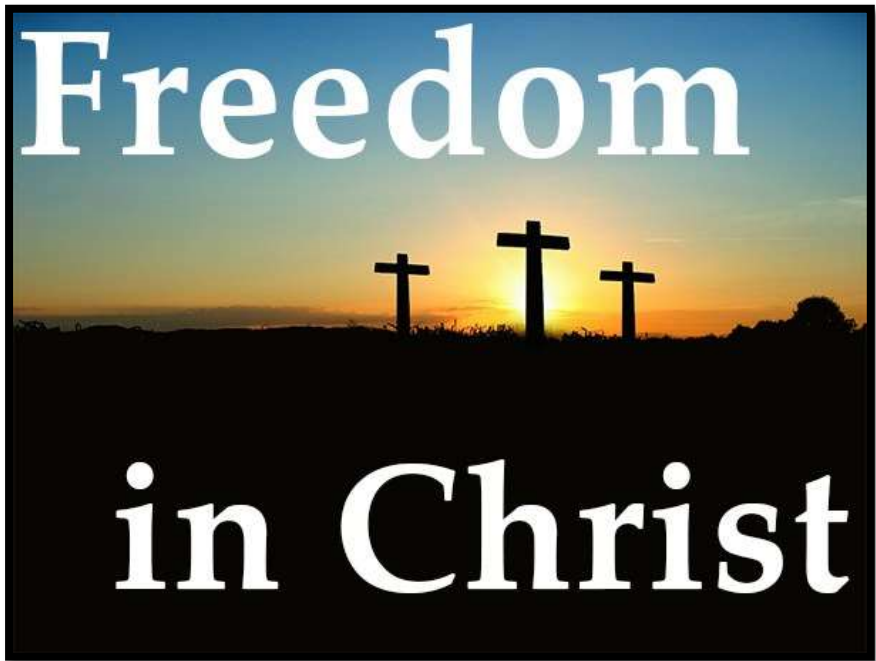


THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIVING SAVIOUR

Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7

Cathedral News - February 2019



"For freedom Christ has set us free.

Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

Galatians 5:1

Message from the Vicar of the Cathedral

My dear Friends in Christ,
Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour!

Church: The scriptures give us valuable insights into the teaching about Freedom. What in essence the people of our nation need to taste and experience. This teaching we discover empowers people to live without being in bondage to all that we have been freed from. As we journey through politically turbulent times, we in the Church are called to be salt and light, a rainbow community, a people of hope living in the midst of so much hopelessness. Let us not lose sight of our basic calling therefore, as people of the baptized community and remain faithful to our calling.

Nation: This month the nation celebrates its 71st anniversary of Independence. It will be pertinent to really ask while the country celebrates the occasion, have our leaders and we as citizens of this country been good stewards of our freedom. There is so much that needs to be addressed so that people, irrespective of their social or economic standing, ethnicity or gender, can live integrated and wholesome lives.

It is extremely distressing to note that our current political crisis that was triggered off by individuals with vested interest and it continues to be perpetuated by the very persons who have pledged on many a platform to bring stability and harmony to the issues facing the nation. While successive leaders and governments have made many promises to the people to gain power, all of them have let down the people of our nation by failing to deliver on the pledges with regard to the core issues that confront us as a nation. It is time that these people are held accountable for what they have pledged and have failed to deliver.

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 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: While we all desire to be touched by God, it is important that we learn to share and give back to the community. Christ is our greatest treasure that we come to discover as people of the Church. Growing in a living relationship with Him will compel us to share Him with others. Sharing the message of Christ and His love must be our primary concern as the people

of God. Therefore, I call upon as many of us who feel compelled and moved to support the outreach fund generously. Our prayer should *be Lord help us to commit ourselves to be instruments of your peace and love; in a broken, wounded and hurting world, help us to remain committed to you for it is giving of what we have in the person of Jesus Christ that we receive from the same Christ and in dying to self that we experience new life in Christ Jesus.*

Cathedral Choir: The recent choir programme in Galle was very powerful and moving. The opportunity to reach out to people with the Gospel through the ministry of music was so humbling. Christ is the focus of all that we as a Church have to offer people who are searching for the truth. It was truly encouraging to see what it is to Experience God.

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: As the response has been very poor, I am compelled to give one more reminder to the congregation in this regard. I will review the situation after the 15th February 2019.

Thanking You,

With Prayers and Blessings

Yours Sincerely,



Ven. Perry Brohier

Vicar

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Holy Days and Festivals – February 2019

2nd Presentation of Christ in the Temple
15th Stephen, the First Martyr

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)

"EXPERIENCING GOD"

A Miraculous Musical

Presented by the Choir of the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour Colombo at the Fairway Holdings Galle Literary Festival, held at 'All Saints Church' Galle, on Friday 18th January 2019- To Raise Funds For The Restoration Of 'All Saints Church' Galle.

The Galle Literary Festival has grown over the past ten years and become a hub for all genres of the artistic theme – which include not only books and reading but also art, dancing, singing and music. This year, for the first time, the choir of the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour in Colombo directed by Ishan de Lanerolle, was invited to participate in this Festival.

All Saints Anglican Church Galle is located in the historic Galle Fort which is now a UNESCO world heritage site. It was the first Bishop of Colombo, Rt. Rev. James Chapman who initiated the decision to build an Anglican Church in Galle. The foundation was laid in 1868 by Rev. Dr. Piers Claughton – the second Bishop of Colombo. The Church was

consecrated In 1871 by Bishop Claughton, assisted by its first Vicar Rev. Dr. George Justus Schrader. In 1876, as a tribute to Dr. Schrader, a large bell was placed in his memory in the centre dome of the church. But in the mid 1960s for security reasons, the bell was lowered and left to be sold. Subsequently, it was bought by the Diocese and now lies in the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour in Colombo. The Church in Galle acquired its current bell in 1968 from the Liberty Ship 'Ocean Verity' and was donated by the Clan Line Steamship Company. The Church was designed by the Government architect Mr. J.G. Smithers, who later designed the National Museum of Colombo. The Church was constructed on the site of a former Court House (1780s). The gallows it is said stood on the site of the present altar.

'Experiencing God' is a musical created over ten years ago by Claire Cloninger and Gary Rhodes with Henry Blackaby. It has been translated into more than 45



languages and features narrations, original songs, some classic hymns, choruses of praise and contemporary Christian songs. It also includes a Children's Choir which perform melodies specially written for them.

By 6.30 pm the Church was filled with people which included children, young adults, and elderly people.

The service began with a welcome from the current Archdeacon of Galle, Ven. Sunil Fernando and followed by a greeting and prayer from the Vicar of the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour, Colombo, The Ven. Perry Brohier. Fr Perry explained the background to the workbook of Bible teachings on the will of



God which includes Henry's biblical knowledge and personal testimony with Caude's skill in helping believers learn. 'Experiencing God' helps believers explore the biblical truths. He thanked Fairway Holdings for inviting the Cathedral to be a part of the GLF 2019 to help raise funds for the renovation of this Church. He also thanked, on behalf of the Bishop of Colombo Rt. Rev. Dhiloraj Canagasabay, all those who participated in this event - especially Ishan De Lanerolle, who with unmitigated commitment has built this choir to what it is today; Rohan de Lanerolle for helping with this programme, Neranjan de Silva and Sureka de Silva for managing the sound, Dhanushka for the lighting and finally the talented members of the choir who so willingly contributed towards this event.

The lights were dimmed and there was total silence in the Church while the Choir walked down the aisle to front of the altar where they took their places for the evening's event.

Then the music began-----

Titles of Songs: Name of Names, Speechless, Eyes of Your Heart, Open the eyes of my Heart, Be Thou my Vision, My Abba's Child, Abba Father, What is Jesus doing, On my knees, When I survey the Wondrous Cross, Finale.

Narrations-

Before the singing took place there were some Bible readings or stories with Biblical backgrounds read by Rohan, Ishan and Daphne Charles. There was also a Children's Choir with a reading done by Treasure Boco. Soloists - Ishan, Rohan and Niran De Mel. Some of the songs were sung by the entire Choir, some by individuals and some by the Children's Choir.

Here is a short review of the narrations behind some of the songs/hymns

1. 'SPEECHLESS'

God has been at work throughout history pursuing a relationship with human beings – in burning bushes, on blazing mountain tops, in silent rooms and quiet moments. God has been drawing people to Himself. Can you imagine Moses or

Mary, Abraham or Noah as they actually came into contact with the Living God? He revealed Himself in a unique way to each of them and in turn they each responded differently. Some trembled, some bowed down, some stood before Him in silent awe. How would you have responded? How we respond to God reveals what we believe about Him.

2. 'EYES OF YOUR HEART'

In this place God is doing what only He can do. He is pursuing a relationship with you. If you have never known him before, you can begin to know Him now. If you are willing to forget about the past, to let go of the future and just meet God at this moment, you will find Him here. His Holy Spirit is waiting to be your guide into the awesome majesty of His presence.



3. 'MY ABBA'S CHILD/ABBA FATHER' (children's choir)

An amazing story read by Rohan was that of the British runner Derek Redmond who in the 1992 Olympics collapsed just before he reached the finish line. Immediately his father who was seated in the Stadium rushed out and helped him to get to the finish line. Derek Redmond did not win the Gold Medal but he walked away from the race with the memory of a father who loved his son so much that he walked down from the stands to help him. This is represented in the song "Abba, Father" which shows that God our Father is always there for us and will pick us up should we fall.

4. 'WHAT IS JESUS DOING?'

How awesome to know that God the Creator of this Universe is inviting us to join Him and wants to have a Father/child relationship with us. He has a plan for us like he did for Moses, Abraham or the disciples. He will carry out His plan through us – all we have to do is to obey Him.

5. 'ON MY KNEES'

We don't have to strain our ears to hear our Lord – He is always speaking to us. He speaks to us through His body, the Church. The members of Christ's body guide His church in the same way that the members of the human body guide the body. For instance, if you are on a rail track and your ears warn you that a train is approaching, and then your feet move fast and you will immediately get off the track – your body



parts trust one another to protect you from danger and in the same way we in the Church must learn to trust and care for one another.

The most important way we hear from God is when we enter His presence to pray. Prayer is a two way communication with God in which listening is more important than talking. To pray is to know Jesus Christ who is the Truth.

6. 'WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS'

God can also speak to us through our circumstances, the good things and the bad. We have to be careful not to judge God in the middle of difficult times. Henry Blackaby experienced this first hand when his child was diagnosed with cancer at sixteen years of age. This was a very traumatic experience for the family and the question arose as to why God was putting them through such distressing times. The parents of this child felt that God didn't love them but then they saw the crucified Christ on the cross and realized that God put His only Son also through very trying and difficult times. Then Henry prayed "Father don't ever let me look at my circumstances and question Your love. Your love for me was settled on the cross – that has never changed and never will."

7. 'FINALE'

The Worship leader tells the audience that Christ has opened our eyes to who He is and how much He loves us and asks us to join hands and open ourselves to Him. He tells us that there will be no turning back and our lives are in His hands. Needless to say, as always, the Choir sang with much passion and in perfect harmony and the readings were extremely well articulated. The Children's Choir was exceptionally good and it was wonderful to see them singing with such enthusiasm. In addition, the lighting in the Church created a spectacular ambience as it enhanced the atmosphere to suit each item. Throughout the service the lights dimmed and then came on with a startling zest to light up the altar area and the cross and then the entire Church. – so we were immersed in an atmosphere of heavenly music and singing. Fr Perry closed the event with a prayer and once again thanked all those present for attending the service.

As we made our way out of the Church we truly felt that we had experienced the presence of our loving God being right beside us. We thanked God for giving us the opportunity to enjoy His precious word



through our dedicated and gifted Choir and are most grateful to all those who participated in this event. This magical musical was filled with powerful moments of the effect God has in our lives – this was truly a worship experience to know and do the will of God. *Anthea Senaratna*

LECTIONARY - February 2019

Date: 3rd February 2019 – Presentation/National Day – Sunday

The Sixth Sunday of Christmas

Theme: Jesus Christ the Light of the World

Reading	Passage	Name of Reader
Old Testament Lesson	Malachi 3: 1 – 4	Shiona Weerasekera
Psalm	84	Jeevakumaran
Epistle	Hebrews 2: 14 - 18	Aruni Wijyaratna
Gospel	St. Luke 2: 22 - 40	Chitra Simithraaratchy
Intercessions		Mohan Mendis
Offertory		Weerasekera Family

Date : 10th February 2019 – The Tenth Sunday before Easter

Theme : Grace to Receive the Light of Christ in Sri Lanka

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 6: 1 – 8	Radhika Salgado
Psalm	138	Anton Edema
Epistle	1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 11	Niroshala Manuel
Gospel	St. Luke 5: 1 - 11	Delani Mitchell
Intercessions		Sukumar Rockwood
Offertory		Salgado Family

Date: 17th February 2019 – The Ninth Sunday before Easter

Theme : Christ the Guru

Old Testament Lesson	Jeremiah 17: 5 – 10	Easwaran Rutnam
Psalm	1	Anojana Fernandopulle
Epistle	1 Corinthians 15: 12 – 20	Nirubala Vincent
Gospel	St. Luke 6: 17 - 26	Niran De Mel
Intercessions		Dharshini Masilamani
Offertory		Rutnam Family

Date 24th February 2019 – Eighth Sunday before Easter

Theological College of Lanka Sunday

Theme : A Changed and Holy People

Old Testament Lesson	Genesis 45: 3 – 11, 15	Jayanthi Amarasuriya
Psalm	37: 1 – 11, 39 – 40	Derrick William
Epistle	1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50	Sharmini Sambandan
Gospel	St. Luke 6: 27 - 38	Patrick Bulner
Intercessions		Jill MacDonald
Offertory		Nadeem Family