

Good Friday, 2nd April, 2021: Passion of Our Lord: Day of Fast and Abstinence

Stations of the Cross led by the Youth at 8.30 am.*

Divine Mercy Novenas begins at 3 pm.

Service of Passion of our Lord at 6 pm*

Holy Saturday, 3rd April, 2021: No Novena Services and Masses

Easter Vigil Service: TBD* (Awaiting Archbishop's Directives)

Easter Sunday, 4th April, 2021: Resurrection of Our Lord

Masses at 7.00 am, 9.00 am and 6.30 pm

***Please note the above: Holy Week Schedule is subject to changes based on the directives and guidelines that will be received from the Archbishop. Changes if any, will be communicated through regular announcements in Church and on social media.**

ST. JOHN BOSCO'S COMMUNITY FEAST CELEBRATION



Every year the feast of St. John Bosco is a day looked forward by the entire community. It is a day when we come together and celebrate. With the pandemic still under way, the community was unable to meet. Keeping the tradition alive, we dedicated mass at church. In the evening we organized an online community rosary dedicated to our patron St. John Bosco. We thank the almighty for showering his choicest blessings on our community and continue to ask for his grace. Happy feast to all!

Gayle D'Souza

SVP BENEFACTOR CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY WITH THE SVP AIDED FAMILIES

On Saturday, 6th February 2021, our SVP members and aided families gathered together in the Prayer Hall at 10.30 am to wish Jiven Desai "A Very Happy Birthday". Jiven is the son of our benefactor, Mrs. Rheema Desai. At the outset, Fr. RajKumar, our Spiritual Advisor, said a prayer invoking God and Our Lady's Blessings on Jiven, and also on our members and aided families. He then blessed the snack boxes and bedsheets which were birthday giveaways. All present sang the "Happy Birthday" song and wished the "birthday boy" much happiness and prosperity. In turn, Fr. RajKumar handed over a gift to Jiven from all our members. It was time now to distribute the 60 snack boxes containing "yummy patties and veg rolls" and also the bedsheets to all our aided families and members. It was a morning to remember; The happy smiling faces of our aided families said it all.

Mrs. Jennifer Lopez



SR. LUCIA PALA'S MISSIONARY TESTIMONY

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is also celebrated as a day of Consecrated persons. It is always good to hear a testimony of a person who has consecrated their life in service of the Church and also to inspire everyone especially the Youth of a vocation or a calling to consecrate their lives in service of God and His Church. Sr. Lucia Pala MSI was invited to speak about her vocation: calling and ministry on the 7th February 2021 during the 9 am mass. Short-statured but having a heart big enough to share many of her tales, Sr. Lucia, who celebrates her golden jubilee, shared her vocation story, her stay in India for the many years of her life and her love for reaching out to those in need especially the leprosy patients she cares for at the Vimala Dermatological Centre, Versova. Her testimony about her encounter with the leprosy and her relationship with God through her simple but dedicated prayer life is a testimony itself to those who wish to consecrate their life to God in service.

Fr. Ravi along with the youth felicitated and thanked her for her services: a hope that would enkindle in some youngster a desire for them to listen to God's calling.



BOMBAY CATHOLIC SABHA IRLA UNIT'S OUTREACH

The Bombay Catholic Sabha Irla Unit along with Fr. Mateus visited Rafiq Nagar Chawl Balwadi Class at Govandi on 2nd January 2021 to distribute books, pens, pencils crayons and biscuits to 150 children from 1st to 10th Standard. The children were called in separate batches for the distribution. We also made a cash donation. We would like to thank our donors for their generous contribution. Special thanks to Berein for assisting in the project.

Stanley D'Souza



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