



Church of St Simon and St Jude

Batim, Ilhas Goa

Appeal

Gancim, a village on a hillock of Batim, attracts thousands of pilgrims to its sixteenth century church dedicated to Saints Simon and Jude. Nobility and businessmen from Old Goa used to holiday here in the ideal tranquility of this place. This was a parish church till it fell into disuse in 1840 when its rich parishioners fearing the epidemic abandoned the place and it remained without residents. Lonely and without people its glory was completely destroyed. The place, the Church and the Cemetery stood lonely and rejected, utterly isolated for over 200 years. Its glory was completely destroyed leaving a heap of rubble. It tore the place apart. A rollicking era came to a close and Gancim faded.

Fr Pedro Francisco Pereira from Betalbatim, a warm and energetic pastor was appointed as the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Batim in 1967. He was inspired and with his spirits fired, undertook the great renovation, cleaning, repairing of the Gancim Church. After completion of the restoration work, the Church reawakened, it was being born from ruins, and Holy Mass was celebrated. Fr Pedro F Pereira still enjoys tremendous respect and regard from the locals.

In 1993, a pious lady laid a claim that Virgin Mary had appeared to her on this hillock. With this news spreading like wild fire thousands of people started flocking to this place to venerate Mary, Our Lady of Batim. In recent times people come in bigger numbers only on the First Saturday of the month to venerate Mary and very few during the other days. This place has now become a miraculous site where the faithful have experienced divine powers, a certain transformation of themselves and lot of their prayers answered. This place has a potential of becoming a Pilgrim Centre.

In the recent years this Church remained closed for almost two years due to the Covid19 pandemic, during which it also battered two violent storms, which has damaged very badly the ceiling and some portion of the structure. The whole roof needs to be done up again on urgent basis before the onset of the next monsoons. The projected cost of the repairs is Rs 27 lakhs. Any help from people of good will, will help us to restore this church fully and to put it back to its proper use. Your generous contributions will enhance the sacredness of this place. We rely on your goodness and generosity. Any contribution can be sent to; Cheques should be drawn in favour of **M/S Church of St Simon and St Jude**. The NEFT details are as follows: **M/S Church of St Simon and St Jude, Bank of Baroda, Goa Velha Branch A/C No.: 88900100000291, IFSC Code: BARB0DBGOAX MICR Code: 403012036**. You can also give your donations at **Gancim Church** on the First Saturday of the month or to the **Parish Priest, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Batim Ilhas, Goa**.

May Mother Mary bless you, protect you and give you the desires of your heart.

Fr Alfred Vaz
President

Ida Fernandes
Treasurer

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