



ANTONIAN

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, VAKOLA

JUNE 2018 - FEAST ISSUE



ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH

The New Revolving Statue

As we begin the new academic year i.e. 01st June, we immediately encounter the preparations that need to be done for our parish feast. I was happy that the Parish Council had taken up this subject matter way back in November 2017. Thereafter a small group worked on the possibilities to make the parish feast a lively medley of spiritual awakening and fellowship events for family togetherness. As of now, a small group has met on various occasions and outlined the parish novena themes from 11th June until the Feast Day. There are other supporting spiritual events like the Gospel Band and the night vigil to enhance the parish novenas. We have a variety of entertainment programmes like Karaoke Nite, Retro Nite, telegames, a cultural evening, floats, a talent show and the finale, the DJ Nite. I am sure that such meaningful and enjoyable events will portray our parish as vibrant, active and alive.

I take this opportunity to thank God and all our parishioners for the wonderful collaboration in all our parish happenings right through the previous academic year. We have had wonderful programmes for Christmas, deeply enriching sessions for the Lenten season and, to cap it all, we



had the musical on the life of Christ. Staged by the Music and Theatre Ministry and the Parish Youth group, it created on stage in song and dance with a cast of over 100 people, which included an infant and a very senior person.

This academic year saw a lot of progress in activities for the children, youth, parents and senior citizens. I am grateful to the Parish Council, the members of the Finance Committee, Community Centre, SCC animators, those involved in various parish cells and associations, the different departments of the liturgical cell as well as many who participated in the administrative work of the parish.

As we will conclude with the parish feast activity in June, we will have various tasks and challenges ahead of us; both for faith enhancement and to build up the parish spirit. Our targets would be proper training at various levels, reaching out to people with financial constraints and creating healthier environment around us.

I thank the priests of the parish team and we have been spared the fears of anyone going out on transfer. The present parish team is a gifted team and I thank God for my priest collaborators for their commitment and involvement. I appreciate all the efforts of the religious sisters in the 5 Convents for their involvement in the parish life. Some of them have been transferred to other communities; my thanks for what they have done and my wishes for their future assignments. A number of additions in the past year have brought in changes and given a new look to the parish. These efforts continue. The newer additions will be pronounced as they come. We cannot forget the school and all its functioning for the sake of educating our children. The school, too, will have its own renovations, to enable the children to encounter education in a better manner.

My greetings and prayerful wishes to one and all. May St. Anthony our patron saint intercede for us.

God Bless.

Fr. Felix D'Souza



Portfolios of the Priest in the Parish for the Year 2018-19

Fr. Felix

- ✚ BCS
- ✚ Ushers
- ✚ Parish Council
- ✚ SCCs
- ✚ Prayer Group
- ✚ Workers (Youth)
- ✚ SCC Zone 1

Fr. Savio

- ✚ Youth
- ✚ Mass Appts
- ✚ Senior Citizens
- ✚ PLT
- ✚ Lectors
- ✚ Choir
- ✚ SCC Zone 4

Fr. Nasli

- ✚ Sunday School /FHE
- ✚ Confirmation
- ✚ Notifications
- ✚ Pre-Baptism
- ✚ RCIA
- ✚ School Administrator
- ✚ Asha Kiran CCO
- ✚ SCC Zone 2

Fr. Joe

- ✚ Hope and Life
- ✚ SVP
- ✚ CLC (K) & (E)
- ✚ SCC Zone 3

Fr. Jude

- ✚ Bible Cell
- ✚ Family Cell
- ✚ Altar Servers
- ✚ Eucharistic Ministers
- ✚ SCC Zone 5

Bro. Franky

- Sunday School /FHE
- Altar Servers
- Prayer Group
- SCC Zone 1

Appointments and Transfers

From spiritually supporting SCCs to nurturing young minds in school, from beautifying the altar of the Lord's supreme sacrifice with the flower arrangements to serving in different capacities at the liturgical service as a lector, eucharistic minister or choir member, Sr. Savitha has donned different hats with humility and grace focusing only on serving God in all that she did.

Inspired by stories of Mother Theresa from the Saint's eventful death to lessons in the textbook, Sr. Savitha set her heart on blooming like a little rose in God's vineyard since adolescence and worked towards it from the time she joined the St. Charles Convent.

After a short year-long stint in Vakola, Sr. Savitha was reappointed to the same congregation where she joyfully spread the fragrance of God's love through her service for the last four years. She touched many lives, which was evident from the love and respect she earned from all those who would meet and greet her each day during her trips to church and back to the convent.

We thank her and all the other 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

St. Charles Borromeo

Sr. Savitha

St. Anne's of Bangalore

Sr. Christina

Bridgettine

Sr. Candida

Welcome

Sr. Celine Saldanha (Superior)

Sr. Jincy Matthews (Superior)

Sr. Shobitha

The Parish Team	Editorial Team
Fr. Felix D'Souza (Parish Priest) Fr. Joseph Pimenta (Asst.) Fr. Jude Ferreira (Asst.) Fr. Savio De Sales (Asst.) Fr. Nasli Reporter (Asst.)	Fr. Felix D'Souza Fr. Nasli Reporter Diana Fernandes Belmira Miranda June Dias Victoria Fernandes John Britto
Tel:022-2667 2963/ 4685 Website: http://stanthonysvakola.com	

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2016-17 (DEGREE AND PG)



PARISH NEWS

Congratulatory memo on the Life Giver

Dearest Fr. Savio,

I take this opportunity to congratulate you and the entire cast and crew on the amazing Musical 'Life Giver'. The play was marvelous. I was completely mesmerized by the production and the performances.

Every character chosen was perfect and apt.... St Peter had a very pleasing voice and communicated the entire story very well. The wives of the apostles and Mary Magdalene sang beautifully. The girl who played Mother Mary had a beautiful voice. She not only sang well, but acted very well, too. The actor who played Judas got into the skin of the character and sang his final song like a rock star. It was nice to see Jesus, who looked quite different from what we imagine him to look like. He portrayed emotions of pain, discipline, authority and a certain attitude very well. The lady who was limping looked so real. Another lady who came wailing with a child in her hands brought me to tears. The child, too, acted very well, really looking lifeless. If there was someone who brought a smile to my face, it was the mother of James and John performing and singing the song "My Boys". She was hilarious and entertaining.

Also, the last part on the screen, when they showed you enacting the part of Jesus being scourged, I couldn't stop laughing! The mesmerizing moment of the play was definitely the Resurrection. It looked so real and beautiful. The hymn, "Because He Lives" sung by you was absolutely beautiful.

The background images on the screen added a lot of meaning to the play and gave it a very creative look. The dancers danced very gracefully. The live band was melodious. It was a pleasure to watch such a



young boy conducting the choir and the boy playing the guitar was too good. Everyone's costumes and make up was authentic.

Overall, it showed the kind of hard-work and practice put into the production by each one, for this huge show. Every character did the best they could, right from the youngest to the oldest. The creative use of every corner of the stage, the church, the terrace, places people least expected was commendable. No place was left unused and, believe me, every heart was touched by the excellent performances and sheer participation of such a huge cast. Everything was organized perfectly. I applaud all those who were backstage. They performed their roles brilliantly.

I sincerely thank you and your entire cast for the time and effort all of you invested in making it a meaningful, wonderful and an entertaining musical which I thoroughly enjoyed. It set the right mood, for the Holy Week. Once again, Congratulations! I will be eagerly waiting to watch your next musical. All the best and keep up the good work. God Bless....

*Lots of love and regards,
Rameela Pereira*

For more pictures, scan this QR Code.



The Senior Citizens' Trip To 7 Churches In Vasai For The Stations Of The Cross

Rev. Fr. Savio de Sales, Spiritual Director, HAPPY HEARTS (Senior Citizens) Association of St. Anthony's Church, Vakola, took two bus loads (100 persons) on Thursday, 15th March 2018 for the Way of the Cross Pilgrimage to seven churches in Vasai Diocese.

We left Vakola at 7 a.m., reaching the first church of St. James in Agashi, Virar at 10 a.m. Here, we prayed the first two stations and had our breakfast. Next, we went to Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Shirlai. Subsequently, we had to climb 33 steps (signifying our Lord's life of 33 years) to reach Holy Cross Church in Nirmal. Then, we proceeded to St Francis Xavier Church in Giriz, Vasai. We visited Our Lady of Remedies Church, Remedy and after praying, had a sumptuous vegetarian lunch. After some relaxation, we proceeded to the Cathedral of Our Lady of Grace Papdy, Vasai, where we viewed the Cathedra or Chair of the Archbishop, Felix Machado, of Vasai Diocese at the main altar. Our final visit was to the Church of St. Gonzalo Garcia in Barampur, which houses the Archbishop, Felix Machado.

Adjoining the Bishop's house is St Augustine High School. After we prayed the last two stations in this Church, Fr. Savio offered mass for us. We were fortunate to meet the Archbishop, who spoke to us at length, praying and blessing us individually. After tea and snacks, we boarded the buses for our return journey, feeling very uplifted spiritually. Most of the Churches were ancient and the art work on the altars was very attractive.

We really admired the artistic carving of the altars in all the churches built by the Portuguese and touched up by the famous Sequeira Brothers of Giriz. Each of these Churches had a history of its own. The purely Portuguese look brought back memories of our ancestors. Enroute to the Churches, we passed by beautiful bungalows one better than the other in shape and design. Several banana coconut and areca nut plantations



completed the picture. On reaching Vakola around 7.45 p.m., we were greeted with a light drizzle - a foretaste of rains predicted for the coming Sunday.

We are very grateful to Rev. Fr. Savio de Sales for taking us on this Lenten Pilgrimage and we also extend our gratitude to Rev. Fr. Felix D'Souza, our Parish Priest, for blessing us with such a dynamic Spiritual Director.

Lenny Cerejo

An Evening of Fellowship of PPC Members

The testimony of living a Christ-centered life means that fellowship and love should be tangibly present in each one of us.

Instead of a one-day picnic at a faraway destination in the scorching summer heat, the PPC members opted to celebrate an evening of fellowship and bonding in our own parish Hall on Sunday, 29th April 2018. The task of organizing the programme was assigned to the PPC Executive Committee. The event began at 7 p.m., welcoming all our members with a lip-smacking live chaat counter. Our Parish Priest & PPC Director, Rev. Fr. Felix D'Souza, like always, was very punctual and extended a warm welcome to all.

The PPC members were given chits to choose and then had to join their respective groups depending on the allotment. What followed were the games, where all had to participate, without any exception. Every member participated with 100% enthusiasm. Team spirit and bonding was the main focus and the theme of the evening, which was spelt out loud during the games and interaction sessions. Refreshments and snacks were served. There was music and dance. The organizers ensured that all the members danced to the tune of the DJ's music. It was a fun-filled and enjoyable time for all members present at the event. Though the next day, a Monday, was a working day for most of us, the charming and music kept the event going.





Sharing at a meal table is one of the most important places of human connection. In a fast-paced, tech-saturated culture that we find ourselves nowadays, we need to recover the art of a slow meal around a table with people we care about.

The highlight of the evening, the sumptuous buffet dinner was set. The best part of the entire evening was the fact that the groups were so bonded that each time they would faithfully return to their respective groups. The meal was a time of bonding and the air was filled with bonhomie. We thank our team of priests and Fr Felix for his leadership, support and motivation. We thank all our religious and the members of the Parish Pastoral Council for the time they give and efforts they put in some way or the other to make our parish lively and spirit-filled; keeping in mind the community goal of our parish. We thank each and every family of our parish for their support and good wishes as we strive to put in our best efforts and work, coupled with God's will and blessings, in making our parish one of the best in the Diocese of Mumbai.

All good things must come to an end and so this memorable event ended at 10 pm. The moments were captured in many pictures to reminisce the memories of the evening for each one of the PPC Members. Indeed, it was a memorable evening!

Adelaide Fernandes
Secretary, Parish Pastoral Council

FITS – Fun in the Sun... A time to Chill!

The month of May, when the unrelenting sun forced many to stay indoors, was also a time for the kids of the parish to have a great time of fun and frolic. FITS – Fun in the Sun, was organized by YOUVAK – Youth of Vakola. FITS involved a week of indoor and outdoor activities in the morning and the afternoon sessions.

FITS commenced on 25th May morning with Rev. Fr. Felix D'Souza welcoming approximately 200 kids between the ages of 7 years to 15 years with a prayer and blessing who enrolled for FITS. The enthusiasm of the kids outshone the scorching heat.

The games were engaging and all the children had an equal opportunity to put their best foot forward. Several games like sand and marble, skipping stones, hula-hoop games, zip line, balloon games and the water games in the afternoon sessions were a hit with the kids! All participated in them without any qualms. There was never a dull moment.

The programme scheduled for the 27th of May was one of fun and learning. The youth branch of VAMS (Dr. V. Antao Music School) and D's Fitness organized a special programme for FITS. Seven members from VAMS had a musical workshop, to introduce the children to various musical instruments, foster musical skills and promote new talent. It was followed by a jam session with action songs by the band, Jammers next Door. Five members of D's Fitness held a two-hour session that involved hurdles, relays, tug of war and other fitness games. The objective of this session was to encourage physical well being through games and physical activity.

The final day of the summer club had a Treasure Hunt, a drawing competition, a fancy dress competition of best out of waste and the prize distribution programme for the winning teams. This ensemble of activities held for a week for so many children would not have been possible without the untiring guidance and support of Fr. Savio De Sales. There were 45 youth involved with the organizing, planning and execution of FITS. The dedication and energy put in by the youth heads and members of YOUVAK is truly commendable as organizing such an event for a big number is no trivial matter! We look forward to more programs organized by them.

Br. Dorson Dominic D'Mello



Sweet Summer Treats!

On the 21st April 2018, the members of the Cantors, Choirs, Altar Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and PLT went for a picnic to Farm Regency Resort, Karjat.

Fr. Jude, Fr. Nasliand Bro. Anand accompanied us for the picnic. We all gathered in the church compound at around 7:00 a.m. in the morning and got into the buses by 7:30 a.m. We began with a small prayer and started our journey to Karjat singing many songs along the way. On reaching Karjat at around 9:30 a.m., we assembled in an A.C hall; kept our bags there, relaxed for sometime and headed for a scrumptious breakfast.

After breakfast, we divided ourselves into four groups for team games. We played games like Dog and the bone, dodge ball, Polo game. etc. While playing these games, we bonded with the people of different associations of our parish and made new friends. Later, some of us changed and went for swimming. After swimming and refreshing ourselves, we had delicious lunch. We also feasted on some popcorn, candyfloss and ice gola.

Post lunch all relaxed and later got ready to play some more team games like the Bible Quiz followed by Housie. Those who won the games



were awarded with prizes. As a token of love and appreciation, Fr. Jude gave the lay heads a small gift.

After this, we had some tea and biscuits and got into the buses for our journey back to the Parish that reached at 7:00 p.m

All of us enjoyed and had a great time at the picnic.

Darlene Fernandes

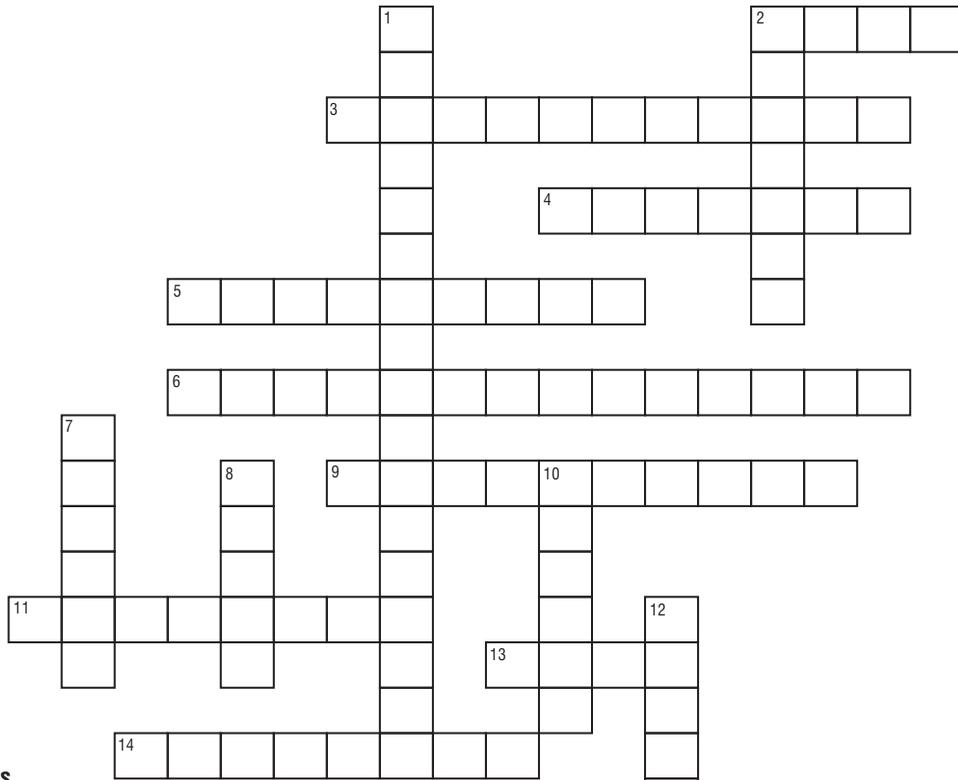
Pope Tweets

- What lasts? What has value in life? What treasures don't disappear? Definitely two: God and our neighbor.
- The Gospel calls us to live outside our comfort zone, because anyone who follows Jesus, loves the poor and the lowly
- Do we really want peace? Then let's ban all weapons so we don't have to live in fear of war.
- When we are open to God's grace, even the impossible becomes possible.
- All it takes to encounter God is to acknowledge that we are needy. And the key to that encounter lies in humbling ourselves.



Test your knowledge on our patron, St. Anthony. Solve this crossword and submit your answers by 30th June in the church office for exciting prizes.

Name: _____ Contact Number: _____



Across

- 2. Feb up with the citizens of Rimini, he went and preached to _____
- 3. Who did St. Anthony join and set off for the crusades with ?
- 4. The _____ worker
- 5. Canonized by Pope _____
- 6. Mother
- 9. Patron of _____
- 11. He was born in the country
- 13. St. Anthony's Feast is in this month
- 14. Real Name

Down

- 1. Father
- 2. His mentor was St. _____
- 7. _____ of the church
- 8. St. Anthony of _____
- 10. Except for his _____, the rest of his body decomposed
- 12. Which event in St. Anthony's life took place on June 13, 1231 ?

**WINNERS OF THE HOLY WEEK ISSUE CHILDREN'S CORNER ACTIVITY.
DO COLLECT YOUR PRIZE FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:**

Children's Corner Activity - Crucifixion Puzzle

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Winners</i>		
Below 8	Bevan Rodrigues	Rochelle Noronha	Justin More
Below 11	Simone Dsouza	Joshuas Menezes	Swedel Concessao
Below 15	Hannel D'silva	Chrysanna Fernandes	Basil Rodrigues

St Anthony's Church

Parish Feast 2018

**09
JUN**

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm : INTER ZONAL TONIAN SPORTS FESTIVAL
Zone wise fun games with team participation across all age groups

8 pm to 10:00 pm : FAMILY FUN DAY WITH KARAOKE
An evening out with the family and sing some Karaoke songs too with Team MAP

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm : INTER ZONAL TONIAN SPORTS FESTIVAL - FINALS
Zone wise fun games with team participation across all age groups

7 pm to 10:00 pm : RETRO NITE WITH THE SILHOUTTES
Rewind to the songs from the 70s to 90s with a dance on a live band for the 30+

**10
JUN**

**11
JUN**

7:00 pm : NOVENA MASS WITH SERMON IN KONKANI

7:00 pm : NOVENA MASS WITH SERMON IN ENGLISH

**12
JUN**

**13
JUN**

7:00 pm : NOVENA MASS WITH SERMON IN MARATHI

7:00 pm : NOVENA MASS WITH SERMON IN ENGLISH

7:45 pm to 9:30 pm : GOSPEL MUSIC (LIVE BAND)
A rendering of hymns by the Music & Theatre Ministry and 'The Word' a Gospel Band

**14
JUN**

**15
JUN**

7:00 pm : NOVENA MASS WITH SERMON IN ENGLISH

7:45 pm to 10:00 pm : PRAYER VIGIL SERVICE

8:00 pm to 10:00 pm : IT'S REIGN'IN BANDS
A musical treat with three Live Band Performances by the Music & Theatre Ministry

**16
JUN**

**17
JUN**

10:15 am : FEAST MASS

11:30 am : FOOTBALL MATCH - MARRIED V/S BACHELORS

5:00 pm to 10:00 pm : THE TONIAN CARNIVAL - Floats & Performances...
to RISING STARS OF VAKOLA - An entertainment programme
DJ MUSIC - Dance time...