



# VELANKANNI IRLA CALLING

## MARCH 2022

**Church of Our Lady of Health of Velankanni**

### FROM THE DESK OF PARISH PRIEST

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

During the month of March, we begin the Season of LENT. Lent is meant to be a time of repentance. These 40 days are set aside to praise and worship the Lord; to read the Bible more, and to pray more often, give charity and live in fasting. Christians who observe Lent anticipate deeper intimacy with the Lord.

We will continue our journey to the cross with our acts of penitence. We will reflect on our mortality (Remember man thou art dust) and the shortness of life (and to dust thou shall return). We will heed the call, now is the acceptable time, and now is "the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

**Focus of the Liturgy:** The Gospel readings for the Sundays in March follow the Lenten season from Cycle C, unless a parish has catechumens, so they would then follow Cycle A. The Weekday readings follow the annual Lenten readings.

<b>March 6<sup>th</sup></b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	<b>Year C, Luke 4:1-13:</b> Jesus is led into the desert and tempted by Satan.
<b>March 13<sup>th</sup></b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	<b>Year A, Matthew 17:1-9:</b> The Gospel relates the story of the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mt. Tabor.
<b>March 20<sup>th</sup></b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	<b>Year C, Luke 13:1-9:</b> Jesus tells the parable of the barren fig tree.
<b>March 27<sup>th</sup></b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	<b>Year C, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32:</b> The Gospel recounts the parable of the Prodigal Son.

The **Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 19)** is a special landmark this month in which we will celebrate the great honour 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."

The **Solemnity of the Annunciation (March 25)** enables us to ponder on Our Lady's fiat. The Solemnity of the Annunciation celebrates the coming of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce to her the special mission God had chosen for her in being the mother of His only son. We are continually reminded of the importance of this feast to our salvation in various devotional prayers. Two examples that highlight the importance of this feast are the joyous mysteries of the Rosary and the Angelus. This feast celebrates the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Trinity and the salvation of all mankind.

*O Holy Virgin Mary, we ask your intercession to make us as generous as you in accepting the will of God in our lives, especially when that will is expressed in mysterious ways. May you be our example of a generous response to what God desires of us.*

**Have blessed Season of LENT**

God Bless you all!

**Fr. Ravi Thanaiah Marneni, PIME**  
**Parish Priest – Church of Our Lady of Health of Velankanni, IRLA)**

#### Parish Team:

Parish Priest – Fr. Ravi T. Marneni, P.I.M.E

Asst. Parish Priest – Fr. Praveen Jangam, HGN

#### 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 2022

**For a Christian response to bioethical challenges:** We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

### ***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

## TILL FURTHER NOTICE, PLEASE NOTE THE MASS TIMINGS:

**Monday to Friday:** 7.15 a.m.

**Saturday:** Mass & Novena in English at 6.30 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.; in Tamil at 8.00 a.m.; in Marathi at 2.30 p.m.; in Konkani at 4.30 p.m.

**Sunday:** 9.00 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.

## SCHEDULE FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

DAY/DATE	PROGRAM
Wednesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2022	<b>Ash Wednesday. A day of Fasting and abstinence.</b> Masses at 7.15 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Masses at 7.15 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. <b>Stations of the Cross</b> conducted by <b>St. Paul's community</b> (Lallubhai Park, Azad Lane and Vishnu Baug) after the 6.30 p.m. mass.
Sunday, 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Masses at 9.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Friday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Masses at 7.15 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. <b>Stations of the Cross</b> conducted by <b>Holy Family community</b> (Juhu Lane) after the 6.30 p.m. mass.
Sunday, 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Masses at 9.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Masses at 7.15 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. <b>Stations of the Cross</b> conducted by <b>Our Lady of Fatima community</b> (Society Road and Irla Village) after the 6.30 p.m. mass.
Saturday, 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	<b>Solemnity of St. Joseph</b>
Sunday, 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Masses at 9.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Friday, 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	<b>Solemnity of the Annunciation</b> Masses at 7.15 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. <b>Stations of the Cross</b> conducted by <b>St. Jude's community</b> (Irla Bridge) after the 6.30 p.m. mass.
Sunday, 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Masses at 9.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Friday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	Masses at 7.15 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. <b>Stations of the Cross</b> conducted by <b>St. Anthony's community</b> (Kadri Park, Kripa Nagar and Yashodhan) after the 6.30 p.m. mass.
Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2022	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Masses at 9.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Masses at 7.15 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. <b>Stations of the Cross</b> conducted by <b>St. John Bosco's community</b> (Up-pakhadi) after the 6.30 p.m. mass.

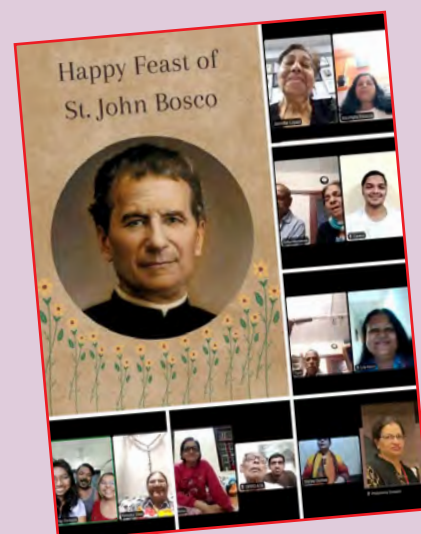


## ST. JOHN BOSCO'S COMMUNITY CELEBRATES THEIR PATRON'S FEAST

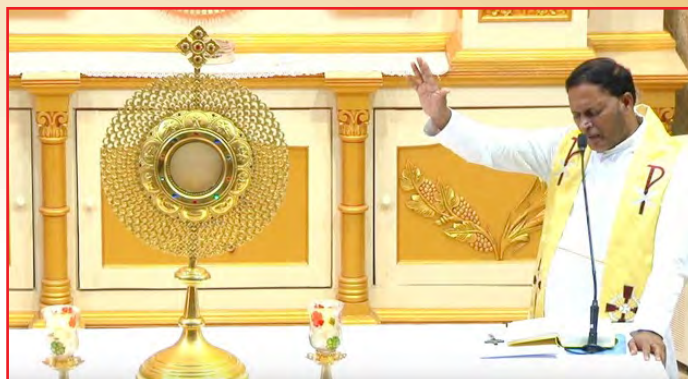
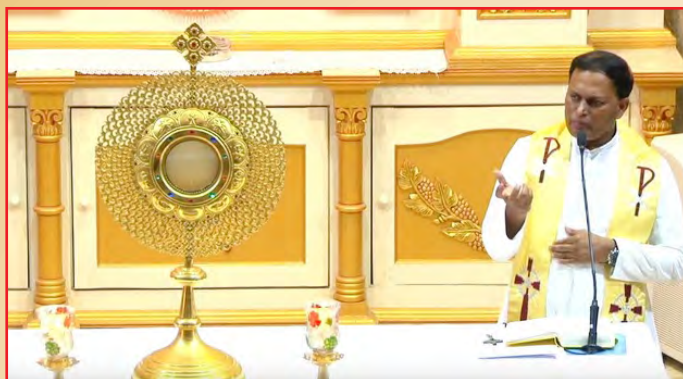
"All my work began with a simple Hail Mary, for our Lady's help" – St. John Bosco

We celebrated the feast day of our community's Patron – St. John Bosco, as he guided us: with the recitation of the Holy Rosary. As a community we assembled online at 8 p.m. on January 31, 2022 and prayed the Rosary. Praying to our Mama Mary and St. John Bosco that they continue to bless us and intercede for our intentions. We also offered masses at the Shrine of St. Don Bosco. As a community we made the day special by greeting each other.

St. John Bosco pray for us



## WORLD DAY OF THE SICK: EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AND SPECIAL BLESSING OF THE SICK





**FELICITATION OF SR. FATIMA AND SR. TERESA ON BEHALF OF THE DEVOTEES OF OUR LADY OF HEALTH OF VELANKANNI, IRLA FOR THEIR KIND AND DEVOTED SERVICE TO THE PILGRIMS AND DEVOTEES ON SATURDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY**



**BCS (IRLA UNIT) RECEIVED THE FIRST PRIZE FOR PANDEMIC WORK IN CENTRAL SUBURBS DEANERY AT THE SABHA DAY ON 19.2.2022. THIS IS THE 3RD TROPHY RECEIVED BY IRLA UNIT IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.**





## SVP STUDY CLASS MERIT AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS BY SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, IRLA UNIT

On Saturday, 5th February 2022, about 40 students of our Study Class and some parents assembled together in the Prayer Hall at 11.30 a.m. It also happened to be the birthday of one of our Sponsor's son, Jivan Desai who chose to celebrate along with the children.

Fr. Ravi, our Parish Priest, welcomed the students, their parents, our Sponsor Rheema Desai, her son Jivan and the SVP members. After a short prayer invoking God's blessings and eulogising the efforts of our SVP members, the function started with the distribution of Merit Awards/Scholarships to the meritorious students at SSC, HSC, and Graduation examinations. Fr. Ravi distributed the Merit Certificates/Scholarships to 10 students. The Scholarships were sponsored by Mrs. Rheema Desai.



In celebration of Jivan's birthday, all sang "Happy Birthday" to him. A juice glass tumbler with a straw and a packet of Merwan's snacks were distributed by Jivan to all those present. In turn a gift of a large school bag was presented to Jivan.

The function ended on a happy, delightful note.

– Mrs Jennifer Lopez



## THE BCS IRLA UNIT'S JOURNEY



The Irla Bombay Catholic Sabha Unit restarted in 2018 and began its journey by undertaking the work of updation of Voter ID of parishioners.

This was followed by a brainstorming with all the Lay Leaders of our parish to chalk a plan for the future.

A project of saving the environment through recycling of plastic and Tetra Pak was started with the help of RUR and Bisleri. This was spread to 2 neighbouring societies. More than 1500 kgs. plastic and 1000 Tetra Pak was sent for recycling.

As a mark of appreciation Bisleri gave Velankanni Church Irla a Recycled bench.

The Sunday School students were encouraged by having a Drawing & Essay Competition. The prizes were distributed at the Cultural Programme.

In an effort to reach out to our Non Christian brethren we Conducted Christmas Programmes.

Visited the slums in Rafiq Nagar, Govandi and distributed books for children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> along with Fr. Mathew.

The BCS took the lead in Independence Day Celebration in our Parish.

In a bid to celebrate love, BCS Organised a Valentine's Day Programme for couples of our Parish.



The Pandemic came and the Irla Unit took upon itself the job of helping the needy and downtrodden through works of: distribution of 350 ration kits, Cash distribution to 45 families, Distribution of 4000 food packets. We also donated vegetables to Sneha Sadan on many occasions. We donated paper cups and plates, diabetes machine and Christmas Decorations to Nair Hospital Covid 19 Ward. On Palm Sunday, we distribute of Palms to the homebound of our Parish.

Special thanks to our Parishioner, Mr. Reuben Mascarenhas, for his help during the Pandemic.

Later during the year, our unit joined the Archdiocese Health Outreach Programme through which we were able to assist 30 needy persons in vaccination as well as enlist 10 Parishioners for free medicines every month.

In this journey we have received an Upcoming Unit Award (2019), A Challenger Unit Award (2020) and finally A Star Unit Award (2022)

We would like to thank our donors and Parishioners and life members for their love and support during our journey.

– Stanley D'souza

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