



VELANKANNI IRLA CALLING

APRIL
2021

Church of Our Lady of Health of Velankanni

FROM THE DESK OF PARISH PRIEST

HE IS NOT HERE: FOR HE IS RISEN." -MT. 28:6

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

As we look forward to celebrating Easter, we remember the purpose and the centrality of the truth that we celebrate. God's grand story of redemption, through His Son's victory over sin and death rests at the center of what we call the gospel.

On April 4th, 2021, people will celebrate all over the globe the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Why all the attention for an event that happened some 2,000 years ago? Why is Easter that big of a deal? Easter is important for lots of reasons. In 1 Corinthians 15:12, the Apostle Paul said this about the resurrection: But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

The April boasts the most solemn and sublime event of human history: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ – the Paschal mystery. Though the way to the Resurrection was the Via Crucis, the Sacrificial Lamb of God is now and forever Christ our Light, the Eternal high priest of the New Covenant. And his sorrowful mother, the Stabat Mater of Good Friday, is now the jubilant Mother of the Regina Caeli.

In the Gospel of Matthew we read how an angel appeared to the women at the tomb early that first Easter morning. The angel explained to them that Jesus was not there because he had been raised from the dead, just as he said! Matthew tells us that the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy.

That's what the resurrection does. It takes our fear, our worry, our hurt, our sadness...and it puts it all into perspective.

The fact that Jesus is risen from the dead, that he was victorious over death and sin, is reason to celebrate. It's that fact that gives us joy despite our circumstances and through whatever we may face. What happened on that first Easter day still brings us joy and it still changes lives today.

We the members of Christ's Mystical Body exalt in the mystery by which we were redeemed. If in Baptism we were buried with Christ, so also we share in his resurrection. By his death we were reborn; "by his stripes we were healed." (Is 53:5) Easter, the epicenter of time, is the event that links time and eternity. It is indeed "the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it." (Ps 118:24) We continue throughout the entire month our cry, "Christ is risen, Christ is truly risen." Easter is the feast of feasts, the unalloyed joy and gladness of all Christians. Easter is the beginning of our story and this is our story: that that the grave is not a destination but a process; the cross is not an end but a means.

The following Sunday of Easters Sunday we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. The Feast of Divine Mercy offers us the opportunity to begin again as though we were newly baptized. The unfathomable mercy of God is made manifest today if we but accept His most gracious offer.

"As a gift to humanity, which sometimes seems bewildered and overwhelmed by the power of evil, selfishness, and fear, the Risen Lord offers His love that pardons, reconciles, and reopens hearts to love. It is a love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much the world needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy! Lord, who reveals the Father's love by your death and Resurrection, we believe in you and confidently repeat to you today: Jesus, I trust in you, have mercy upon us and upon the whole world." St. Pope John Paul II, Regina caeli message prepared for Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3, 2005
Focus of the Liturgy: The Gospel readings for the Sundays in April are taken from St. John and St. Luke are from Year B, Cycle 1.

April 4th - Easter sunday	This Gospel recounts Mary Magdalene and the apostles visit to the empty tomb of Christ on Easter.
April 11th - Divine Mercy Sunday	The Gospel relates the story of doubting Thomas.
April 18th - 3rd Sunday of Easter	This Gospel tells of Jesus appearance to the Apostles after the Resurrection.
April 25th - 4th Sunday of Easter	The Gospel is about Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

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:

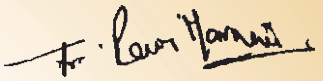
To inform Parish Priest or
SCC Animators.

Sunday school:

7.45 a.m to 9 a.m.

Let us carry the message to the poor, the sick and the brokenhearted that beyond the gloomy darkness of the grave lies the glorious dawn of Easter morning. "We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song." (St Augustine)
The greatest news in the entire world is that God and His Son are most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in them. And to make that true God raised His Son Jesus from the dead to reign forevermore. Because of this hope, we can face the uncertainties of today and tomorrow. May we all have a Joyful and Hopeful Easter.

Wish you all Happy Easter!
With Blessings


Fr. Ravi Thanaiah Marneni, PIME
(Parish Priest)

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021

Fundamental Rights: We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

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.

DEATH:

18.03.2021 – Mrs. Mary D'Souza - St. Anthony's Community (Mamta Apts)
23.03.2021 – Mrs. Rita Chacko - Holy Family Community (Juhu Lane)
24.03.2021 - Mrs. Hazel Pinto - 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*:

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 FOR DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Theme: Year of St. Joseph
Timing: 3 pm

2nd April, 2021: St. Joseph- Man of Faith* (Divine Mercy Team)
3rd April, 2021: St. Joseph – Patron of Workers* (St. Joseph's Community)
4th April, 2021: St. Joseph - Pillar of Families* (Holy Family Community)
5th April, 2021: St. Joseph – Protector of the Family* (St. Paul's Community)
6th April, 2021: St. Joseph – Provider* (St. Anthony's Community)
7th April, 2021: St. Joseph – Example and model* (St. Jude's Community)
8th April, 2021: St. Joseph – Model for the Church and the World* (St. John Bosco's Community)
9th April, 2021: St. Joseph - the Epitome of Obedience* (Our Lady of Fatima's Community)
10th April, 2021: St. Joseph – Helper of the Afflicted* (Divine Mercy Team)
11th April, 2021: Half Hour Adoration at 6 pm (Divine Mercy Team) followed by Feast Mass at 6.30 pm

*A short reflection on the Sub-themes will be given by the Parish Fathers.

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

WOMEN'S DAY: A DAY OF SURPRISES

8th March 2021 - Being Women's Day was a day full of surprises. What better way to begin our day than to offer it to God at the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. It was celebrated by Fr. Ravi as the main celebrant and con-celebrated by Frs. Rajkumar and Mateus.

Fr. Ravi had secretly planned many surprises. During the homily, he touched upon the importance of women and how women should be treated with respect and equality. It was very inspiring and encouraging. A special blessing for all women who were present at the Eucharist was given by him. Another thoughtful idea of Fr. Ravi was, of asking each of us to pick up a rose before leaving the church. All these gestures are truly appreciated.

Women, as it were, are treated as a weaker sex. But, they can endure much more than men. A woman can always smile externally, even though her heart within is sad for whatever hardships and struggles she is going through. Thank God that she can cry out to the Lord because only He would understand her. Many women are now very well educated and are holding senior posts in the corporate sector as well as in government departments. Women are also in the forefront in assisting in church activities and are an asset to the Parish.

Unfortunately there are a lot of women who have not been able to continue with their education and have not got an opportunity to develop their talents for various reasons. If we do get an opportunity to help such women, please go ahead and do so in whatever way possible.

I wish to end by saying, thank you Fr. Ravi once again and we look forward to more encouragements as and when the world opens up.

Blossom Coates.



CLOSING OF SUNDAY e-SCHOOL ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021

This academic year has been unprecedented for a lot of things especially for Learners and Catechists alike. From getting used to a new schedule every Sunday to sending assignments as means to mark attendance to ways of keeping the interest of the learner undeterred, all of us had to get used to the new norms and all we can say is that - God's love, grace and mighty hand pulled us through.

After around 30 sessions, the Sunday e-School came to a close on 21st March 2021 with a mass at 9 am offered in Thanksgiving by the Catechists for the children of the parish followed by Stations of the Cross after the mass. Some children attended the Stations physically with their parents while the rest joined online.

As the Stations of the cross were about to end, before the final blessing, Fr Mateus gave a small message for the children to live their Christian lives in the shadow of cross of Christ. Thank you to all the children who regularly participated the online sessions and regularly submitted their assignments. The Confirmation section of the Sunday School will continue their preparation. Keep them in your prayers as they will receive Confirmation on Saturday, 17th April 2021 at the 6.30 pm mass.



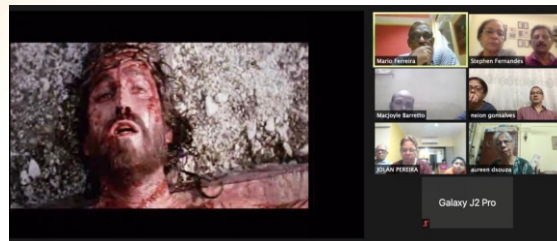
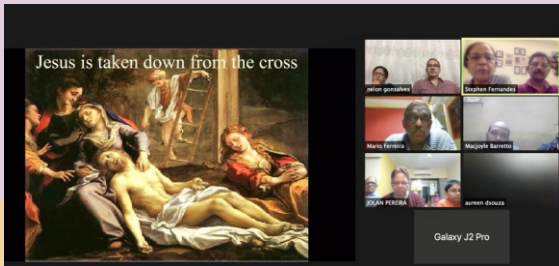
JOURNEYING THE WAY OF THE CROSS AT HOME

As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to play spoilsport for many of our religious activities, it has not deterred our community spirit. During the season of Lent, some of the Parish Communities conducted the Way of the Cross online amongst their community members.

St. Anthony's community conducted the Way of the Cross every Wednesday at 8 pm during the season of Lent where each Wednesday the reflection and prayers focussed on different themes. This led the people reflect on the final hours of Jesus as he journeyed to Calvary.

Every year on Palm Sunday, the community has the practice of conducting the Way of the Cross around the vicinity and zone. However, this year this practice had to be transferred online through visuals, prayers and reflection, those gathered united in prayer for all.

St. Anthony's Community SCC animators



PALM SUNDAY

The Bombay Catholic Sabha Irla Unit distributed Palms on Palm Sunday, 28th March 2021 to the homebound families in all the zones of the Parish



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