



# LOUISIAN SAMACHAR

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*Editorial*

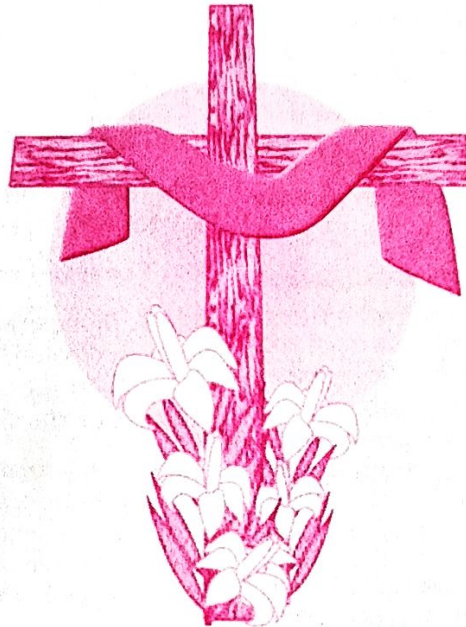
## Lent prepares us to Rejoice with the Risen Lord

Lent, comes from the Middle English word *lenten*, meaning springtime - the time of lengthening days, is a **period of forty days of fasting, prayer, and penitence before Easter**. There is biblical support for doing penance, but the season of Lent, like all Catholic liturgical seasons, developed over time.

Saint Teresa of Lisieux used to say: "The reason for my confidence is God's justice. Being just, HE is bound to take into account the fact that I am weak." St. Francis de Sales, whose gentleness, refinement and wisdom enriched so many in his life time, has this touching expression; "I would prefer to be judged by God than by my own mother." This is one of the opportunities for us to see the weaker side of our human life. As Jesus shed tears in the garden of Gethsemane as he was trying to discern the will of the Father, we too are called to see what is God's will in each our lives.

Do you believe that you are precious for God - more precious than you are for your own father and mother? This is the Good News - the incredible good news! "The time is fulfilled; God is near Repent; believe in the Good News", this is how Jesus started His preaching. Lent is a special time to capture - and be captured by this good news. It is not a gloomy period of doing without happiness in our faces. It has the flavour of the meaningful self-discipline an athlete accepts to prepare for an important sports meet, not the sadness of a loveless home. Since we are Easter people, let us be joyful in this preparation to receive our Risen Lord.

We were taught as children to "give up something" for this season of Lent. The sacrifices in Lent are really penance, in the same spirit as the Ninevites that repented at the preaching of Jonah. Throughout our history, Christians have found prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to be an important part of repentance and renewal. Many Christians now add something during Lent rather than giving up something, either to address personal habits that need to be worked out or to add some outreach to others in need. It is not necessary to "give up something" but it would be a tragedy to do nothing. It would be like saving our fasting money to give to the poor. It could be making peace



with someone with whom we have some problems. Or to start a daily prayer life either personal or family if we are not doing it in our lives.

Our beloved Cardinal invites us to look into some of the aspects of our lives in this season of Lent. He states that in the Archdiocese of Bombay the faithful may observe the days of **common practice of penance by choosing from any one of the following:**

1. Making the Way of the Cross or a visit to the Blessed Sacrament or a Meditation on the Lord's Passion.
2. Prayerfully reading the Scriptures or Praying the Liturgy of the Hours.
3. Preparing for Liturgical Services by reflecting on the readings as a family.
4. Giving 10% of one's daily wage in charity.
5. Donating Blood.
6. Offering voluntary service to a Social / Charitable Institution through some parish association.
7. Offering a meal to a poor family.
8. Abstaining from meat preparations if meat is part of one's regular diet.
9. Missing any one meal: breakfast, lunch or supper.
10. Taking strictly vegetarian meals, without even fish and eggs.
11. Abstaining all beverages like tea or coffee or sweet drinks between meals.
12. Avoiding films, television and other forms of recreation.

Can we make this experience of Lent as a personal experience which will help us to experience the Risen Lord in our lives? Let us encounter him personally in our prayer life, penance and alms giving. May the Risen Lord continue to bless all of you and your families.

**Fr. Ashok Vino CSC**

## Gospel Sharing

### Seven Step Method

(Can be used in any of the church meetings or family meetings of 5 to 15 members.)

*Instructions : Choose a quiet place. Sit in a circle. Appoint an animator if necessary. Choose a relevant Bible passage in advance. Time taken 10-15 minutes, excluding Step. 6*

#### **Step 1 : Invite the presence of the Lord.**

The invitatory prayer can be based on scripture promises, e.g. Mt. 18:20, Lk. 10:38-42, Lk. 24:29-32. The animator does not appoint somebody to pray, but ask people to come forward voluntarily to pray inviting the presence of the Lord.

#### **Step 2: Read the relevant Bible passage.**

One member of the group reads it aloud, slowly and clearly; the others listen / read silently. Repeat the same by another member.

#### **Step 3 : Pick out word(s), phrase (s), verse(s) and meditate on them.**

Select word(s), phrase(s), verse(s) which strike us most and read them aloud prayerfully and slowly 3 times. Any number of members can do this one after another, while others are meditating on the same. Even a very "insignificant" word, repeated prayerfully aloud, can help the members of the group attain deep union with Christ.

#### **Step 4 : Let God speak to us in silence.**

Remain silent for about three minutes and allow God to speak to us. Meditate on the word(s), phrase(s), verse(s) which touched us most.

#### **Step 5 : Share what we have heard in our hearts.**

Which word(s), phrase(s), verse(s) touched us personally? Give reasons (brief). Any number of members can do this one after another.

DON'T Give a message for the group (sermon). Use the pronoun "I" to share not "we"

DON'T expound on a point of theology (doctrine).

DON'T be pulled into controversial issues.

DON'T try to give the entire meaning of the passage.

DON'T disagree with the person's sharing.

DON'T start an argument about the correct interpretation of the passage.

DON'T bombard the person with a whole lot of advice.

#### **Step 6 : Discuss any task which our group is called to do.**

We have created an atmosphere of mutual trust and have accepted the Lord in our midst. In this spiritual climate, problems can be discussed and action plans made.

#### **Step 7 : Pray together spontaneously.**

All are invited to pray spontaneously. All that we have done in our Gospel sharing and what we have discussed about our task can flow into our spontaneous prayers. We can end with a prayer / hymn which all know by heart.

**Compiled by : BIBLE CELL**

## Faith Celebration

24th January has left a lasting impact on our lives as we, the children of std VII and VIII went for faith formation on this day to St. Anne's School. We were entrusted with the topic 'Pilgrimage'

The quest for knowledge of pilgrimage started from the 1st week of September. This hard work continued till the end of January.

We began this quest with a trip to Bandra during the Mount Mary's feast. Our main aim to go for this trip was to enlighten ourselves about the legends of these churches and to know what is meant by a pilgrimage. Then on 14th November 09 we came together for a recollection where on the characteristics of pilgrimage places and pilgrimage experiences were explained. Slides on the trip to the Holy Land undertaken by some of our parishioners and priests were also shown to us.

On 28th Nov. 09 we learnt about a pilgrimage through Bible passages. We were shown a movie on the Acts of the Apostles in which the apostles experienced a pilgrimage with the coming of the Holy Spirit in the form of tongues of fire. The disciples went about fearlessly teaching, healing and doing the work Jesus did. Later on we went in procession by holding candles and singing hymns to I.C. Church. A recollection service was held. All these sessions and trips enlightened us a lot and we also became aware of the advantages and

importance of a pilgrimage.

We had to prepare charts, skits and powerpoint presentations, to converse and to bring about our topic and message to the other parishes in a simple way. We prepared charts on famous churches like Mount Mary Church, Shrine of Don Bosco, St. Michaels Church, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes and Immaculate Conception church. A skit was prepared on day to day life situations and ways to overcome it.

At last the day came to bring about our efforts. There were 7 parishes who were given different topics. Each one's preparation was unique and different and had a message to take home and put into practise. The topics emphasized during the faith formation were "Global Warming, Consumerism, Pilgrimage, Mass Communication and cleaning of the Mithi river. We also had a Bible quiz on the lessons covered during our catechism class. We concluded with a reflective Eucharist.

We thank our catechism teachers Mrs. Josephine and Sr. Jeena and also our parish priest for giving us the opportunity to witness this faith formation which helped us build our faith. We also thank the other volunteers without whom this wouldn't be a success.

**Rachel Ferrao  
Nia Carnelio**

## संत लुईस सोडयलिटी संघटना

नमस्कार भाविक हो,

आज मी तुमच्या समोर आमच्या सोडयलिटी संघटनेची सविस्तर माहिती सादर करित आहे.

आम्ही सर्व एकूण ३४ स्त्रिया आहोत. अध्यक्ष - हेजल परेरा, उपाध्यक्ष मीना वैती, सेक्रेटरी - लीना वैती तसेच सि. जीना व सि. प्रगती यांच्या मार्गदर्शनाद्वारे दर गुरुवारी संध्याकाळी ठीक ५ वाजता आमच्या सभेची सुरुवात रोझरीच्या प्रार्थनाद्वारे होते.

महिण्याचे चार गुरुवार पुढीलप्रमाणे देण्यात आले आहेत.

१) पहिला गुरुवार - रेकलेक्शन व मनचिंतन ह्यामध्ये फादर लियो. सि. जिना व सि. प्रगती तर कधी सतीश ब्रदर येऊन आम्हाला उत्तम प्रकारे मार्गदर्शन करतात. फा. जॉनी, फॉ. विनू तसेच आयसी चर्चचे फादर येऊन आम्ही त्यांच्या कडून कुमसार करून घेतो.

२) दुसरा गुरुवार - मिटिंगसाठी - चर्चेसाठी ह्या दिवशी सर्व आठवड्याभराचे मिस्सावरिल कलेक्शन तसेच इतर काही विषयांवर चर्चा केली जाते.

३) तिसरा गुरुवार - वायबल क्लास ह्यादिवशी ब्रदर सतीश कोर्नाक येऊन आम्हाला वायबलविषयी सुंदर आणि सविस्तर माहिती देतात.

४) चौथा गुरुवार - आजारी लोकांना हॉस्पिटल मध्ये जाऊन भेटी देणे व प्रत्येक गावात भेटी देऊन कुशल - मंगल विचारणे इत्यादी. अशाप्रकारे चार गुरुवारी कामे असतात.

ह्या व्यतिरिक्त शनिवार, रविवार, बुधवार व महिन्याचा पहिला शुक्रवार ह्या दिवसाच्या प्रत्येक मिस्सावरचे कलेक्शन करणे व ते मिस्सानंतर मोजून फादरांकडे देणे हे जबाबदारीचे काम आमच्या सोडयलिटीच्या स्त्रिया करत असतात.

तसेच सण वेगळे असला की, साफसफाईचे काम करणे, डेकोरेशनचे काम नॅही परेरा तसेच कम्युनियन वनविण्याचे काम आमच्या अध्यक्ष - हेजल परेरा ह्या करत असतात.

आम्ही सर्व स्त्रिया प्रत्येक महिन्याला प्रत्येकी ५० रु. फंड म्हणून काढतो. ह्याची सुरुवात फा. लियो ह्यांनी त्यांच्या आईच्या नावाने १००० रु. डोनेशन देऊन केली. ह्याच फंडातून आम्ही गेल्यावर्षी उपवास काळात. " क्रुसाची वाट " म्हणून सि. जीना ह्यांनी आम्हाला चौदा चर्चमध्ये घेऊन गेल्या होत्या. उपवास काळात जेव्हा मराठी प्रार्थना संघाद्वारे व सोडयलिटीने एक संपुर्ण दिवसाची रिट्रिट आयोजित केली होती. त्यासाठी आमच्या ह्या फंडातून मदत म्हणून काही रक्कम देण्यात आली होती. तसेच ह्या फंडातून आम्ही गेल्या ऑक्टोंबर महिन्यात दिवाळीच्या सुट्टीत मुंबई - दर्शनची पिकनीक काढली होती. आणि आताच फेब्रुवारी महिन्यात आम्ही सर्व सोडयलिटीच्या स्त्रिया वाळ येशूच्या दर्शनासाठी नाशिकला सुध्दा जाऊन आलो.

आमची ही सोडयलिटी संघटना चालविण्यासाठी सि. जीना व सि. प्रगती येवून पुष्कळ त्रास घेत असतात. व त्या आम्हीला नेहमी सांगत असतात की, वायांनो प्रेमाने रहा, प्रेमाने कार्य करा जे काही आहे ते इथेच सोडून जायचे आहे.

देवाच्या कृपेने संत लुईसच्या मध्यस्थीने आमची ही सोडयलिटी संघटना अशीच पुढे चालू राहू दे. हिच ईश्वराकडे प्रार्थना.

धन्यवाद

लीना - प्रिती वैती.

## पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्तासमवेत आनंदाची संधी म्हणजे --- उपवासकाळ !

लेन्ट हा शब्द लेनटन या इंग्रजी शब्दातून घेतलेला आहे. याचा अर्थ वसंतऋतू ! या चाळीस दिवसांच्या काळात प्रार्थना, उपवास, दानधर्म व प्रायश्चित करण्याच्या उपवासकाळाला पवित्र शास्त्राचा भक्कम आधार आहे.

संत तेरेजा म्हणते; "देवाचा न्याय हाच माझ्या विश्वासाचा आधार आहे." संत फ्रान्सीस दी सेल्स म्हणतो; "माझा निवाडा माझ्या आईपेक्षा परमेश्वरानेच करावा." मानवी जीवनाची कमजोर वाजू पाहण्याची संधी हा उपवासकाळ आपल्याला देत असतो. ख्रिस्त म्हणतो काळाची पूर्णता झालेली आहे. परमेश्वर आपल्या पश्चात्तापयुक्त मनस्थिती जवळ आहे. उपवासकाळ आपल्याला परमेश्वराजवळ जाण्याचे साधन आहे. त्याकरिता पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्ताचे स्तवन करूया.

योनाच्या सांगण्यावरून निनवेच्या लोकांनी जो पश्चात्ताप केला; तसाच पश्चात्ताप आपणही करावयास हवा अगदी पूर्वीपासून ख्रिश्चन लोकांनी प्रार्थना, उपवास आणि दानधर्म हाच या उपवासकाळाचा महत्त्वाचा भाग मानला आहे.

काही ख्रिश्चन या उपवासकाळात आपल्या वाईट सवयी सांडून देतात. व समाजातील दिन - दुबळ्याची सेवा करण्याचा संकल्प करतात. तसेच इतरांशी असलेल्या समस्या, हेवेदावे सलोख्याने सोडवण्याचा प्रयत्न करतात.

आज मुंबई धर्मप्रातांचे महाधर्मगुरु आपल्याला खालील पैकी एका मुद्दयावर या उपवासकाळात विशिष्ट पणे आचार - विचार करण्याचे आव्हान करत आहेत.

- १) क्रुसाच्या वाटेची भक्ति किंवा पवित्र साक्रामेंतास भेट अथवा प्रभू ख्रिस्ताच्या दुःस्वसहनावर चिंतन करणे
- २) नित्य - नियमाने वायबल वाचन किंवा पवित्र तासाची आराधना करणे.
- ३) मिस्सा मधील पवित्र शास्त्र वाचनाचे कुटुंबात चिंतन करणे.
- ४) आपल्या उत्पन्नामधील १० % दानधर्म करणे.
- ५) रक्तदान करणे.
- ६) सामाजिक स्वयंसेवी संघटनेमध्ये सक्रीय सहभाग घेणे.
- ७) गरीब लोकांस जेवण देणे.
- ८) उपवासकाळात मांस, मासळी न खाणे.
- ९) एक वेळची न्याहारी, जेवण, अगर रात्रीचे जेवण वर्ज करणे.
- १०) फक्त शाकाहारी जेवण घेणे. या जेवणात मासळी अगर अंड्यांचा समावेश नसावा.
- ११) जेवणाच्या वेळी चहा कॉफीचा त्याग करणे.
- १२) दूरदर्शन, चित्रपट यासारखे मनोरंजनाचे कार्यक्रम पाहण्याचे टाळणे.

अशा प्रकारे ख्रिस्ताचा आपल्या वैयक्तिक जीवनात, प्रार्थनेत, पश्चात्तापात आणि दानधर्मात अनुभव घेऊ या.

पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्त तुम्हाला व तुमच्या कुटुंबियांना आशिर्वादीत करो.

फॉ. विनू CSC

## Youth Report: July '09 to Feb '10.

This is a long overdue Youth Report on the activities of the youth group in our parish for the past ten months.

July '09:

**Parent's Day:** A cultural program was organized by the youth after the evening mass to show our love and appreciation for our parents. There were song and dance performances interspersed with rounds of Housie and a comedy skit, followed by a sumptuous dinner. It was a truly enjoyable night for both parents and youth alike.

August '09:

**St. Louis Feast:** The St. Louis Feast was celebrated with the usual fervor as a sizeable number of people attended the feast mass. The feast of our parish's patron saint is interesting enough to draw out even the most reluctant church goer. The youth group put up a food stall, and various game stalls which kept the parishioners eager to come back for more.

September '09:

**Just Dance:** The youth group introduced a new event in the St. Louis social calendar which sought to showcase the talents of our parishioners. Just Dance, organized by the youth, received enthusiastic participation from both solo and group participants. The fancy dress competition was quite a sight, with kids wearing cute costumes and their doting parents encouraging them from the side lines. We hope that in 2010, Just Dance becomes bigger and better with increased participation from our parishioners.

November '09:

**Paper Drive:** The youth conducted a paper drive, beginning in November end to aid the construction of the St. Louis school building. Parishioners willingly gave their old newspapers, some having stored and collected them for weeks, which were then sold off to the paper recyclers (raddiwallas). This paper drive by the youth managed to raise funds in excess of Rs. 10,000/- in aid of the St. Louis school project.

December '09:

**Carol Singing:** To spread the Christmas spirit, the youth group members visited parishioners at their homes for carol singing. Although we could not cover as many homes as we would have like, we still managed to spread joy amongst those of whom we did visit.

**Crib Competition:** The parish organized a crib competition and member of the youth were active in helping out their respective zones build their zonal cribs. This year the top honour went to Dahisar East.

**New Year youth party:** The youth from our youth group got together to celebrate the New Year in style. The party (which was held after mass), was quite a lot of fun, with party games, dancing and a delicious barbeque dinner. It was a great start to the New Year for all of us.

February '10:

**Throwball and Volleyball competition:** The youth group organized sector wise throwball and volleyball competition for the girls and boys respectively. The youth came in full force and filled with enthusiasm to represent their zones and played their hearts out for the top prize. The girls throwball was won by Navagaon sector while the boys volleyball was won by Dahisargaon.

We have many events lined up for the rest of the year beginning with a picnic after Easter, and we request the youth of our parish to take an active part in the youth group activities. That being said, we also encourage our fellow youth to take part in the Lenten services being conducted in our parish and use this season of Lent to introspect and make changes in our lives for the better, so that we can truly celebrate in the joy of the risen Christ.

**For the Youth Group,  
Nishant Saldanha.**

## Fire Proof

In this generation we find many marriages on the rocks. The movie 'Fire Proof' is like the Christmas Star guiding couples to sail their ships on a dark night. I thank our Parish Priest and the Fathers for screening such an excellent movie.

The story is about a couple who have small arguments regarding the daily house-hold chores. Both the spouses are busy in their daily routine. As things become difficult, the wife cannot cope and she decides to separate. As soon as the husband's father learns of it, he meets his son and gives him his diary to follow. At first, it seems difficult, but as days go by the simple flowers which he gifts his wife turn to roses. Things slowly change

The Love of God is expressed in this move. Every sin however small hurts God. God's love is unconditional. Jesus died for every person on earth. He teaches us to love those who hurt us. It is a challenge to love those who do not love us. Jesus loves us despite we our weaknesses and accepts us as we are. There are no if's or but's in his love. Can we make adjustments for our spouses despite their weaknesses. By giving ourselves completely to each other, we can make our marriages 'Fire Proof'.

## चांगले करीत असताना स्वचून जाऊ नका.

**शब्द संत पौलचे.**

सृष्टीची नवनिर्मिती व परिपूर्णतेसाठी मानवाला एकत्र येण्याची गरज आहे. आणि म्हणूनच परमेश्वराने मानवासाठी

कार्य करण्याची उत्तम अशी योजना आखली आहे. त्यासाठी संत पौल आपणांस सांगू इच्छितो, जेव्हा तुम्ही चांगले करिता त्यावेळी स्वचून जाऊ नका.

समाजाच्या सेवाकार्यात जर थोडावेळ आपण दिला तर आपण निश्चितच आपल्या समाजाला कलाटणी देऊ शकतो. एका आशेच्या किरणाची आपणांस प्रचिती येईल. आणि ही पृथ्वी स्वर्गमय बनून जाईल. समाजासाठी सेवाकार्य करणारा सेवकनेता हा शिस्तप्रिय, प्रार्थनामय जीवन जगणारा, समाजाची कळकळ असणारा असावा. त्याद्वारे समाज बांधणीसाठी असणारी त्याची एकनिष्ठता विकासासाठी मदत करू शकते.

धर्मग्रामाच्या विकासकार्यात हातभार लावून धर्मगुरूंना सहकार्य करून पाळकिय कार्यास मदत करणे. व जनसेवेसाठी

आपणास तत्पर ठेवून समाज उभारणीसाठी कार्य करण्यासाठी धर्मग्रामीण पाळकिय मंडळाची गरज असते. कारण

हाच सदस्य धर्मग्राम व गावपरिवारात अत्यंत महत्त्वाचा दुवा आहे. आज आपणां सर्वांना या महान कार्यासाठी सत्याला जागून त्याग करण्याची वृत्ती जोपासण्यास देव बोलावित आहे.

धर्मग्रामीण पाळकिय मंडळाच्या निवडणूका जवळ येत आहेत. ईश्वराच्या या पवित्र कार्याकरिता ख्रिस्तसभेच्या

शिक्षणात व ख्रिस्ती श्रद्धेत दृढ असलेल्यांनी उत्स्फूर्तपणे पुढे यावे अशी अपेक्षा आहे.

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Confessions will be heard in the Church on 26th and 27th of March from 5.30 pm to 8.30 pm

28th March 2010 -

### **PALM SUNDAY OF OUR LORD'S PASSION**

Masses as usual at 7.00 am 8.00 am, 9.15 am & 6.00 pm  
After the Evening Mass ENACTMENT OF VERONICA  
followed by preaching at 7.00 pm



### **THE PASCAL TRIDUUM**

1st April 2010 -

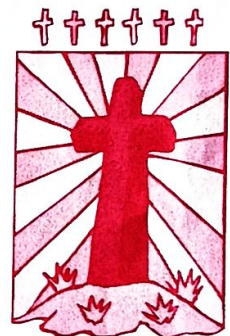
### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

CONFESSION at 4.00 pm for the SICK  
MASS FOR THE SICK at 4.30 pm  
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER at 7.00 followed by  
ADORATION conducted in Marathi, Konkani & English ( Half an hour each )

2nd April 2010 -

### **GOOD FRIDAY**

WAY OF THE CROSS  
7.00 am in Konkani  
8.00 am in Marathi  
9.00 am in English  
10.00 am for Children  
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE at 6.00 pm.



3rd April 2010 -

### **HOLY SATURDAY**

SERVICE OF OUR LADY OF SORROW at 8.00 am  
EASTER VIGIL SERVICE at 9.00 pm

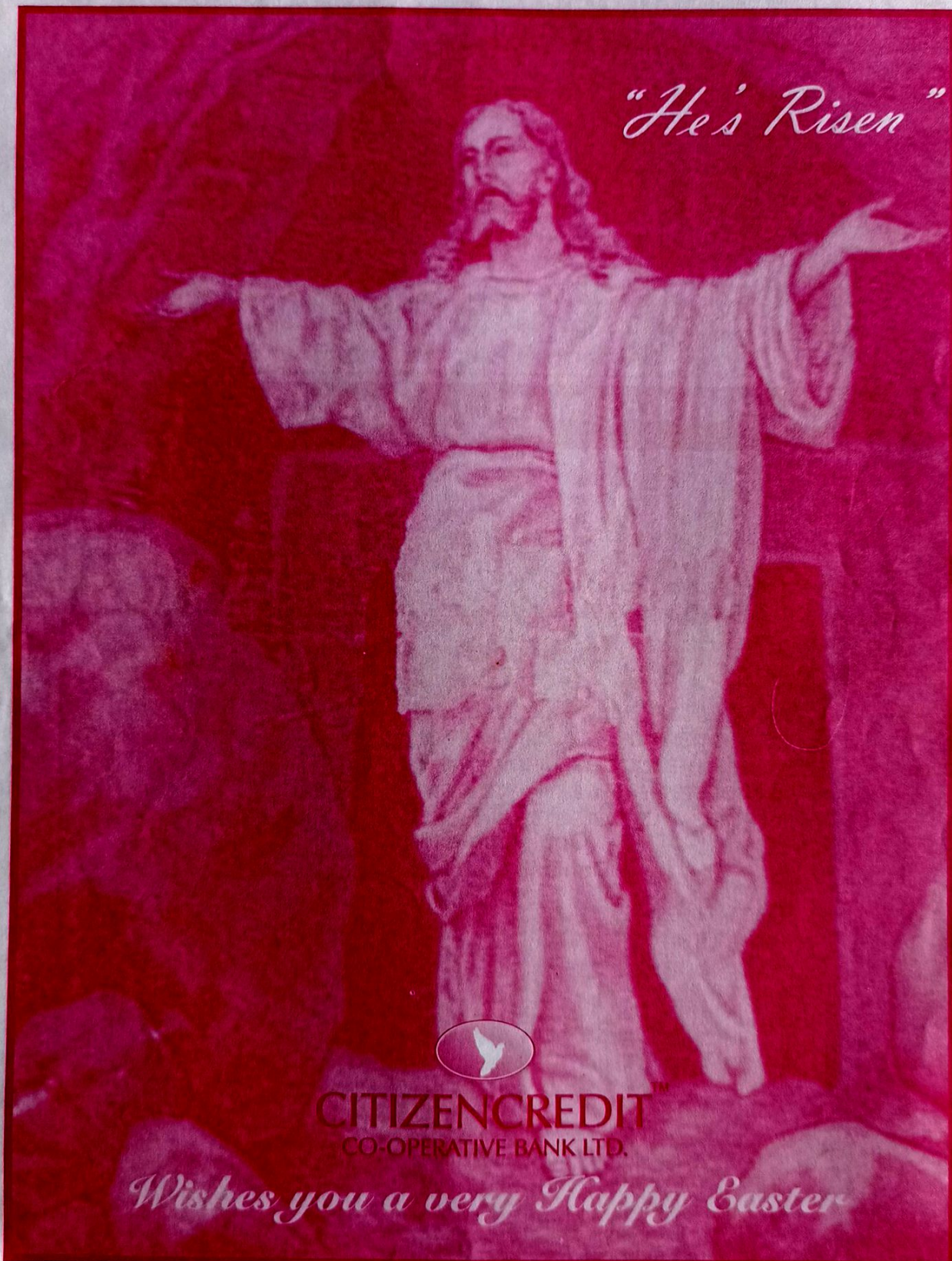
4th April 2010 -

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

8.00 am in Marathi  
9.15 am in English  
9.00 am in English at Vailankanni Mass Centre  
No evening Mass.



*"He's Risen"*



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*Wishes you a very Happy Easter*