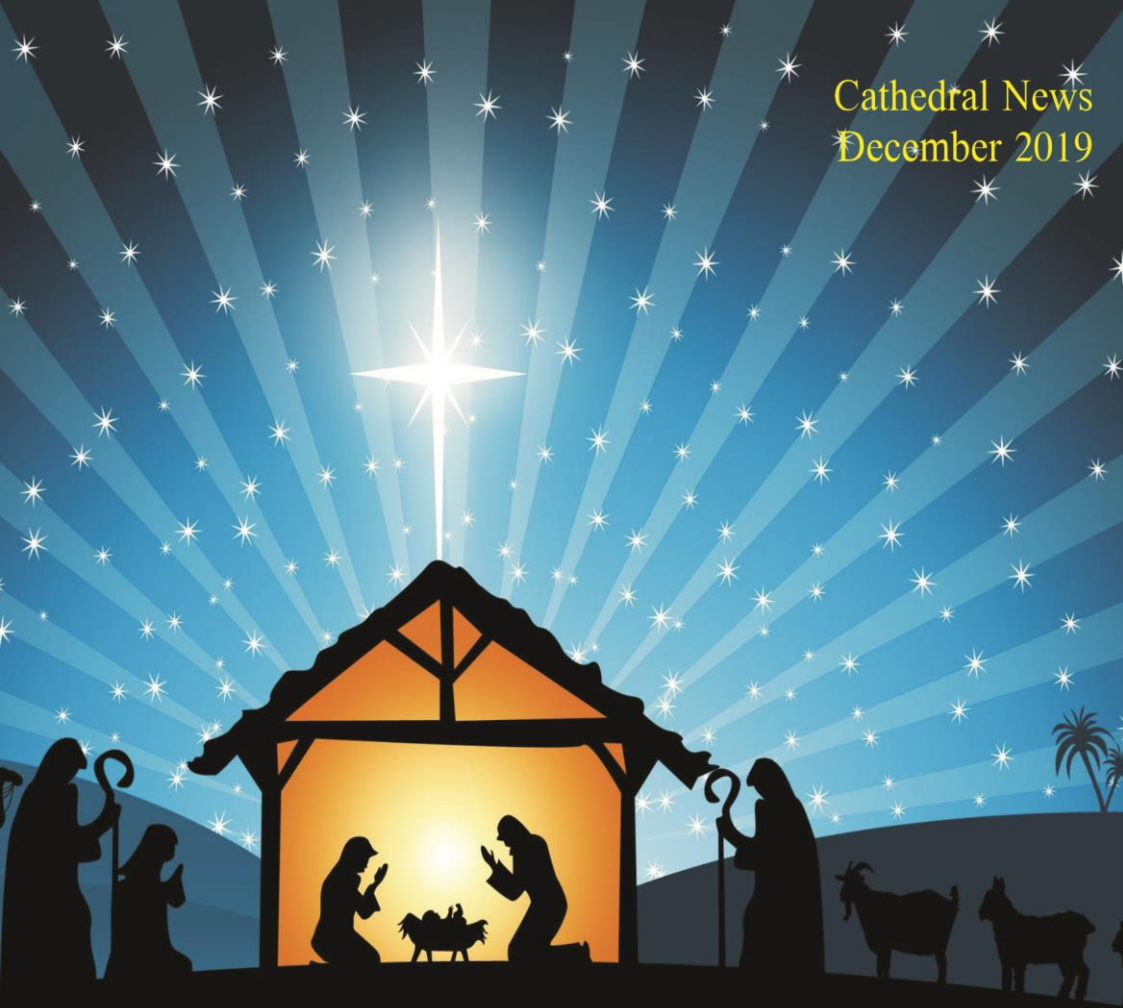


Cathedral News  
December 2019



# *The Word became Flesh*

The Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour

## Advent and Christmas 2019



Another year has rolled by and the season of Advent is almost on us. Advent is a time of preparation for us to meditate, to look back at our own lives and make ready to receive the Lord as he reveals himself to us in and through the mystery of the Incarnation.

The scripture narratives around this event makes clear that the incarnation is not a matter solely of God's doing with the passive participation of humans. Rather it is one where God deigns to ask for our active involvement in his great work of redemption. Thus from Mary's puzzled yet faith-filled response, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it happen to me as you have said." To Joseph's courage in accepting the pregnant Mary as his wife and his care for her, to the long arduous trek of the Magi, the reaction of the fearful shepherds, "Come, let us go and see"; woman and man lay themselves open to God's working, though they do not fully understand nor see clearly. "How can this be?" asks Mary, while the bewildered Joseph debates within himself if he ought to divorce her quietly.

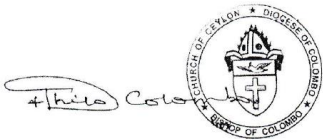
And so it is with us as we enter into Advent and Christmas. God bids us enter into his wondrous work of the incarnation. He asks us if we are willing to become active partners of his self revelation, in our lives and in the locality we are placed in.

How do we do this? There is no one single way, as in the reaction of each individual as we saw earlier. Sacrifice, obedience, acceptance, care, a new life changing pilgrimage, reaching out, making known what was revealed to them, meditating and pondering. Each acted, each took a decisive step, playing their part, big or small in this great drama of the Incarnation.

As we enter once again into this period of Advent and Christmas, let us keep our minds focused on the centrality of the Incarnation in the midst of the distracting round of year end festivities and celebrations

as well as on God's bidding which comes to each of us, to participate with Him in this history changing event.

I wish you and your families a meaningful and joyous Christmas celebration, walking in the light of the incarnation and, a New Year of promise and hope.



**The Rt. Revd. Dhiloraj Canagasabay**

Bishop of Colombo



### **Holy Days and Festivals - December 2019**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec | Martyrdom of St. Thomas the Apostle                      |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>     | Feast of the Incarnation or Christmas Day                |
| 28 <sup>th</sup>     | Holy Innocents Day – the Slaughter of the Holy Innocents |
| 31 <sup>st</sup>     | Holy Family in Refuge in Egypt (World Hope Day)          |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan  | The Feast of the Epiphany                                |

### **Sunday Worship Service Times**

- 7:00 am - Sinhala
- 8:15 am - English
- 11:00 am - Tamil

Daily Eucharist - Monday to Saturday - 7:30 am  
Every Second Sunday-Sinhala & Tamil Combined service- 7:00 am  
Every Fifth Sunday- Tri-Lingual Service-8:15 am



## *Message from the Vicar of the Cathedral*

My dear Friends in Christ,  
Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour!

**Nation:** The people of this Country have elected their 7<sup>th</sup> President on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019. With the conclusion of the Presidential election it is noted with alarm that the ugly head of racism has raised its head again. One of the first duties the newly elected Head of State will need to do as he assumes the role of the leader for the entire country, is to ensure the safety and dignity of all Sri Lankans.

It is also our hope and prayer that all people, irrespective of their political ideologies and thinking, will be able to live together freely with people of all communities.

**Church:** As we enter another season of Advent, we are reminded that we are at the beginning of another liturgical year in the life of the Church. During this season of Advent we prepare for the celebration of God's love revealed to us in Christ Jesus, by reminding ourselves how this great event comes to pass. Our Sunday readings will bring us to Christmas after reminding us of the roles played by John the Baptist and Mary the Mother of Jesus. Thereafter, later this month, the birth of Christ or the incarnation is celebrated. Born into a simple and yet modest human family, in a stable in Bethlehem, this yearly remembrance of this act of grace reminds the human family and the Church of the magnanimity of God's unconditional love.

As the immediate beneficiaries of that love, we as the people of God, are called upon to be heralds of that message of love in the broken and wounded love. It is our prayer that we will make every effort this season to radiate that love to people in the human family.

**Visit of the Primate of the Episcopal Church of the USA:** I am sure that all of us who attended worship on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019, were truly blessed to hear His Grace Archbishop Michael Curry preach in our Cathedral.

### **Life in the Cathedral:**

**Confirmation Service:** As I write this letter the predations for the confirmation service have been completed. I continue to seek your prayers for all those who are being confirmed.

**Cathedral Bible Study:** We have ended another series of Bible studies a few days ago. Prayerful consideration is being given to conducting the Alpha Course next year.

**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 or Rev. Ratnamalar at your earliest.

**Parking in the Premises and Security:** As we head into a busy season, I would like to draw the attention of the Congregation to be sensitive to matters of importance. I am reluctantly compelled to request you to be cautious and vigilant in the midst of your festivities. This applies when we gather together on the premises. I also continue to request you to use the areas in which you parked your vehicles in the weeks after the Easter day incidents. Please also avoid the area in front of the Church. The need to keep this area free of vehicles is in order to facilitate an evacuation in case of an unforeseen emergency. Your understanding will be greatly appreciated.

**Christmas at the Cathedral – Outreach Project:** Our Sunday school children are doing a very commendable and worthy outreach programme for the child at the House of Joy in Talawa. I encourage the entire congregation to give the Sunday school your fullest support.

**Pastoral Ministry:** In an effort to reach out further to each other and uphold each other in our prayers, work is currently being done to prepare a birthday and anniversary book. This would enable us to remember you on Sunday at Public worship in the event your birthday or wedding anniversary is within the week. The same details would be used to remember you at the week day service as well. As this effort takes shape, I request you to please bring to our attention in the event you are missed out on such an occasion. The reason for this could mean that the details we have concerning you may need to be urgently refreshed and updated.

**Cathedral Website:** The Cathedral website has been launched. Please make use of this platform by drawing from it what it provides by way of information and other bits of important information with regard to life of the Cathedral. As informed previously, I would like to keep you advised that I will be away from the 29<sup>th</sup> November to the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Both Assistant Curates will take care of the Pastoral and Liturgical responsibilities of the Cathedral during this period and they could be contacted for any emergency.

Finally, together with our support staff, the office staff, Rev. Ratnamalar, Fr. Earnest, Maidhily his wife, their children, Christina and Rachel join me in wishing you a Christ centred Christmas and a peaceful 2020.

Thanking You,

With Prayers and Blessings  
Yours Sincerely,



Ven. Perry Brohier  
Vicar



## *Visit of the Primate of the Episcopal Church of the USA*

His Grace Archbishop Michael Curry the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America visited the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour on Sunday 17th November 2019. He was joined by a team of persons from Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) a Mission partner of the Diocese of Colombo. His Grace preached at the Service and Concelebrated at the Service of Holy Eucharist together with Bishop Dhiloraj Canagasabey the Presiding Bishop of the Church of Ceylon and the Bishop of the Diocese of Colombo, Bishop Keerthi Fernando the Bishop of Kurunegala and the Rev. Canon Chuck Robertson Canon to the Presiding Bishop. His Grace Archbishop Michael together with the ERD team are making a pilgrimage in Sri Lanka visiting the work that is supported by ERD.



### **A SERMON THAT TURNED US AROUND!**

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019 a most inspiring and stimulating service was held at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour Colombo.

We were very honoured to have as our preacher His Grace Archbishop Michael Curry the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America. He was joined by a team of persons from Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD)- a Mission partner of the Diocese of Colombo. His Grace preached at the Service and co-celebrated at the Service of Holy Eucharist together with Bishop Dhiloraj Canagasabey the Presiding Bishop of the Church of Ceylon and the Bishop of the Diocese of Colombo, Bishop Keerthi Fernando the Bishop of Kurunegala and Rev. Canon Chuck Robertson -Canon to the Presiding Bishop. His Grace Archbishop Michael together with the ERD team were making a pilgrimage in Sri Lanka visiting the work that is supported by ERD.

The Very Rev. Michael Curry was the first African-American Bishop of the predominantly white Episcopal Church. We recall his riveting sermon at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle! This was broadcast on television so it was a revelation to the world at large! As is the usual custom after the ringing of the Bell, the local and visiting Clergy led by the Cross bearer proceeded to walk into the Cathedral to the singing of the well known hymn 'All People that on earth do dwell'. The service followed the normal procedure and then our Bishop Dhiloraj Canagasabay welcomed Bishop Michael Curry and thanked him for agreeing to serve at our Church this Sunday. When Bishop Curry came to the lectern his very charismatic presence roused the attention of the congregation. He greeted us with warmth and friendliness and praised our country for the endurance and patience we showed after the dreadful Easter Sunday bombings we experienced this year. His dynamic style of delivering the message was absolutely overwhelming! The congregation was drawn to his words which were spoken



loud and clear and every eye was on Bishop Curry who was turning around while speaking, in order to make eye contact with the clergy seated behind the lectern and then turning back to face the congregation! Almost like a dance sequence in celebration of the word of the Lord! The main line of his sermon was that God is love. God created the world and us human beings. He loves us to the extent where he gave His only Son Jesus Christ to come down to us. He loves us to the extent where he sacrificed his only Son to save us from our sins. He loves us to the extent where He then took Jesus back to heaven but sent the Holy Spirit to be our guide and protector while we are on this earth. So the strongest point is that God loves us no matter what, and wants us to be loving and kind to all our fellow beings and everything else on this planet.

Bishop Curry related the story of how he watched on TV the progress of the first Space Flight mission of Apollo where they didn't actually land on the moon but displayed pictures of the earth which they viewed from when they were moving in

outer space. Bishop Curry said it was such an unforgettable picture – to see the earth - the real earth - where we actually live, from a magical viewpoint! God’s work really is more than wonderful – and to think He created this earth for us humans to inhabit. A special home for us. So, why can’t we show our gratitude by living in peace with one another, treating all our brothers and sisters on this earth with love and caring?



Bishop Curry spoke about the importance of ‘fire’ – which God had created. Firstly - fire meant light – it gave light where there was darkness. Secondly – fire made it possible for humans to cook their food so with the use of fire they were able to eat to survive. Thirdly - fire produced heat – so people were able to migrate to other parts of the earth – to cold places where fires could keep them warm



and in the present time to help air-conditioners cool the hot places! But what we must remember is that fire can also be dangerous – if misused it could do irreparable damage to this earth. So fire has to be considered with care and used in a proper way. After all, he said, it was the spark of this fire that drove the engine



of the plane that brought him to Sri Lanka; it was the spark from this fire that activates the telephone, computers and other technological implements.

Bishop Curry said that we, as human beings, should use the spark of this fire to make a revolutionary change to this world. He asked us to send our 'spark' out to others in this world. He then fervently confirmed that love is the spark in the fire that joins us together.

He shouted the word 'fire' while turning around and the congregation was absolutely riveted – maybe the Fire Brigade would suddenly turn up!!!

He engaged the congregation in the sermon – posing questions and singing hymns and religious songs in which the people present joined in. 'Jesus Loves Me this I know, for the Bible tells me so' a favourite of ours during our Sunday school days! Everyone joined in and filled the church with this touching and wonderful hymn!

He asked us to communicate with one another, to pass on the love that God so generously pours down on us. He asked the congregation to turn to one another and say the words – 'I'm glad to be here – are you glad to be here' at which there was a lot of intermingling among our fellow parishioners! We did this and definitely felt a sense of friendship, love and unity.



Before he concluded his sermon he made a comment on our Choir -who as always gave a wonderful performance at this service. He praised their singing and said he wished he could steal the Choir from our Church!

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to listen to his moving words and witness his steadfast faith in God. We shall always remember the way in which he shook the congregation with his dynamic delivery of the Lord's word. We must remember that God loves us – so all we have to do is have faith and ask Him to be with us in good times and bad.

*Anthea Senaratna*



## Eleven Confirmands Welcomed to The Cathedral Family

As we celebrated the beginning of the Christian Calendar on Advent Sunday last weekend, we also celebrated the receiving of eleven confirmands as new



members to the congregation of the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour. Eight Children and three adults were confirmed on December 1st at the Cathedral.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is a Sacrament of Christ Initiation. The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Bishop Dhiloraj Canagasabey, the Bishop of Colombo officiated at the ceremony. The service was the renewal of Baptismal vows, the Laying of Hands and anointing. The ceremony was solemn and sacred. The candidates and the entire congregation reiterated their Baptismal vows, after which Bishop Dhilo laid hands



on the candidates and anointed each of them together with parents, god parents and family members.

Each of them received a candle accepting responsibility for their faith and destiny.

Finally each of them were handed a Bible and the Annual Edition of "Our Daily Bread" to encourage them to read the Word daily.

As the congregation remained in an attitude of prayer the choir sang "Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire."

The candidates were presented to the congregation by Bishop Dhilo. The confirmands were welcomed with a rousing applause by the congregation. At the



end of the service the congregation participated in a fellowship breakfast. Congratulations and welcome to the Cathedral family as we keep you in our prayers to grow and deepen your relationship with God.

1. AYON RANDUNUBANDARA
2. SHANDELLE GABRIELLA JESUMANEY
3. PROMISE BASSEY
4. JESSAI NIVEDITA DAPHNE WILLIAM
5. KHALIA RACHEAL DE LANEROLLE
6. SARAI AANYA SAMARASINHE
7. MENASH ASHUNTHA GAMALATGE
8. RYAN MITHRAN COOKE
9. MURUGANDI SANDUNI CHATHURIKA
10. AMY JOANNA DANIELS
11. DILSHANI HEMALA SAMARAWEEERA



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### [Clergy at the Cathedral](#)

Rt. Revd. Dhiloraj Canagasabey - The Bishop of Colombo

Ven. Perry Brohier - Vicar of the Cathedral & Archdeacon of Colombo (0777541234)

Revd. Earnest Nadeem - Assistant Curate (0777138831)

Revd. Ratnamalar Ratnarajah - Assistant Curate (0779428297)

### **Cathedral Office**

Telephone: (011) 2671481

Email: [angcathedralcmb@gmail.com](mailto:angcathedralcmb@gmail.com)

Website: [www.cathedral.lk](http://www.cathedral.lk)

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/cathedral-of-christ-the-living-saviour-sri-lanka-768180569905300/about>

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**LECTIONARY - December 2019 – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 – Advent Sunday (Fourth Sunday before Christmas)  
Confirmation Service**

**Theme: The Vigilant Wait of Hope, Advent the Day of the Lord**

<b>Reading</b>	<b>Passage</b>	<b>Name of Reader</b>
Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 2: 1 - 5	Confirmation Candidate
Psalm	122	Confirmation Candidate
Epistle	Romans 13: 11 - 14	Confirmation Candidate
Gospel	St. Matthew 24: 36 - 44	Confirmation Candidate
Intercessions		
Offertory		Confirmation Candidates

**Date : 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019– Advent 2 (Third Sunday before Christmas)**

**Theme : Abideth Forever**

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 11: 1 - 10	Farah Daniel
Canticle (Instead Psalm)	The Benedictus	Nirubala Vincent
Epistle	Romans 15: 4 - 13	Enosh Nadeem
Gospel	St. Matthew 3: 1 - 12	Ishan De Lanerolle
Intercessions		Rachel Brohier
Offertory		De Lanerolle Family

**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Advent 3 (Second Sunday before Christmas)**

**Theme : John the Baptist : the Joy of Preparing for Christ with Faith**

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 35: 1 - 10	Rupa Simithraaratchy
Canticle (Instead Psalm)	The Magnificat	Hadasha Randunubandara
Epistle	James 5: 7 - 10	Avani Wannakuwatte
Gospel	St. Matthew 11: 2 - 11	Patrick Bulner
Intercessions		Shyamal Muthumudalige
Offertory		Wannakuwatte Family

**Date : 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2018 – Advent 4 (Sunday before Christmas)**

**Theme : Love : The Annunciation**

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 7: 10 - 16	Shiona Weerasekera
The Psalm	80: 1 – 7, 17 - 19	Shanika Perera
Epistle	Romans 1: 1 - 7	Ramola Sivasundaram
Gospel	St. Matthew 1: 18 - 25	Jason Senanayake
Intercessions		Mahen Perera
Offertory		Weerasekera Family

**LECTIONARY - December 2019 – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (continued)**

**Date : 24<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Christmas Eve**

**Theme : The Nativity – God with us**

<b>Reading</b>	<b>Passage</b>	<b>Name of Reader</b>
Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 9: 2 - 7	Dilsarah Derrick
Psalm	96	Ayoma Fernando
Epistle	Titus 2: 11 - 14	Sashyani Rodrigo
Gospel	St. Luke 2: 1 - 14	Daphne William
Intercessions		Mohan Mendis
Offertory		Derrick Family

**Date : 25<sup>th</sup> December 2019– Christmas Day**

**Theme : The Nativity – God with us**

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 52: 7 - 10	Dineth Kannangara
Psalm	98	Randeev David
Epistle	Hebrews 1: 1 - 4	Rohan Jayasinghe
Gospel	St. John 1: 1 - 14	Shandelle Jesumaney
Intercessions		Arun Gamalatge
Offertory		David Family

**Date 29<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – First Sunday after Christmas**

**Theme : Jesus Christ Divine and Human**

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 63: 7 - 9	In English
Epistle	Hebrews 2: 10 - 18	In Tamil
Gospel	St. Matthew 2: 13 - 23	In Sinhala
Intercessions		Sukumar Rockwood
Offertory		Chitra and Rupa

**Date 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 – New Years Eve**

**Theme : Thanksgiving**

Old Testament Lesson	Ecclesiastes 3: 1 - 13	Dhilan Mitchell
Psalm	8	Easwaran Rutnam
Epistle	Revelation 21: 1 - 6	Rohan Salgado
Gospel	St. Matthew 25: 31 - 46	Jeanne Samuel
Intercessions		Dharshini Masilamani
Offertory		Rutnam Family

**LECTIONARY - December 2019 – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (continued)**

**Date : 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020– New Years Day**

**Theme : Holy Name of Jesus**

Reading	Passage	Name of Reader
Old Testament Lesson	Numbers 6: 22 - 27	Irene Boco
Psalm	8	Anton Edema
Epistle	Galatians 4: 4 - 7	Sriyantha Senaratna
Gospel	St. Luke 2: 15 - 21	Renu Samarasinhe
Intercessions		Shanthikumar Sadanandan
Offertory		Samarasinhe Family

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> Januarys 2020 – Second Sunday After Christmas (Epiphany Sunday)**

**Theme: Jesus Christ – The Manifestation of God for the Salvation of All**

Old Testament Lesson	Jeremiah 31: 7 – 14	Delani Mitchell
Psalm	147: 12 – 20	Aruni Wijyaratna
Epistle	Ephesians 1: 3 - 14	Chehara Amaratunge
Gospel	St. John 1: 10 -18	Ivyin Jesumaney
Intercessions		Sukanya Devarajan
Offertory		Jesumaney Family

***Cathedral Family Christmas Dinner***  
 On  
**08th December 2019**  
 (after the Cathedral Carol Service)  
 At the  
**Cathedral premises**

Adults: Rs.1,500/= Children (Under 12 yrs) Rs. 750/=  
 Tickets available at the Cathedral office

# Christmas at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour

368, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo-7, Phone: 0112671481, [www.cathedral.lk](http://www.cathedral.lk)



## A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols


Sunday 8th December at 5:30 pm



### Christmas Eve Midnight Service (English) Tuesday 24th December 11:15 pm



Christmas  
EVE SERVICE



### Christmas Day Services Wednesday 25th December

Sinhala - 7:00 am  
English - 8:15 am  
Tamil - 11:15 am



### New Year's Eve Midnight Service (English) Tuesday 31st December 11:15 pm

### New Year's Day Services - Wednesday 1st January



Sinhala - 7:00 am  
English - 8:15 am  
Tamil - 11:15 am



New Year's  
Day