

CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

May 2023

~ P e n t e c o s t ~

Climate Change - Should the Church Respond?



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 find our way through the octave of Easter, we will observe the Ascension and Pentecost later this month. Both these feasts are fulfilments of promises (Ascension – Acts 1: 6 – 11 & Pentecost St. John 14: 15 - 31) made by our Lord to his disciples. The feast of Pentecost is commonly considered the birth of the New Testament Church where the promise of the Holy Spirit to be with the people of God forever was fulfilled.

Church history reminds us of how the people of God continue to draw inspiration, courage, direction, wisdom, sustaining grace and energy from God the Holy Spirit.

Nation: If one were to describe our nation at this time, we would be called an island in crisis. However much the media may try to distort reality we are in serious crisis. While our leaders may appear to have addressed it, the conflicting signals that are given do not help people understand the ground reality.

Though the economic crisis may have had some temporary respite due to the intervention of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the road ahead however is not going to be in any way easy.

The people of this country have every right to know the steps being taken to recover what the nation has lost due to corruption and theft.

It is immoral for the people to be asked to pay back for the misdeeds of their leaders without the chief stakeholder, the people, seeing any accountability measures being implemented.

If this accountability is in place, I am confident that our people will support the corrective measures being taken during the crisis and not resist them.

Life in the Cathedral

50th Anniversary of the Cathedral: As previously notified, the Bishop Cyril Abeynaik Memorial Lecture will take place on Saturday 13th May 2023 at 5:30 pm at our Cathedral. The lecture will be delivered by Dr Ravi Fernando on the subject **“Climate Change - should the Church Respond”**.

The environmental crisis being faced by all the residents of planet Earth is something that we cannot ignore and we in the Church have a special role to play in caring for the environment as it is very much a part of our stewardship as the people of God.

Our keynote speaker is no stranger to us as he is very much a part of the worshipping community of the Cathedral and perhaps the most suitable resource person to do justice to the subject at hand.

Community Kitchen (CK): Our community kitchen continues to function twice a week. I am extremely grateful to God for His provision to sustain this initiative amidst the current economic crisis.

We need the help of volunteers to help with the distribution of food. If you can be with us on Monday and Friday between 4 pm and 5:45 pm you are welcome to join. I commend this appeal to your support.

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.

The bank details of the Cathedral could be obtained by getting in touch with the Cathedral office (0112671481), speaking to me or by request made via email 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: Even though the Pastoral care team may be stretched at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me in case of a Pastoral emergency.

Thanking You,
With Prayers and Blessings,
Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Perry Brohier".

Ven. Perry Brohier
Vicar



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික ක්‍රිස්තියානි මණ්ඩලය
இலங்கை தேசிய கிறிஸ்தவ மன்றம்
National Christian Council of Sri Lanka

National Christian Council (NCC) of Sri Lanka statement on proposed Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA).

The National Christian Council expresses its strong opposition to the proposed Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), that was published in the official government gazette on 17th March 2023 and issued on 22nd March 2023, which aims to replace the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). The PTA was initially enacted in 1979 as a temporary law for three years and later became a permanent law.

We are painfully aware that the PTA led to numerous rights violations, especially against ethnic minorities; the Tamil community during and after the war and the Muslim community after the Easter Sunday attacks. The PTA was also been used to take revenge on dissenters, including church workers, journalists, human rights activists, student leaders and opposition politicians who challenged, questioned and criticized governments in power. The PTA has served as a license for arbitrary arrests, prolonged detention, torture, enforced disappearances and to curtail freedom of expression an assembly and other human rights.

Successive governments promised the people of Sri Lanka and the international community that the PTA would be repealed and replaced by new legislation that would not violate the country's constitutional and international human rights obligations. The proposed ATA, however, fails to fulfil this promise and in fact contains provisions that make it as bad, if not worse, than the PTA.

How a government committed to repealing the PTA and replacing it with an Act that overcame the PTA's well documented shortcomings could introduce a Bill that fails to do so and is possibly more draconian, raises fundamental questions of accountability for which the public deserves an explanation.

The ATA contains vague definitions that may could make dissent, including protests and trade union action, acts of terrorism. The definition could also make dissenters "terrorists". It empowers the executive to decide on and enforce punishments without judicial sanction, to detain persons up to 12 months, prohibit organizations etc. This results in dramatic reduction of judicial oversight and discretion in punishing offenders, arrest, detention and restricting human rights. The ATA also grants legislative powers to the Executive President, diluting the role of legislature. ATA militarizes law enforcement and entrenches the death penalty ignoring the moratorium since 1976.

We note that many of the provisions in the ATA are similar or even worse than the PTA and that it could only lead to further rights violations. Like the PTA, the overall focus of the ATA is to strengthen the executive (including the all-powerful executive president, police, military and the Attorney General) and weaken other arms of governance that act as a check and balance on abuses by the executive, such as the judiciary and the legislature. Proposing a law like the ATA to further strengthen the executive is particularly alarming at a time when there have been widespread calls and support throughout the country to abolish the executive presidency and strengthen the judiciary.



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික ක්‍රිස්තියානි මණ්ඩලය
இலங்கை தேசிய கிறிஸ்தவ மன்றம்
National Christian Council of Sri Lanka

Many of the offences under the PTA and those in the ATA are offences under other laws in Sri Lanka. Such offences could be investigated and prosecuted under ordinary criminal law procedures, which have better safeguards for rights of victims of terrorism, suspects, accused and also offers better opportunities for fair trials than laws such as PTA and ATA. The Public Security Ordinance enables the President to declare a state of emergency and promulgate emergency regulations when necessary.. The state of emergency is however subject to parliamentary approval, providing some check and balance on the executive powers. However, ATA does not have adequate checks and balances.

Based on these, and in line with Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka's statement on 15th February 2022, it is our position that the ATA must be withdrawn. If necessary, new offences could be introduced to the penal code, after extensive consultations within the country and with relevant international experts. Offences related to terrorism must be investigated and prosecuted based on general criminal procedure, rather than creating an almost parallel criminal procedure that appears to override the letter and spirit of the constitution and international human rights standards.

Signed:

Rt. Rev. Dr. V Pathmathayalan - Bishop of the Jaffna Diocese of South India and Chair- NCCSL,
Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo - Bishop of Colombo, Church of Ceylon, Rt. Rev. Nishantha Fernando
- Bishop of Kurunagala, Church of Ceylon, Rev. Ebenezer Joseph - President, Methodist Church
of Sri Lanka, Rev. Shirley Faber - President, Christian Reformed Church, Rev. Heshan De Silva -
President, Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya, Rev. Saman Perera - Moderator, Presbytery of Sri Lanka,
Col. Nihal Hettiarachchi - Territorial Commander, Salvation Army Sri Lanka, Rev. Chrisso Handy
- Superintendent/Chair - Assemblies of God, Rev. Harim Peiris - Acting President, Foursquare
Gospel Church, Sri Lanka, Back To The Bible Broadcast, The Ceylon Bible Society, Christian
Literature Society, Student Christian Movement, Young Men's Christian Association, Young
Women's Christian Association, Theological College of Lanka, Colombo Theological Seminary
and Youth for Christ. Rev. Sujithar Sivanayagam - General Secretary, NCCSL.

#368/6, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.

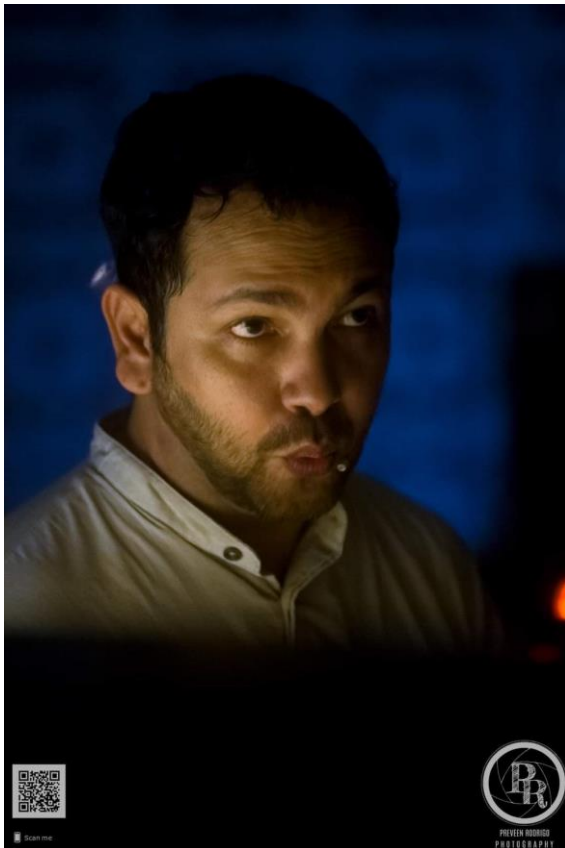
Telephone: +94 (11) 2671723 Fax: +94 (11) 2671721

E-Mail: info@nccsl.org | Website: www.nccsl.org

PALM SUNDAY



NEVER THIRST AGAIN





CLIMATE CHANGE- SHOULD THE CHURCH RESPOND?

SATURDAY MAY 13 2023 AT 5.30 PM



Dr Ravi Fernando

BISHOP CYRIL ABEYNAIKE MEMORIAL LECTURE



CATHEDRAL

Cathedral of Christ
the Living Saviour

LECTIONARY - MAY 2023

Date: 7th May 2023 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Theme: “Jesus’ New Way – Our Royal Priesthood”

Reading	Passage	Name of Reader
Old Testament	Acts 7: 55 - 60	Brian Selvadurai
Psalm	31: 1 – 5, 15 - 16	Jenaya Jeewakumaran
Epistle	1 Peter 2: 2 - 10	Raaya Rutnam
Gospel	St. John 14: 1 - 14	Jean Samuel
Intercessions		Sonali Amarasekera

Date: 14th May 2023 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Theme: “The Promised Holy Spirit to The Church”

Old Testament	Acts 17: 22 - 31	Shyan Muthumudalige
Psalm	66: 7 - 18	Radhika Salgado
Epistle	1 Peter 3: 13 – 22	Warren White
Gospel	St. John 14: 15 - 21	Anushca Saranapala
Intercessions		Mahen Perera

Date: 21st May 2023 - 7th Sunday of Easter (Asia/Ascension/CCA Sunday)

Theme: “Asia for the Ascended and Glorified Christ”

Old Testament	Acts 1: 6 - 14	Anthea Senaratne
Psalm	68: 10, 32 - 35	Pranavan Rockwood
Epistle	1 Peter 4: 12 – 12, 5: 6 - 11	Charles Sanders
Gospel	St. John 17: 1 - 11	Indranee Senanayake
Intercessions		Ivyn Jesumaney

Date: 28th May 2023- The Feast of the Pentecost

Theme: “The Spirit Poured Out”

Old Testament	Numbers 11: 24 - 30	Darren William
Psalm	104: 24 – 34, 35b	Patrick Bulner
Epistle	Acts 2: 1 - 21	Irene Bocco
Gospel	St. John 20: 19 -23	Yanithra Ferdinando
Intercessions		Sukanya Devarajan

HOLY DAYS/ FESTIVALS & OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

1 st May	St. Joseph the Worker – May Day
3 rd May	Philip and James, Apostles
6 th May	St. John the Evangelist
14 th May	St. Matthias, Apostle
18 th May	Ascension Day
21 st May	Ascension Sunday & Asia Sunday
24 th May	Aldersgate Day
28 th May	The Feast of Pentecost



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

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 adcmdb@dioceseofcolombo.lk

Cathedral Office

Staff	Address	Office Contact	Email
Wesley Bastianpillai	368, Buddhaloka 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 ~