

CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

Feast of St. Michael



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 September, the Church observes the following feasts: on the 8th, the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary; on the 14th, Holy Cross Day; on the 21st, the Feast of St. Matthew the apostle and on the 29th, the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels.

Michaelmas has been one of the four quarters of the financial, judicial, and academic year.

In this brief message, I would like to comment on two of these feasts. Holy Cross Day commemorates and honours the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary for the sins of the whole world.

The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels is based on thinking derived from the book of Revelation where the Archangel Michael and his angels conquered the dragon and his angels. As a result, there was no place for the dragon and his angels in heaven, and they were thrown down to earth (Rev. 7: 7 – 12). This is the origin of the battle between good and evil that continues to go on in the whole world, even today. The evil that was conquered in heaven has invaded our world and manifests itself in our midst in diverse and subtle ways.

Nation: The people of our nation continue to join with many thousands of people across the globe in our battle against the global health pandemic caused by Covid-19. The absence of a coordinated effort is very apparent. Health experts need to be the ones driving this effort to combat the crisis we are in. However, it is extremely distressing to note that they are not in the position they should be in. In addition, the significant escalation in the number of deaths and detections in the last few days has placed an enormous strain on the already stretched health care services.

To reach out to the doctors and extend support to them, the Board of Social Responsibility organized a webinar titled “Providing Care for Covid Patients in Home Quarantine”. This was held on Saturday 21st August 2021, separately in English, Tamil and Sinhala. If anyone would like to have access to the recording of any of the three webinars please contact me directly, I will be happy to share it with you.

I have in this edition of the newsletter included the joint statement issued by the Bishops of the Church of Ceylon concerning the current health crisis.

Life in the Cathedral - Notice to the Worshipping Community: Meeting in person for community worship has been disrupted with the imposition of the recent health guidelines. Community worship will recommence only once health guidelines are revised and permission is granted.

As mentioned recently, we are literally in a situation that is so aptly described in the familiar sentence of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, “In the midst of life we are in death”. We need to help each other get through these difficult times.

I would like to draw your attention on behalf of the Cathedral Pastoral Care team to the following:

1. If anyone is unwell, please seek medical assistance immediately.
2. If you are living by yourself and need any assistance please contact anyone of us on the Cathedral Pastoral Care team.
3. If you are elderly, living by yourself and need help with obtaining your medications or require assistance with essential food items please contact me directly.

The contact details of the Cathedral Pastoral Care team are available in the newsletter for your information.

Support for the Cathedral: In the given context of the pandemic, our meeting for worship has been severely affected resulting in an extremely negative impact on our financial position. The appeal sent to the worshipping community has helped us in a small way but we are still far from where we ought to be. Therefore I appeal to you to support the work of your worshipping community generously.

Online banking transactions are possible and welcome. If anyone would require the bank details of the Cathedral, please call the Cathedral office (0112671481), speak to me, or send us an email with the details you need to info@cathedral.lk.

Annual General Meeting: On the 1st of August 2021, the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Cathedral was held. It was encouraging to have many participate while adhering to health and safety protocols.

I am happy to inform you that the Bishop has appointed the following persons to serve on the Cathedral Administration Finance Committee (CFAC): Romesh David, Dr Nirmala Peiris, Dharshini Masilamani, Shanika Rodrigo, Mohan Mendis, Yohan Perera, Renu Samarasinghe & Ivyin Jesumaney. While we welcome Yohan Perera, Renu Samarasinghe & Ivyin Jesumaney to the CFAC, we also say thank you for the services of Shanthikumar Sadananda, Sriyantha Senaratne & Himani Peiris.

Live Stream: The live stream will continue to take place. I am extremely grateful to our live stream team who continue to help us with the preparations in the midst of many challenges.

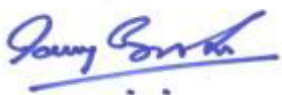
Pastoral Care: The Clergy of the Cathedral Pastoral Care team remains committed to assisting should you have a reason for any form of Pastoral care, assistance, and intervention.

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

Thanking You,

With Prayers and Blessings

Yours Sincerely,



Ven. Perry Brohier

Vicar



When going to a health care facility of any kind

In areas where **COVID-19** is spreading



Maintain a distance of at least 1 metre from others



Clean hands frequently



Wear a mask

EXCELLENCE IN GIVING

Bible Passage: **2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

Achieving excellence in everything is life's greatest struggle for humankind. We like to excel in everything in life, in studies, knowledge, talents, abilities, skills, jobs, profession, finances, possessions, business, etc. There is nothing wrong to excel in those areas of life. In fact, Paul commends the Church for their faith, speech, knowledge, complete earnestness and love (v-7a). But he says, "**SEE** (v-7b), that you also **EXCEL** in the Grace of **GIVING**." We seldom think of excelling in the area of giving.

Giving is one of the most important characteristics of a believer. Someone said, when Christians learn to give, they learn to share in one of the greatest acts of God, because God gives we learn giving from God Himself. He gave all, even His only Son for the whole world. Paul calls it the Grace of Giving. Basically the ability to give does not generate from human nature, but it is granted to humans as a grace from God. Those who give do it purely by the grace of God.

The question most commonly raised is: Why do we need to give?

Why do we give?

Some give to impress others and to gain fame. Some people give just as a religious duty, some even give out of guilt. So there are multiple reasons to give. When it comes to giving to God, people still have mixed motives. Some people say we give because the church needs it, pastors need to be paid, there are needs in the Church, etc. We need to re-evaluate our thinking by asking this question seriously. We give because we see the needy, poor, hungry, less privileged around us; we see natural disasters and we give.

Who is in need?

We come to Church not because God is in need of our presence, but because, in the first place, we need Him. Our very existence is dependent on Him; without Him we cannot even breathe the next breath of our life. As human beings we needed salvation from eternal death, and He gave His Son Jesus Christ, the Saviour for us. As Christians we come to worship Him. We need to grow in our knowledge and experience of our Master. The depths of our souls long for His presence more and more. We bow before Him to pray for healing, provisions, protection, safety, guidance, mercy, etc. If we see reality, we are in need!

Giving is Worship

When we give, we are privileged to honour God by it. We worship Him by our giving. Worship simply means to acknowledge who God is. As someone said, we praise God for what He has done for us, and we worship God for who He is. The realization of His very being compels man to worship Him. When we acknowledge that He is the one who controls everything and provides for us, then we must give back from what He has given us and that should be a demonstration of our thanksgiving to our God.

When we honour and worship God by our giving, He pours out His blessings upon us. Those blessings could be both material and spiritual. But this does not mean that we buy the blessings of God. God's love is free, but it is not cheap. We give but we don't buy God's blessings. We don't give as a favour, but we give back to Him what we have received. It is a simple act of acknowledgment.

What do we need to give?

Finances as thanksgiving. Surely the Bible teaches us about material giving. In the Old Testament time, people gave the first fruit of their harvest as thanksgiving to the Lord.

The Bible also teaches that we need to give **Ourselves** as living sacrifices for the worship of God. Paul wrote, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom 12:1)

Give till it hurts

The poor widow gave only two coins, but that was all she had. She gave all (Mark 12:42). Giving little out of plenty is easy because it does not hurt, but to give all what we have is difficult because it hurts. It does not hurt if we give something which is extra, or something we can manage without, but it hurts when we give something which is our own crucial need.

We can learn from human example in the Asian context specifically, a mother gives to her children at the expense of her own hunger, needs, comfort, joy and convenience. But she gives even if it hurts her own self.

When God saw the desperate need of sinful humanity, He could not help, but He gave, and He gave His own Son Jesus Christ, even though it hurt.

Excel in Giving

Paul says, "Excel in the grace of giving" (v-7b). Excellence in giving demonstrates sincerity of our Love (v-8b). What does excel mean? Please DEFINE it for yourself; what it means to you.

In giving, the most important thing is not the amount or quantity, but the **ATTITUDE**. How do we give? Our heart's attitude is very important. In Genesis chapter 4, Cain and Abel both gave but God was looking at their attitude. The Bible teaches, "...For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

Spurgeon said, *"Give because you love to give — as the flower pours forth its perfume."* The World talks about 'Give and Take' but as God's people let us just give.

May the LORD help us all to remember that God gives and may it be an encouragement for us to excel in giving! Amen.

I Shall Not Pass Again This Way - Author Unknown

The bread that bringeth strength I want to give;
The water pure that bids the thirsty live.
I want to help the fainting, day by day.
I'm sure I shall not pass again this way.

I want to give the oil of joy for tears,
The faith to conquer crowding doubts and fears,
Beauty for ashes may I give always.
I'm sure I shall not pass again this way.

I want to give good measure running o'er,
And into angry hearts I want to pour
The answer soft that turneth wrath away.
I'm sure I shall not pass again this way.

I want to give to others hope and faith;
I want to do all that the Master saith;
I want to do aright from day to day.
I'm sure I shall not pass again this way.

Let us GIVE

And it is not about MONEY alone
LET US GIVE
Not only our finances to the Church
But MUCH MORE

Let us GIVE Our lives
Let us Give Hope to the Hopeless,
Love to the Lonely and hurting
Encouragement to the disheartened
Light to the darkness
Motivation to the failed ones
Care to the brokenhearted.

Let us give smile to the ones weeping
Help to the weary
Life to the dying



*Let us G I V E
GOD's Message to the desperate and needy
Let us G I V E
GOD'S LOVE to the Lost of the World.*

- Rev. Earnest Nadeem

A STATEMENT BY THE BISHOPS OF THE CHURCH OF CEYLON ON THE CURRENT COVID CRISIS



Diocese of Colombo



Church of Ceylon

368/3A, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka
Tel : 011 – 2696208 / 011- 2684810 Fax : 011 – 2684811
Email : ps@churchofceylon.com



Diocese of Kurunegala

AN APPEAL FOR RESPONSIBLE AND COLLABORATIVE CITIZENSHIP A STATEMENT BY THE BISHOPS OF THE CHURCH OF CEYLON ON THE CURRENT COVID CRISIS

We note with grave concern the present situation regarding the spread of Covid-19 in Sri Lanka. We are disturbed by the rising number of deaths per day and the alarming increase in the number of new cases reported. It is imperative that we all take serious note of the current situation and act with responsibility since this country cannot afford to lose our valuable human resources and drain our limited financial resources. The management and control of this virus is now the responsibility of all sections of society.

As such, we appeal to all Sri Lankans to unite in our fight against this virus by adhering to the following:

1. Take all health guidelines seriously and adhere to the laid down protocol strictly through self-discipline and responsible conduct.
2. Refrain from engaging in non-essential transactions and limit movements even when there is no lockdown in the country.
3. Submit themselves to the vaccination programme without having reservations unless due to medical reasons.
4. Help each other by offering social and psychological support to our neighbors and those in our communities who may be recovering in their homes and also comforting those who may have lost loved ones. This is not the time to stigmatize the afflicted but the time to assist those who need our help.

We commend the State for conducting the vaccination program in an accelerated manner to cover all parts of the country. We now urge the authorities to take necessary steps to secure a vaccination that can be safely administered to all above the age of 12 years as the next important phase of the vaccination drive. We are deeply concerned that school education has now been disrupted for over a year which will have far-reaching implications for the progress of our nation. Therefore, it is imperative that we explore all avenues to reopen schools without any further delay. It is also an opportune moment to devise innovative mechanisms as alternatives for public examinations recognizing the disruption that has already been caused due to the pandemic.

We hope that the State will ensure the steady supply of drugs, oxygen and equipment to all parts of the country to avoid any inequity in the supply of necessary medication and care to our people. Priority has to be given to protect the frontline medical staff who are exposed to the virus more than others including the provision of booster vaccinations based on medical practice. Given the extent of the crisis, the costs of drugs and hospitalization and the need to allow for creativity on the part of our medical experts to respond to this crisis, we request that health authorities and medical experts be provided the space and opportunity to explore alternative treatments and strategies in managing the situation as a medical emergency.

It is common knowledge that our hospitals are now overcrowded and health services are stretched beyond limits owing to the high number of Covid patients. We offer to the health authorities the facilities of our church across the country to be used as make-shift hospitals, intermediate medical centers or quarantine centers which can be managed by health officials and supported by our institutions and personnel so that hospitals are reserved for those who really need them.

We urge the Media to demonstrate sensitivity in its reporting as they play a vital role in educating the people. We should not allow the contracting of this virus to be viewed as a crime but seek to promote responsible conduct in our day to day affairs. The dignity of life should be respected at all times particularly in relation to news reporting on those being afflicted and those who succumb to the virus.


Our congregations will continue to engage in prayer upholding our health workers and those engaged in frontline duties and seeking wisdom for those in charge of formulating policies. We pray that the grace of our Lord will carry this nation and the world through this phase of hardship.

+ Keerthi



The Right Reverend Keerthisiri Fernando
Bishop of Kurunagala &
The Presiding Bishop of Church of Ceylon

+ Dushantha



The Right Reverend Dushantha Rodrigo
Bishop of Colombo

24.08.2021

LECTIONARY - SEPTEMBER 2021

Date: 5th September 2021 – Proper 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: “The Lord who does all things well for family life”

Old Testament Lesson	Proverbs 22: 1 -2, 8 – 9, 22 - 23
Psalm	125
New Testament Reading	James 2: 1 – 10 & 14 - 17
Gospel	St. Mark 7: 24 - 37

Date: 12th September 2021 – Proper 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Holy Cross Sunday

Theme: “Guard your tongue and take up the Cross of Christ”

Old Testament Lesson	Proverbs 1: 20 - 33
Psalm	139
New Testament Reading	James 3: 1 - 12
Gospel	St. Mark 8: 27 - 38

Date: 19th August 2021 – Proper 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: “Humility in Evangelism”

Old Testament Lesson	Proverbs 31: 10 - 31
Psalm	1
New Testament Reading	James 3: 13 - 4: 3, 7- 8
Gospel	St. Mark 9: 30 - 37

Date: 26th September 2021 – Proper 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: “Christian Unity – Anyone who is not against us is for us”

Old Testament Lesson	Esther 7: 1 -6, 9 - 10, 9: 20 -22
Psalm	124
New Testament Reading	James 5: 13 - 20
Gospel	St. Mark 9: 38 - 50

Holy Days / Festivals & Other Important Dates

8 th Sep	The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord
14 th Sep	Triumph of the Holy Cross
21 st Sep	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
29 th Sep	St. Michael and All Angels

HOLY EUCHARIST SERVICE TIMES

08.30am – English (Live Stream)

- As we are unable to gather for worship in accordance with the health guidelines in place, the 8.30am English service will be live streamed, the link for which will be shared during the course of the week.

CONTACT DETAILS

Cathedral Pastoral Care Team

Name	Contact Numbers		Email
	Mobile	Landline	
Ven. Perry Brohier	077 754 1234	011 269 6363(R) 011 269 0878(O)	dnigelp@gmail.com adcmb@dioceseofcolombo.lk
Rev. S I Balakumar	071 866 7807 076 264 4480	011 268 1779	fr.isaacbala6@gmail.com
Rev. Maxwell Doss	077 740 8070	011 267 1723 Ext [111]	maxiedoss@gmail.com gs@nccsl.org

Cathedral Office

Staff	Address	Office Contact	Email
Wesley Bastianpillai	368, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo – 07	011 267 1481	angcathedralcmb@gmail.com
Chandrika Wijesinghe			info@cathedral.lk anglican.cathedral@yahoo.com

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 ~