

THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIVING SAVIOUR

Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7

Cathedral News - August 2019

The Transfiguration



“Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.”

Matthew 17:1-3

Message from the Vicar of the Cathedral

My dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour!

Nation: Little of importance seems to have taken place to improve the state that we find ourselves in as a nation. As the people of this nation struggle to get through a day, the politicians seem to wait with frenzied anticipation for election fever to grip the life of the nation. It is our hope and prayer that people will show the corrupt the door that awaits their exit. May there be fresh thinking, new blood and space created for courageous men and women to take their place in the seats of leadership that will guide the life of our Island nation.

Church: At the end of the month the Metropolitan of the Church of Ceylon, His Grace Rt. Rev. Justin Welby (the present Archbishop of Canterbury) and Mrs. Caroline Welby will make a brief solidarity visit to Sri Lanka from the 29th 31st August 2019.

This visit comes in the background of the Easter day terror attacks that affected the life of our nation. His Grace will meet victims and survivors of the April 21st attacks. His Grace, the Metropolitan, will preside at a special Service of Holy Eucharist that is due to take place in the Cathedral on the 29th August 2019 at 5 p.m. On the 30th August 2019, he will spend the day in Kandy and Kurunegala before returning to Colombo later in the evening and depart the Island early the following day.

Life in the Cathedral:

Service of Remembrance: Three months on a Service of Remembrance to remember the victims of the Easter day terror attacks, was held on the 21st July 2019. The service was well attended and the collection received that day is channelled for the Outreach Fund especially to financially support the surviving victims at Zion Church in Batticaloa.

Outreach Project: I continue to commend the Cathedral Outreach fund to your support. Through this fund monthly support is made available to the family of a young Clergyman who was killed in a motor accident, a family who lost their sole breadwinner and victims of the Easter day attack at Zion Church and by providing bibles for lesser affluent Church congregations in the Diocese.

Confirmation Classes: It is hoped to have the service of confirmation on Sunday 1st December 2019 at 8.15am.

Parish Camp: Preparations are being made for the long awaited and much looked forward to Parish Camp scheduled for 5th - 6th October 2019.

Visiting: The Cathedral Pastoral Care team is available to visit you. If you have not been contacted by the Clergy in this regard and would appreciate a Pastoral visit, please contact Rev. Earnest at your earliest, as Rev. Ratnamalar is currently recovering after an accident.

May the transfigured Christ, encourage us in our journey of faith down here in the valley of life.

Thanking You,
With Prayers and Blessings
Yours Sincerely,



Ven. Perry Brohier
Vicar

Holy Days and Festivals – August 2019

6th Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord
24th Bartholomew (Nathaniel) Apostle

April 21st, 2019:

A date seared in the hearts of all Sri Lankans across the land. A day of shock, horror and grief- for who could not feel the pain of the terrible bombings in churches and hotels that balmy Easter morning that took over 260 innocent lives, leaving many injured and a country struggling to come to terms with the trauma.

July 21st, 2019: Three months later, on an overcast Sunday evening, the Cathedral worshipping community and members of the public came together to remember the dead and express solidarity with the injured and bereaved in a solemn yet stirring service of remembrance.

21/4- We Will Never Forget was open to all.

The worship led by Bishop of Colombo, Rt. Rev. Dhiloraj Canagasabey and the Cathedral clergy - Archdeacon Ven. Perry Brohier, Vicar of the Cathedral and Fr. Earnest Nadeem, Curate. The Cathedral Choir directed by Ishan de Lanerolle with Neranjan de Silva at the organ rose to the occasion having practised with much dedication for this service. A string quartet with Surekha Amerasinghe and Hasini Halpe, renowned names in the local music scene added much to the music.



Shortly before 7 p.m., and the opening procession, the Elegy for Easter Victims composed for Strings by Lalanath de Silva was played. The recorded piece performed by the Civic Orchestra of Chicago set the tone for what was to follow, with its haunting and sombre strains. After the church bells pealed to announce the commencement of the service, the procession made its way to the altar as the congregation rose to sing O God Our Help In Ages Past a hymn all too familiar so much associated with funerals, spelling solace and strength in every line.

Shortly after the service began the unannounced arrival of President Maithripala Sirisena had heads turning. Perhaps the not so unobtrusive presence of several security personnel may have given some inkling that a VVIP was to arrive but it nevertheless took the clergy and congregation entirely by surprise to see the President walking in. Earlier Minister of Science, Technology & Research Sujeewa Senasinghe had made his way to the front of the church. The President participated in the service, leaving only towards the latter part.

Over the past few years the Cathedral Choir has contributed much through the quality of choral singing they deliver. Though the regular congregation has grown accustomed to the choirs growing stature so ably directed and guided by Ishan and fellow Choir Director Srimanthaka Senanyake it is nevertheless a wonderful feeling to witness the individual brilliance of the choir members. At this service the soloists Michelle Hills Senanayake, Srimanthaka, Ishan, Shanthi Gnanapragasam, Sharmini Sambandan, Rachel Brohier and Dilsarah Derrick, were a joy to listen to, singing not just with great feeling but letting their God-given gifts rise in worship that was truly uplifting.

The well-loved hymns were given new meaning in this service of remembrance. Michelle's solo in Nearer My God To Thee was a poignant rendering that brought tears to the eye.

Shanthis soaring Abide With Me joined by Ishan and Srimanthaka was equally powerful and I Will Pray For You sung by Sharmini, Rachel and Dilsarah in heartfelt harmony was a touching tribute to the innocents who had been killed.



The programme had been carefully planned and well chosen readings echoed the theme. Oosha Chanmugam read John Donnes Death be not proud and senior chorister Shyamal Muthumudalige the Scripture passage from Romans, chapter 6, v 3-9..the lines Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him resonating with the congregation. There was organ music of rare quality - Neranjan De Silva playing the Dead March as the congregation stood in silent contemplation.

In his brief sermon, Fr. Perry spoke of the collective responsibility that we all bear in this tragedy a message that no doubt, struck a chord with all.

Fittingly the 260 plus candles lit for remembrance borne to the front of the Cathedral and placed on two tables arranged for the purpose were carried by people of all faiths - not



just the volunteers but others who also came forward spontaneously. President Sirisena also placed a candle of remembrance. The lit candles were carried in special ceramic holders donated by Midaya Ceramics as their contribution to this service. The holders came in six different colours representing not just the different races and faiths in this land but also those from other countries so tragically caught in the blasts, the flickering flames a symbol of the light that must emerge from the darkness. The service that was open to all was aimed at giving not just the Cathedral congregation but members of the public as well an opportunity to reflect and pray over what has been a crisis of unimagined impact on society. That it was not just Christians who filled the Cathedral but Lankans of all faiths Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims too who joined in, reflected that need to stand together united that was felt by all.

The closing hymns were apt and symbolic I Vow To Thee My Country and Hymn for Ceylon sung with much fervour by choir and congregation.

The concluding prayer gave hope and solace to carry away: God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life. Show compassion to your people in their sorrow. Be our refuge and our strength to lift us from the darkness of grief to the peace and light of your presence. Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying for us, conquered death and by rising again, restored life. May we then go forward eagerly to meet Him, and after our life on earth be reunited with our brothers and sisters where every tear will be wiped away..

The collection taken at the service will go towards relief efforts of the Cathedral, Outreach Fund to provide support for the bereaved families of Zion Church in Batticaloa.



Diocese of Colombo



Church of Ceylon

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Diocese of Kurunegala

11th July 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

Many of you are aware that the General Assembly of the Church of Ceylon at a special session held on 28th May 2016 appointed a twenty-member Commission with equal representation from both Dioceses, to work on its unanimously adopted Resolution calling on the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) of the Anglican Communion to accept the Church of Ceylon's desire to regulate its own affairs in order to grow the mission and witness of the Church and to become a full member of the ACC.

The Standing Committee of the ACC in April 2016, having considered our Resolution adopted its own Resolution 16:32 (Church of Ceylon) which read, *"in considering any future requests to take into account the unique situation of this National Church which is passionately engaged in the work of reconciliation especially as it emerges from a long period of civil war"*.

We write to communicate to you the progress made in this regard up to date.

The Commission appointed by the General Assembly concluded its sittings and deliberations and submitted its final report to the General Assembly on 13th April 2019.

At that meeting, the General Assembly adopted three Resolutions, namely that:

1. The *"General Assembly accepts the Final Report of the aforesaid Commission"*;
2. The *"General Assembly calls upon the Diocese of Colombo to initiate an immediate process to examine the missional and administrative needs for the creation of a diocese, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Church of Ceylon"*; and
3. The *"General Assembly calls upon the Anglican Consultative Council to recognize the Church of Ceylon as an Autonomous Province of the Anglican Communion and a full member of the Anglican Consultative Council, IN ITS CURRENT FORM with an Episcopal Synod comprising the Archbishop of Canterbury as the Custodian Metropolitan and the two Diocesan Bishops of Colombo and Kurunegala, until the formation of a third Diocese"*.

(The relevant Resolutions are attached hereto for reference.)

The General Assembly, thereafter, submitted to the Standing Committee of the ACC, its Resolutions Nos.1 and 3, along with the Final Report of its Commission and other relevant documents.

The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion has communicated to us that the Standing Committee of the ACC at its meeting held on 27th April 2019,



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Diocese of Kurunegala

"considered the desire of the Church of Ceylon to become an Independent and Autonomous Province and agreed to proceed to the next stage of consideration, which is the appointment of and visit by an Exploration Committee. This step has the full support of the Archbishop of Canterbury as Metropolitan of the Church of Ceylon and President of the ACC.

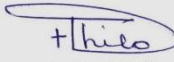
This Exploration Committee would want to meet with church leaders and understand for themselves what God is doing through the Church of Ceylon and your detailed plans for your development to be an independent and autonomous province."

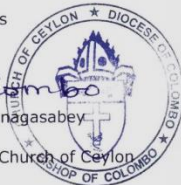
In the meantime, pursuant to Resolution No.2 adopted at the General Assembly, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Colombo has appointed a sub-committee "to examine the *missional and administrative needs for the creation of a diocese, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Church of Ceylon.*"

We now await the arrival of the Exploration Committee to carry out its work. Additionally, we have now been informed that our Metropolitan, the Archbishop of Canterbury, will be visiting our Country and our Church on a brief solidarity visit in August this year.

While we proceed on this journey, we request you to prayerfully uphold the Church as it carries out the preparatory work required.

With Prayers & Blessings


Rt. Revd. Dhiloraj R. Canagasabey
Bishop of Colombo
Presiding Bishop of the Church of Ceylon




Rt. Revd. Keerthisiri Fernando
Bishop of Kurunegala

LECTIONARY - August 2019		
Date: 4th August 2019 – Proper 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Theme: “Follow the Bible to Store Up Treasures in Heaven”		
Reading	Passage	Name of Reader
Old Testament Lesson	Hosea 11: 1 - 11	Patrick Bulner
Psalm	107: 1 – 9, 43	Niroshala Manuel
Epistle	Colossians 3: 1 -11	Dharshini Jesumaney
Gospel	St. Luke 12: 13 - 21	Russell Daniel
Intercessions		Shyamal Muthumudalige
Offertory		Muthumudalige Family
Date : 11th August 2019 – Proper 14th Sunday In Ordinary Time		
Theme : “Be Prepared for Christ of God”		
Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 1: 1, 10- 20	Rohan Jayasinghe
Psalm	50: 1 – 8, 22 - 23	Charmini Nagarajah
Epistle	Hebrews 11: 1 – 3, 8 - 16	Rohini Rockwood
Gospel	St. Luke 12: 32 - 40	Ramesh Wannakuwatte
Intercessions		Sukanya Devarajan
Offertory		Gunasekera Family
Date: 18th August 2019 – Proper 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Theme : “Persevere like Jesus to alleviate the suffering of the Present time”		
Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 51: 1 - 7	Darren White
Psalm	80: 1 – 2, 8 - 19	Thanja Pieris
Epistle	Hebrews 11: 29 – 12: 2	Gabrielle Senanayake
Gospel	St. Luke 12: 49 - 56	Heshan De Silva
Intercessions		Mohan Mendis
Offertory		De Silva Family
Date 25th August 2019 – Proper 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
World Council of Churches Sunday		
Theme “The Lord of the Sabbath Sets us Free”		
Old Testament Lesson	Jeremiah 1: 4- 10	Shiona Weerasekera
Psalm	71: 1 - 6	Shanelle De Almeida Guneratne
Epistle	Hebrews 12: 18 - 29	Randeev David
Gospel	St. Luke 13: 10 - 17	Indrani Senanayake
Intercessions		Dhilan Mitchell
Offertory		Jansz Family