

THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIVING SAVIOUR

Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7

Cathedral News – January 2020



“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:1-12

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 recently concluded Presidential Election to elect the 7th Executive President of Sri Lanka has seen H.E Gotabaya Rajapaksa emerge as the winner. This election will be remembered in history as one of most peaceful elections in this country. We commend all those responsible for working tirelessly to ensure this was possible.

In order to secure a stable government speculation is strong that the new President will dissolve Parliament in order that a General Election will be called for in the not so distant future. It is hoped that the state machinery that ensured a free and fair Presidential Election in November 2019 will be able to do the same with the next General Election when it is scheduled in 2020.

Church: After the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity or the Incarnation also called Christmas, the next key Liturgical celebration will be the Epiphany on the 6th January 2020. Here the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles is observed. This is something of significance to everyone who is not a Jew. This therefore, is a festival of significance to all of us.

Life in the Cathedral:

Christmas at the Cathedral – Outreach Project: The Christmas Outreach project of the Sunday school was a wonderful experience for all the children. Going to Thalawa in person was also a very moving experience for the children who made the journey. I am grateful to our children, the teachers, parents and members of the congregation for their wholehearted support so that the effort of the children resulted in something meaningful for the children at the House of Joy and our own Sunday school.

Cathedral Website: With the launch of the Cathedral Website our ability to connect with those beyond the confines of the immediate worshipping community has expanded. Please do visit the website at www.cathedral.lk when time permits and browse through its content.

Parking in the Premises and Security: I continue to draw your attention to our need as a Congregation to be sensitive to matters of importance. This applies to whenever we gather together on the premises.

Please use the areas in which you parked your vehicles in the weeks after the Easter Sunday incidents and avoid parking in the area in front of the Church in front of any exit. Please keep these areas free of vehicles in order to facilitate an evacuation in case of an unforeseen emergency. Your understanding will be greatly appreciated.

Visiting: The Cathedral Pastoral Care team is available to visit you. If you would appreciate a Pastoral visit from the Cathedral Clergy, please contact Rev. Earnest or Rev. Ratnamalar at your earliest.

Cathedral Staff – Sexton: Our Sexton Suraj, has given us notice of his intention to leave. After engaging with Suraj in a conversation it was decided to accede to his request. Suraj will leave in early January. We wish him well.

I welcome to the Cathedral staff with effect from January 2020 Vethanayagam Robinson who will move into residence on the premises with his wife Nadeera. While we welcome them into the Cathedral family I request you to receive them with love and respect as they settle down and Robinson learns the work that is expected of him.

Personal - Overseas Travel: In the latter part of November and early December I had the opportunity of participating in a conference on Evangelism Missional Witness and a training programme of Diakonia and Development. These were jointly organized by the World Council of Churches and the Christian Conference of Asia and held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.


The conference helped reiterate an important truth that we in Church must not lose sight that we, as the people of God have a biblical mandate to proclaim the good news of the gospel. I also had the privilege of presenting a paper at this conference on the theme ***Evangelism and Missional Witness: Specific Situations in Countries and Regions.***

The training programme helped us reiterate the truth that the Church while participating in Diakonia and Development does not conclude its mission simply by only empowering people. The Church is called to go beyond empowerment in order to ensure transformation in the lives of human beings. At this conference I had the responsibility of leading the biblical reflection that presented the basis for Diakonia and Development.

Thanking You,

With Prayers and Blessings

Yours Sincerely,



Ven. Perry Brohier

Vicar





The annual carol service by the Choir of the Cathedral, a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, is not just eagerly awaited by the Cathedral congregation but by a larger audience, Christians and non-Christians alike, looking to usher in the season with this beautiful act of worship in preparation for Christmas.

It was 5.30 p.m. on the evening of Sunday, December 8th when the choir dressed in their white cassocks assembled to a Cathedral already full of people, many of whom had come in early to ensure a good seat. Into the fading evening light came the voices of Rachel Brohier and Dilsarah Derrick singing 'Breath of Heaven' as a duet.



The service began in time-honoured fashion – the first verse of ‘Once in Royal David’s City’, a solo, sung so sweetly by young soprano Sashyani Rodrigo. As the choir made their way in solemn procession down the aisle, the congregation joined in, the poignant words of this carol by Mrs. C.F. Alexander bringing home that scene in the stable at Bethlehem.

The service was meaningful in every aspect: the Bidding Prayer which followed exhorted us ‘to pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth.... And remember in His name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus or who love Him not....’ The origin of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols dates back to 1880 when the first Bishop of Truro in Cornwall, England, Rev. E. W. Benson held the first such service in this format in a wooden shed that served as the church while

Truro's cathedral was being built. It was later adapted for King's College, Cambridge by Dean Eric Milner and gained wide popularity, the King's College choir's carol service which is broadcast worldwide, marking a hundred years in 2018.

The Cathedral service had two local carols in Sinhala and Tamil amongst the traditional ones. The choir sang the lilting and lively 'Deva Kumuaru Thum' and 'Athi Kalayil Palanai Thedi' with much



enthusiasm and the next carol Jesus Child (words and music by John Rutter) continued this joyful vein.

As always, the children's choir brought many fond smiles as they presented their contribution, 'The Angel's Carol' before the congregation joined in for 'In the Bleak Mid Winter' another Christmas classic that many wait to sing at Christmastime.

The choir chose an all-male arrangement by Asita Tennekoon of 'O Holy Night' with soloists Jason Senanayake and Srimanthaka Senanayake joining Choir Director Ishan de Lanerolle for this most loved carol. It was then time for 'The First Nowell' and 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' - two Christmas staples where the congregation joined in with gusto, followed by 'Adeste Fideles' (O Come All Ye Faithful). The church lights dimmed as the choir sang the recessional carol 'Silent Night' making their way out in candlelight, symbolic of the light the Christ child brings to our hearts.

The readings, taken from both the Old and New Testaments were by members of the Cathedral community. At the organ was Blodwen Weeratunga with Neranjan de Silva, lending his expert touch for the duet



before the carol service and also for 'Jesus Child', 'The Nativity Song', 'The Angels Carol', 'O Holy Night', 'The First Nowell' and 'Hark The Herald'.

It was a wonderful start to the Christmas season, a carol service that lifted our hearts and sent us home strengthened with the words of the Collect for Christmas Day that was read at the service, a prayer "... that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit."

Cathedral Family Christmas Dinner

8th December 2019



Sunday School Nativity Play – 8th December 2019

What a joy to tell the Christmas story over and over again! This year too, the students of Sunday school were delighted to present the nativity story on the 8th of December during the 8.15 Service. It was a traditional Bible based Nativity Play. Children aged from 2 ½ years to 16 years took part in this play. They were dressed up in characters as angels, shepherds, sheep, wise men, little donkeys, Mary and Joseph.



The Narrators delivered the story scene by scene and the students acted out the play. The vibrant choir joined at different scenes singing famous carols which depict the birth of Jesus.

The children who practised hard for nearly a month to put together this act, were trained and helped



immensely by dedicated volunteer teachers and helpers.

Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. He came to this



earth to die willingly, for our sins on the cross. That is right! He loved us that much!

So, amidst the presents, cookie decorating, and Christmas parties we remember that Jesus is the reason for the season!



Sunday School outreach project - House of Joy: Talawa

This season the students of the Cathedral Sunday school had the opportunity to bring happiness into the lives of 16 little children who live in the 'House of Joy' in Talawa. This home was founded by Church Missionary 'Evelyn Karney' and now her work is being continued by Rev. Lishini. The students of Sunday school, together with the generous support of the parishioners and the guidance of Ven. Perry Brohier and Rev. Earnest Nadeem were able to donate school needs and other essential requirements to the home and to the 16 children.

It was a whole new experience for the students of our Sunday school as they brought in their donations and presented it at the altar soon after their nativity play. Parishioners too contributed in cash and kind. The donations were sorted out and packed into 16 parcels and they were ready to be given.





On the 16th of December, we started off our journey at 6 am with 11 children, 5 teachers along with Ven. Perry Brohier and Rev. Earnest Nadeem. We reached the



House of Joy at 10.25am where we were welcomed by Rev. Lishini and the children there. We had a meaningful worship session with them and our Sunday school children distributed the donations to the children at the House of Joy. It was a memorable experience for us. We took a group photograph and wished them goodbye as we left for Colombo. We reached the Cathedral by 5.15 pm. We wish to thank, most sincerely, all those who supported us towards this worthy cause. God bless you all!



Holy Days and Festivals - January 2020

6th Jan

The Feast of the Epiphany

26th Jan

Conversion of St. Paul

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

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)

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

Lectionary January 2020

Date: 5th January 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 Wijayaratna
Epistle	Ephesians 1: 3 - 14	Chehara Amaratunge
Gospel	St. John 1: 10 -18	Ivyin Jesumaney
Intercessions		Sukanya Devarajan
Offertory		Jesumaney Family

Date: 12th January 2020 – Third Sunday After Christmas (Epiphany 1)
Theme: Manifestation in Christ’s Baptism

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 42: 1 - 9	Sharmini Sambandan
Psalm	29	Himani Peiris
Epistle	Acts 10: 34 - 43	Niranjala William
Gospel	St. Matthew 3: 13 - 17	Anthea Senaratna
Intercessions		Jeevakumaran
Offertory		Gunasekera Family

Date: 19th January 2020 – Fourth Sunday After Christmas (Epiphany 2)
Theme: Unity Sunday

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 49: 1 – 7	Thyalan Gnanapragasam
Psalm	40: 1 - 11	Niroshala Manuel
Epistle	1 Corinthians 1: 1 - 9	Charles Sanders
Gospel	St. John 1: 29 - 42	Renuka Sadanandan
Intercessions		Sukumar Rockwood
Offertory		Sanders Family

Date: 26th January 2020 – Fifth Sunday After Christmas (Epiphany 3)
Theme: Manifestation in Discipleship

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 9: 1 - 4	Hadasha Randunubandara
Psalm	27: 1, 4 - 9	Menash Gamalatge
Epistle	1 Corinthians 1: 10 -18	Shandelle Jesumaney
Gospel	St. Matthew 4: 12 - 23	Enosh Nadeem
Intercessions		Daphne Charles Rutnam
Offertory		Daniel Family