



# VELANKANNI IRLA CALLING | MAY 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,

The month of May is dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary. In his 1965 encyclical, *Mense Maio*, Pope Paul VI wrote about the importance of Mary's intercession for all the world, explaining that those who encounter her, encounter her Son, Jesus the Catholic Church has dedicated May in her honour.

Focus of the Liturgy: The Gospel readings for May are taken from St. John, except for the feast of the Ascension, which is taken from St. Luke. All are from Year C, Weekdays Cycle 2.

<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Jesus revealed himself to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias.
<b>May 8<sup>th</sup></b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	The Gospel is about Jesus as the Good Shepherd.
<b>May 15<sup>th</sup></b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Christ gives the commandment to love as He loves.
<b>May 22<sup>nd</sup></b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	In this Gospel, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit.
<b>May 29<sup>th</sup></b> Ascension or 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	As Jesus blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven.

It is Mary's month in the Easter season and all of nature rejoices with the Queen of heaven at the Resurrection of the Son she was worthy to bear. During the remainder of Easter time, let us endeavor through the prayers of the Holy Liturgy and the Holy Rosary to deepen our gratitude for the mystery of our Baptismal rebirth in Christ.

"The month of May, with its profusion of blooms was adopted by the Church in the eighteenth century as a celebration of the flowering of Mary's maidenly spirituality...With its origins in Isaiah's prophecy of the Virgin birth of the Messiah under the figure of the Blossoming Rod or Root of Jesse, the flower symbolism of Mary was extended by the Church Fathers, and in the liturgy, by applying to her the flower figures of the Wisdom Books-Canticles, Wisdom, Proverbs and Sirach.

"In the hierarchy of holiness it is precisely the 'woman', Mary of Nazareth, who is the 'figure' of the Church. She 'precedes' everyone on the path to holiness; in her person 'the Church has already reached that perfection whereby she exists without spot or wrinkle'. — (St. John Paul II *Mulieris Dignitatem*, 1988.)

Dear friends, after 55 years of service to the Church of Our Lady of Velankanni, Irla, we, the PIME fathers are saying good-bye to Irla. Upon the advice of our Superior General and in dialogue with Cardinal and keeping in mind the Charism of PIME, we are moving away from Irla parish so that we may concentrate more in the mission of the Church.

We are grateful to all of you for your great support and prayers. I feel privileged to give my priestly ministry in the Archdiocese of Bombay and especially the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Velankanni at Irla. I thank his Eminence

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### 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.

Oswald Cardinal Gracias for his great support and Bishop Barthol Barretto auxiliary Bishop of our Deanery for his guidance. I wish to extend my gratitude to all other auxiliary Bishops and Priests of the archdiocese for their great collaboration. I have been in the parish for five years. I have learned many things from all of you and at same time, I have given my best to the parish. Some of the parishioners gave me great support and encouragement and I will remember them always. Devotees and pilgrims who have coming to Our Lady at Irla are my inspiration; their faith and devotion has touched my heart. Their words of appreciation strengthened me a lot to give my service to the full and best of my abilities. I will keep them always close to my heart.

I truly believe that the intercessions of Blessed Mother Mary of Velankanni has enriched me and has given me good health to continue my ministry at Irla. I am sure many of you have known that during the two Annual Novenas I was hospitalized and I suffered for some time but Our Lady of Good Health of Velankanni blessed

me and interceded for my good health and I recovered completely. I attribute the many blessings of the Lord through the intercession of Mother Mary of Velankanni. I will always cherish the devotion to Our Lady and I am really going to miss Saturday Novena masses and Annual Novena celebrations. Those celebrations filled my heart with spirituality and devotion to Our Blessed Mother.

I extended my best wishes to the new Parish Priest Fr. Clement De Lima and assistant Parish Priest. I assure my prayers to everyone. May Mother Mary intercede for all of us

May God Bless you all!



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

## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2022

**Faith-Filled Young People:** We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

**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

## SVP OUTREACH DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

Society of St. Vincent de Paul members met on 2nd April, 2022 at 11.00 am in the Prayer Hall. A small celebration for the Study Class children was held with our dear sponsors and well-wishers who gave them snacks like cakes, chocolates, wafers, Frooti, water bottle, lunch packets and bananas.

The Study Class children came with packets containing grains for the Lenten collection for the poor and needy. This kind act of theirs was commended by all of our members and made us feel proud of them. It was a memorable day for us members because of their generous contributions showing their solidarity with poor n marginalised. We thank the Lord and Mother Mary for making our children very understanding and responsible towards the society.

– Gilhermine Menezes



## 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.

### DIVINE MERCY FEAST

The word of God tells us in Mark 11:24: "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours." Somewhere deep in my heart I felt the need to join a prayer group and one day one of the members of Divine Mercy prayer group called me to join the Divine Mercy prayer and I said yes. God heard my prayer!

We began to pray especially for pandemic (for Corona virus patients, doctors, nurses...). All Divine Mercy group members (around seven of us) eagerly wait for the 7.30 p.m. WhatsApp call and we still do it even today.

This year on 24th April 2022, we celebrated the Feast of Divine Mercy. An adoration was conducted by the Divine Mercy members. Very inspiring hymns were taken especially thanking our God for the many favours granted to us. The Divine Mercy Chaplet was then recited with each decade led by different members of the Divine Mercy group. The adoration ended with benediction which was followed by the Holy Eucharist.

Though there are many people praying the Divine Mercy chaplet individually, we urge many more to join the two groups in our parish who pray daily at 3.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. for doesn't the word of God say – wherever two or three are gathered in my Name and whatever two or agree on earth, it will be agreed upon in heaven.

During the pandemic, many people lost their jobs, people are suffering from physical, mental illness, depression, despair, negativity and fear. We intercede for their physical, mental and spiritual wellness. The focus is on **Jesus, I trust you**. He is accompanying us every moment of our life. I feel that if you have trust in God, nothing is impossible. Be calm, have patience and listen to His voice. We can do everything through Christ, who gives us strength. Be kind and affectionate toward one another. His Divine Mercy lifts us out of every misery. It is the source of our happiness and joy. It has divine power.

*For the sake of His sorrowful passion*

*Have mercy on us and on the whole world.*

Thank you Lord for your beautiful creation and giving us such a beautiful life. May the Lord bless us all.

– Assumpta D'Souza



### EASTER TRIDUUM – PALM SUNDAY



## EASTER TRIDUUM – MAUNDY THURSDAY



## EASTER TRIDUUM – GOOD FRIDAY



## EASTER TRIDUUM – EASTER VIGIL



## EASTER TRIDUUM – EASTER SUNDAY



## CLOSING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE AY 2021-2022 ON 3RD APRIL 2022



# 55 years of faithful service of PIME to the Church of Our Lady of Velankanni, Irla

After more than five decades of service, the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME) moves from the Church of Our Lady of Health of Velankanni, Irla, and henceforth, an Archdiocesan Priest will shepherd the parish.

The Parish at Irla, has been under the stewardship of PIME, which was founded by Servant of God Bishop Angelo Ramazzotti on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 1850 in Italy.

The Charism of the Congregation of PIME is:

- **Ad Gentes** – Non-Christians. PIME members work among the Non-Christians.
- **Ad Extra** – Outside. PIME members are sent outside their local churches, cultures and native land.
- **Ad Vitam** – For all life. PIME members work in the missions for all life.
- **Together** – Community life. PIME member live as a family of Apostles

In 1966, the PIME Society came to Mumbai looking for an in-transit base for their missionaries travelling across the globe. Irla, a small suburb in Western Mumbai, located close to the airport, was the ideal choice.

Rev. Fr. Bruno Venturin, the first shepherd, was the architect of this devotion to our Blessed Mother. We cannot forget the huge contribution made by the co-founders, and the nine parish priests, who have shepherded the Irla parishioners, with assistance from priests of different congregations and the myriad devotees. Religious congregations like Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate – MSI (Nirmala Sisters), Carmelite Sisters of Charity, Vedruna and Sisters of St. Ann of Luzern, played an important role in assisting the Parish Priest. As the devotion to Our Lady of Velankanni saw a quantum leap, over the years, devotees from all over the metropolis and beyond, flocked to this shrine. The annual novenas were first initiated in 1968 with the hoisting of a flag on August 30<sup>th</sup>. The 'Blessing of the Sick' and the 'Procession of Our Lady' have been the highlights of the annual novena celebrations.

*PIME Priests' missionary zeal, deep devotion to Our Lady, simple lifestyle, unassuming affability and love for the needy have left an indelible mark.*

*PIME Institute is commended for their commitment to dedicating themselves as lifelong messengers of the Gospel in the remote areas of the world.*

*"Their immense zeal, humble devotion and the dedicated efforts of PIME Missionaries and their vast experience in evangelisation & development in establishing the parish at Irla and forming it into a shrine"*

*The last 55 years, is a testament to the PIME Society's persistent effort, commitment, dedicated service and above all, immense love for our Blessed Mother, while emphasizing the spread of God's word.*



Rev. Fr. Bruno Venturin, PIME  
1968-1978



Rev. Fr. P. Rajarussel Tributus, PIME  
1978-1981



Fr. Dal Balcon Lino, PIME  
1981-1984



Rev. Fr. Benito Picascia, PIME  
1984-1988  
Rev. Fr. Augustine Palett, PIME  
1988-1994



Rev. Fr. Rimondi Carlo, PIME  
1994-1997



Rev. Fr. Antonio Grugni, PIME  
1997-2003



Rev. Fr. George Thailammanal, PIME  
2003-2009



Fr. Ravi Thanaiah Marneni, PIME  
2017-2022



Rev. Fr. Augustine Palett, PIME  
2009-2017



The devotion to Our Lady of Velankanni has grown over the years. This was possible due to the hard work and untiring efforts of the PIME fathers, who with their total commitment made this possible. Each Parish Priest came up with innovative ideas to make this edifice into a place of pilgrimage for the devout Catholics of this maximum city of Mumbai. The annual novenas are conducted year after year with everything being planned meticulously – something that has earned the appreciation of the devotees and parishioners alike. The devotees and parishioners are beholden to the PIME fathers for the legacy left behind by them. May God bless them abundantly to continue their mission work!

Besides attending to the parish work, PIME priests ministered to the Telugu speaking Catholics of the Archdiocese of Bombay especially at Ambernath and Versova.

We would be failing in our duty if we do not place on record our deep appreciation of the many changes in the design and outlay of the church, particularly the altar, initiated by the present Parish Priest Fr. Ravi Thanaiah Marneni.

We thank all the Shepherds of PIME for nurturing and strengthening our faith, with special devotion to our Blessed Mother. Under the guidance of PIME Priests, parishioners were encouraged to offer their time and talents in community service. During the pandemic, through the various outreach programs, the church reached out to people of all faiths. Even today we find many people, from all walks of life, visiting the church, praying and thanking our Blessed Mother. May she continue to shower her maternal blessings on the PIME Society and all the religious priests and nuns who served our parish!

*Fr. Ravi Thanaiah Marneni, we thank you for the beautiful Church you leave us as a reminder of all the good work PIME has done for our parish.*

*Thank you, PIME priests for ensuring that devotees have a divine experience during the weekly and annual novena services. The warm welcome, oneness with the laity and the due importance given to spiritual aspects has led to an increased number of devotees.*

*The priests and brothers from PIME are ever-caring and welcoming. The mission work done by them had an impact and influenced me to get involved in parish activities.*

*The PIME Institute and all the priests who served here, have always been very warm and welcoming. Never a moment crossed my heart when I felt I was not one of you all.*

*The Marathi speaking community from the vicinity of Mumbai, would like to thank the PIME society for their untiring service and commitment for over 5 decades.*

*The devotion in this Church is heartfelt and a spirit of healing captures our hearts and minds.*

**PIME SHEPHERDS AT IRLA - 1968 to 2022**