

# CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

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**JANUARY 2022**

Epiphany



**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:** With the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity in our liturgical calendar we enter into Christmas tide. This 40 day season will take us up to the Feast of the Presentation.

During this time, we would also have said goodbye to 2021 and welcomed 2022. The years 2020 and 2021 have been extremely challenging and at times frustrating to many of us. Postponements, cancellations and alterations to plans have been the key features of this time. It would be best if we focus on what we were able to achieve and accomplish, and the lessons that we as a faith community have had to learn from these difficult times if we are to in any way find a methodology to cope with the inconveniences, the multiple crises and at times the pain we were forced to cope and confront, indeed important lessons for life.

The pandemic has also challenged the Church to take a closer look at its Mission and Ministry so that we are an authentic and visible representation of Christ in the wider community that offers help, support and encouragement to people struggling to cope with the adverse effects of the pandemic.

With worship being the backbone of the Church as a faith community, it is my prayer that our community worship will energise and equip us for life in the wider community.

**New Archdeacon of Jaffna:** Ven. S D Parimanachelvam was instituted and installed as the new (11th) Archdeacon of Jaffna on the 30th of December 2021. We pray for his family as he undertakes this responsibility in the Church, that God will use him as a bearer of the light of the gospel.

**Nation:** Our politicians continue to disappoint us. It is no secret that the nation is facing crisis upon crisis. We have learned through the media that during a serious foreign exchange crisis our leaders are busy with business as usual. Is there a foreign exchange crisis that is threatening the seamless supply of essentials? While the public is being urged to tighten up and brace themselves for difficult days ahead, the people of our nation are looking for leadership role models for direction and inspiration in these difficult times when the simple and essentials of life are a struggle to be obtained. When ensuring the basic necessities is a serious challenge, a good number of our politicians have travelled overseas. While we may be happy that they managed to get time away from home, I wonder if we need to be sad for them instead.

## **Life in the Cathedral - Notice to the Worshipping Community:**

**Recognition for Services to Humanity:** It is with much delight that I convey to you the news that a member of our worshipping community May Fernando, who also sings in our choir, has received international recognition for her silent and selfless service to humanity. While we congratulate her for this recognition, we continue to assure May of our support and prayers for the work she has been silently and faithfully doing for people in need. This edition of the Newsletter will contain an article on May, the work she engages in and details of her achievement.

**Worship Services in Person:** As we have resumed worship services in person, may I kindly appeal to everyone as part of our social responsibility to continue to adhere to the health and safety protocols so that we can safeguard and use the opening we enjoy. This will include you giving in your name and contact details to the office in advance.

**Carol Service:** I thank the choir for the Carol Service we had. Considering the challenges they had to work with, I would like to convey my gratitude to everyone who made the Carol Service possible.

**Sunday School:** Sunday School will reconvene on the 9th of January 2022. The lessons will continue to be online. However, I have every intention of resuming in person classes for children within the first term.

**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](mailto:info@cathedral.lk).

**Cathedral Youth Forum – Youth Connect:** The youth forum Youth Connect takes place online every Tuesday at 6pm. This group has grown during these times and I am happy to note the friendships that have blossomed from these online meetings.

I am looking at moving to an in person meeting at least once a month initially after having a conversation with the group. I am grateful to all the young people who join in the online meeting with much enthusiasm.

While I urge all young people to join this youth group, I would also 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.



**Rev. Maxwell Doss:** Fr. Maxi is leaving us to undertake an interim assignment for a period of one year in the Mutwal Mission as its Vicar. We wish him God's blessings as he undertakes this task. We will not be having a replacement but we will look at managing and sharing the work between Fr. Bala and myself. We may also be required to seek the assistance of retired clergy for some of our routine pastoral commitments.

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

Thanking You,  
With Prayers and Blessings  
Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Perry Brohier", with a horizontal line underneath.

**Ven. Perry Brohier**  
Vicar

**Steps to pray:**

- 1. REALIZE WHO IS PRESENT**  
Place yourself in the presence of Christ.
- 2. GIVE THANKS**  
Be thankful for this moment of prayer and for all the blessings the Lord has given you.
- 3. ASK**  
Present Him all your intentions and the intentions of those around you.
- 4. MEDITATE**  
In a moment of silence, try to listen to the voice of God.
- 5. ASK FOR FORGIVENESS**  
Express your sorrow for the world's sins and your own.

## KINDNESS AND LEADING LIGHT AWARD FOR MAY

May Benjamin began working with the cancer support organisation Mithuruwela after she lost her younger sister to cancer. “The agony a family faces when a loved one has cancer” led her to continue her work, helping caregivers, family members and patients over many years at Shanthi Nivasa and Shanthi Sevana, the transit home and cancer hospice.



She had never expected any recognition for her work so it came as a tremendous surprise for 82-year-old May when she was announced as one of the 50 Leading Lights in the Asia Pacific and honoured with the Kindness and Leading Light award last month.

“I’m happy to get the award but I don’t know if I deserve it – I’m a simple person,” she smiles, adding that she has been helping cancer patients and their families because she believes in her heart that she should do this work.

“By placing a spotlight on phenomenal leaders who are harnessing the power of kindness to make a significant impact and to effect positive change, we collectively place kindness at the centre of the leadership debate. Together, we encourage the leaders of today and tomorrow – no matter what their role or background – to #leadwith kindness, because when kindness is the currency, we can all be millionaires,” Founder, Kindness & Leadership Leading Lights Pinky Lilani, CBE, said in a press release announcing the awards which is now in its 4th year.

Born in Namunukulla on Tonacombe Estate, May schooled at Girls’ High School, Badulla. She was one in a family of four girls, her father being a doctor. She moved to Colombo for work and spent a brief spell in the UK before returning to Sri Lanka.

Equally fluent in all three languages she says it’s helpful to be able to speak easily to people from all over the country who come to Colombo seeking treatment for cancer, many of them lost in the processes and trials they face in the city.

Her parents were devout Christians and May says her strong faith in God has sustained her throughout her life, for she takes all her problems to Him while giving thanks for all the blessings she has received. May is a longtime chorister at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour where she has been worshipping for many years.

- *Extracted from the December 19th 2021 issue of the Sunday Times*

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PROGRAMME AND CHRISTMAS PARTY 2021

## Nativity Presentation (12th Dec 2021)

What a joy to tell the Christmas story over and over again! This year too, the students at the Sunday School were delighted to present the Nativity Programme virtually with a variety of presentations:

- Toddlers class - 'What can I give him as small as I am...' (song)
- Grade 1, 2 & 3 – 'Christmas Child' by Mary E. Carpio (poem)
- Grade 4 & 5- Singing & playing the piano for different Christmas songs
- Grade 6 & 7 - 'I'm a little star' (song)
- Grade 8 & 9 - Nativity Play
- Grade 10 - The true meaning of Christmas (skit)
- Craft Display- Christmas crafts made by students were also presented.

The video presentation was shown during the 8.30 am service and is available on YouTube through the following link: <https://youtu.be/mZ-klPiELlo>



## Christmas Party (4th Dec 2021)

We were fortunate to celebrate the Christmas Party in-person on the 4th of December 2021 in the Unity Chapel. It was an enjoyable time with games and singing. It was truly a special moment to all the students of the Sunday School to have met in-person after nearly ten months. They also enjoyed a snack, and received a sweet bag and a gift.

In spite of the changes the students of the Sunday school have had to go through for the past two years, through God's grace we have always been able to keep in touch with the children through online lessons and virtual worship sessions. A big 'THANK YOU' to Ven. Perry Brohier for guiding us and always supporting the work of the Sunday School. We also extend our thanks to all our parents, students and well-wishers of the Sunday School for their continuous support.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas!

*- Teachers of the Cathedral Sunday School*



# A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS AT THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIVING SAVIOUR DECEMBER 19TH 2021

*"The light shines in the darkness" - John 1:6*

The Covid-19 pandemic has put many harsh restraints on the usual services and festive activities we have during the Christmas season. So, it was wonderful to hear that the Cathedral had arranged that Ishan and the choir were to present the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

Of course, the Cathedral paid attention to all the rules and regulations imposed by the health authorities! Everyone wore a mask and stayed some distance away from each other. It was lovely to see the number of people who were present at the service!

The Festival of Nine Lessons is a form of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus which is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of our Lord Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from the Old Testament and the New Testament. These were interspersed with familiar carols.

At 6pm the toll of the Cathedral bell called us to prayer, reminding us that soon we would celebrate the birth of our beloved Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The lights were slightly dimmed and the music began with the traditional processional hymn 'Once in Royal David's City' where the clergy and choir members walked down the aisle to take their places. The first verse of this carol is usually sung as a solo by a treble. Later the choir sang some verses and the congregation joined in.

The clergy - Vicar Perry Brohier, Rev Maxie Doss and Rev Balakumar took turns in leading the service. The opening address by Fr Maxie was the Bidding Prayer and the congregation joined in the Lord's Prayer.

Then the Lessons were read out - some of these were in Sinhala, some in Tamil and others in English. The readings were done by students of the Sunday School, the youth group, members of the congregation, the Cathedral staff, and the choir. In between the Lessons various carols were sung - Joy to the World, Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending, Bethlehem of Noblest Cities, Breath of Heaven, Oh Come All Ye Faithful, The First Nowell, Come to the Light, one particular hymn - God Rest ye Merry Gentlemen - was sung by the ladies and gents, and then all together! There were carols also sung in Sinhala and Tamil. Participation was shared - sometimes they were sung only by the choir and sometimes the congregation joined in.



The Ninth Lesson, in keeping with the tradition, was read out by Vicar Rev Perry Brohier after which the choir sang Come to the Light. Then the Collects for Advent and Christmas Day were delivered by Assistant Curate Fr Balakumar.

Vicar Fr Perry gave the final blessing at the service followed by the recessional carol 'Silent Night' which was sung by the choir and the congregation. The clergy and choir proceeded towards the entrance during the singing of this hymn. After observing a few moments of silence, the congregation was now ready to leave after what was a memorable evening of wonderful music and singing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

The congregation was absolutely delighted with the evening's programme and it was wonderful to meet our friends and have a face to face chat with them — of course we kept our masks on and kept our distance while doing this! We are all very grateful to Ishan and the choir, the readers, and the technical team who so efficiently carried out their work in bringing this together.

The evening ended with the joy of being together and joining in the praise and worship of the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour and Friend, whose birth brought the light that will shine in the darkness of the world that we live in.

- *Anthea Senaratne*



## LECTIONARY - JANUARY 2022

**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

**Date: 9th January 2022 – Third Sunday of Christmas & First Sunday after Epiphany**

**Theme: Manifestation in Christ's Baptism**

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 43: 1 - 7
Psalm	29
New Testament Reading	Acts 8: 14 - 17
Gospel	St. Luke 3: 15 – 17, 21 - 22

**Date: 16th January 2022 – Fourth Sunday of Christmas (Epiphany 2)**

**Theme: Manifestation in a New Creation**

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 62: 1 – 5
Psalm	36: 5 - 10
New Testament Reading	1 Corinthians 12: 1 - 11
Gospel	St. John 2: 1 -11

**Date: 23rd January 2022 – Fifth Sunday of Christmas (Epiphany 3)**

**Unity Sunday**

**Theme: They Gathered in Worship Around the One Lord**

Old Testament Lesson	Exodus 3: 1 - 6
Psalm	84
New Testament Reading	Revelation 4: 8 - 11
Gospel	St. Matthew 28: 16 - 20

**Date: 30th January 2022 – Presentation Sunday & Church of Ceylon Youth Movement Sunday**

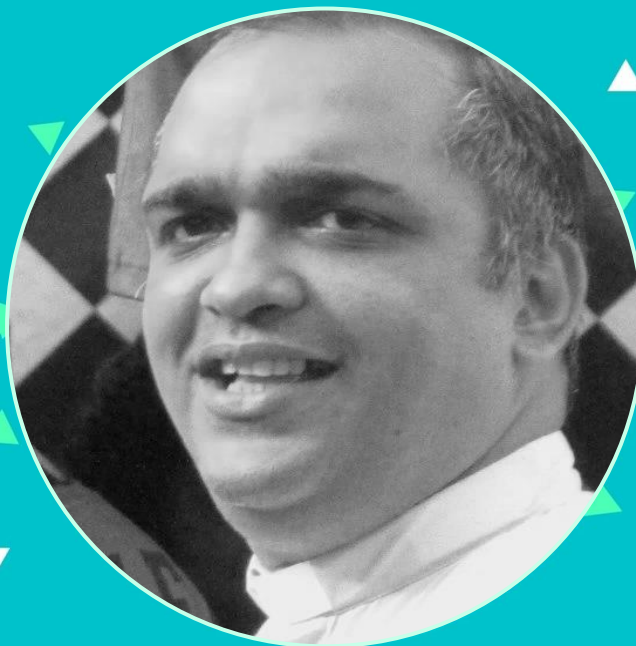
**Theme: Manifestation as a Prophet for All People**

Old Testament Lesson	Malachi 3: 1 -4
Psalm	84
New Testament Reading	Hebrews 2: 14 - 18
Gospel	St. Luke 2: 22 - 40

## HOLY DAYS/ FESTIVALS & OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Circumcision and Naming of Jesus
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	The feast of the Epiphany
9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Epiphany Sunday
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Unity Sunday
26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Conversion of St. Paul
30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Presentation & Church of Ceylon Youth Movement Sunday

*25 years of ministry as Presbyter*



**VEN. PERRY BROHIER**

*Our congratulations and best wishes to Fr. Perry as he celebrates 25 years of priesthood on 22nd December 2021. We thank you Fr. Perry for your devoted and caring ministry, you are a blessing to all of us at the Cathedral.*

*May your life as a priest continue to be filled with His grace and blessing!*

## 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

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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](http://www.cathedral.lk)

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

~ Compiled and edited by the Cathedral Media Team ~