



ANTONIAN

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, VAKOLA

FEAST ISSUE -JUNE 2017

Editorial

In life, it is always that “one thing ends and another thing begins”: for the children the holidays will end and the school life will begin....for those in Std. 10th and Std. 12th, one phase of education ends and another level of education begins..... for youngsters, the period of education may end and the life of employment will begin. In our parish, we thank God for the graces and blessings for the academic year coming to a close and we look forward with hope and excitement for the new academic year to begin and unfold itself.

It is a year since I took charge of St. Anthony's Church as the Parish Priest and I thank God for accompanying me right through this year. In addition, we have the patron saint interceding for us and therefore “Great things have happened”. I place my gratitude to God and to our parishioners for the beautiful happenings that have unfolded from June 2016 – May 2017. We have had lovely programmes... beginning with the Parish feast celebrations followed by Parent's Day, Vianney Day etc. The Christmas as well as the Holy Week Programmes were well appreciated because of their meaningful liturgies as well as the fellowship that followed bringing the parish together as one unit. Quite a few novel initiatives were taken up with the children (Children's Parliament)... youth (Youth Animation Team)... Parents (Family Values Education)... and Senior Citizens (Health Care & Comfort)

Besides the above spiritual and pastoral programmes, a lot of administrative work did happen.... the new 'helicopter fans' in the church, refurbished wash rooms, awnings to the right and left of the church buildings., fresh painted look to the Church and the school, smart boards as well as new desks and benches in every classroom, renovated school auditorium and church conference rooms, eco-friendly lights, a better Church sound system etc.

With regard to Priests personnel, we have Fr. Abel and Fr. Angelo moving out. Our gratitude goes out to Fr. Abel for his track of pastoral work in the parish as well as his sound knowledge utilized very often with regards to school administration. Fr. Abel did exceedingly well along with his band of helpers with the Sunday school as well as the RCIA programme.

Fr. Abel moves on to be the Parish Priest at Our Lady of Health Church, Versova and we wish him the very best in his new ministry. Fr. Angelo, though 'on the staff', contributed a lot towards the pastoral duties of this parish. He was particularly liked for the Konkani mass as well as his pastoral approach towards our parishioners. Fr. Angelo did put in his efforts into many other pastoral initiatives of the parish in the last decade. After having served the parish for almost 11 years, he moves on to St. Paul's Church at Dadar. Wishing him the very best in the ministries assigned to him.

We have two new-comers, in the persons of Fr. Savio de Sales and Fr. Nasli Reporter. Fr. Savio has just returned from a two-year course in Liturgy and though he has been assigned the pastoral work in this parish, he will also be involved in the Archdiocesan Liturgical Committee. Fr. Savio is well-known for his preaching and singing abilities and we look forward to his ministries with the youth, liturgy and faith formation. Fr. Nasli is currently at Pokran Parish with his first assignment after his ordination. He, too, comes into this parish with his wonderful talents of pastoral abilities and administrative functioning. We look forward to our parish gaining newer heights with the presence of these two new priests.

I also take this opportunity to thank Fr. Jude and Fr. Joe for all their support to me when I came afresh into this parish. They are still with us and we look forward to their pastoral involvement in the coming academic year. I place my gratitude to all our parishioners who in various ways have been able to lend their time, energy and talents to make this

parish a 'happening parish'. Many of them have worked in the background, but, surely, the Lord blesses all their efforts. I place a special gratitude to all the members of the Parish Pastoral Council, to all animators and coordinators of Small Christian Communities and to all associated with the numerous cells and associations of our parish. Each one of them has contributed towards making our parish active, alive and vibrant. It is a matter of pride that the bishops as well as many priests applaud the excellent functioning of our Parish Council and well-structured SCCs. To all the heads of various groups, cells and associations, I must say, they have done very well and collaborated with me beautifully.

I cannot forget the help rendered by the five Convents in our parish. The most beautiful thing that has happened is all the sisters of these five Convents in some way or the other, were connected or in-charge of the 42 Communities of the parish. Besides that, some sisters have helped out in the Sunday school, in the youth, education, liturgy

apostolates as well as become members of the Parish Council and the Steering Committee of the SCCs. Some of them are transferred to other avenues. We wish them the very best in the new assignments. To the new comers in the convents, we welcome them, and look forward to a wonderful collaboration in the new academic year.

The Parish feast will soon dawn upon us. We have planned the nine day novenas on the themes of "God's Word" and in addition, there will be a Night vigil and a Gospel band. In terms of Parish celebration, we have four days of lovely enriching activities: 10th, 11th, 17th and 18th of June with the committees planning out Tele games, Monsoon madness, Retro Nite, Vakola's Got Talent, Floats parade, DJ Nite and a Cultural evening. Surely, the Lord and St. Anthony will shower their abundant blessings on us.

God Bless.

Fr. Felix D'Souza
Parish Priest

Appointments and Transfers

We thank the priests and nuns for their immense contribution towards building our parish through their relentless service through the years and wish them God's abundant blessings and graces for their new appointments and endeavours.

Farewell	Welcome
<i>St. Anthony's Church - Priest team</i>	
Fr. Abel Fernandez	Fr. Savio De Sales
Fr. Angelo Lobo	Fr. Nasli Reporter
<i>St. Charles Borromeo</i>	
Sr. Martha D'Souza	Sr. Theresa D'costa
Sr. Shalini	Sr. Savitha Lasrado
Sr. Jacintha	Sr. Arokya Mary
Sr. Joyce Fernandes	
Sr. Amaline	
<i>Helpers of Mary</i>	
Sr. Maryann	Sr. Neurel
<i>Queen of the Apostles</i>	
Sr. Sukeshna Gawande	Sr. Valencia
<i>St. Anne's of Bangalore</i>	
Sr. Lima	Sr. Bindu Joseph
<i>Bridgettine</i>	
Sr. Anne	Sr. Gladys
Sr. Ivine	Sr. Sterency

News from Rome

Pope Francis arrives in Portugal to canonise children at Fatima shrine

Pope Francis has arrived in the Portuguese town of Fatima to honour two children whose visions of the Virgin Mary 100 years ago marked one of the most important events of the 20th century Catholic church.

Tens of thousands of devotees lined the pontiff's route and tossed petals as his motorcade drove past. There was no official crowd estimate, but authorities were expecting 1 million people.

Francis is in the town to celebrate the centenary of the apparitions and to canonise illiterate shepherd children who saw them. He hopes the message of peace they reported 100 years ago, when Europe was in the throes of the first world war, will continue to resonate with Catholics.

Church groups, families and individuals made their way to Fátima, about 90 miles north of Lisbon. Carrying candles, rosaries and roses, many visited the statue dedicated to Our Lady of Fátima or tossed wax body parts – ears, hearts and limbs – into a fire to pray for healing.

“It is the second time I am here with a Pope; first with John Paul II and now with Papa Francisco,” said pilgrim Elisabete Fradique Conceicao. On 13 May 1917, while they were grazing their sheep, the children saw the first of a half-dozen visions of the Virgin Mary. They said she revealed to them three secrets – apocalyptic messages foreshadowing the second world war, hell, the rise and fall of

communism and the death of a Pope – and urged them to pray for peace and turn away from sin. At first doubted by their parents and the local Catholic church, the children's story slowly gained believers and was eventually accepted as authentic by the Vatican in 1930.

The children being canonised, brother and sister Francisco and Jacinta Marto, who were nine and seven at the time of the apparitions, died of influenza two years later. Their cousin, Lucia dos Santos, who became the main raconteur of their tale, is on track for beatification, the first step toward becoming a saint. Her case could not begin until after her death in 2005.

The Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, said the importance of Fátima lay in the fact that poor, illiterate children – not the wealthy or learned – were able to convey a powerful message of love and forgiveness at a time of war, when “the talk was of hatred, vendetta, hostilities”.

Fátima has long been associated with St John Paul II. The Polish-born Pope credited the Virgin Mary with having saved his life in 1981 when a would-be assassin shot him on Fátima's feast day – 13 May – in St Peter's Square.

He made the first of three pilgrimages to Fátima the following May, and one of the bullets fired at him now adorns the crown of the Madonna at the shrine. Like John Paul, Argentinian-born Francis is devoted to the Madonna, thanks in large part to the strong role Marian devotions play in the popular piety of Latin American Catholics.

In a video message on the eve of his trip to Portugal, Francis urged all faithful to join him, physically or spiritually, in Fátima. He said: “With all of us forming one heart and soul, I will then entrust you to Our Lady, asking her to whisper to each one of you: 'My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the path that leads you to God.'”

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/12/pope-francis-pilgrims-flock-to-shrine-town-fatima-children>



Parish News

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

In November 2016, the Parish honoured the extraordinary performers who appeared for SSC, HSC & Graduation examinations for the academic year 2015-2016. How then could we forget to appreciate and honour those who went on to pursue post-graduation/professional academics? The idea was not only to appreciate the hard work and dedication of our students, we also wanted our parishioners to know of the different career opportunities which are available in the current market scenario. Following are some of the examinations and the names of the students who qualified for the awards

EXAM	NAME
Bachelor of Physiotherapy	Clinton Pereira
M.S. ENT	Jarvis Pereira
MBA - Finance	Leann Fernandes
Master of Management Studies	Danicia Carvalho Erkin Miranda
MBA - Marketing	Edlebert Fernandes
M. Com	Alitta Mendonca
B.E. Mechanical	Keenan Mendonca
MBA	Nicola Joseph
M.S. Sports Sciences	Marlon Gonsalves
MBA - Finance	Jerry Dias

All the above meritorious students were felicitated and presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Fr. Abel Fernandez at the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, 23rd April 2017.

It was indeed a proud moment for all students and their parents. The entire Parish is happy to have



such outstanding performers amongst us who have worked so hard.

Congratulations to all the students, including those who did not qualify here, yet put up an outstanding performance in your respective exams. Keep up the good work. We are really proud of you. God Bless.

Anthony Lobo

FREE FOOTBALL COACHING CAMP

A two-week free football coaching camp filled with skill drills, fitness and fun activities was organized for school children during this summer vacation from 17th to 29th April 2017. Almost 250 boys and girls across various age groups attended the camp from 8:00 am to 10:00 am on all days. The highlight of the camp was to stress the importance of physical exercises and various techniques in tackling the ball during the games. It was very heartwarming to see the kids perform the drills with great passion and determination while having fun and enjoying themselves.

This football coaching camp was designed and conducted by Henry Picardo (Ex-India Player) and supported by an excellent team of senior and qualified coaches like Leeladhar Bangera (Certified), Alexander Fernandes (Certified), Valentine Alvares (Certified), Jose Fernandes, Bosco Moniz, Merwyn Mendonca, Richard Sequeira, Oscar Rebello and Alan Dsouza. Our sincere appreciation to Fr. Felix for his wholehearted support and Mr. Maxim Fernandes for coordinating in organizing this camp successfully.

Alan D'Souza



FUN IN THE SUN - A FUN FILLED WEEK

It is that time of the year when temperatures soar as do tempers with children creating a racket. It is not their fault. They are getting a break after months of discipline and burying their nose in books. They take a break by breaking every rule in the house and sometimes, things. We are talking about the summer holidays - the two-and-a-half months that leaves most parents agitated and children bored.

So how do we solve the problem of summer vacation?

That is when the magical words "FUN IN THE SUN" screams back at us. Fun in the Sun is a summer camp organised by the parishioners of St. Anthony's Church every summer. For an entire week, children competed with one another in the various tele games organised and were always asking for more. The water games kept them cool, the puzzle kept their minds working and the races kept them active. Each team was asked to prepare team slogans and the children proudly kept screaming them out loud.

Every day began with an hour of Bible class made interesting for the children to get closer to God. Kids aged from 7-15 participated. The camp ended with a Treasure Hunt which kept the children on their feet throughout the day.

The camp taught the children how to make new friends and hang around with those of different age groups, it also kept them in good health till the end. The event was so well organised with games, music and snacks for the kids that they couldn't thank the volunteers enough.

With a registration of nearly 200 kids, "Fun In The Sun 2017" was a great blast!

As the kids said, "We'll be waiting to join again next summer", we hope this camp will again bring sunshine to the summer next year.

Jessica Fernandes

Volunteer, Fun In The Sun 2017 (FITS 2017)



ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPANT SHARES EXPERIENCE

It was the holiday season once again and that time of the year where we sit at home and get bored. But on a Sunday Morning we heard the buzz about Fun In The Sun and we all thought: "Let's join the club. It would at least be better than sitting at home". So, we friends immediately went and registered ourselves.

After much anticipation, it was the 7th of May: the opening day of the summer club! We were all excited. On the first day, we were introduced to the volunteers; we got divided into four teams and distinguished by coloured caps got our team cap; we met our team mates.

Fun in the Sun was a great experience with all the amazing, enthusiastic and supportive volunteers. The games that were organized were fabulous. My favourite part of the summer club was the water games: a welcome item under the hot sun. There were hardly any thing to complaint about because Fun In The Sun was more exciting than expected; we made so many new friends, and never expected it to be so "happening". I would like to thank all the organizers and the volunteers who put up such a good show for us. Cheers!

Joanne D'Souza

Participant FITS 2017

KIDZ MANIA

This was the first time that our Parish hosted the summer camp - Kidz Mania from the 16th - 21st May, 2017. The camp was targeted for kids in the age group of 3-6 years and focused on the cognitive, social and personality development of the children. There were 29 participants in various activities over the six days from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

The day began with a group dance on Casper Slide. The children loved grooving to the song and on the 6th day performed the dance with their parents. To onlookers, it seemed as if the parents enjoyed it more than the kids, as they danced their heart out.

There were many team-building and group activities designed for the children and a value was imbibed every day. Values like honesty, obedience, empathy and kindness were focused upon.

The children also grew their own plants, watering them every day. They were really excited about taking their plant home and nurturing it. They indulged in art and craft, painting, decorating, making gift items such as collages, pen holders and

cards. Their cognition and memory were put to test and they loved the activities.

Day 6 had activities designed for both parents and kids. Our young chefs made sandwiches with their parents guiding them and they were indeed delicious.



The kids stepped out of their comfort zone and made new friends. They went home with a bag full of memories and are looking forward to the next edition of Kidz Mania.

Delice Mascarenhas

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Fathers in the Good Book

The third Sunday in June has gained popularity as Father's Day, the world over, after Mother's Day was established as the second Sunday in May. Let's see if you can recognize some of these Biblical daddies.

1. Who was the father of Seth in the book of Genesis?
2. Who was the father of King David?
3. Why should children listen to "the instructions of a father"?
4. Whose father obeyed God's instruction and prepared to sacrifice his only son on an altar?
5. Who was called the "father of many nations"?
6. Whose father was overjoyed to see him return home in spite of his wasteful living?
7. Whose hot-headed sons came to be called "sons of thunder" and then disciples of Jesus?
8. Which king hated his son's best friend?
9. Who was dumbstruck when he was told he was going to be a father?
10. Whose father gave his both daughters in marriage to the same man?
11. What is the name Jesus used to pray to his father?
12. Which father made a beautiful coat for his youngest son?



Send your answers to the Parish Office by June 23rd along with your name and class to win a special prize for the correct answers.



- * If we had God's Word always in our heart, no temptation could separate us from God.
- * We are called to walk together, in the conviction that the future also depends on the encounter of religions and cultures.
- * Hope helps believers to be open to the surprises God has in store for us.
- * We are called to live not as one without others, above or against other, but with and for others.
- * God makes His most beautiful flowers grow among the driest stones.

Building bonds through communication

Communication is central to connecting people and building a community and acts as a catalyst in revolutionizing the community for a better positive healthy society. Hence keeping in tune with the vision of the Universal and Local church, our parish has recently started the Parish Communication Cell (PCC). Its aim is to create **Visibility** i.e. whatever we proclaim must be pronounced; **Image building**- relating to society; **Connectivity**- connecting to 3500 families of our parish.

By **initiating a communitarian dimension** of the observance of our faith, **Engaging in dialogue** (clergy and laity) that **shares values and ethics** in local contexts and influences and bringing the 'truth' into news especially in matters that affect the community, we intend to provide news and information about our parish, activities of parish associations, Small Christian Communities' updates and reports as well as news of the diocesan and universal levels. We will also attempt to share Church Doctrine and Sacred Scripture and Support & strengthen our prayer life and Christian way of living, Parish announcements / reminders for feast

days / events / meetings, Creation of an archive of Parish History and important information.

We have launched the Official Parish Facebook page and our team manages the projection of hymns on Sundays. Moving with technology, we are also looking at developing an app for our parish soon.

We do need young creative minds to assist with the graphics and designing of our communication to make it more attractive and crisp. If you are inclined to the same, do write to us on stanthonysvakola@yahoo.com. Through the PCC, we have the opportunity to be a vibrant, proactive, connected parish community.

Sarah Joseph
Parish Communication Cell

Please note that the earlier Parish website www.youvak.com is no longer active.

New Website : <http://stanthonysvakola.com>

Facebook :

<https://www.facebook.com/stanthonysvakola/>

PARISH FEAST 2017 PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 10TH JUNE

09:35 am - 04:00 pm: Sports Festival - Knockouts & Semi Finals (St. Anthony's Church Ground)

05:00 pm - 10:00 pm: Vakola's Got Talent (St. Anthony's School Hall)

SUNDAY 11TH JUNE

11:30 am - 01:30 pm: Monsoon Madness Tele-Games (St Anthony's Church Ground)

07:00 pm - 10:00 pm: Retro Nite (St. Charles School Hall)

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE

10:00 am - 04:00 pm: Sports Festival – Finals (St. Anthony's Church Ground)

08:00 pm - 10:00 pm: Cultural Programme – Live Band, Fashion Show, Group Dance

SUNDAY 18TH JUNE

11:30 am - 12:30 pm: Housie

11:30 am - 01:30 pm: Battle of Salads & Best out of Waste Competitions

12:30 pm - 03:30 pm: Football Match between Married v/s Bachelors

05:00 pm - 07:00 pm: Floats display and Performance by Zones, Cells & Associations and Priests/Religious.

07:00 pm - 08:00 pm: Prize Distribution, Dance Show

08:00 pm - 10:00 pm: DJ Music



Novena on the “Word of God” for the feast of St. Anthony



Date	Theme	Programme
Fri 9th June: 7:00 pm	Word of God Challenges us	Mass & Preaching in English
Sat 10th June: 7:00 pm	Word of God Heals us	Mass & Preaching in English
Sun 11th June: 8:00 am	Word of God Reconciles us	Mass & Preaching in English
Mon 12th June: 7:00 pm	Word of God Inspires us	Mass & Preaching in Konkani
Tue 13th June: 7:00 pm	Word of God Strengthens us	Mass & Preaching in English followed by a short film on the life of St. Anthony at 7:45 pm
Wed 14th June: 7:00 pm	Word of God Transforms us	Mass & Preaching in Marathi
Thu 15th June: 7:00 pm	Word of God Instructs us	Mass & Preaching in English followed by Gospel band at 7:45 pm
Fri 16th June: 7:00 pm	Word of God Accepts us	Mass & Preaching in English followed by Night Vigil at 9:00 pm to 12:00 am
Sat 17th June: 7:00 pm	Word of God Nourishes us	Mass & Preaching in English
Sun 18th June: 10:15 am	Feast Mass	