



CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

December 2022

Feast of the Nativity



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 is the beginning of the liturgical calendar. This season brings with it the message of Hope, a timely message and one of immense relevance not just to the Church but to our entire nation. As we look around, we see desperate, broken and crushed people who are waiting in hope to get out of the misery their leaders have plunged the entire nation into.

Nation: The continued misuse of power and authority seems to be a fashionable option that many seem to be taking to govern and rule. While doing so they seem to lose sight of the fact that one day their temporary reign will come to an end.

New Archdeacons - Nuwara Eliya & Galle: Rev. Christopher Balaraj and Rev. Sunil Shantha Gunatilleke will be installed as the Archdeacons of Nuwara Eliya and Galle on the 7th of December 2022 at 8.15am. We remember Rev. Christo and Rev. Sunil Shantha and their respective families as they prepare to undertake this responsibility in the New Year.

Diocesan Council 2022: The report of the Council representatives on the recently concluded 137th Annual Sessions is in this edition of the Newsletter. I request you to please take a few minutes to read it and be informed as it will give you some kind of insight in to the direction the Diocese is moving towards next year and thereafter.

Life in the Cathedral

Community Kitchen (CK): Our community kitchen continues to function twice a week feeding almost 500 people weekly. I am grateful to all of you who continue to support this initiative financially.

There is an urgent need for volunteers to help with the distribution of food. If you like to assist, please get in touch with me.

50th Anniversary of the Cathedral: Our Carol Service to be held at 6 pm on Sunday 18th December 2022 will be our 50th Anniversary event for the month. Your presence, prayers and participation at this service will be greatly appreciated.

Support for the Cathedral: Despite our having to contend with many challenges, I am extremely grateful to many of you who support the work of the Cathedral generously. Your support is greatly appreciated and valued.

In case you require the bank details of the Cathedral, do get in touch with the Cathedral office (0112671481), speak to me or send us an email requesting the account details to info@cathedral.lk. The use of online banking facilities for this purpose is encouraged.

Live Stream: The live stream continues to be watched by a large segment of people both locally and internationally. If you have not done so up to now, you are encouraged to subscribe to the Cathedral YouTube channel by pressing the subscribe button.



Pastoral Care: Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me in case of a Pastoral emergency. Every effort is being made to ensure that the Pastoral care extended by the Cathedral continues despite a few practical challenges we face.

Greetings: The Cathedral office staff, Christina and Rachel join me in wishing you and your families a blessed Christmas. May the Peace of the Christ Child surround you and fill you with hope this Christmas.

Thanking you,
With Prayers and Blessings
Yours Sincerely,

Ven. Perry Brohier
Vicar

APPRECIATION OF REV. BALAKUMAR



Rev. Savarimutthu Issac Balakumar, or Fr. Balakumar as he was affectionately known to us, entered full communion in Christ on the afternoon of Tuesday the 8th of November 2022. Even though his stay with us at the Cathedral was brief, he captured the hearts and minds of many with his dedication and commitment to his work.

While his remains were in the Cathedral on Wednesday the 9th of November 2022, there was a steady stream of people who came from across the Diocese to pay their respects to him. It is not wrong to say that he worked across the Diocese since his ordination in 1987. On Thursday 10th November 2022, his mortal remains were taken after a requiem service at the Cathedral for internment in their family burial ground at St. Barnabas' Church, Avissawella.

It was through his work that we learned how much he loved the Lord Jesus Christ as he was always ready and well prepared for anything he was called upon to do. As his contribution to the Mission and Ministry of the Cathedral, Fr. Balakumar carried most of the workload of the Sinhala and Tamil Ministry while stepping in whenever there was a need with any other area of work.

While we will miss his presence in our midst, we continue to uphold his wife and three sons in our prayers, that they will know God's peace and consolation in the days ahead. May he rest in Peace and rise in glory.

REPORT TO THE CATHEDRAL WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY ON THE 137TH ANNUAL SESSIONS OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL 2022 – DIOCESE OF COLOMBO

Members who represented the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour- Mr. Maasiri Dias, Mr. Pranavan Rockwood, Ms. Dilsarah Derrick and Mrs. Nirubala Vincent.

The 137th sessions of the Diocesan Council were held on the 27th, 28th and 29th of October 2022, the theme for the council being, *'I have observed the misery of my people, I have heard their cry, I know their suffering and I have come down to deliver them'* Exodus 3: 7-8

The two main resolutions which were discussed were:

1. The need to create one more additional Diocese in order for the Church of Ceylon to achieve Provincial Status and become a province in the Worldwide Anglican communion.
2. The need to recognise and affirm the rights of the Malayaga Makkal (Upcountry plantation workers) Community.

Day 1- 27th Oct. 2022

The Council commenced with the Evensong held at the Cathedral at 4.00pm, followed by refreshments and thereafter the first session for the day started at the Chambers.

The Chief guests were Rt. Revd. Keerthisiri Fernando and Mrs. Arlene McShane.

A special felicitation was presented to Rt. Revd. Kenneth Fernando on the 30th anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination followed by the chief guest's address.

Thereafter the Bishop's address to the Diocesan Council was delivered to the Council by the Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo.

The evening's proceedings ended with prayer led by the Chaplains.

Day 2- 28th Oct. 2022

The day began with morning prayers followed by the trilingual Eucharist service. Thereafter, the council members were divided into study groups for Bible study.

Bible study

Keeping in line with the theme of this year's council, the studies were focused much on the Malayaga Makkal (Upcountry plantation workers).

The key topics of discussion were the involvement of the church for the betterment of the lives of the Malayaga Makkal. There were representatives from the plantation sectors who joined us for these sessions and voiced some of the main concerns and issues prevalent among the upcountry plantation community. It was also discussed how the church might be involved with the upliftment of education within this community, and also to create personal relationships with those in such communities as what they lack is the motivation and hope for a better life.

Session 1

The report of the Standing Committee was tabled and discussed. The efforts of the Standing Committee were applauded to digitalize documentation in the hope of contributing to an eco-friendly mechanism within the diocese. It was further discussed to use such digital methods where possible to streamline the distribution of information across the congregations.

In addition to the above, several council members expressed their appreciation and also some others shared their concerns on various matters provided within the Green book.

It was also recognized that this year, in comparison to previous years, there was a higher participation of youth as council members, allowing for the dynamic growth of the diocese.

A petition challenging the Executive Presidency of Sri Lanka was also put forward, which was supported by a majority of the Council.

Session 2

After lunch, the session resumed. The nominations for the Standing Committee of 2022/2023, and nominations for the Incorporated Board of Trustees for the forthcoming year were proposed by the Council Members.

Session 3

The resolution calling on the diocese to request the General Assembly to take steps to create an additional diocese in order that the Church of Ceylon moves towards attaining provincial status within the worldwide Anglican Communion was presented.

During the debate, an amendment to the proposed resolution was made to replace the words 'third Diocese' with 'additional Diocese'. The amendment was accepted. The debate continued with each speaker being allocated three minutes to convey their thoughts.

At the completion of the debate, the resolution was voted on and passed with an overwhelming majority in favour of creating more dioceses.

The day's proceedings concluded with a prayer said by the Bishop of Colombo.

Day 3- 29th Oct.2022

The third day began with the Eucharistic service, followed by breakfast and refreshments for the clergy and council members.

Bible Study

Following the breakfast, the groups were sent to their respective Bible study groups. At these groups, the issues of the Malayaga Makkal were discussed. Light was shed upon the fact that they do not have equal rights and their education systems don't allow the students to progress into higher studies due to a lack of resources. The representative who spoke in the group talked about how they are not given equal rights and citizenship benefits even with the newer generations. He also asked a valid question about who the oppressor was in the light of this issue.

Session 4

After the conclusion of the Bible study, the Council resumed at the Diocesan Chambers. They thereafter voted to elect the new Standing Committee comprising 7 members from the clergy and 18 members from the laity.

Session 5

The resolution to recognise and affirm the rights of the Malayaga Makkal (Upcountry plantation workers) Community was then presented and debated.

Session 6

After the lunch break too, the discussion continued about the views on the rights of the Malayaga Makkal.

After the final speaker concluded his final speech, a vote was taken as to how many were in favour of the resolution regarding the 'Malayaga makkal'; all of the members were in favour.

Finally the results of the elections for the Standing Committee were announced and the council sessions concluded with a prayer by the Bishop of Colombo.



CHURCH OF CEYLON DIOCESE OF COLOMBO



Rt. Revd. Dushantha Rodrigo
Bishop of Colombo

Our Ref :
Your Ref :

1st November 2022

Come! Listen! Live!

A Night of Storytelling, Hymns and Meditation

*'As The Deer Panteth For The Water, So My Soul Longs After Thee
You Are Alone Are My Hearts Desire, And I Long To Worship Thee'*

From enhancing and relaxing one's state of being to providing complete connection with the divine, music has the ability to help us overcome our inhibitions. Meditation, centered around Christ, is no different. We are all aware of the benefits of meditation: it helps in stress management, increases self and present moment awareness, improves breathing efficiency, and helps regulate emotional reactions. But it also requires us to become silent and still; two extremely difficult yet highly necessary components to connect with the eternal. Both music and meditation share this ability to provide the practitioner with the opportunity to achieve spiritual oneness. This is why so many of us are attracted to these ways. They provide us with comfort and solace in a world that is running on full gear!

It is in this regard that I have invited Mr. Harin Amirthanathan and Mr. Sanchitha Wickremesooriya to bring together voices across the denominations to help us on our spiritual journey through an evening of storytellings, hymns and meditation – 'Come! Listen! Live!' on the 8th and 9th of July, 2023. There will be a special vocal audition held on the 7th of December, 2022 at the **Bishops' Committee Room** of the Diocese of Colombo – 368 / 3A Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 00700 from 11am - 6pm in order to form the Choir that would be responsible for bringing this experience to life. The selected choristers would be trained not only to perfect the chosen hymns, but also be guided to experience and help others experience the transcendental power of music and meditation.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 30, and are able to commit to the following schedule, we encourage you to come audition and contribute your talent and effort towards the success of this unique and powerful event:

Bishops' Office, 368/3, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo -7, 00700, Sri Lanka

பிஷாப்பர் அலுவலகம், 368/3 பாடலோக மாவாறு, கோலம்ப - 7, 00700, சீலான்

கொழும்பு பேராயர் காரியாலயம், 368/3A, பெளத்தாலோக மாவத்தை கொழும்பு - 07. 00700, இலங்கை

Tel : +94 112 696 208 / +94 112 692 985 / +94 112 684 810

Email : bishop@dioceseofcolombo.lk

Fax : +94 112 684 811

Rehearsal Schedule:

Sopranos and Altos (Ladies) -

January - 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th (Every Thursday - 7-9pm)

February - 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd (Every Thursday - 7-9pm)

March - 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th (Every Thursday - 7-9pm)

April - 6th, 20th, 27th (Every Thursday - 7-9pm)

May - 2nd, 4th, 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 23rd, 25th, 30th (Every Tuesday and Thursday - 7-9pm)

June - 1st, 6th, 8th, 13th, 15th, 20th, 22nd, 27th, 29th (Every Tuesday and Thursday - 7-9pm)

July - 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th

Tenors and Basses (Gentlemen) -

January - 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st (Every Tuesday - 7-9pm)

February - 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th (Every Tuesday - 7-9pm)

March - 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th (Every Tuesday - 7-9pm)

April - 4th, 18th, 25th (Every Tuesday - 7-9pm)

May - 2nd, 4th, 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 23rd, 25th, 30th (Every Tuesday and Thursday - 7-9pm)

June - 1st, 6th, 8th, 13th, 15th, 20th, 22nd, 27th, 29th (Every Tuesday and Thursday - 7-9pm)

July - 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th

*Please note that all rehearsals will take place at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Kynsey Road.

In order to schedule an audition, and for any further clarifications, please email us at **come.llsten.live@gmail.com**

With Prayers and Blessings



The Right Reverend Dushantha Rodrigo
Bishop of Colombo



COME! LISTEN! LIVE!

*A Night of Storytelling, Hymns and
Meditation*

Come audition to join our choir!

at the Bishops' Committee Room
Diocese of Colombo

The Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour
368 / 3A Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo
00700

Wednesday, December 7th, 2022
(Poya Day)

11am - 6pm



Email us at come.listen.live@gmail.com
to secure yourself an audition!

JOURNEY OF PROMISES



Advent Sunday marks the beginning of the season of Advent where Christians all over the world prepare themselves for the birth of the Saviour on Christmas Day, December 25th. The word Advent is derived from the Latin word “adventus”, which means “coming” or “arrival” – of something of great importance.

For the worshipping community of the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour, there was a wonderful celebration of this significant Sunday, on November 27th, 2022 as the Cathedral Choir presented ‘Journey of Promises’ – a cantata for Christmas by Joseph M. Martin. A congregation of over 750 filled the Cathedral that evening, some coming in as early as 5 pm for the 6.30 pm start, eager to secure seats right in front.

The Cathedral choir directed by Ishan de Lanerolle was in glorious voice all through the 45-minute programme. Entering the darkened church, the choristers in their white cassocks with deep blue sashes made their way to the altar in solemn procession led by the cross.

The programme began with Archdeacon and Vicar of the Cathedral, Fr. Perry Brohier welcoming the congregation to this journey “that began in the hearts of devout prophets and culminates in the glorious celebration of Christmas”. He spoke of the Cathedral’s own journey of 49 years (of which this programme was a celebration) leading up to the 50th anniversary in November 2023, remembering also those who were part of the worshipping community and choir and who had completed their earthly journey.

‘Come on a journey of promises,’ choir director Ishan intoned in his sonorous bass and so began the music – swelling and soaring from ‘A New Psalm of Celebration’ to ‘Arise and Shine Your Time Has Come’, the melodious ‘Star in the Desert’ –a beautiful intermingling of contemporary anthems with the beloved and time-honoured Christmas carols like ‘Once In Royal David’s City’ and ‘Hark the Herald Angels sing’ woven in. The soloists were Dilsarah Derrick, Shanthi Gnanapragasam and Eshan de Mel while the readings that brought home the Biblical message were by the two narrators, Savithri Rodrigo and Jake Oorloff. A symbolic lighting of candles going from the colour black (the world in darkness) to the ninth candle in white (the Incarnation of Christ) took place throughout the programme, representing the Advent journey.



Rays of light streaming down from the Cathedral’s lofty ceiling to lighten the darkness, the bare cross hanging over the altar in sharp focus, the musical experience was enhanced and heightened by the dramatic lighting meticulously planned by Ishan, assisted by Lawrence Vincent and supplied by Dhanushka of D4. Unique Sounds provided the sound with masterful controlling by Neranjan de Silva. Jeanne Samuel coordinated the programme on behalf of the choir along with Ramola Sivasundaram.

Finally, the choir made their way to the Cathedral entrance to sing the blessing, leaving the congregation deeply thankful for the opportunity to be part of this very special act of worship.

The words of the Advent Prayer Fr. Perry prayed, “O God, increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us the strength to grow in hope, faith and love, that the dawn of Christ’s coming may find us rejoicing in Christ’s presence and welcoming the light of truth through Jesus Christ our Lord,” were no doubt echoed in many hearts uplifted that evening.



Journey of Promises
27th November 2022



THE CATHEDRAL

*Community
Kitchen*

**THE PROJECT
FEEDS OVER 400
PEOPLE WEEKLY**

WITH THE HELP OF VOLUNTEERS FROM THE CONGREGATION, MEMBERS OF THE CATHEDRAL WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY HAVE BEGUN TO RESPOND TO AND AID THOSE AFFECTED BY THE PRESENT CRISIS.

If you feel moved to support this initiative, you may make your contribution to the Cathedral office by indicating Community Kitchen or CK on the envelope. Alternatively, you may make a bank transfer to the Cathedral.

If you would like to contribute by volunteering, please get in touch with the vicar and express your interest in doing so.

BANK DETAILS:

Beneficiary:
Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour

Bank:
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC, Reid Avenue Branch

Account Number:
1116019905

Bank Code: 7056
Branch Code: 116
Swift Code: CCEYLK LX

Reference:
"Community Kitchen"
or
"CK"

THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIVING SAVIOUR

368, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7

LECTIONARY - DECEMBER 2022

**Date: 4th December 2022 – 2nd Sunday of Advent
(3rd Sunday before Christmas – Bible Sunday)**

Theme: “The Good News Proclaimed by a Penitential Voice ”

Reading	Passage	Name of Reader
Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 11: 1 – 10	Daphne William
Psalms	72: 1 – 7, 18 - 19	Menash Gamalatge
Epistle	Romans 15: 4 - 13	Chayani Saranapala
Gospel	St. Matthew 3: 1 - 12	Cyril Amarasekera
Intercessions		Shanti Gnanapragasam

Date: 11th December 2022 – 3rd Sunday of Advent (2nd Sunday before Christmas)

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

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 35: 1 - 10	Vrai Raymond
Psalms	146: 5 - 10	Amrith Samarasinghe
Epistle	James 5: 7 - 10	Heshan De Silva
Gospel	St. Matthew 11: 2 - 11	Radhika Salgado
Intercessions		Jill Macdonald

Date: 18th December 2022 – 4th Sunday of Advent (Sunday before Christmas)

Theme : “Love: The Annunciation”

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah	Shashyani Rodrigo
Psalms	80: 1 – 7, 17 - 19	Enoch Daniel
Epistle	Romans 1: 1 - 7	Amanda Vincent
Gospel	St. Matthew 1: 18 - 25	Dilsarah Derrick
Intercessions		Mahen Perera

Date : 24th December 2022 – Christmas Eve

Theme : “The Nativity of Our Lord”

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 9: 2 – 7	Abigail Pereira
Psalms	96	Derrick William
Epistle	Titus 2: 1 - 14	Shamara Herat
Gospel	St. Luke 2: 1 - 14	Pranavan Rockwood
Intercessions		Daphne Charles

LECTIONARY - DECEMBER 2022

Date; 25th December 2022 – Christmas Day

Theme : “ The Nativity of Our Lord ”

Reading	Passage	Name of Reader
Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 62: 6 - 12	Dineth Kannangara
Psalm	97	Niroshala Manuel
Epistle	Titus 3: 4 – 7	Charles Sanders
Gospel	St. Luke 2: 8 - 20	Indranee Senanayake
Intercessions		Shyamal Muthumudalige

Date : 31st December 2022 – New Year’s Eve

Theme : “New Year ”

Old Testament Lesson	Ecclesiastes 3: 1 - 13	Irene Boco
Psalm	8	Rohan Jayasinghe
Epistle	Revelation 21: 1 - 6	Jeane Samuel
Gospel	St. Matthew 25:31-46	Michael Gnanapragasam
Intercessions		Dharshini Masilamaney

Date: 1st January 2023– New Year’s Day (1st Sunday of Christmas)

Theme: “Holy Family”

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 63: 7 - 9	Dhiranjan Canagasabey
Psalm	148	Enosh Randunubandara
Epistle	Hebrews 2: 12 - 18	Avani Wannakuwatte
Gospel	St. Matthew 2: 13 - 23	Patrick Bulner
Intercessions		Sonali Amarasekera

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)
1 st Jan	Holy Name of Jesus

HOLY EUCHARIST SERVICE TIMES

07.00am – Sinhala & Tamil

08.30am – English

- All services will be held physically while the 8.30am service will also 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

Cathedral Office

Staff	Address	Office Contact	Email
Wesley Bastianpillai	368, Bauddhaloka 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 ~