



DIVINE ECHO

INFANT JESUS SHRINE BHOPAL

EDITORIAL MESSAGE

With hearts overflowing in gratitude, we look back on a season of immense grace – the Novena and Feast of Our Lady of Velankanni. During these sacred days, our Shrine became a haven of prayer, faith, and healing. The faithful gathered with trust and devotion, seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother, and many testified to blessings received and prayers fulfilled through the loving presence of the Infant Jesus.

Each day of the Novena was a spiritual journey filled with the fragrance of flowers, the beauty of the Rosary, and the melody of hymns rising like incense to Heaven. The Feast Day shone as a radiant celebration of faith, unity, and thanksgiving, reminding us that Mary, the Mother of Good Health, continues to lead us to her Son, the source of all comfort and peace.

As we share this edition of 'Divine Echo', may every page reflect the living faith of our parish community and the wonders God continues to work among His people. Let us remain steadfast in prayer, joyful in service, and grateful for the unending love of the Infant Jesus.

Infant Jesus, bless our families and fill our hearts with Your peace.

Dr. Fr. John Benito, Rector & Parish Priest, IJS Bhopal



21 April 2025

"With heavy hearts, IJS family bid adeiu to our beloved Pope Francis, a courageous shepherd and servant of Christ whose love and compassion touched the world. We entrust his soul to the mercy of Infant Jesus, praying he rests in eternal peace."



06 April 2025

IJS family mourned the passing of Dr. Most Rev. Pascal Topno, former Archbishop of the Bhopal Archdiocese, who left us on April 6, 2025. His life was a beacon of faith, guidance, and service to the Church. We offer prayers for his eternal repose and entrust his soul to the loving mercy of Infant Jesus."



**MESSAGE FROM REV. FR. C PUSHPARAJ
FIRST PARISH PRIEST OF INFANT JESUS CHURCH**

Prayerful Greetings and Congratulations to Rev. Fr. John Benito, the Parish Priest, and to all the beloved parishioners of Infant Jesus Parish, Bhopal, on the blessed occasion of the release of this Edition of 'Divine Echo'.

With deep gratitude, I recall the loving guidance of the Late Archbishop Eugene D'Souza, MSFS, a great pastor and shepherd after the heart of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was he who entrusted me with the joyful responsibility of being the pioneering parish priest of Indrapuri, Kalpana Nagar, and Sonagiri, what we now know as Infant Jesus Parish.

The first Sunday Holy Mass was celebrated in a classroom of the Holy Cross Sisters of Amaravathi, Piplani. Their kindness and generosity were remarkable—they lovingly prepared the altar every week for the celebration of the Eucharist. After Mass, our devoted parishioners would rearrange the desks and chairs for the children's Monday classes, joyfully serving the Lord in simple ways.

From the very beginning, the parish had its own Mass prayers from the Roman Missal, Hymns for Holy Mass, and Novena Prayers to the Infant Jesus. Daily morning Masses were celebrated in the Queen Mary Convent Chapel, while evening Masses took place in the Chapel of the Sisters of St. Lioba (Germany), Indrapuri Convent.

As the number of faithful grew, Sunday morning Masses were held first in classrooms and later on the rooftop of Queen Mary Convent School.

The Servite Sisters, especially the late Sr. Bibiana Mary and her community, generously transformed a classroom into a beautiful chapel for the faithful to worship Infant Jesus. We were blessed with dedicated members in the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee, along with many generous parishioners who joyfully supported every parish event – from major feasts to the hiring of shamianas and chairs – ensuring the parish was never burdened financially.

It was also a time of great Charismatic Renewal. The Indrapuri Parish organized a seven-day Charismatic Retreat led by Fr. Mathew Naikaparambil, Fr. Augustine, Sr. Theresa, and their choir team from the Divine Mercy Centre, Chalakudy, Kerala. The Charismatic retreat, open to the entire Archdiocese of Bhopal, was blessed and inaugurated by Late Archbishop Eugene D'Souza in the presence of Prof. K. M. Chandy, then Governor of Madhya Pradesh, and Shri Arjun Singh, then Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. Over 3,000 faithful participated, and it became a powerful moment of grace and spiritual renewal.

Under the direction and guidance of Archbishop Eugene D'Souza, the parish joyfully celebrated its Feast Day, along with the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The Queen Mary Sisters and Benedictine Sisters worked hand in hand to make every celebration a memorable act of faith and unity. The neighbors around the parish rejoiced to witness these holy celebrations taking place in their midst – truly, God's presence was felt in every heart.

With a grateful heart, I thank and praise Almighty God, Infant Jesus, Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni, St. Joseph, and St. Jude for their constant blessings upon this parish and its faithful. May the Infant Jesus continue to shower His divine love, protection, and abundant blessings upon Rev. Fr. John Benito, all parishioners, and every devotee who turns to Him in faith.



Rev. Fr. C Pushpa Raj
First Parish Priest of Infant Jesus Church



“When Prayers Turned into Life Our Gift from Infant Jesus”

After seven long years of marriage and many challenges, our hearts were finally filled with joy through the merciful intercession of Infant Jesus. Our prayers were answered, and we were blessed with a precious baby boy. We are eternally grateful to our Loving Lord, who turns tears into smiles and waiting into blessings. May His divine grace continue to bless all who trust in Him!

– Tony Jacob & Cinderella Tony

“विश्वास का चमत्कार – बालक येसु का अनुपम आशीर्वाद”

सन् 2010 में जब हमने श्रद्धा और विश्वास के साथ बालक येसु की नोवेना प्रार्थना में भाग लिया, उसी समय से हमारे जीवन में आशीर्वाद की वर्षा होने लगी। प्रभु की कृपा से हमें पुत्र रत्न मेहांक बंजारे का वरदान प्राप्त हुआ, जो आज संत पॉल स्कूल, आनंद नगर में कक्षा 6 का छात्र है। हम हृदय से बालक येसु का धन्यवाद करते हैं, जिनकी असीम दया ने हमारे परिवार को आनंद और पूर्णता से भर दिया।

– संजय बंजारे एवं कौशल्या बंजारे



“From Waiting to Wonder: A Novena Miracle”



“For nothing will be impossible with God.” (Luke 1:37)

During the Novena at the Infant Jesus Shrine, I prayed earnestly to Our Lady of Velankanni and the Infant Jesus for my son, Melwyn Philip. He had been struggling to find a stable office job after years in the hospitality sector. Despite his efforts and qualifications, doors seemed closed, and discouragement had begun to set in.

With deep faith, I began the Novena, asking the Blessed Mother to intercede for him and trusting that the Lord’s timing is always perfect. To my amazement, on the very first day of the Novena, Melwyn received his first interview call. Over the next ten days, he was called by four companies, and on September 8th – the Feast of Our Lady of Velankanni – he received his long-awaited job offer letter.

Truly, the Infant Jesus and Our Blessed Mother showered us with their loving mercy. This miracle strengthened my faith and renewed my son’s trust in God’s providence. We have learned that prayers offered with hope and faith never go unanswered – for our Heavenly Father knows our needs and blesses us at the right time.

All glory and praise to the Infant Jesus and Our Lady of Velankanni!

– Annie Philip

TESTIMONIALS

IJS IN ACTION



Lent Unity Games



Holy Week - Good Friday Way of the Cross



Pilgrimage to Shrines & religious places in Kerala



Welcome of Rev. Fr. Johny Wilson



Catechism Inauguration



Youth Visit



Grandparents Day 2025

- **IJS Lent Unity Games (7-10 April 2025):** "The IJS Lent Unity Games brought our parish family together in joyful competition. From badminton to chess and carrom, hearts united in fun, fellowship, and the blessings of Infant Jesus."
- **Day of Prayer (10 April 2025):** We gathered in prayerful reflection, preparing our hearts for Holy Week. "
- **Holy Week (12-19 April 2025)** "Our parish journeyed through Holy Week with a sacred week of devotion, reflection, and rejoicing in the resurrection of the Infant Jesus."
- **Month of Rosary (01-31 May 2025):** Throughout May, our parish joyfully gathered at the Rosary Garden to pray the Holy Rosary. Each prayerful moment brought us closer to Mother Mary, filling our hearts with peace, faith, and blessings."
- **Pilgrimage to Kerala (02-09 May 2025):** "Our parishioners embarked on a blessed pilgrimage to Kerala, visiting sacred shrines and experiencing moments of deep prayer and reflection. The journey strengthened faith and filled every heart with the peace and love of Infant Jesus."
- **Farewell to Rev. Fr. Ashok (15th June 2025):**We warmly bid farewell to Rev. Fr. Ashok, our beloved Assistant Parish Priest. His guidance and prayers blessed our parish, and we pray Infant Jesus continues to guide him in his new journey."
- **Welcome to Rev. Fr. Johny Wilson (22nd June 2025):** Our parish joyfully welcomed Fr. Johny Wilson as the new Assistant Parish Priest. With gratitude and prayer, we seek Infant Jesus' blessings upon his ministry and service among us."
- **Silver Jubilee of the Servite Sisters (28th June 2025):** Our sisters from the Servites Regional House joyfully celebrated their Silver Jubilee celebrating their 25 years of devoted service, prayer, and love have been a blessing to our parish.
- **Catechism Inauguration:** The Catechism Year 2025-2026 was officially inaugurated on 6th July 2025 during the Holy Mass with a special prayer and seeking God's grace for all the children, teachers, and parents, for a fruitful year of learning and faith formation.
- **Youth Mission Experience (19-20 July 2025):** The youth of IJS embarked on a Mission Experience, spreading love, service, and faith in action and deepened their spiritual journey while touching hearts in the community.
- **Grand Parents Day celebration:** दिनांक 27/07/2025 को माता मरियम समिति सदस्यों द्वारा Grand Parents day मनाया गया जिसमे बच्चो के सभी दादा-दादी, नाना-नानी उपस्थित रहे | बच्चो द्वारा कई कार्यक्रम किये गए एवं greeting cards बनाये एवं दिए गए। माता मरियम समिति द्वारा सभी Grand Parents को उपहार दिए गए।

IJS IN ACTION

- Jubilee Celebration of the Benedictine Sisters (9th August 2025):** We joyfully celebrated the Jubilee of the Benedictine Sisters. Their years of devoted prayer, service, and guidance have been a true blessing to our parish."
- Youth Sunday Celebration (10th August 2025):** Our parish celebrated Youth Sunday with sports, games, and fun-filled activities. The day was a joyful gathering, uniting our youth in faith, friendship, and the blessings of Infant Jesus."
- Parish level Bible Quiz Competition (10th August 2025):** Our catechism students showcased their knowledge and faith in the Bible Quiz Competition."
- Youth Dance Achievement:** "We are proud to announce that the IJS youth secured 2nd prize in the Diocese-level Dance Competition. Their talent, energy, and teamwork reflected joy and devotion, bringing glory to Infant Jesus and our parish community."
- Prayer for Peace (22nd August 2025):** Our parish came together in a heartfelt Prayer for Peace, in response to call for action from Pope Leo XIV. United in faith, we sought the blessings of Infant Jesus to guide our hearts, homes, and the world with love and harmony."
- Feast of St. Monica by Mata Mariam Samiti:** दिनांक 24/08/2025 को माता मरियम समिति द्वारा संत मोनिका का पर्व मनाया गया । मिस्सा के बाद समिति के सदस्यों ने मरिया भवन Misrod की ओर प्रस्थान किया एवं समिति द्वारा एकत्रित किये गए दान, उपहार, भेंट वहाँ रहने वाली निराश्रित महिलाओं को दिया गया, साथ ही सभी निराश्रित महिलाओं को भोजन भी दिया गया ।
- Diocesan Bible Quiz Achievement (24th August 2025):** Our IJS bible quiz winners participated in the Diocese-level Bible Quiz competition and we are proud to share that Celestina Gretchen secured 2nd prize.
- Night Vigil (13th September 25):** Our parish held a spiritually uplifting Night Vigil. United in prayer and devotion, the faithful sought the blessings of Infant Jesus, experiencing a night of reflection, faith, and divine grace."



Youth Sunday



Youth Dance team won II Prize



Prayer for peace



Night Vigil prayers at IJS

BIBLE QUIZ FINALS



Celestina Gretchen
Infant Jesus Shrine, Vrindavan Nagar
Category 2



Novena and Feast of Velankanni



"From 29th August to 7th September, the Novena of Velankanni was celebrated with daily prayers and Holy Mass, culminating in a grand procession. The Feast on 8th September was a blessed occasion, with the Holy Mass celebrated by Emeritus Leo Cornelio, former Archbishop of Bhopal Archdiocese, bringing joy, devotion, and abundant blessings of Mary our mother and Infant Jesus, among all the devotees."

Obituary

1. Mr. Jeslee Ivan - 14 April 2025
2. Mr. Thomas Panicker - 24 April 2025
3. Mr. Achenkunj Philip - 16 May 2025
4. Mrs. Rachel Chacko - 12 June 2025
5. Mr. K.M. Thomas - 15 June 2025
6. Mr. Mathias Xalxo - 24 September 2025

Upcoming Events

1. First Holy Communion & Confirmation - 19th October 25
2. Mission Sunday Celebration - 26th Oct 2025
3. IJS Interchurch Volleyball Championship - Nov-Dec 2025.

Connect with us

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Vrindavan Nagar, Ayodhya
Bypass Road, Bhopal,
462041 (M.P)

DAILY SERVICE AT IJS

Be Thankful Everyday
Holy Mass : 6 pm

SUNDAY SERVICE

From Gratitude to Grace
1ST Holy Mass - 6.45 am
2nd Holy Mass - 9.15 am

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Adoration	Monday
St. Antony's Novena	Tuesday
St. Joseph's Novena	Wednesday
Infant Jesus Novena	Thursday
Divine Mercy devotion & adoration	Friday
Novena - Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Saturday



Editorial Board

1. Fr. John Benito
2. Fr. Johny Wilson
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