

CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

Pentecost



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: This month the Church observes the Feast of Pentecost. Some would actually describe this feast as the birth of the Church. While describing this in the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke tells us that God poured out His spirit on all flesh.

This feast reminds us that God has empowered His Church with His very own spirit which is described in the gospel of St. John as one who will be with the disciples forever. Though not physically present with us, the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church reminds us that God's very own presence cannot be limited to time and space.

God's Holy Spirit enables and empowers the people of God to engage in the Mission and Ministry of the Church courageously and fearlessly. It is therefore this word of encouragement that drives men and women of God who serve God and the Church in the midst of a variety of challenges.

Nation: Our nation seems to be once again caught up in wave upon wave of challenges. While the happenings in the political realms are much to be desired, the manner in which the health crisis is being handled is giving rise to more questions than answers.

With the latest wave that is upon us, once again we see that the health care system appears to be under great strain. The people of the country, for some reason or the other, seem to have just lost confidence in the system, resulting in utter chaos and confusion. In addition to this, people also seem to be apprehensive with what is being conveyed to them by the authorities through the media in an effort to manage the situation.

We can only hope that those responsible are really considering the bigger picture in their attempts to manage this situation and prevent any devastating consequences on the people of this nation.

Life in the Cathedral

Obituaries: In the month of April we sadly bade farewell to Rev. Joseph Charles, who after retirement from active ministry was resident in the Community.

We also said farewell to Anthony, the former Sexton who served the Cathedral for many years and retired from service a few years back. As a mark of respect to Anthony and in recognition of his services to the Cathedral, an article written at the time of his retirement from service in 2017 is being republished in this issue of the Newsletter.

While I commend both their families to your prayers and encouragement, may they both rest in Peace and rise in glory.

Electoral Roll: The Final Posting of the Electoral Roll has been made for 2021/2022.

Notice to the Worshipping Community: Due to the prevailing health crisis escalating, we have been instructed to reduce the number of those attending worship services. The permission granted for 100 persons has now been revised to 50. The situation in this regard however is being evaluated and revised regularly and maybe subject to change at short notice.

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 plan for the Sunday School to begin meeting physically in the last Sunday of April has been revised. Sunday School will begin for the new term on 2nd May 2021 meeting online.

Support for the Cathedral: I also wish to commend to your generous support the work that takes place even though Community Worship (the back-bone 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.

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

Thanking You,
With Prayers and Blessings
Yours Sincerely,



Ven. Perry Brohier
Vicar

#StaySMART

PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICES FOR COVID-19

 **FOR HEALTH.org**

Harvard Healthy Buildings Program

S • M • A • R • T

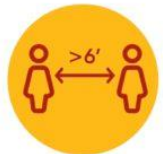
Stay home when sick

Mask when out

Avoid large groups

Refresh indoor air

Ten feet is better than six



For more information, see *Washington Post* opinion piece "The key to stopping covid-19? Addressing airborne transmission." by Joseph G. Allen on May 26, 2020

Content by Joseph G. Allen (@j_g_allen), assistant professor of exposure assessment science and director of the Healthy Buildings Program at Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health (@HarvardChanSPH). Design by Josh Lasky (@JoshLasky).



HARVARD T.H. CHAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

135th ANNUAL SESSIONS OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

CHURCH OF CEYLON - DIOCESE OF COLOMBO - 11TH DECEMBER 2020

REFRESHINGLY DIFFERENT

Three of your elected representatives attended the annual sessions held at different locations on 11th December 2020 and for the first time connected on a virtual format. This was due to the demands of the pandemic situation which prevailed and has still to abate. The Assistant Curate, Rev. Earnest Nadeem was also present throughout. The Vicar, being the Archdeacon was seated by virtue of his office at the side of the presiding Bishop of Colombo at the Council Chambers.

We met together with a few other churches as the Colombo South Deanery, at Christ Church Galle Face, commencing with morning prayer and a Holy Eucharist service at 7am. Rev. Niroshan De Mel presided over the sessions at our location and the arrangements were excellent. Printed copies of the order of proceedings, reports of the Standing Committee and of the Incorporated Trustees of the Church of Ceylon, together with copies of audited accounts for the last ended financial year were placed in our hands in a timely manner for our study in advance of the sessions.

A few days before, an orientation meeting of the Deanery was held also on a virtual basis to reach agreement to ensure good order and time management at the sessions and to decide who should speak for us and on what topics. This preparation helped the participants to familiarize themselves with the issues which were likely to be discussed, before the sessions.

The sessions commenced punctually at 9am with prayer followed by an address by the Bishop of Colombo, Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo who chaired every session, which was conducted in a refreshingly orderly manner with dignity and decorum maintained throughout and to conclude successfully in one day on a very timely basis by 7.30pm.

A few of us who were not entirely new to the sessions perceived a discernible and welcome change in the smooth conduct of affairs and business in addition to a much younger and wider cross section of age groups actively participating and contributing their views and opinions on the issues confronting the nation and the church in a positive manner. This augurs well for the future.

The readiness at short notice to conduct proceedings using available technology synchronizing connectivity effectively with multiple locations spread across the country would undoubtedly have proved challenging and required extraordinary skills, inputs and expertise. It is appropriate to place on record the appreciation of all who participated that there was hardly an occasion to find the meeting having to pause on account of technological glitches.

We sensed the presence of the Spirit in the tone and texture of all business transacted on that day and that all who participated departed with a very positive feeling of goodwill and satisfaction of time spent very profitably for the good of our Church and our Nation, and that much was fulfilled by the innumerable submissions and expressions, all of which were properly entertained and given a hearing within the time constraints. Finally, what was resolved with God's grace and favour at the end of the day encapsulated the true sentiments of the Church in the times and the environment we live and work in.

PROCEEDINGS

The first part of the proceedings entailed routine business such as the appointment of two secretaries, one clerical and another lay to record the proceedings, the appointment of Presiding Officer, Co-Presiding Officer and Scrutineers, delivery of the reports of the Standing Committee, accounts, and statistical returns, etc. by the Secretary and innumerable reports of the different branches of activity and programmes of the Diocese. These printed comprehensive reports would be available in the Library I am sure and should any church member wish to study them in detail access will be provided.

The routine business was followed by resolutions passed to appoint auditors and a call for nominations for election of members to the Standing Committee for 2020/2021 and for two members to the Incorporated Trustees from the Diocese of Colombo; in addition, the vacancy created in the composition of the Incorporated Trustees by the appointment of a new Bishop had also to be dealt with.

Nominations were also called for the election to the Consultative Body and the Diocesan Mediation Council in addition to names being submitted for nomination for election of panels from Clergy and Laity to form the Diocesan Court.

All the above matters in terms of items listed in the proceedings were dealt with expeditiously and a poll taken as required by secret ballot only to fill the vacancies in the Standing Committee and the Incorporated Trustees.

SUMMARY OF VIEWS EXPRESSED BY COUNCILLORS

We believe the purpose for which this report is mainly intended is to keep the Friends of the Cathedral informed by way of a synopsis of issues raised and a summary of what took place at the last sessions of the Council.

It is the Standing Committee that is charged with the responsibility to follow through on the points raised and no doubt due attention is now being paid. Many of the miscellaneous points arise from the Report of the Standing Committee.

We would highlight by bulleting below the more important matters aired at the sessions, in summary as we found them as far as we had taken note of them. We place them on record as they come to mind;

Nation & Church

- Deterioration of democratic values and norms
- Denial of Islamic burial rights
- Massacre at the Mahara prison
- Centralization of power in the Executive and weakening of Parliament.
- Large budgetary allocations in a few Ministries e.g. Defence
- Increased militarization
- Questionable appointments to important positions.
- Undermining of civil administration
- Disrespect of liberties of citizens and communities - freedom of expression
- Dismantling the Public Utilities Commission

- CALL FOR THE DIOCESE AND PEOPLE OF GOD TO ENGAGE IN PRAYER AND REFLECTION
- GAIN SPIRITUAL STRENGTH TO RESIST EVIL
- DIOCESE TO PREPARE STUDY MATERIAL ON DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE
- BISHOP TO MONITOR & INTERVENE AFTER CONTINUOUS STUDY GROUP IN ACTION

AT THE END OF THE SESSIONS A RESOLUTION TO GIVE EFFECT WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Church

- How are we seen by others?
- Inter-Religious understanding - partnership with other faiths

- Need to change tie and coat culture
- Wave of change needed from children upwards
- People moving away
- Falling numbers of youth attending
- Greater use of technology
- Introduction of think tanks
- Constitutional Reform Principles - 16+ hours to elect a new Bishop?
- Fast track formation of a Provincial Church
- Episcopally led & Synodically governed
- General Assembly - Deeper study
- Greater budgetary allocation (1.5% presently) for Evangelistic work.
- Not much happens in terms of action following Annual Sessions
- Parish quotas based on audited accounts?

Miscellaneous Matters

- 25 Acres in Bouna Vista - Now reduced to 8 Acres?
- Fate of money bequeathed to All Saints Church, Fort, Galle
- Fate of funds available to Church in Hambantota? Butler's Property.
- Matara Vicarage?

In conclusion, we would refer to two poignant matters which are worthy of mention. In the morning sessions, a senior councillor who had been a long-standing attendee which spanned the duration of office of four of the former bishops made it known to the assembly that it was a matter of compunction that when we install a new bishop we do so with much acceptance, ceremony, pomp and pageantry but when we retire them after office, the councillor's relationship with each of them revealed, many have left sadly with misgivings and a sense of being renounced if not rejected. This statement was conscious pricking and requires collective self-examination by all of us and demands corrective action. The force of the speaker's words remained in our reflections long after the sessions were concluded.

The other point we were positively struck by was the orderly and Christian manner of the debate on the final resolution taken up at the very end of the day's sessions. The parry and thrust, the give and take of both proposers, seconders as well as those who submitted amendments and views, always mindful of presenting their respective cases and points in a courteous manner with due respect to the Chair. This too contributed to that sense of accomplishment at the end of the day which we referred to earlier.

Lay Representatives to the Diocesan Session – Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour

16th April, 2021

FAREWELL TO ANTHONY

Extracted from the Cathedral Newsletter of February 2017

Our Sexton



Anthony

Clad in pristine white, his is the dignified figure constantly on the move attending to a multitude of tasks before, during and after church services. Liyanage Anthony Perera is well known to all who worship at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour and rightly so, as he has been the Cathedral's sexton since its consecration on November 7th, 1973.

The words "sexton" and "sacristan" both derive from the Medieval Latin word "sacristanus" meaning "custodian of sacred objects". The definitions of a sexton's role are varied but the St. Paul's Free Methodist Church, Illinois, USA has perhaps an apt description: "Church tradition has understood the role of the sexton to be the caretaker and guardian of church space".

Anthony as he is called by all, recalls that his connection to the Anglican church was forged very early through Fr. Lionel Peiris, for his father worked on the Peiris family 'watte' in Polgahawela and he knew Fr. Lionel from the time he was little. Born on November 9th, 1952, after his schooling at Alawwa Maha Vidyalaya, Anthony came to Colombo to live in the Peiris home in Colombo 3 'Alfred House' and Fr. Lionel's father, Harold Peiris, a well known patron of the arts took the young Anthony under his wing, making him learn driving and also giving him employment at the Lionel Wendt Theatre and the Arts Centre Club.

When Fr. Lionel went to St. Michael's and All Angels, Polwatte as a young priest, Anthony helped as a server there and says that he learnt the many duties and responsibilities that running a church entailed from arranging fresh flowers for the altar to maintaining the premises and caring for the priests' vestments.

Fr. Lionel remembers how when the Cathedral was to be consecrated in 1973, he had suggested to Bishop Cyril Abeynaike that Anthony would be a good and conscientious person for the post of sexton. Bishop Abeynaike, he says, spoke to Anthony and hired him and grew to be extremely fond of him as he worked with great dedication and efficiency.

Anthony was not married at the time but a few years later on June 10th, 1976 wed H.M. Wimalawathie from Polgahawela. She was a Buddhist but later chose to become a Christian of her own volition, Anthony says. Wimalawathie has been a faithful helpmate and is one of the ladies responsible for that hot cup of tea that everyone looks forward to after the Sunday service. Anthony and Wimalawathie are proud parents of three children and have seven grandchildren; their two married sons, Priyanka and Chandika live in their ancestral Alawwa while daughter Ruvini works in Colombo. Anthony and his wife recall with deep gratitude the help and guidance that they had from Mrs. Kani Gnanapragasam, wife of Bishop Jabez, in raising their children.

Anthony has had the honour of serving six Bishops from Bishop Abeynaike to Bishop Dhiloraj Canagasabay today and has worked closely with many priests at the Cathedral - it was Fr. Sydney Knight who wanted him to join in administering communion, he recalls.

Completely immersed in the life of the Cathedral, his day begins as early as 6 a.m. when he comes in to make the preparations for the daily morning service at 7. At 12, he takes a break - home is after all just a few strides away within the Cathedral premises - and then he's back at 3 and busy till 6 p.m. Of course, if there are special services or events, he will be there, whatever the time of day, making sure that things run smoothly. Now he has the assistance of Dasan and the duties are shared, he says. Not surprisingly, after 43 plus years at the Cathedral, Anthony has many memories, of happy times and even difficult days during the JVP uprising and political turmoil; once tear gas was fired into the Cathedral garden as protests erupted as the cortege of Lalith Athulathmudali was on its way to Kanatte. Then he remembers rushing into the Cathedral and hastily bolting the doors.

“You can depend on Anthony for a good critical appraisal of things,” says Fr. Lionel, adding that Anthony’s love for, and his contribution to the life of the Cathedral, from those early days, have been immense. Anthony is the first to reflect that he never thought he would be here so long, but this is clearly for him not a job but a life’s service to God whom he says has always provided for him and his family and in whom his faith rests strong.

- Renuka Sadanandan

It is much sadness that we announce the passing away of Anthony on 27th April 2021. We will always remember his sincere and dedicated service to the Cathedral. Our sincere sympathies to his family. May his soul Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.



Farewell to Anthony on 31st December 2017 after 44 years of faithful service to the Cathedral

NCCSL STATEMENT ON 02ND COMMEMORATION OF THE 'EASTER ATTACK'

'All life is sacred for it comes from God and that which emanates from above is eternal'

As a nation, 21st April 2021 reminds us with sadness, the dastard act of cowardice and terror perpetrated on Easter Sunday in 2019 which claimed over 260 human lives, injuring nearly 500 persons, and destroying the very fabric of family and the religious freedom to proclaim life.

'Life', as a Gift of God, we believe is supreme and as such is in itself a celebration, given its contribution of enriching and nourishing society and creation as a whole. Acknowledging this enlightened truth, The National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) whilst condemning and denouncing all forms of violence and bloodshed that denies and forfeits life, remembers with pain the many lives lost and injured over the past years, including those at religious places of worship.

Therefore, in respecting and honouring life, The National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL), whilst sharing with the grief of the aggrieved families in the loss of their loved ones, affirms its solidarity and prayers in their journey towards 'healing and justice'. We also call upon the authorities to be sensitive to the cause of the families of the victims, and for necessary support towards 'reparation' for renewal and restoration of their lives.

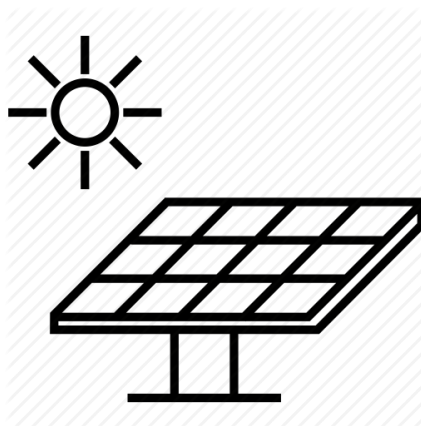


SOLAR ENERGY

Benefits of Solar Energy

1. The most important benefit of solar energy is that it is truly a clean renewable source of energy that can help reduce carbon dioxide emissions and lower our impact on the natural environment.
2. Traditional fossil fuels like coal and oil release carbon dioxide. Solar energy does not lead directly to pollutants being released into the atmosphere (such as carbon dioxide) and the water supply.
3. Solar power is the most abundant energy source on earth.
4. Solar panels are used to get solar energy and now the costs of solar panels have dropped since its inception. The price of solar energy is lower than fossil fuels, nuclear energy and natural gases, without being subsidized.
5. Solar is the fastest energy source to deploy. When disaster strikes, no electricity source can be built or repaired as quickly as solar.
6. Solar panels require little to no maintenance costs. Annual clean-up has been found to improve energy output by as much as 12% when compared to panels that were only cleaned by rainfall.
7. Solar energy doesn't require any outside supply to work, so its maintenance and energy production costs are practically zero. The only costs associated with the use of solar energy is the manufacture and installation of the components. This means that after the large initial investment, there are no additional costs associated with its use. So installation costs are recovered quickly.
8. Solar power plant projects can be built in remote deserts for higher capacity, and even on home roof tops in smaller capacity.
9. Solar energy has the possibility of providing electricity in remote locations, where the cost of installing electrical distribution lines is too high or not feasible.

- Cathedral Green Committee



LECTIONARY - MAY 2021

Date: 2nd May 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Theme: “Jesus the New Way and True Vine”

New Testament Reading	Acts 8: 26 - 40
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Gospel	St. John 15: 1 - 8
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Date: 9th May 2021 – Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday)

Theme: “A new Commandment - Love”

New Testament Reading	Acts 10: 44 - 48
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Gospel	St. John 15: 9 - 17
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Date: 16th May 2021 – Seventh Sunday of Easter (Asia/CCA, Ascension Sunday)

Theme: “Asia for the Ascended and Gloried Christ”

New Testament Reading	Acts 1: 1 - 11
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Gospel	St. Luke 24: 44 - 53
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Date: 23rd May 2021 – Feast of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Theme: “The Sprit Poured Out”

New Testament Reading	Acts 2: 1 – 21
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Gospel	St. John 15: 26 - 27
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Date: 30th May 2021 – Trinity Sunday (First Sunday after Pentecost)

Theme: “God the Holy Trinity”

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 6: 1 - 8
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Gospel	St. John 3: 1 - 17
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HOLY DAYS AND FESTIVALS

1 st May	St. Joseph the Worker – May Day
3 rd May	Philip and James, Apostles
6 th May	St. John the Evangelist
13 th May	Ascension Day
14 th May	St. Matthias, Apostle
16 th May	Ascension Sunday & Asia Sunday
23 rd May	Feast of Pentecost
24 th May	Aldersgate Day
30 th May	Trinity Sunday

HOLY EUCHARIST SERVICE TIMES

08.30am – English (Live Stream)

- Due to the revised health guidelines, we are unable to gather for worship. A Sunday service will be live streamed at 8:30am in English as long as circumstances permit.

CONTACT DETAILS

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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 ~