

THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIVING SAVIOUR

Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7

CATHEDRAL NEWS - JANUARY 2019

Epiphany



“... they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts.”

Matthew 2:9-11

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 the Church celebrates the incarnation, also known as Christmas, with much tradition and festivity both locally and internationally, the celebrations were tempered with mixed emotions. As the people of God, it is vital that we actively look for ways and means to connect with the wider community through all that we come to do and participate in such times. The importance of making the message of Christmas as relevant as possible to the wider community helps us celebrate and observe these important festivals meaningfully in the Church.

As we enjoy and value God's greatest gift to the human family, I trust that there is a sense of fulfilment in all of us this Christmas tide. I am sure we have heard many appeals this Christmas season. It is my hope and prayer that we have been able to respond to at least one appeal in some way or the other, that we may ease the burden of another in need.

Nation: The nation has come through a difficult 50 days since 26th October 2018. As citizens, we salute the judiciary in the country for their wisdom and timely direction that helped rein in a situation that was being fuelled by misguided politicians. It is hoped that politicians representing all shades of thinking will take note of the verdict of the Supreme Court and not be in contempt by trying to add their own interpretations etc ... to the ruling delivered. As citizens of the country, we are entitled to question whether the politicians who have acted in blatant violation of the Constitution and continue to offer feeble arguments to justify their wrong actions are capable of respecting and safeguarding democracy in our nation. Citizens are further advised to take note of the situation and refrain from affirming the actions of these politicians.

As Christians and Disciples of Christ in this nation of ours, we need to fervently pray that God will raise up Statesmen in our nation in order that we may shun Politicians in order to affirm Statesmen.

Life in the Cathedral

Launch of Appeal – the late Rev. Mark Edwards: I am extremely grateful to all who have offered assistance for this appeal. The Cathedral has pledged to offer support to this family, initially on a monthly basis, for the next

three years (36 months). Therefore, your continuous support towards this appeal will be most welcome.

Outreach Fund: As mentioned in my December Pastoral letter, it is my hope and prayer that we, as a worshipping community, could encourage and support other Christians grow in their faith. Therefore, in this light we will look into providing bibles to worshipping communities who may have difficulties in purchasing bibles for use in their congregations. Your ongoing support towards the Outreach Fund as part of our Christian discipleship will be greatly appreciated.

Cathedral Choir: I am happy to let you know that this year the organizers of the Galle Literary Festival (GLF) have invited our Choir to participate in the festival. Our choir will present 'Experiencing God' on the 18th January 2019, at 6.30 pm, at the GLF in order to support the restoration efforts of All Saints' Church, Galle.

Visiting: The Cathedral Pastoral Care team is available to visit you. If you have not been contacted by the Clergy in this regard and would appreciate a Pastoral visit, please contact Rev. Earnest or Rev. Ratnamalar at your earliest. In addition to this, you may contact the Parish office for help in this regard, or leave a written request in the book left outside the vestry.

Confirmation Candidates: Further to the pulpit announcement and the note in the December Newsletter, I am happy to inform parents who have written to me that the process of confirmation is due to start shortly. Further details will be shared directly with parents and candidates from this point onwards.

Personal: As we commence a New Year I also need to keep you informed that the Bishop has extended my term of office by another five years with effect 1st January 2019. While we as a family have a lot to thank God for His blessings over the last five years, we would appreciate your prayers and look ahead to the unknown future with our fervent hope in the Lord who has called and equipped us for the task at hand.

Thanking You,
With Prayers and Blessings
Yours Sincerely,



Ven. Perry Brohier
Vicar

Glad Tidings!

CATHEDRAL CAROL SERVICE AND DINNER 2018

MAGICAL MUSICAL MOMENTS & A FEAST OF FOOD & FUN!



The Cathedral Carol Service was held on Saturday 1st December 2018. We got there early in order to get some good seating! With Ishan de Lanerolle directing our very talented choir, the crowds just gathered faster than one can imagine and soon the Cathedral was full of children, young adults and elders - all eagerly awaiting the magical moments ahead!

At 5.30 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 popular carol 'Once in Royal David's City' was the processional hymn where the



clergy and choir members walked down the aisle to take their places. Then the Vicar, Very Revd Perry Brohier greeted the congregation with a Bidding Prayer.

The service took the form of the Nine Lessons of Christmas.



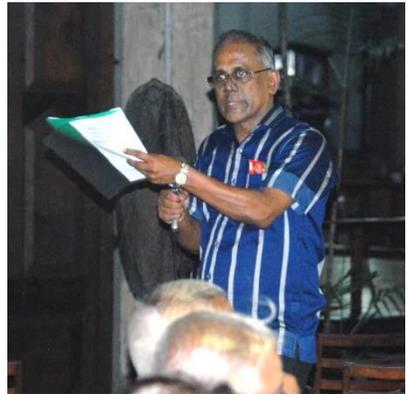
This is a form of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus which is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of our Lord Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from the Old Testament and the New Testament of the Bible. These were interspersed with familiar Carols like Mary's Boy Child, It came upon the Midnight Clear, While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night, The First Nowell and Hark the Herald Angels Sing. The singing was varied in that there were Sinhala, Tamil and English carols and the readings were also done in three languages. Participation was shared-sometimes the congregation joined in and sometimes they were sung only by the choir. At the end of the Service the Cathedral lights were



dimmed and the Clergy and Choir proceeded towards the entrance with lighted candles while they sang the final hymn, 'Adestes Fideles – O Come All Ye Faithful.' Then the lights were switched on and the congregation were now ready to leave after what was a memorable evening of wonderful music and singing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

After the service we met up with friends and then those of us who had purchased tickets for the dinner which had been organized by the Cathedral, headed towards the Unity Chapel (behind the main Altar) where the dinner was being served. A beautiful sight greeted us – there were several tables set with crockery and cutlery and elegantly covered chairs which awaited us. We were served with delicious fruit drinks when we sat at our tables. The caterers, Perera & Sons, provided the food and had it all laid out on one side of the Chapel.

At one corner there were some microphones set up from where all the hosting took place. The man behind the mike was Shanthikumar Sadanandan – generally called Sada who welcomed those present and invited Fr Perry to say Grace before we had our meal. Fr Perry also welcomed us and thanked the organizing committee – especially Sada, Rohan Salgado, Derrick Williams and Nirmala Peiris, for putting in so much effort to organize this dinner.



Then Sada was back at the mike! He told us to be ready for an evening of fun and games and suggested we could either shout 'yea' or 'boo' at the announcements made.

So here was our chance to shout - we rehearsed loud and clear - 'boo boo' and 'yea yea' – and found we were expert shouters! What next?

First, there was a draw on the tickets and for this he called children who were under ten years of age to come up to the microphone and draw the lucky numbers and give away the prizes. Needless to say, the kids were absolutely thrilled that they had been given



such a dominant role to play in such an important event in the Cathedral! Lots of kids ran up – some with their mothers or fathers – some were carried to the mike as they were too young to find their way through the crowd! – Once they got there



Fr Perry blessed each of them individually and also gave them each a Santa cap to wear – much to their delight! Rev Rathnamalar also blessed



them and welcomed them to this event.

Then the work began! There was the Entrance Ticket draw – the kids were asked to go around and check whether the tickets were kept on the table by the diners and if not they had to shout at the person! They loved doing this and there was plenty of shouting that almost brought



the place down! Then some kids were selected to pick the lucky numbers for the prizes. These numbers were written on paper, rolled up and placed in a large round glass bowl – in order to be ‘transparent’ Sada explained!

The kids selected to do this had to stand on a chair so that the diners



could see them and they very carefully drew a number from the bowl! This was read out by Sada, and when the winner came up the child presented the person with whatever gift he had won! The gifts were many and of various types –gift vouchers for dinners and brunches at some leading hotels; there were also return air tickets from Cinnamon Air from Colombo to Kandy Polgolla Reservoir or

Sigiriya and also many Christmas hampers filled with goodies! The children had a great time presenting the gifts and it was really wonderful to see them looking so excited! After this we joined in singing some Christmas carols and songs for the season. Then Nirmala Peiris took over the mike and she organized ‘Activities’ for the evening - which took an entertaining turn as usual! Time for the Ladies and Gents to participate – and prizes of boxes of chocolates were given to the first persons to walk up on her/his call. So – the first lady wearing a blue pair of shoes, the first gentleman wearing a gold coloured wrist watch, the first lady to come up with a gentleman’s handkerchief tied on her head, the first gentleman to come up wearing a lady’s necklace – and the first child to run to Fr Perry and give him a kiss!!

Of course there were disputes and debates– are your shoes really blue, they look black? Is your watch gold coloured – looks silver but must be the light?? From our table Dushy



swanked off her gold necklace and gave it to Daya who ran up and of

course won a prize! And Fr Perry was swamped with kisses as the kids rushed up with shouts and squeals to be the first to give him a kiss - surprising he didn't fall over!!

So with all the clapping and laughter and chatting among those present, a delightful atmosphere of fun filled the air! Then it was time to give the kids gifts. So 15 kids were called up and Fr Perry presented each child with a Santa hat and a box of Chunky Choc (chocolate biscuits).

Then it was dinner time and we walked up to the serving tables and picked on the wide array of delicacies laid out. The food



was delicious, assorted bread and butter, fresh garden salad, vegetables, chicken, Fish & Mushroom Pie, Lasagne and a very tasty Passion Fruit Mousse for dessert. The food was obviously much appreciated as there was a hush of silence which fell upon the crowd as they nibbled and munched through the yummy eats!

Finally – the evening came to a close with a meaningful prayer by Fr Rathnamalar. This was an unforgettable evening of magical singing and music followed by a feast of fellowship and fun. The greatest joy for us was that the children played such an active role in the evening's happenings. After all Christmas is about the birth of a child – a very special child called Jesus – who became our Saviour and Friend.

We are most grateful to our Clergy, Choir and organizers for their gifts of love and caring. May God always bless them and teach us to appreciate all the good things we have in our lives. Praise the Lord! *Anthea Senaratna*





Christmas

AT THE CATHEDRAL



Outreach Programme – Vaharai

For several years an important Outreach Programme of the Cathedral has been the project to help war widows in Vaharai. This little town is 65 km North of Batticaloa. The programme is carried out in partnership with a group called the Eastern Self-Reliant Community Organisation or ESCO.

The recipients for the aid are chosen by ESCO who are a well-known organization working tirelessly in the Eastern province through war areas. The organization has been associated with the Church of Ceylon from the time that they partnered the Bishop's Tsunami Relief Fund.

Vaharai was a a major battleground during the three decades of civil war with the control shifting between the Sri Lanka Government, the LTTE and the Indian Peace Keeping Forces. The direct result of the war was that it left thousands without any livelihood, displacements and disappearances, amongst others. There



are approximately 1200 war widows in Vaharai alone and around 29,000 war widows in the district of Batticaloa.

The Outreach Programme of the Cathedral is currently supporting approximately 50 war widows and their children. The worshipping community of the Cathedral has visited the village of Vaharai several times.

During the last visit on 9th and 10th August, when they met around 30 widows an appeal was made as the widowed mothers were facing great

difficulty in supplying the stationery needs of the school going children. They also requested, if possible to supply the children with school bags to carry their stationery and text books. In all there were 42 children.

The ESCO Organization supplied in detail the requirements of each individual child and the Finance and Administration Committee of the Cathedral took up the challenge and were able to obtain the entire



requirements of the needs of the children for both stationery and school bags. The committee is most grateful for the greatly discounted prices which the suppliers, Dawood Commercial Enterprises and Ravimal Bag Manufacturers, so readily provided for the required items.

The representative from ESCO organization visited Colombo to take over and distribute the items to the children back in Vaharai. The overnight stay of the ESCO representative, Mr. Spirithion was organized by Kithu Sevana on a complimentary basis.

We are indeed thankful to the Lord that in some small measure the Cathedral Committee was able to fulfil an urgent demand of these children and their widowed mothers, to assist in their educational aspirations. It is worthy of note that two of the children whose families were being supported through the Outreach Programme have obtained admission to the University, one student to study Maritime Engineering and another to the Eastern University.

Sriyantha Senaratna

Diocesan Council 2018 - Representatives' Report

The 133rd Diocesan Council Sessions were held on the 25th, 26th and 27th of October 2018, at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour, with Evensong, at which the Preacher was Ven. Perry Brohier, the Archdeacon of Colombo. As the Representatives of the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour, we would like to share some of the key points discussed during the Council sessions.

The theme of the program was: "Moving in the Spirit; Called to Transforming Discipleship." The Chief Guest- His Grace The Most Revd. Dr. Metropolitan Geevanghese Morcoorilos of the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church India, made an inspiring speech on the mission of discipleship which he described as "Turn to God: Turn to the Word". He spoke of the present global culture he called "Moneyism" or "Marketization" and went on to add that the mission of discipleship was to turn the world upside down.

It was reported to the Council members that the Resolution passed during last year's Council meeting to address the environmental crisis with a tree planting initiative by the Churches, schools run by the Diocese, Church of Ceylon Youth Movement was successfully launched island wide under the slogan "Plant Trees, Plant Life". A special mention was made on the tree planting programmes launched on World Environment Day, 5th June 2018, participated by many churches and schools where over 3,500 trees were planted.

The Resolutions on Provincial status and the appointment of an Assistant Bishop, Missionary Diocese and a new fully organized Diocese were taken up for discussion. After much debate where varying views were expressed in favour and in opposition to the Resolutions, the Bishop Rt. Rev. Kenneth Fernando was invited to explain to the Council members on the background that led to the establishment of the Church of Ceylon and the modalities of creating a new Diocese. There was concern expressed about the financial ability of the Church of Ceylon to undertake a new fully organized Diocese and whether it was the "need of the hour". It was observed by your representatives at the Council that there was a great lack of understanding amongst the Council members in general on what was sought to be achieved by the Resolutions. Most Council members present during the discussions were in agreement that much more awareness needs to be created amongst the Anglican community on the requirement for an Assistant Bishop and an overall education on the benefits of

creating a new Diocese. These tasks need to be properly undertaken before any Resolutions on these matters can be passed.

Mr. Chanaka De Silva, Registrar, was also invited to educate the Council members on the provisions of the Constitution of the Church of Ceylon relating to the subject matter of these Resolutions. Accordingly, the Resolutions were withdrawn for further reviewing.

The Resolution on the Tamil Liturgy in “The Lord’s Supper or Holy Eucharist, 2013, A People’s Edition by the Church of Ceylon” was taken up for discussion and it was resolved that the Tamil translation be reviewed for errors and brought into theological uniformity with the English version.

A petition was presented to support the Tea Estate Workers’ campaign on increasing daily wages upto Rs. 1,000. A petition was presented to denounce the unconstitutional removal of Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe on 26 th October 2018, and an appeal to the President to uphold the Constitution and laws of Sri Lanka.

Thank you.

Himani Peiris/Eshan de Mel/Naavaya Wannakuwatte/Chamindhi Abeywardena

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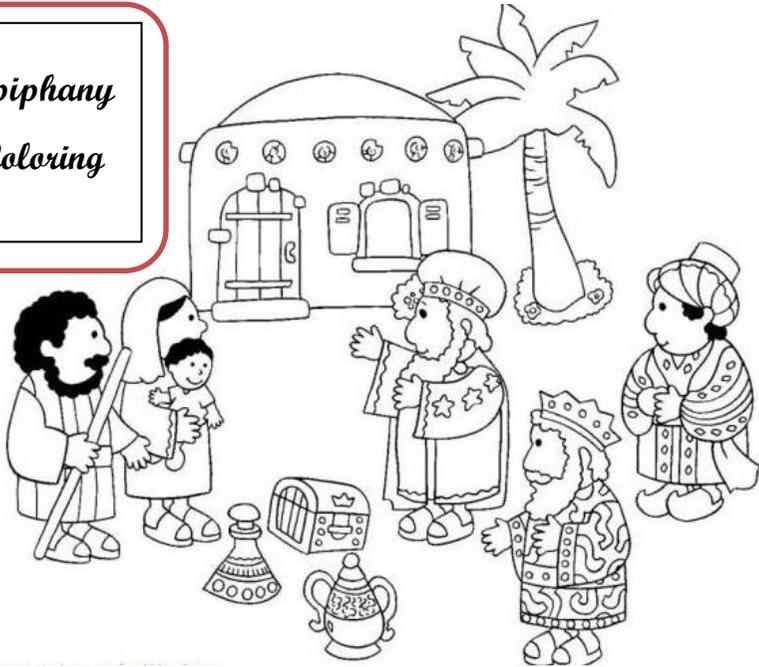
Clergy at the Cathedral

Rt. Revd. Dhiloraj Canagasabey - The Bishop of Colombo
Ven. Perry Brohier - Vicar of the Cathedral & Archdeacon of Colombo
(0777541234)
Revd. Earnest Nadeem - Assistant Curate (0777138831)
Revd. Ratnamalar Ratnarajah - Assistant Curate (0779428297)

Sunday Worship Service Times

7:00 am - Sinhala
8:15 am - English
11:00 am - Tamil
Daily Eucharist - Monday to Saturday - 7:30 am
Every Second Sunday-
Sinhala & Tamil Combined service- 7:00 am
Every Fifth Sunday- Tri-Lingual Service-8:15 am

**Epiphany
Coloring**



Holy Days and Festivals – January 2019

- 1st Circumcision and Naming of Jesus
- 6th The Epiphany
- 25th The Conversion of St. Paul

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Website: www.dioceseofcolombo.lk

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/cathedral-of-christ-the-living-saviour-sri-lanka-768180569905300/about>

LECTIONARY - January 2019

Date: 6th January 2019 – The Epiphany and The Second Sunday of Christmas
Theme: The Manifestation of God

Reading	Passage	Name of Reader
Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 60: 1 - 6	Gloriana Razeek
Psalms	72: 1 – 7, 10 - 14	Ralph Wickremaratne
Epistle	Epiphany 3: 1 - 12	Anithra Yatawaka
Gospel	St. Matthew 2: 1 - 12	Shamara Herath
Intercessions		Sukanya Devarajan
Offertory		Yatawaka Family

Date : 13th January 2019 – The Third Sunday of Christmas
Theme : Manifestation in Christ's Baptism

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 43: 1 – 7	Irene Boco
Psalms	29	Oosha Chanmugam
Epistle	Acts 8: 14 - 17	Cyril Amarasekera
Gospel	St. Luke 3: 15 - 17, 21 - 22	Rupa Simithraaratchy
Intercessions		Sukumar Rockwood
Offertory		Boco Family

Date: 20th January 2019 – The Fourth Sunday of Christmas and Unity Sunday
Theme : Manifestation in a New Creation

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 62: 1 – 5	Charles Sanders
Psalms	36: 5 – 10	Sashyani Rodrigo
Epistle	1 Corinthians 12 : 1 – 10	Niranjala William
Gospel	St. John 2: 1 - 11	Shalini Fernando
Intercessions		Thayalan Gnanapragasam
Offertory		William Family

Date : 27th January 2019 – The Fifth Sunday of Christmas
Theme : Manifestation in Discipleship

Old Testament Lesson	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6,8-10	Nirubala Vincent
Psalms	19	Indrani Senanayake
Epistle	1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 31	Derrick William
Gospel	St. Luke 4: 14 - 21	Jill Mcdonald
Intercessions		Sriyantha Senaratna
Offertory		Vincent Family