

CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

Easter



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: *In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" St. Luke 24:5* – as we celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection after a break of almost two years, I would like to draw your attention to this text. In the midst of the doom and gloom that surrounds us, Easter ushers in the message of hope and life.

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead reminds all of us that our faith and belief is in the Lord God Almighty who brings life from the grave. Therefore, even if our situation appears hopeless, let us not lose hope in the God of hope and life, whose redemptive deed we celebrate at Easter. In our community interactions, let us as the people of God be visible representations of this hope and life.

So let us draw out a word of hope from this message and press on steadfastly in the face of the different challenges we have to grapple with; be it Covid-19, environmental destruction, security and safety, a flagging economy or our own crisis situations in life!

This year we celebrate Easter after almost two years. I am aware that we were mid-way through our Easter service in 2019 when we had to evacuate the Cathedral due to compelling security reasons as the Easter attacks were unfolding. Last year the lock down prevented us again from taking part in a Eucharist on Easter day. Therefore, this is more than a special celebration of Easter for the Cathedral worshipping community; it is one of great significance.

I place on record my gratitude to God for the grace, guidance and the courage to press on amidst these challenging times. God is always faithful and we need to hold on to Him even though the odds maybe so heavily against us. He will give us every reason to live for Him day by day with each passing moment even though people may think that they have put us down!

Nation: The latest controversy to grab the attention of the country is the wanton destruction of the environment. From what is being reported, it appears to be something that has been going on for some time in a systematic manner. The alarming fact again is the impunity with which those who are doing this harm act. They are simply blatant and ruthless in their destruction of the environment. To think that most of this is for short term benefit or profit is unthinkable, especially as this seems to be at the expense of placing the wealth of natural resources that are part of this nation's environment in peril.

The Church and the Diocese that we are a part of will continue to engage in grass root initiatives as our contribution to protecting the environment.

Life in the Cathedral:

Electoral Roll: The Electoral Roll for 2021/2022 will be finalized and the final posting of it will be published shortly. At present I am following up on the responses I have received within the two weeks provided by the constitution for omissions and inclusions.

Notice to the Worshipping Community: We have now received permission to increase the number of those attending worship from fifty (50) to one hundred (100). Special permission was also obtained for two hundred (200) people to be accommodated on Good Friday and Easter.

Everyone who participates in the life of the worshipping community is requested to follow the health and safety protocols being followed at the Cathedral. Your valuable assistance in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

Live Stream: The 8.30am service continues to be live streamed every Sunday for the benefit of those who choose to remain at home due to health risks at this time and for those who are unable to join the gathering physically due to limitations on the number.

Sunday School: The Sunday School is now having a short recess and they will reconvene on the 25th of April 2021. When Sunday School reopens, it is hoped that children will be able to gather physically as they are doing so with their schooling. Every effort will be made to ensure the health and safety protocols are observed.

Support for the Cathedral: I also wish to commend to your generous support the work that takes place even though Community Worship (the backbone of any worshipping community) is not permitted due to the ongoing health crisis.

The bank details of the Cathedral have been shared with you should you wish to extend support through an online bank transaction.

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

The Clergy of the Cathedral Pastoral Care team remain committed to assist should you have a reason for any form of Pastoral care, assistance and intervention. We will be only too happy to be of assistance to you.

Together with the Cathedral office staff and the support staff, the Cathedral Clergy and their families join me in wishing you a blessed Easter.

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

Thanking You,
With Prayers and Blessings
Yours Sincerely,



Ven. Perry Brohier
Vicar



MAKING OF PALM CROSSES

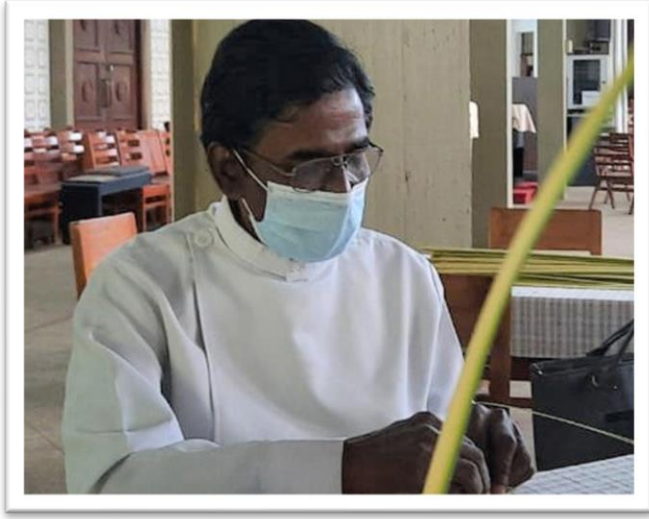
They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" John 12:13.

Thirty volunteers gathered at the Cathedral on Saturday morning the 26th of March to carry out the annual tradition of making palm crosses which symbolize victory and the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, days before the last supper, where large crowds gathered to welcome him as they laid palms along his path.

Rev. S. I. Balakumar led us in prayer before we commenced making the crosses. At the end of about 3 hours, we had made almost 900 crosses which were then carefully packed into boxes to be blessed and distributed on Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week and the Sunday before Easter, commemorating Jesus Christ's entry into Jerusalem.

- Sharadha De Saram





SOLAR ENERGY

What is solar energy?

Solar energy comes from radiation from the sun. This radiation is capable of producing heat, causing chemical reactions for generating electricity.

The sun does more for our planet than just provide light during daytime. Each particle of sun light, called a photon, reaches the earth and contains energy that fuels our planet. Solar energy is thus the ultimate source responsible for all our weather systems and energy sources on earth. Enough solar radiation hits the surface of the planet each hour to theoretically fill our global energy needs for nearly an entire year.

Our sun, like any star in the galaxy is thus a massive nuclear reactor. Deep in the sun's core, nuclear fusion reactions produce massive amounts of energy that radiates outward from the sun's surface and into space in the form of light and heat. From space this energy reaches the earth.

Solar energy is then the cleanest and most abundant renewable energy source available to the earth. Solar technologies can harness this energy for a variety of uses, including generating electricity, providing light or a comfortable interior environment, and heating water for domestic, commercial or industrial use.

70% of Sri Lanka's energy supply is to be sourced from renewable energy by 2030. It is expected to add 1000MV of solar electricity to the national grid by 2025 through the 'Soorya Bala Sangramaya' intervention by the government. Let's move to solar energy and do our part as a solution to climate change.

This intervention by the government needs to be understood by the people.

Do You know the benefits of a roof solar system?

- People can start reaping benefits from the day of installation. This will gradually reduce the carbon footprint.
- Environment friendly renewable energy generation. Since this energy is environment friendly, the country can become energy sovereign.
- This programme is low on maintenance and therefore less of a hassle. Solar energy is therefore a more secure investment.
- Consumers will also have options to generate and use solar electricity in their homes. If excess electricity is generated through solar, your bank account will be credited for the excess value as an additional income.

- Cathedral Green Committee

LECTIONARY - APRIL 2021

Date: 4th April 2021 –Easter Day or The Feast of the Resurrection
Theme: Christ is Arisen!

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 25: 6 -9
Gospel	St. John 20: 1 - 18

Date: 11th April 2021 – Second Sunday of Easter
Theme: My Lord and My God – Faith our Victory

New Testament Reading	Acts 4: 32 - 35
Gospel	St. John 20: 19 - 31

Date: 18th April 2021 – Third Sunday of Easter
Theme: They recognised the Risen Lord

New Testament Reading	Acts 3: 12 - 19
Gospel	St. Luke 24: 36b - 48

Date: 25th April 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday
Theme: Jesus the Good Shepherd

New Testament Reading	Acts 4: 5 - 12
Gospel	St. John 10: 11 - 18

HOLY DAYS AND FESTIVALS

1 st April	Maundy Thursday
2 nd April	Good Friday
3 rd April	Holy Saturday
4 th April	Easter Day
25 th April	Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist

HOLY EUCHARIST SERVICE TIMES

07:00am – Sinhala & Tamil

08.30am – English (Live Streamed)

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 100 persons are allowed per service.

CONTACT DETAILS

Cathedral Pastoral Care Team

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	Mobile	Landline	
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Cathedral Office

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Cathedral Prayer Circle

- A Prayer Circle is now operational as a WhatsApp group. If you wish to join, please send your name and mobile number to 077 726 0862

Website: www.cathedral.lk

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/CathedralCMB/>

~ Compiled and edited by the Cathedral Media Team ~