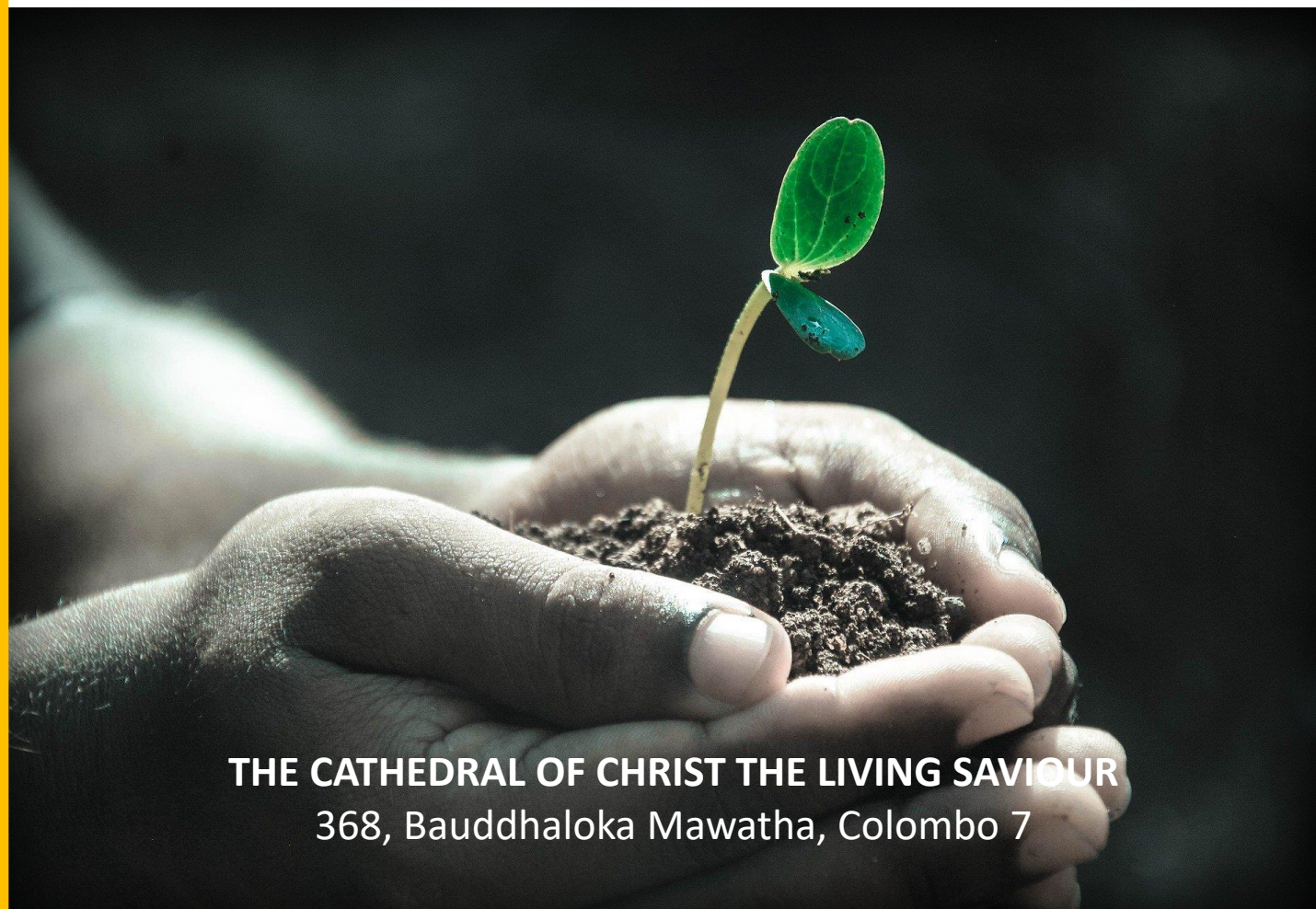


CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

NEW BEGINNINGS



THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIVING SAVIOUR
368, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR OF THE CATHEDRAL

My dear Friends in Christ,

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

Church & Nation: The global health crisis created by the Covid-19 virus continues to impact the life of the nation negatively. While the authorities take the necessary steps required to address the crisis, every citizen has a responsibility to be a part of the solution and not the problem. Therefore, we need to practice the required health and safety protocols without failure.

In this struggle, the truth continues to be a major casualty in addition to people falling victim to the virus.

The political arena too continues with much to be desired considering the happenings being reported in the media. The continued arrest and detention of people with different views is giving rise to much concern. In addition, the controversy over the final rites of the victims of Covid-19 still remains unresolved. If the grievances of the hurting are not addressed substantially, we could just be nurturing something nasty for the future.

Annual Diocesan Council Sessions: The Diocesan Council Sessions were held following the new normal on the 11th of December 2020. It will be recorded as a historic Diocesan Council Session. No sooner the Council representatives of the Cathedral submit their report to me I will get it ready for circulation.

Life in the cathedral:

Farewell & Welcome: It was nice to be part of a hybrid gathering as we met online and in person to say good-bye to Fr. Earnest, his wife Maidhily, and their boys Enosh, Enoch and Evans on the evening of Saturday 9th January 2021.

Both Fr. Balakumar and Fr. Maxi have already begun work with us. As Fr. Balakumar may take a bit more time to move in, I entrust him to your prayerful support during this time of transition. Rev. Balakumar will be the person whom you will need to connect with in the event you would require any Pastoral Ministration, intervention or care.

Rev. Maxwell Doss who currently serves as the General Secretary of the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka and resides in the next compound will assist the Pastoral Care team of the Cathedral in the Ministry and Mission of the Cathedral.

Notice to the Worshipping Community: As we meet for public worship, we thank God that even though there were many challenges we were able to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity. I am grateful to the team of people who helped with logistical arrangements for the 24th, 25th, 31st December 2020 and 1st January 2021 services. While I thank most of you for the manner in which your co-operation and assistance was extended, I was disappointed to note the attitude of a few.

I wish to also place on record my appreciation to the Head of the National Covid Task Force, whose assistance was sought in order to grant permission for 100 people to meet for worship.

Worship continues to take place in the midst of the new normal and the new normal continues to evolve. Weekly reminders are sent from the Cathedral office because logistical arrangements need to be made for worship.

We are currently permitted to accommodate 50 persons only. I also wish to appeal to all those of you who are unable to attend worship on Sunday to make use of the opportunity to join in public worship at the 7.30am service held in the Chapel from Monday to Saturday.

Live Stream: The 8.30am service continues to be live streamed every Sunday for the benefit of those who choose to remain at home and not be exposed to a health risk at this time or for those who are unable to join the gathering physically due limitations on the number.

I thank God for the dedication and commitment of a small group of young people, especially for their commitment and passion towards sustaining and improving this initiative. Your partnership is greatly appreciated.

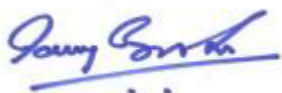
The Carol Service: I am extremely grateful to all the readers, the choir, Blodwen, Neranjan, our curate, the bishop and our choir director for the hard work put in to make this previously unheard of experience of a Virtual Carol Service a reality. I know first-hand the extent of the hard work that was done for this to come to fruition. Work began at 6pm on Friday 27th November 2020 and continued till almost 3am on Saturday 28th November 2020. Thereafter followed long hours in the studio! All this made sure that we were blessed to have the Virtual Carol Service we streamed on the 23rd of December at 6pm. Thereafter it was also telecast on Dialog TV on Christmas Day at 6pm. We have had an audience of over 2300 people watching it both locally and internationally (Canada, USA, Australia, UK, India and many more countries). Praise God!

Youth Connect: The Youth forum, Youth Connect has commenced meeting for 2021. I encourage as many young people to make the effort to connect with this group. The gatherings have been online for some time with only two meetings where everyone was physically present.

Pastoral Care: The Clergy of the Cathedral remain committed to intervene with the required Pastoral care if and where there is an emergency.

Take Care, Stay Safe, think Positive and test negative!

Thanking You,
With Prayers and Blessings
Yours Sincerely,



Ven. Perry Brohier
Vicar

NINE LESSONS AND AN EVENING OF CAROLS

I don't think I am writing an untruth when I say that all of us at the Cathedral were overjoyed with the news that our own Choir would be delighting us with a recorded Carol Service. This went on air through YouTube on December 23rd 2020.

As I watched online (oh, what a wonderful invention this online facility is!), it was so enjoyable to see all the familiar faces of our Choir singing together with Ishan conducting them. We hadn't experienced this for so long. There they were, singing with face shields, but their skills still so evident.

It was a lovely choice of carols - all so familiar to us, even the ones sung in Sinhala and Tamil. Ishan, as usual so adept in his position as Leader of the Choir, brought out the beautiful variety of voices in our Choir, be it the soloists or everyone singing in unison but in parts, according to their individual abilities.

The service commenced with the popular carol, "Once in Royal David's City". The young soloist, singing so beautifully and confidently, led Father Perry, and our Bishop, with the Servers bearing the cross, candles and incense. The Cathedral was empty as they walked up the aisle towards the Choir waiting upfront with beams of light streaming down from the high ceiling behind the Altar. What an atmosphere - so serene. Sitting at home, one could almost smell the perfume of the incense. The carol, "Silent Night," was also sung in the familiar way with the Choir members holding small lit pahanas in their palms.

The Lessons were read by members of our congregation with Father Perry reading the Gospel. The Bishop concluded with a Prayer and Blessing. And then the finale – "Joy to the World, the Lord is come!", sung with such gusto. Yes, the Lord has come and IS WITH US.

I urge fellow congregation members to, once in a way, tune into "<https://youtu.be/3zy-nkbBYTU>" and refresh your memories of that beautiful evening of December 23rd 2020. You won't regret it!

Thank you, Ishan and the Choir members. Having practiced so hard, in spite of all the difficulties of the Covid pandemic, you gave us so much pleasure. You provided the perfect start to our meaningful celebration of the Birth of Christ.

- Oosha Chanmugam



FAREWELL TO REV. EARNEST NADEEM

Father Earnest Nadeem – Curate of the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour for the past five years had been transferred to St Paul’s Church, Milagiriya from January 2021. A farewell get-together was held on Saturday 9th January at 6pm at the Unity Chapel of the Cathedral.

About twenty five persons representing the Cathedral committees and congregation were present. It was also available on ‘Zoom’ so that anyone who was interested could join in.

By 5.45pm around 25 persons had gathered at the Unity Chapel - all wearing masks and greeting one another with hands clasped together! Then a wonderful sight met our eyes – yes - the wonderful family was walking in - Fr Nadeem, Maidhily, and their three boys Enosh, Enoch and Evans! We smiled as we greeted them – even though the smiles were hidden under the masks – hopefully our eyes glistened!

The programme began with our Vicar Rev. Perry Brohier welcoming all those present and saying a special welcome to Fr Nadeem and his family, followed with a prayer.

Fr Perry related many interesting stories regarding his association with Fr Nadeem – some of them quite hilarious! What was astounding was the long hours of work they put in and the long distances they drove carrying out their responsibilities. During his tenure at the Cathedral Fr Nadeem had given much of his time and abilities to boost the Cathedral congregation. His vibrant personality constantly sought ‘something to do’!!! He always made it a point to meet the Choir, Sunday school group, and other committees and dedicated his knowledge and discipline towards encouraging them to move forward. He was responsible for creating a Youth Group which has grown into a very dynamic set of young people who are always working on projects to bring forward the Word of Christ.



Some of those present were asked to say a few words about Fr Nadeem. Ishan spoke on Zoom and expressed his great appreciation of Fr Earnest's support of the Choir and thanked him for always being



there for them. Then again humour crept in as Fr Perry said he would ask 'Someone called Rachel – don't know who this is – to say something about the Youth movement at the Cathedral!' Rachel, as always, was up to the joke and thanked her 'Dad' for asking her to speak!!! She also gave a very interesting talk– again full of fun, vim and vigour – about the Youth programme and how Fr Nadeem had pushed it forward to the point that now it is able to carry out some very dynamic and meaningful projects.

Nirubala Vincent spoke very highly of the contribution Fr Nadeem had given to the development of the Sunday School – she related how he used to chat to the children and even play games with them and encourage them to sing praises to the Lord and read stories about Jesus. After this we were entertained to a video of the Sunday School children giving a special individual thank you session to Fr Nadeem and his family. This was absolutely wonderful and we have to thank Nirubala and Lawrence for their work on this.

Dharshi Masilamani spoke of the pleasure she had working with Fr Nadeem involving various aspects of work for the Cathedral and thanked him very much for his support in these matters. Sriyantha (Simon) Seneratna spoke about the wonderful leadership Fr Nadeem gave us all and the absolutely brilliant Bible Study lessons he conducted on a regular basis. Simon also mentioned the care and concern Fr Nadeem showed and how he and Father Perry visited him when he was in hospital in the previous year.



Romesh David also said a few words – starting with a story of how when he first came into the Cathedral and encountered Fr Nadeem and said 'My name is Romesh – what's yours?' & Fr Nadeem replied, 'Earnest'. So there it was Romesh and Earnest! Then suddenly shortly afterwards Romesh heard people speaking of 'Father Earnest' and he was stunned to realize that this 'Earnest' was a Priest in the Cathedral! So it became 'Father Earnest'!!! He said he enjoyed working with him on various projects in the Cathedral. Jayantha

Jayawardena and Rohini Rockwood also expressed their admiration of the work carried out by Fr Earnest towards the maintenance of good fellowship in the Cathedral.

Fr Perry then called Fr Earnest, Maidhily and the three boys to where he stood, and he gave them a special blessing and thanked them for all their support and wished them a very happy and blessed stay at their new location which was St Paul's Milagiriya. A lovely bouquet of flowers was presented to Maidhily by Christina and gifts were given to each of the boys. Father Perry handed over a special gift to Father Earnest.

Fr Nadeem gave a very moving word of thanks and said he enjoyed working these past few years in the Cathedral and it was a wonderful experience that he had encountered while being here. He said that he and his family would miss the ambience and friendliness of the congregation of the Cathedral but at the same time they were looking forward to their new home at St Paul's Milagiriya. He considered it as a challenge to his abilities to spread the Word of God.

Fr Perry then said a closing prayer, thanking them once again and asking for God's blessings on them in the future.

There was a wide range of refreshments served after the event - very tasty short eats and some delicious cake - everyone kept eating and there was hardly the sound of chit-chat during this – so you can see how good the food was! The drinks of iced coffee and other fruit juices were equally tasty. We are most grateful to Nirmala, Sada and their team and all those responsible for organizing this farewell.

We met Fr Earnest and his family and thanked them for all their contributions to our Cathedral and wished them all the very best for the future. There was a tinge of sadness in our hearts that we won't have this wonderful family in our Cathedral from next week – but we had to come to terms that this was a forward move in their lives and wish them all God's blessings for their new mission at St Paul's.

- Anthea Senaratna



LECTIONARY - JANUARY 2021

Date: 3rd January 2021 - Second Sunday After Christmas

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

Old Testament Lesson	Jeremiah 31: 7 - 14
Gospel	St. John 1: 10 - 18
Intercessions	

Date: 10th January 2021 – Third Sunday After Christmas & Epiphany Sunday

Theme: Jesus Christ: Salvation to all People

Old Testament Lesson	Genesis 1: 1 - 5
Gospel	St. Mark 1: 4 - 11
Intercessions	

Date: 17th January 2021 – Fourth Sunday After Christmas

Theme: Manifestation in Answering God's call

Old Testament Lesson	1 Samuel 3: 1 - 10
Gospel	St. John 1: 43 - 51
Intercessions	

Date: 24th January 2021 – Fifth Sunday After Christmas & Unity Sunday

Theme: Abide in My Love and you shall bear much fruit

New Testament Reading	1 Corinthians 1: 10 - 13
Gospel	St. John 17: 20 - 23
Intercessions	

Date: 31st January 2021 – Sixth Sunday After Christmas & Presentation Sunday

Theme: Lead by Example

New Testament Reading	1 Timothy 4: 7 -14
Gospel	St. Luke 15: 11 -32
Intercessions	

HOLY DAYS AND FESTIVALS

1 st	Circumcision and Naming of Jesus
6 th	The Feast of the Epiphany
10 th	Epiphany Sunday
24 th	Unity Sunday
26 th	Conversion of St. Paul
31 st	Presentation Sunday

HOLY EUCHARIST SERVICE TIMES

07:00am – Sinhala & Tamil

08.30am – English

10.30am – English

- Please call the Cathedral office on **011 2671481** between **9.00am** and **4.00pm** on weekdays to confirm your presence at the service you wish to attend as a maximum of 50 persons are allowed per service.
- The 8.30am Service will be live streamed.

CONTACT DETAILS

Cathedral Pastoral Care Team

Name	Contact Numbers		Email
	Mobile	Landline	
Ven. Perry Brohier	+94 77 754 1234	011 269 6363 (R) 011 269 0878 (O)	dnigelp@gmail.com adcmb@dioceseofcolombo.lk
Rev. S I Balakumar	+94 71 866 7807 +94 76 264 4480	011 268 1779	fr.isaacbala6@gmail.com
Rev. Maxwell Doss	+94 77 740 8070	011 267 1723 Ext [111]	maxiedoss@gmail.com gs@nccsl.org

Cathedral Office

Staff	Address	Office Contact	Email
Wesley Bastianpillai	368, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo – 00700	011 2671481	angcathedralcmb@gmail.com
Chandrika Wijesinghe			info@cathedral.lk anglican.cathedral@yahoo.com