

LENTEN PROGRAMME 2013
LOVE EVERY NEIGHBOUR TRULY
St. Peter's Church, Bandra

PRAY ONLINE: for just 10 minutes, at work or at home at: www.sacredspace.i.e. or <http://errolsj.blogspot.in>

WEEKLY PROGRAMME

Sundays:

▶▶ 4.00 pm PASSO (Marathi)

Thursdays:

▶▶ 6.30 pm KONKANI STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays:

▶▶ 7.00 pm Mass followed by STATIONS OF THE CROSS (English)

CONFESSIONS: Daily: 6.30 – 7.00 p.m. Saturdays: 5.00 – 6.30 p.m.

Children's Programme: To be announced at the Jesus Club

House-Bound Programme: Stations of the Cross organized by each zone.

LENT is a period of repentance. It is a forty day period of fast and abstinence before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday (this year on 13th February) and ends on Holy Saturday (this year on 30th March). Sundays are not counted as part of the forty days, since on Sundays we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. The forty day period is symbolic of the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert before embarking on his Mission to heal our broken world. Lent is thus a call to each one of us who profess to be disciples of Jesus to continue that Mission of Jesus and reach out to our still fragmented and broken world by first Loving Each Neighbour Truly.

By choosing the story of the temptation of Jesus as the Gospel for the **First Sunday in Lent**, the Church gives us an orientation to how each of us must approach Lent and life itself. The three temptations of Jesus have been seen as corresponding to the temptations of Israel. The temptations involved bread, testing the Lord, and idolatry. To be sure, the story of the temptations does not give us readymade answers to all the allurements and enticements we face everyday but, they do point us to the response of Jesus, which at all times remained a response in which God's will, rather than his own, took primacy.

The Transfiguration of Jesus which is the Gospel text for the **Second Sunday in Lent** is an event which encapsulates the whole Christ event. It is here that we see his entire life; ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension unfold. It is a summary of what was, what is, and what will be. Thus, the Transfiguration emphasizes that God has been revealed through Jesus and that the essence of Jesus' identity and work cannot be understood apart from the cross and resurrection. Only in the light of the cross and resurrection do we understand the character of God and the significance of Jesus.

The repentance that Jesus calls the people to in the Gospel text for the **Third Sunday in Lent** is a change of mind, heart, and vision. It is a practical rather than speculative response to God and to life. It is an attitude that realises that we will never have the answers to all the questions that we can ask. We will never be able to answer convincingly why some children are deformed while others are normal. We will never be able to answer credibly why one person is stricken with the dreaded disease of cancer while another is healthy. We will never be able to answer plausibly why one mother should deliver a still born baby and another, a baby full of life. We will never be able to answer believably why a young person dies in an accident because of the negligence of someone else and why another, in the same vehicle, survives. In the face of conundrums like these, there is but one response. That response is to accept what happens as God's will and plan for us. This does not mean that we develop a fatalistic attitude. This does not mean that we must do nothing but accept our fate. It does not mean that we must throw our hands up in despair because there is no use at all. Rather, it means a response of faith and trust in a God who will always do what is best for us.

The readings on the **Fourth Sunday in Lent** throw up a dual challenge. The first is to believe, and know, that God forgives unconditionally no matter how grave our sin might be. It is to accept totally the immeasurable depth of God's boundless love. It is to realize, in the depths of our hearts, that God is always willing to take us back. The second challenge that follows from the first, and is related to it, is our acceptance and forgiveness of others as God forgives us. This is the challenge that Paul issues to the Corinthians in the second reading of today when he invites them to be ambassadors for Christ. This is because anyone who claims to be a disciple and follower of Christ has become a new creation and has been reconciled to God. Reconciliation of the world to God was the sole purpose of God's sending Christ into the world. Thus, if God does not count our trespasses against us, how can we even think to count the trespasses of others against them?

On the **Fifth and Final Sunday in Lent**, the readings offer consolation to everyone, no matter to which category we may belong. If we are like the scribes and Pharisees in the Gospel story of today, quick to condemn others and point fingers at them, the readings are saying to us that God will not condemn us or point a finger at us. We have been forgiven for this sin and forgiven unconditionally. If we identify with the woman in the Gospel story, then to us, too, the message is that our sin has been erased and that we have been forgiven, unconditionally. However, no matter with whom we identify, the next step after having experienced the forgiveness of God in Jesus is, like Paul, to forget what lies in the past and to press on to what lies ahead. And, what lies ahead is only unconditional forgiveness, mercy, and love. Will we press on?

GENERAL PROGRAMME

13th February 2013 - ASH WEDNESDAY

- ▶ Blessing of Ashes at 6.00 am; imposition of Ashes after all masses.
- ▶ Masses: 6.00, 6.45, 7.30 and 8.30 am ; Evening: 5.15, 6.15 and 7.15 pm

14th February 2013 – Special Mass for married couples at 7.15 pm

15th February 2013 – FRIDAY : 7.00 pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross (Parish Pastoral Council)

17th February 2013 - 1st SUNDAY OF LENT

19th February 2013

- ▶ Youth Programme – St Peter’s Square at 7.00 pm
- ▶ Parish Pilgrimage to Mt Mary’s at 7.30 am

22nd February 2013 - FRIDAY : 7.00 pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross (St Joseph’s Community)

24th February 2013 - 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

- ▶ Newman choir at 7 pm in the Church

1st March 2013 - FRIDAY : 7.00 pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross (St Martin’s Community)

3rd March 2013 - 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

8th March 2013 – FRIDAY : 7.00 pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross (Family Cell)

10th March 2013 - 4th SUNDAY OF LENT

10th – 16th March 2013 – Visit to the homes by Redemptorist Fathers

15th March 2013 - FRIDAY : 7.00 pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross (Women’s Cell)

17th March 2013 - 5th SUNDAY OF LENT

17th – 23rd March 2013 – Mission Talk by Redemptorist Fathers.

22nd March 2013 – FRIDAY : 7.00 pm Mass followed by the Mission talk

HOLY WEEK

24th March 2013 - PALM SUNDAY

- ▶ Mass timings: 6.00 am; 7.30 am (Procession with Blessing of Palms – followed by Mass), 9.00 am and 10.00 am, 5.00 pm and 6.00 pm
- ▶ 6.45 pm - The Veronica Service on the School Front Grounds

PARISH CONFESSIONS: Monday 25th to 27th March - 5.00-8.00 pm in the School Shed

28th MARCH 2013 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

- ▶ 12.30 pm The Blessing of Bread
- ▶ 5.30 pm Service for the Sick
- ▶ 7.30 pm **The Lord’s Supper** (Fr. Andrew Rodrigues, SJ)
- ▶ 11.00 pm Being with Jesus [St. Peter’s Youth]

29th MARCH 2013 - GOOD FRIDAY

- ▶ **Stations of the Cross:**
 - 7.30 am - Konkani
 - 8.45 am - Children and Youth
 - 10.00 am - General
- ▶ 6.00 pm - **Good Friday Service** (Fr. Errol Fernandes, SJ)

30th MARCH 2013 - HOLY SATURDAY

- ▶ 7.30-8.00 am ‘Being with Mary’ (Jesus Club)
- ▶ 8.00 pm **THE EASTER VIGIL** (Fr. Arun de Souza, SJ)

31st MARCH 2013 - EASTER SUNDAY

- ▶ Masses as on Sundays. **No evening mass.**

