



CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

Christmas



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: As we enter another season of Advent, we are reminded that we are at the beginning of another liturgical year in the life of the Church (Cycle C – the gospel of St. Luke).

During the season of Advent, we prepare for the celebration of God's love revealed to us in Christ Jesus, by reminding ourselves of how God's unconditional and magnanimous love manifested itself in our midst. Our Sunday readings will help us understand how when the time was right God sent His Son Jesus, born in our midst in human form. This historical event of God entering time and space in human form is celebrated later this month with the Feast of the Incarnation.

Born into a simple human family, in a stable in Bethlehem, this annual remembrance of this act of grace reminds the human family and the Church of the magnanimity of God's unconditional love.

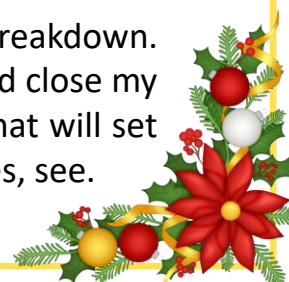
As the immediate beneficiaries of that love, we as the people of God, are called upon to be heralds of that message of love in a broken and wounded world where many live without any hope or love and care. It is our prayer that we will make every effort this season to radiate that love to people in the human family.

Our social realities of today will tell us that the thrust of this message is extremely relevant to the people of God and the Church as the Church in particular reaches out and engages with the wider community.

With many sections of society in total disarray due to the repercussions of the global health pandemic and political turmoil, it is my prayer and wish for the people of our nation that we will as a nation "Come to the light" of the Saviour.

Nation: We note with much disappointment the failure of the State authorities to be upfront and truthful to the people of this nation concerning several matters of national importance. Wise counsel will always lead to self-evaluation. The process usually, if embarked on objectively, will reveal the root causes for failures. Humility will make it imperative for us to learn from our mistakes or take lessons from the past.

The entire social fabric appears to be engulfed with breakdown upon breakdown. While I will not venture any further to elaborate on the obvious, I would close my reflections on this section by simply saying that it is only the "truth" that will set us free. Therefore let those who have ears, hear and they that have eyes, see.





Diocesan Council 2021: The 136th Annual Sessions of our Diocese have just concluded. I have requested our representatives to the Council to prepare a report for your information. The report will be made available to you soon.

Life in the Cathedral - Notice to the Worshipping Community:

Worship Services in Person: As most of you are aware we have resumed in-person worship services. I would like to encourage as many of the faithful to make that extra effort to nourish themselves spiritually with the Sacrament whenever and wherever possible. There is a service daily from Monday through to Saturday at 7.30 am in case you are unable to join in worship on Sunday. On Sunday, we have two services at 7 am (Sinhala & Tamil) and 8.30 am (English). Please make use of the windows of opportunity we have in the given situation where numbers are restricted.

Due to the prevailing uncertainty, it is still too early to say what would be the arrangements for services over Christmas. Every effort will be made to have the usual Christmas services. If that is not possible, we will then at least consider doing what was done last year.

Carol Service: The choir is also preparing for an in-person Carol Service and the date being looked at, God willing, is the 19th of December 2021. Please be mindful that as your Clergy, we will always want to accommodate as many of your needs and requirements but in situations beyond our control there is very little we could do.

Therefore your prayers will be appreciated for all of the above where required and your understanding and cooperation will be most appreciated in the rest.

Sunday School: I am conscious that the children have been extremely hard done by as a result of the global health crisis. Therefore I am working with our Sunday School teachers to try to explore the possibility of an activity for the Sunday School virtually or in-person, God willing, in December.

Support for the Cathedral: I am grateful to all of you, despite being affected in some way or the other by the negative impacts of the global health pandemic, you have made an effort to support the work of the Cathedral that has been taking place even during this time.

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

Cathedral Youth Forum – Youth Connect: The youth forum Youth Connect takes place online every Tuesday at 6pm. While I urge all young people to join this youth group, I would like to request parents to encourage their children to join the group.



Live Stream: The live stream will continue to take place. If you have not already done so and wish to, please subscribe to the Cathedral Youtube Channel by pressing the subscribe button.



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

Finally, together with our support staff – Robinson, his wife Nadhira and baby Ethen; Dharson, his wife Vijayalakshmi and their son; the office staff Wesley and his family; Chandrika; the Pastoral Care team - Fr. Balakumar, his wife Selvie and their three boys; Fr. Maxi and his wife Dhammika; Christina and Rachel join me in wishing you a Christ centred Christmas and a peaceful 2022.

Thanking You,
With Prayers and Blessings
Yours Sincerely,

Ven. Perry Brohier
Vicar

Please
remember
to:



Wear a mask
consistently and
correctly over your
nose and mouth



< 6 ft >
Stay at least 6 feet
apart from people who
don't live with you



Avoid Crowds



Avoid places that
are poorly ventilated
or crowded



Wash your hands





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

STATEMENT ON DISCRIMINATION BY MINISTRY OF HEALTH REGULATIONS ISSUED BY THE CHURCH OF CEYLON

The Church of Ceylon (The Anglican Church in Sri Lanka) expresses its deep concern at the anomalies and inconsistencies in the regulations on Covid and public health issued recently.

The regulations permit schools, clubs, gyms, restaurants, cinemas and various other entities to open subject to certain restrictions but retains an almost blanket prohibition on the opening of churches and places of religious observance. This in our view lacks a rational basis, is arbitrary, disproportionate and discriminatory against minority religions in particular.

If students can gather in classrooms; people engaged in sport and leisure activities gather in small places and share equipment; if people can exercise in confined and airconditioned spaces or watch films and other forms of entertainment in enclosed airconditioned auditoriums; how can one take the view that a gathering of people for an hour or two in a church or similar building for communal worship subject to the requirements of social distancing, limited numbers and other standard safety precautions, poses a public health risk?

The illogical and unreasonable restrictions promulgated in the recent set of guidelines, therefore, violate the rights of members of our Church as well as the rights of many other people of all faiths who have been unreasonably denied their right to manifest their freedom of religion and belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching as provided for in Article 14 (1) e of the Constitution.

We are compelled to issue this statement as several letters addressed to the relevant authorities seeking clarification on this matter have received no response. We recognize the need for restrictions on certain activities in the interests of public health to deal with the pandemic. However, such restrictions cannot be arbitrary and discriminatory in terms of their effect and must be reasonable and have a public health rationale.

We call upon the Government to revise their health guidelines to permit religious worship subject to general restrictions on social distancing, numbers based on a percentage of full capacity and other relevant health and safety protocols.

+ Keerthi



The Right Reverend Keerthisiri Fernando
Bishop of Kurunegala &
The Presiding Bishop of Church of Ceylon
17th November 2021

+ Dushantha Rodrigo



The Right Reverend Dushantha Rodrigo
Bishop of Colombo



CHURCH OF CEYLON - DIOCESE OF COLOMBO – 26th & 27th NOVEMBER, 2021

REPORT TO THE FRIENDS OF THE CATHEDRAL-136th ANNUAL SESSIONS

“Christ’s Love moves the world to Solidarity, Healing, Reconciliation and Unity”

Five resolutions placed before the Council took centre stage at this year’s sessions held over two days. Due to the yet prevailing restrictions imposed on account of the pandemic, the sessions were conducted at nine different locations connected virtually to the Diocesan Chambers where the Lord Bishop of Colombo presided with his key officers. Our representatives were present at St. Pauls’ Milagiriya, where the Colombo South Deanery met to participate.

1. The first resolution called for reformation in the church and the need to discern our roles afresh in the background of the current challenges of oppression and suppression faced by the people of God, especially the poor in our country. We were reminded in the long debate that ensued, of our collective responsibility as clergy and laity, to act as stewards to bring all to the nearer presence of God. The change sought to be achieved called upon a transformation in the diocese to facilitate;
 - Reading the Bible with the poor (poor in spirit) to affirm the promise of eternal life for all in the kingdom of God in the here and now.
 - To move from the ecclesiastical and governance structures that now exist, by deep self-examination, and to replace ritualistic and service oriented worship towards costly discipleship which Christ demands.

This resolution, finally endorsed by the Bishop, which aims at far reaching reformation in the church was adopted by a near unanimous vote at the conclusion of the first day’s proceedings and it paved the way for revolutionary change if implemented in the spirit in which it was discussed and passed.

2. The second resolution which followed was inspired by the theme for the forthcoming Lambeth Conference in 2022 “God’s Church for God’s World” and sought to reaffirm our commitment to engage in **integral and holistic mission** in Sri Lanka **within the framework of the Marks of Mission** already recognized by the wider global Anglican Communion and our own church in Sri Lanka.





- **To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom**
- **To teach, baptize and nurture new believers**
- **To respond to human need by loving service**
- **To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence and to pursue peace and reconciliation.**
- **To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the Earth**

A sixth mark of vision in the context of our own experience in Sri Lanka was appropriately added;

- **To engage with people of diverse faiths and ideologies and to discern God's presence among them**

This resolution which also received near unanimous support in its adoption, came through to many of us present, as a reinforcement of the former resolution already passed and a grim reminder that there was need for urgent change in a scenario where former constituents and adherents of our church were moving away from us and less were answering to come forward to serve as shepherds.

The content of these two resolutions which received the maximum attention at the sessions and theme ran through as a thread throughout the proceedings with several councillors expressing their views and considering the issues patiently and at length. When these progressive changes are implemented, they will give our Diocese a fresh new purposeful and meaningful direction and impetus to touch more lives in our country.

3. The third resolution originated from several requests made at the Council sessions last year and our unpleasant and unacceptable experience at the last election of a new Bishop. **It called for a change in the procedure.** The resolution sought only to begin the process, clearing the path for a motion to be brought before the General Assembly for the Declaration, Canon or Rule to be rescinded or altered. As this was explained to be a long drawn out process, it was emphasized we will do well to commence the sequence of steps to be taken sooner than later. The resolution was passed by a clear majority.
4. The next resolution which was placed on the Order Paper only at the commencement of the Sessions sans advanced notice was to express strong concern and disappointment about the announced "One Country, One Law" initiative of the government and the Task Force appointed to lead that initiative.

The Council resolved with near unanimity to appoint a Committee of the Standing Committee to monitor the situation and to take appropriate measures based on the values of the Reign of God.

5. The last of the five resolutions passed concerned the reactivation of steps necessary to be taken following a Resolution already passed at Council in 2015 calling for discussion at different levels within the Diocese on the decision to widen the membership of the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka. In the situation and trends in ecumenism now experienced, the resolution called upon the Bishop and representatives of the Diocese to the NCCSL to ensure that the admission of new members does not undermine the mission of the NCCSL and its founding principles of comity and ethics in mission.

PROCEEDINGS

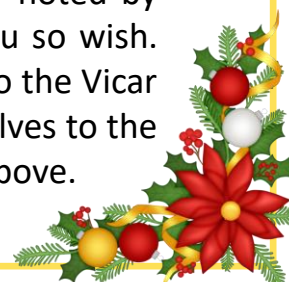
The first part of the proceedings entailed routine business as usual such as the appointment of two secretaries, one clerical and another lay, to record the proceedings, the appointment of Presiding Officer, Co-Presiding Officer and Scrutineers, Delivery of the Report of the Standing Committee, Accounts, 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 in the Green Book. I am sure, should any church member wish to study them in detail these could be made available. Also, on request, one of your own elected representatives could assist you in accessing the information you need.

The routine business was followed by resolutions passed to appoint auditors and a call for nominations for election of 18 members to the Standing Committee for 2020/2021 and for two members to the Incorporated Trustees from the Diocese of Colombo.

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 & Laity to form the Diocesan Court and General Assembly.

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 apart from Clergy representatives to the General Assembly. The results will be made known shortly.

The issues taken up by Councillors who wished to speak were each given three minutes to get their points across. These points have been all briefly noted by your representatives who will be happy to share them with you if you so wish. However, in the interest of time and space limitations to get this note to the Vicar for inclusion in the December Newsletter we have only restricted ourselves to the essence of what took place as embodied in the resolutions dealt with above.



LECTIONARY - DECEMBER 2021



Date: 5th December 2021 – Advent 2

(Third Sunday before Christmas – Bible Sunday)

Theme: “The Good News : Messengers of the Bible Prepare the Way”

Reading	Passage
Old Testament Lesson	Malachi 3: 1 - 4
Instead of Psalm	Benedictus
New Testament Reading	Philippians 1: 3 - 11
Gospel	St. Luke 3: 1 - 6

Date: 12th December 2021 – Advent 3 (Second Sunday before Christmas)

Theme : “John the Baptist : The Joy of Preparing for Christ”

Old Testament Lesson	Zephaniah 3: 14 - 20
Instead of Psalm	A Song of Salvation
New Testament Reading	Philippians 4: 4 - 7
Gospel	St. Luke 3: 7 - 18

Date: 19th December 2021 – Advent 4 (Sunday before Christmas)

Theme : “Love: The Annunciation”

Old Testament Lesson	Micah 5: 2 – 5a
Instead of Psalm	Magnificat
New Testament Reading	Hebrews 10: 5 - 10
Gospel	St. Luke 1: 39 - 45

Date : 24th December 2021 – Christmas Eve

Theme : “The Nativity – God with us”

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 52: 7 - 10
Psalm	98
New Testament Reading	Hebrews 1: 1 - 4
Gospel	St. John 1: 1 - 14

Date; 25th December 2020 – Christmas Day

Theme : “The Nativity – God with us”

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 9: 2 - 7
Psalm	96
New Testament Reading	Titus 2: 11 - 14
Gospel	St. Luke 2: 1 - 14

Date : 28th December 2021 – First Sunday of Christmas

Theme : “Jesus Christ Divine and Human”

Old Testament Lesson	1 Samuel 2: 18–20, 26
Psalm	148
New Testament Reading	Colossians 3: 12 - 17
Gospel	St. Luke 2: 41 - 52

Date : 31st December 2021– New Year’s Eve

Theme : “Thanksgiving”

Old Testament Lesson	Ecclesiastes 3: 1 - 13
Psalm	8
New Testament Reading	Revelation 21: 1 -6
Gospel	St. Matthew 25:31-46

Date : 1st January 2022– New Year’s Day

Theme : “Holy Name of Jesus”

Old Testament Lesson	Numbers 6: 22 - 27
Psalm	8
New Testament Reading	Philippians 2: 5 - 11
Gospel	St. Luke 2: 15 - 21

Date: 2nd January 2022 - Second Sunday of Christmas

Theme: “The New Covenant of Grace”

Old Testament Lesson	Jeremiah 31: 31 - 33
Psalm	92
New Testament Reading	Romans 12: 1 – 2
Gospel	St. John 3: 1 - 8

HOLY DAYS/ FESTIVALS & OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

21 st Dec	Martyrdom of St. Thomas the Apostle
25 th Dec	Feast of the Incarnation or Christmas Day
28 th Dec	Holy Innocents Day – the Slaughter of the Holy Innocents
31 st Dec	Holy Family in Refuge in Egypt (World Hope Day)
01 st Jan	Holy Name of Jesus





HOLY EUCHARIST SERVICE TIMES

07.00am – Sinhala & Tamil

08.30am – English (Live Stream)

- Please call the Cathedral office on 011 267 1481 between 9.00am and 4.00pm on weekdays to confirm your presence at the service you wish to attend.
- The 8:30AM service will continue to be livestreamed. The link for the livestream will be shared weekly.

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, Baudhdhaloka 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 ~

