



ST. THOMAS' CHURCH  
MIDDLETON ROW - 700071  
**NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF VAILANKANNI**  
29th August 2016 - 8th September 2016



DATE	THEME	PREACHER
29th August	Inauguration - Flag Hoisting - 6 pm	Fr. Lucas D'Cruze
30th August	Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd" - John 10:11 - 6 pm	Fr. Jerome S.J.
31st August	Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World" - John 8:12 - 6 pm	Fr. Neethi
1st September	Jesus said, "I am the Way, Truth and Life" - John 14:6 - 6 pm	Fr. Robin P Banerjee
2nd September	Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life" - John 6:35 - 6 pm	Fr. Kamal Soren
3rd September	Jesus said, "Let your hearts not be troubled" - John 14:1 - 6 pm	Fr. Mervyn Carapiet
4th September	Jesus said, "Be merciful as your Heavenly Father is merciful" - Luke 6:36 - 6 pm	Fr. Mervyn Carapiet
5th September	Seven Corporal Works of Mercy - 6 pm	Fr. Saju S.J.
6th September	Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy - 6 pm	Fr. Patrick Anthony
7th September	Jesus said, "I am with you till the end of time" Matthew 28:30 - 6 pm	Fr. Moloy D'Costa
8th September	Mary the Model of Family Life - 6 pm	Fr. Lucas D'Cruze

The Rosary will be recited everyday at 5:45 pm followed by Mass and Novena Prayer

**SALDANHA**

**Cake**

**Chocolates**

**Marzipan**

**Speciality Wedding Slices: Dummy Wedding**  
Baptism and First Holy Communion Cakes, Rich Plum, Walnut Plain, Chocolate and Chocolate Walnut, Cup Cakes, Coconut Cake.  
**SANDWICHES:** Cheese Egg, Vegetables, Chicken Mayonnaise, Cheese Straws, Lemon Drops, Brownies and Chocolates.  
**QUICHE PATTIES:** Corn, Cheese Puff, Vegetable, Chicken

**United We Write**

Come join us...

For Articles, Letters to Editor / Bouquets / Brickbats  
Please write to [stcmmediateam@gmail.com](mailto:stcmmediateam@gmail.com)

ACTION	UPCOMING EVENTS
<p>KEEP CALM AND PRAY FOR WORLD PEACE</p>	CLERGY DAY 7th August
	FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY 15th August
	NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF VAILANKANNI 29th August - 8th September

**PARISH TRIVIA**

**NAME THE BISHOP WHO LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE OF OUR CHURCH ?**

Email you answers to [stcmmediateam@gmail.com](mailto:stcmmediateam@gmail.com)  
Winner of June Edition: Mrs. Rosie Torcato

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# St. Thomas Way

*Lighted to enlighten*

**WORDS FROM THE PARISH PRIEST - Rev. Fr. Lucas D'Cruze**



Dear Parishioners,

Let my soul praise my God because He supports me at all times, in all circumstances. All these years I have experienced his guidance and support in all my decisions and works I have undertaken. Wherever I have been posted I have had the love and support of the people with me. My new mission with St, Thomas' Church is a responsibility which i will undertake to the best of my ability. My priority will be in doing the things that are pleasing to God and for his local church and community. The support of all you parishioners is vital in making this possible and we must work together to achieve it. Working together is a must for success and happiness. I request all parishioners to pray for me and may you remain blest and continue to magnify the Lord. Amen.

**INSIGHT**



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**EDITORIAL**

They say that only change is constant. And so we find ourselves facing a period of change once again. Revd. Father Patrick, who ably steered our parish for the last six years has taken up duties of parish priest at Infant Jesus Church in Behala.

In his place we have Reverend Father Lucas D'Cruze who, no doubt, will be a capable and spiritual leader. Let us join our hearts and prayers for both these wonderful shepherds we have been blessed with. A big thank you to Father Patrick for all his hard work over the years and a warm welcome to Father Lucas. God Bless you both as you take up your new assignments and fill you with his grace and strength as you face every new challenge.

This is now the third issue of "The St. Thomas Way" - our parish newspaper. We would love to hear your thoughts, suggestions, experiences or even your constructive criticism to help us make our paper interesting, informative and more valuable for you. Please write to us and remember we are waiting.



Mrs. Michelle Selwyn  
Editor - The St. Thomas Way

**BLUE STRIPES - Mother & Me**

The Archdiocese of Kolkata has launched an official WebTV Channel which airs Mother & Me and more events in tune with the upcoming Canonisation Celebrations of Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata. The channel is aired every Monday, Tuesday and Friday at 19:00 hours at [www.mtiff.net/tv](http://www.mtiff.net/tv). Do tune in and view the same. (ASCC)

**GOODBYE ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS HENRY D'SOUZA**



Hundreds of people attended the funeral of Archbishop Emeritus Henry Sebastian D'Souza of Calcutta on 30th June, 2016 at St. Thomas's Church Middleton Row, where he actively spent the last 10 years of his life. Cardinal Telesphore Toppo, Archbishop of Ranchi, led the funeral Mass at

St Thomas's Church, Middleton Row, and Archbishop Thomas D'Souza of Calcutta the burial services. As many as 14 prelates, including Archbishops Abraham

Viruthakulangara of Cuttack- Bhubaneswar nuns to bid farewell to Conference of Catholic secret



Bishop Conference of India (CBCI). He was also the first Secretary General of Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC). The funeral mass was well organised and very memorable. The mass

was relayed live to 2 halls in Loreto House as the crowds overflowed the church. The Choir from Missionaries of Charity sang very well with the Bengali Choir. His family members, friends and people who knew him and worked with him, fondly remembered him in their eulogies. St. Thomas' Church Parish community will always remember him for actively celebrating mass, conducting Holy Hour and running Life Ascending even till the last days of his life. He proved that age is just a number and there is nothing called retirement. Rest in Peace Archbishop Emeritus Henry D'Souza, you will continue to live and inspire a lot of us!



Nagpur and John Barwa of also joined scores of priests and the former president of the Bishops of India (CCBI) and the archy general of the Catholic



Mr. Alexander Anthony, President, CAB







Coming and goings are part of life, we are constantly on the move. No one is permanent on this earth. As human beings we constantly move from place to place searching either for better life, better opportunities in life or betterment of the family. The day we stop we are in the box 6 feet under. I came to St. Thomas' Church in the year 2010 after the retirement of Fr. Michael Bhaju. I have endeavoured to make St. Thomas' Church a more vibrant Church family. How far I have succeeded only time will tell. Now it is for me to move not for better opportunities but to serve the Master where he needs me. We all do our best within the limited resources that are at our disposal and thanks to God given talents. At the end of it all, all that matters is not how much you are popular and generous but how much a better place you have left for the future generations. I pray that St. Thomas' Church will grow into an ideal parish Community with all the parishioners joining hands and building the kingdom of God so that all other parish communities of the city may look up to it. From it many a parish was carved out of it and have developed into good vibrant parishes. May St. Thomas' parish continue to take the lead in leading its people to the MASTER and his message may alone may be proclaimed. God bless and good luck!!!

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES



I will start off by saying it was one of the best experiences of my life: accompanied by my twelve year old daughter I happened to embark upon a European holiday this summer to London and Paris(France). Prior to leaving for my trip, I had read reviews in tour books about the diverse and exciting city of London with some of the worlds best attractions, sights and activities. There was so much to do and explore and so I ensured that we did justice to the time we had on our trip. We also toured Paris and whilst on my vacation, I also happened to be amongst the five million pilgrims drawn by their faith in the healing powers attributed to the waters of the shrine at Lourdes.

Lourdes, a town in Southwestern France, at the foot of the Pyrenees, is noted for its Roman Catholic shrine marking the site where the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared repeatedly to Saint Bernadette in 1858. Lourdes is around a five and a half hour trip by train from Paris. Along with my little girl I set upon my pilgrimage at 6am and reached the town by approximately noon. After checking into the hotel we proceeded to the Holy Shrine and what greeted us was the huge majestic Basilica and churches that dominated the grounds. Words cannot express the magnificence with which they have been built and artistically carved and designed. Along with us were a diversity of pilgrims that had come to visit the holy shrine: priests and bishops from all over the world, nuns in long habits, elderly couples, young people travelling in groups from all over the globe, sick and in-firmed, people with terminal illnesses and in wheelchairs.....soldiers crippled with broken



The Sanctuary itself was very beautiful and the outcropping of stone Lady had appeared to hands joined in prayer as people slowly winding up to reverently touch the Bernadette. A rack of



limbs by war and in the line of duty to their nation. grotto, very very moving-especially the large known as "Massabiele". In the niche where Our Bernadette stood a statue of the Virgin Mary, her her eyes gazed heavenward. There was a long line of into the area beneath the stone and so we joined in rock near the spring that had been uncovered by candles burn brightly in front of the grotto and

nearby was a line of spigots where people collected water from the spring. While the grotto was the heart of the Sanctuary, the rest of the complex was very intriguing. Several huge churches welcomed the hordes of pilgrims that thronged there, each with many services throughout the day and evening. We entered the gates of the main shrine, offered prayers and burnt candles in the names of the many friends and relatives back home.

Just inside St. Joseph's gate, a large marble statue depicting the Virgin Mary appearing to a man in a hospital bed lay and further atop the huge Basilica lay the imposing structure of a bright gilded crown. After our veneration in the holy shrine, we proceeded to take the "Holy bath" at the Sanctuary where no prior bookings were necessary. The bath cubicles, seventeen in number, eleven for women and six for men, are made of marble and filled with the water of Lourdes.. The hospitalisers, who are mostly nuns, helped us to wash and bathe providing utmost privacy to us. This, as I recall, was the best part of my visit. It was already turning cold and dark. We then joined the huge crowds and became part of the two hour long procession around the shrine grounds. We walked with lighted candles reciting the Holy rosary and singing hymns of praise and worship in the honour of Our Blessed Virgin Mary. Before we left the holy shrine and thanked our lady for giving me this wonderful opportunity, I offered masses in the name of the deceased members of my family and for all the intentions of my family and friends back home. I also purchased a couple of candles, souvenirs and trinkets of Lourdes to take back home for all my near and dear ones. Though small and inexpensive, they carried a powerful message: that the broken and wounded would be the first to enter the kingdom of God; miracles are possible even when darkness prevails and the most unlikely among us can receive a life-changing vision of light.

Mrs. Christine Thakur, PMT



By education a lawyer, by profession a businesswoman, by passion a fashion designer and by compassion a socio-religious worker. Our personality of the month is Mrs. Susan Mantosh. Born into an aristocratic Hindu family, her love story with Jesus began at a very young age, collecting religious artifacts and holy pictures using her own pocket money. Her fascination with Jesus was so much so that at the age of eleven, she pawned off a precious ring given to her by her grandfather to buy a record of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' that had newly released then. After her grandfathers death she took over her family business and became a young an enthusiastic entrepreneur. She expanded her business and her ministry of faith in Kolkata and beyond and during this time also met her partner to be in life, Mr. John Mantosh. Today they and their three children together manage businesses in Retail, Hospitality, Food and Beverage, Real Estate, Cinema & Entertainment, Education, Art & Architecture and Fashion & Lifestyle. Her association with St. Thomas' Church has flourished over several years. She has been a pioneer in maintaining the church, providing a necessary infrastructure at all times both temporary and permanent. For all occasions she and her family have readily assisted and provided whatever was asked of them with a smile and a spirit of service. Her socio-religious work has always begun with one inspiration after the other. Her numerous statues of Devine Mercy in Churches. Statues along with a new Pascal Agra, Jhansi, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Pune, many other places in India and also in Nepal. Calcutta without her final approval. Her and she personally designs altar cloths for develops them through skilled artisans. In addition to all this she is also a dedicated Eucharistic Minister who has and assisted in all Church rituals over the years. With Jesus as her inspiration she moves ahead fearlessly in spreading His message to everyone because she believes that the world needs Jesus. Her passion for developing artifacts and church related equipment is the bread winner for many families who are employed by her for these developments. Her passion for serving the Lord and His people is well summed up in the famous words of Mary Ward, "It is an honour to honour God". Standing on Mt. Zion she thanked her loving grandmother for having her baptized as a Catholic, so she can be with Jesus. Her message to everyone is a simple one of purity of intentions and sincerity in work, "Always walk in the right path and always do the right thing because at the end of the day, the greatest thing we can achieve is Jesus."



Mr. Brendan Candes (PMT)



WORLD YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS AT DON BOSCO, PARK CIRCUS

On 31st of July 2016, St. Thomas' Youth had participated in an event organized by the Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM) Archdiocese of Calcutta 'World Youth Day' held at Don Bosco Park Circus. The theme for the event was in tune with the Year of Mercy celebrated the World over and extracted from Jesus' teaching on the mount, 'Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy'. The celebrations were made in light with the theme for the World Youth Day that is being held at Krakow, Poland. More than sixteen parishes were present to compete in exciting events that included: Inter Parish Quiz - Based on The Gospel History of World Youth Day. Inter Parish Parish Group Dance - Based on the theme of celebration of the Holy Eucharist by His Grace about the essence of mercy and how it is so much what this year of mercy intends to achieve then proceeded to the auditorium where our Natasha Concessio and Chynelle Naik consisting of Richard Minz and Felix Minz were asked to take pictures in line with the theme. The final event was the group dance which was enthralling we were represented by Richard Minz, Simran Senapati, Charles John, Vincent Raj, Crystal Naik and Catherine Swami who enacted the parable of the Prodigal Son in their act, emphasising on the Mercy of the Father at all times. The entire day was a learning and cherishable experience which we thoroughly enjoyed.



Mr. Chynelle Naik (PMT)

