



PARISH BULLETIN OF OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CHURCH, SONAPUR, MUMBAI



B.V.M. Nativity Issue

Free Copy – For Private Circulation Only

Sept 2019

**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY FEAST OF
THE BIRTHDAY OF OUR LADY!**

The Parish Pastoral Council, Fr. Tony, Fr Lester, Fr Agnelo.

CONGRATULATIONS FR. TONY

**FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT AS
DEAN OF SOUTH MUMBAI DEANERY
(PARISHES FROM BYCULLA TO COLABA)**

*From Parish Fathers, Parish Pastoral Council, All Parish Cells and Associations,
and All Parishioners*



BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR LADY OF VELANKANNI

Our Lady of Good Health, popularly called “Our Lady of Vailankanni” is in the small town of Vailankanni (5000 residents) located on the shores of the Bay of Bengal. It is located 150 miles south of Madras in Tamil Nadu and 5 miles south of Nagapattinam. Our Lady chose this place to dispense her miracles to mankind. A strong oral tradition attests to Our Lady’s apparitions at Vailankanni (Velankanni). The tradition is built around the following three significant events:

Sometime during the sixteenth century, Our Lady with her infant son appeared to a Hindu boy carrying milk to a customer’s home. While he rested under a Banyan tree near a tank (pond), Our Lady appeared to him and asked for milk for her Son and the boy gave her some. On reaching the customer’s home, the boy apologized for being late and the reduced amount of milk by relating the incident that occurred on his way. On inspection, the man found the milk pot to be full and realized that something miraculous had happened. That man, also a Hindu, wanting to see the place where the apparition occurred, accompanied the boy. When they reached the tank, Our Lady appeared once again. On learning that it was Our Lady who appeared to the boy, the residents of the local Catholic community became ecstatic. The tank where the apparition took place is called “Matha Kulam” or Our Lady’s tank.

Some years later Our Lady appeared again. This time to a crippled boy who was selling buttermilk near a public square on the outskirts of the same village of Vailankanni. She asked him for buttermilk for her infant Son and the boy complied. Our Lady asked the boy to inform a certain wealthy Catholic man in the nearby town of Nagapattinam of her appearance. Not realizing that his crippled leg was miraculously cured by Our Lady, the boy rose up and began his journey. The man also had a vision the previous night in which Our Lady asked him to build a chapel for her. Together, the man and the boy returned to the site of the miracle. This time Our Lady appeared to both. The man erected a thatched chapel for Our Lady at the site of her second appearance. This chapel became a holy place of veneration to Our Blessed mother and she was called henceforth, Mother of Good Health (“Arokia Matha”).

A few years later, Our Merciful Mother rescued a few Portuguese merchant sailors from a violent storm, which wrecked their ship. When the merchants reached the shore of Vailankanni they were taken by a local fisherman to the thatched chapel. To give thanks and

pay tribute to Our Lady, they built a small permanent chapel on their return trip. On subsequent visits they improved on it. The merchants dedicated the chapel to Our Lady on September 8th to celebrate the feast of her Nativity and to mark the date of their safe landing to Vailankanni.

Today, the celebration of this feast is an annual festival which lasts for 9 days and draws more than a million and a half pilgrims. Vailankanni attracts more pilgrims than any other sacred shrine in India. Not only do multitudes of Catholic travel there throughout the year but many non-Christians visit as well. Hundreds of miraculous cures are reported every year.

Fr. Anthony D'Souza, Parish Priest

Bhagevont Ankvar Marieche gunn:

- Khotavinn zolmoleli ani nirmollponnan jieli
- Chitt ani mon laun magnnem kortali
- Devache khuxek tinnem rokddench "Hoi" mhonnlem
- Jezun khursar, aple Avoiek amchi Maim keli.

Dekhun Bhagevont Ankvar Marie zaun asa amcho nomunno. Tiche bhaxen ami Devak sodanch Hoi mhunnumia.

Fr. Anthony D'Souza, Parish Priest

St. Thomas Community - Happenings

18th July 2019 saw the Animators of St Thomas Community meeting together with our Confirmandi, Zya and Riya for a solemn 'sent forth with the spirit' confirmation rite. This being the first time, we met with our students, we could informally chat with them together with their parents and guardians. The community prayed for them and assured them of our continued prayers until the day of confirmation.

Subsequently, the Animators sat down to a post mortem discussion on the Community Feast Day celebration held on 14th July. Both sides of the coin (the good and the points needing attention) were amicably discussed and steps were taken to ensure that we improve and move on.

Following the discussions an agape meal was held wherein a few animators brought a home cooked meal prepared by them. This was a very simple meal - nothing elaborate at all but it achieved the purpose of a lot of camaraderie, bonding and fellowship. We could actually just 'chill' and relax. It was a fun-filled evening and enjoyed by all present. This bonding at the agape meal has prompted us not to stop with just one such meal, but to have many more in the near future. A promise looked forward to and will most certainly be kept.

Vilma da Silva

LOOKING BACK

It was a sad state of affairs to see just a few confraternity members present for our general body meeting held on 30th June and an extraordinary general body meeting held on 21st July even after repeated announcements. As there was no show of strength, the members present shuffled among themselves and elected office bearers and committee members. Stephen Fernandes is Secretary, Lynette Vaz is Assistant Secretary, Kamlesh is Treasurer and Trevor is Assistant Treasurer. The councillors are: Raymond Fernandes, Savio D'Silva, Mercia D'Souza and Ludovic D'Souza. The Confraternity Committee urges our confraternity members to give their wholehearted support in all the activities organized by the Confraternity.

4th August was celebrated as Vianney Sunday. At 10.30 a.m. Mass we prayed for our Priests: presently in our parish, those who were originally from our parish, those who worked in our parish, those who are in the Clergy Home and all our departed Priests. Cash collection for our retired and sick priests was Rs. 45,645/-.

15th August was celebrated as Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Independence Day. Flag hoisting followed by a cultural programme was held in our school quadrangle at 7.15 a.m.

On 18th August, parents along with their children who are going to receive Confirmation and First Holy Communion as well as their prayer guardians had a session in the Parish Hall at 9.30 a.m. This was organized by Fr. Lester Vaz.

On 25th August, the message of Pope Francis to young people and to the people of God entitled "Christus Vivit" was explained by Fr Lester Vaz to our Lectors and PPC members.

LOOKING AHEAD

Suzanne is coordinating our Parish Feast collection lists with the SCC Coordinators and Animators. We urge our parishioners to contribute generously towards the expenses for our Parish Feast celebration.

Induction of newly elected Confraternity Committee Members will be held on 29th August after 7 p.m. Mass.

New Confraternity Members will be enrolled on 22nd September 25th September and 28th September at 6.15 p.m.

Novena in preparation for the birthday of Our Lady commences from 30th August. During the days of the Novenas the first eight benches will be kept reserved every evening for children. On weekdays, children's procession at 6.45 p.m. followed by 7 p.m. Mass. On Sunday, children's procession at 8.15 a.m. followed by 8.30 a.m. Mass. Details of Nativity Novena are as follows:

Date	Class	THEME	OFFERING	PREACHER
30 Aug	7 th	Mary - Influencer of God	Kollam Rice	Fr. Neil Dos Santos
31 Aug	Conf.	Mary - embraces the promise and risk of God's call	Masoor Dal (orange)	Fr. Richard Crasto
1 Sept	9 th & 10 th	Mary - Mother of the lowly	Toothbrush	Fr. Elton Namory
2 Sept		Mary - the refuge of the rejected	Toothpaste	Fr. Joshan Rodrigues
3 Sept	8 th	Mary - leads us to the Bread of Life	Washing Soap	Fr. Denzil Fernandes
4 Sept		Mary - Comforter of the afflicted	Tea Powder	Fr. Felix D'Souza
5 Sept	6 th	Mary - Architect of Peace	Pen and Pencil	Fr. Roy Pereira SJ
6 Sept		Mary - leads us from connection to communion	Hair Oil	Fr. Keith D'Souza SJ
7 Sept	5 th	Mary - takes us on a "Mission Possible"	Notebook	Fr. Lennie Noronha
8 Sept	-	FEAST DAY - Day of the Girl Child	Sugar	Fr. Tony D'Souza

We are happy to inform you. that we have received permission from the Traffic Dept, BMC and Police for our Septena programmes, which are annually held outside our Church.

The celebration of our Parish Feast this year will be on 29th September. This is because, this year the Proper Day of our Parish Feast falls on Sunday 15th September.

Our Septenas in preparation for our Parish Feast will begin on 21st September. Vespers of our Parish Feast will be on 28th September. Fr. Salvatore Rodrigues, S.F.X has agreed to come and preach in Konkani on all days of our Septena and Vespers i.e. from 21st September to 28th September.

As usual on each day of our Septena, after the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, our Parish, well known for its talent, will organize the following spectacular program:

Date & Day	Septena Cultural Programmes 2019
21 st September 2019, Saturday	Fancy Dress :Best Out Of Waste - 2019
22 nd September 2019, Sunday	Mock The Beat 2019
23 rd September 2019, Monday	7 Wonders: SKIT 2019 (Community)
24 th September 2019, Tuesday	Step It Up – Western Dance 2019
25 th September 2019, Wednesday	Choral Ensemble 2019
26 th September 2019, Thursday	Youth Day 2019
27 th September 2019, Friday	Taste Of Goa - Konkani Nite 2019
28 th September 2019, Saturday	Dolours Got Talent 2019

We endeavour to enlist active participation from maximum families of our parish and we would like to request our communities to encourage all concerned to be a part of this interactive fun-filled event.

Participation Forms pertaining to the various cultural programmes are available with your respective Community Coordinators and have been posted to our parishioners on email. They are also put up on the cupboard in the sacristy. The last date for form submission is **14th September 2019** and thereafter no more entries will be accepted.

For any further clarifications regarding the entries, feel free to contact your Community Co-ordinators or the Septena Cultural Committee namely:

Stacey – 9819693554 or
Mylene – 9167538819 or
Ingrid – 9820736471.

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

BAPTISM DATE	NAME	CHILD OF
18 August 2019	Callahan Calroy Dias	Calroy Ludwig and Joslyn Dias

RESTING IN CHRIST

BURIAL DATE	NAME	RESIDENCE
5 August 2019	Villa Frank D'Souza	Daulat Mansion Barrack Road
12 August 2019	Mary Philippina Barreto	Padamsee Building Princess Street
26 August 2019	Dominic Peter D'Souza	Palkiwala Building 2 Dhobitalao Lane

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