

# THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIVING SAVIOUR

Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7

*Cathedral News - May 2019*

## Pray for Sri Lanka



## The Celebration of Easter (The Feast of the Resurrection)

If one were to describe the thrust of the Christmas message as the unseen God entering time and space in the form of a human being, one could then describe the Easter message as God's expression of love in order to save and redeem the human family from eternal death and destruction.

Easter is not an incident that takes place in isolation. A forty day period of preparation referred to as Lent, prepares the way for the commemoration of Holy week which culminates with the feast of the resurrection or the celebration of Easter.

At Good Friday, Christians remember the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, who after being falsely accused of conspiring against the Roman Empire, is betrayed for a price by one of his closest friends, a disciple named Judas Iscariot. After Jesus' arrest He is subjected to one of the most ridiculous trials and thereafter sentenced to death by hanging on a Cross. The manner in which the death sentence was carried out must also be understood in its context.

While there were many different forms of execution or capital punishment at that time, crucifixion was reserved for the worst of offenders. To be executed by crucifixion meant that the one being put to death was going to undergo a slow and painful death. Further, in the time of Jesus, the Cross was not just a symbol of death, it was also a symbol of shame and pain. Execution in this manner was a form of sentence given to the worst of offenders who had been found guilty of a very serious crime by the legal system of that time. The narrative however did not end with the doom and gloom of Good Friday, for Jesus' death on the cross was not without meaning and purpose. If the crucifixion that took place on Good Friday was just the tip of the iceberg, the best was yet to come, and come it did at that first resurrection or Easter day.

As we reach the core of the story one may wonder what was God's intention in and through all these redemptive acts that were unfolding in and through the life of Jesus? Believe it or not, the intention of God was to bring healing to a broken relationship. The relationship between

God and the pinnacle of his creation, the human family, had been disrupted by a single act of disobedience.

To understand or appreciate this we may need to try and understand the manner in which the God of history has been at work from the very beginning of time. If you are familiar with the Holy Bible, the sacred scriptures of the Christian faith, there is a golden thread that holds the Sixty Six (66) different books over two (02) testaments (Old and New). That golden thread can be summed up in the four letter word LOVE.

The Love demonstrated by the person of Jesus Christ who is God incarnate, God's visible revelation in human history is a selfless and sacrificial love. This is best described in the Greek word agape which is

*“Love as revealed in Jesus, seen as spiritual and selfless and a model for humanity.”*

Therefore, at the heart of the Easter message we discover so much that is relevant to life today. Easter reminds us that in God's eyes everything is not doom and gloom and that death did not bring an end to it all. While we are cautioned about the tyranny of death, in and through the message of Easter, we are also reminded of something far more meaningful and valuable that awaits those who believe in and affirm faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. That is life! For just as from the grave life emerges, the pain and agony of Good Friday makes way for life and joy with the celebration of the resurrection at Easter.

Besides this, it is important to realise how the essence of the Easter message impacts the everyday lives of people. It is amazing and it needs to be understood that it is this gospel imperative that emerges from this story that influences and gives shape to the teaching of the Church with regard to Peace, Reconciliation and the dignity of humanity (both men and women) and with it we discover what lies at the heart of God.

Therefore, we should not only be content by striving to be only reconciled to God but also strive to be reconciled to one another and the creation (the environment). This is an important truth we must not lose sight of but constantly keep working towards. As this gradually becomes a reality, the whole of creation will be at Peace (Shalom) and true Peace (Shalom) will be experienced in the World.



**CHURCH OF CEYLON**  
**DIOCESE OF COLOMBO**



Rt. Revd. Dhiloraj R. Canagasabey  
Bishop of Colombo

Our Ref :  
Your Ref :

**Reflection by Rt. Revd. Dhiloraj R. Canagasabey**  
**The Bishop of Diocese of Colombo**

Over the past several days I have reflected prayerfully on what happened in three Christian churches in Colombo, Negombo and Batticaloa and also in some of our city hotels on Easter Sunday. It is sad that humans have arrogated to themselves the right to commit mass murder in the name of God Almighty the giver of Life, also injuring, and maiming many for life. Life belongs to God and no one has the right except God to take one's life away, Jesus Christ our Lord fought against the dark forces of death on the Cross, died and rose again empowering us with his Resurrection Power. This is the resilience of the Christian community. We cannot and must not act on the basis of "an eye for an eye, or a tooth for a tooth" but we will follow the Master's example and cry the same cry He cried on the cross with so much of sadness and heaviness of heart saying- "Father, Forgive them for they do not know what they do".

This is the opportune time for all people of every faith and belief in this nation to come together in our common humanity, to hold hands and work towards building One Family of One Nation. We need to commit ourselves to build bridges of trust and confidence with each other. Out of the debris of this chaotic situation something beautiful, something fragrant, something positive needs to emerge.

About 300 people have died 500 people injured since Easter Sunday. Let me boldly say that the innocent blood of all these lives are upon the heads of the Executive and the Legislature of this country. "May God have mercy on them". Due to the impasse between the President and the Prime Minister, their overriding focus lately has been on consolidating their own

positions at the expense of neglecting the security of the people of this nation. Parliament, both the government and the opposition are periodically handed over the right to govern the affairs of the Nation by the People, not to secure their own privileges, power and position but for the common good of the People. In this responsibility, they have failed miserably. If they had a conscience they would have all resigned from their positions by now.

It is not a time for pointing fingers at the other but for pointing the finger at one's self and asking. "What is my responsibility for this carnage?"

The Executive and the Legislature were busy working on their own petty agendas and it appears that those under them were also polarized and paralyzed by this division. This Island nation which bled for almost four decades is bleeding again. If those who have been elected genuinely loved their country, this should not have been allowed to happen. This is a Total Betrayal of the entire Nation.

While I fully understand the fear and trauma, especially of the Christian community and the enormous burden we carry to assure their safety, I urge all Anglicans belonging to my Diocese to commence worship once again if they have stopped. Let not fear paralyze our faith in God. "For whether we live or whether we die, we live or die unto the Lord". The empty tomb has broken the sting of death and has given us a Living Hope beyond death.

I am glad that many Anglican churches have had their normal Eucharist services this Sunday with Police & Army protection wherever that was possible. We need to be aware of security needs, yet fearless in worshiping the Living God as we are accustomed to. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers nor height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans.8:35-39).

I call on all our fellow citizens and Christians in particular to embrace the Muslim community who have lived in this country for many hundreds of years in peaceful co-existence. They must be treated with love and understanding and not be held responsible for the acts of a small number of depraved fanatics. At the same time I call on the Muslim community to turn the spotlight inward. It is common knowledge that new extremist Islamic teachings have been allowed to make inroads into the Sri Lankan Muslim community in recent years, causing tensions and suspicion. There is a heavy responsibility cast on moderate leaders of the community to be aware of and to combat such teachings and indoctrination. May the Peace and Consolation of God be with all those who mourn and suffer and with us All.



**Rt. Revd. Dhiloraj R. Canagasabey**  
**The Bishop of Colombo**



29<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### Holy Days / Festivals & Important Dates

1 <sup>st</sup>	St. Joseph the Worker – May Day
5 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of the Cathedral Meeting
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Philip and James, Apostles
6 <sup>th</sup>	St. John the Evangelist
14 <sup>th</sup>	St. Matthias, Apostle
21 <sup>st</sup>	Cathedral Finance Committee Meeting
24 <sup>th</sup>	Aldersgate Day

## *Message from the Vicar of the Cathedral*

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

**Church and Nation:** The sad incidents that marred one of the most important feasts in the Calendar of the Church and the subsequent fall out is a grim reminder that all is not well in our Island nation. It is high time all our political leaders realize that they have all failed the people of this nation. It is time for them to take account of the resulting chaos and accept the fact that our leaders must take collective responsibility for the total breakdown that has occurred.

When will our leaders ever learn that as they work to establish themselves at the expense of the well-being of the nation and people, this is what it will result in. Our President and Prime Minister seem to have forgotten that their office calls them to focus beyond the respective political parties they represent.

The reality is that the blame game will take us no place but it will be a catalyst for further chaos in an already pathetic situation.

Therefore, our leaders, if they are really concerned about taking care of the people they are called upon to govern and give leadership to, must shed their differences and they must walk the talk.

As the Church moves into this post-Easter period of time, our national reality challenges us to focus on our witness as the people of God. Just as the Easter message is one of hope and life that springs from the grave and death, our witness of hope and life as people of the Resurrection community is one that has caught the attention and imagination of many. Therefore, may we strive to be a faithful Community of people that profess faith in Christ in challenging times.

**Life in the Cathedral:** I wish to place on record my deep appreciation to the worshipping community who had turned up in their numbers on Easter Sunday for worship at the Cathedral. Your understanding and co-operation in the manner in which you responded during the time of crisis as the Cathedral was evacuated, must be commended. I am also grateful to a few of you for your assistance and also for the assistance

extended by Law enforcement authorities in a rapidly changing situation that was also very volatile and uncertain.

I would fail in my duty if I don't also thank you for your co-operation and understanding as we braved the situation and met for worship the following Sunday, amidst some degree of inconvenience. Our appreciation has been conveyed to the local Police authorities, the Commanding Officer in charge and the soldiers of the 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the Vijayaba Infantry Regiment of the Sri Lanka Army, for ensuring that the premises were adequately secured for us to meet for worship on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

I also wish to thank the CEO/Secretary of the Diocese, the gardeners, members of the office staff and members of the Cathedral Finance and Administration Committee for the support they extended to me personally at this time of crisis.

**Confirmation Classes:** Although we had planned to commence Confirmation classed in May, for the moment I am compelled to delay the commencement of these classes due to the prevailing situation. The delay will however not be for long but these preparatory classes will commence as soon as there is an improvement in the ground situation.

**Up to Date Parish Records:** Having a fairly comprehensive database has been a major asset, especially for me to communicate with as many who are part of the Worshipping Community. However, I still observe the indifference of a few to go through this process. It is having these means to communicate with the congregation that facilitated our meeting with minimum and unexpected inconvenience. I once again take the opportunity to appeal to all who worship with us regularly and have not registered themselves/their family, to please do so without delay. Your co-operation will help us assist you.

**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 at your earliest, as Rev. Ratnamalar is currently recovering after an accident. 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.



**Personal:** Finally, I thank God, for His enabling grace which has made so much possible, the Bishop, for standing by me in the difficult decisions that I have had to take, you for your prayers, and my family for the tower of strength they have been to me at this time.  
Thanking You,

With Prayers and Blessings  
Yours Sincerely,



**Ven. Perry Brohier**  
Vicar

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Give peace within her borders  
Twixt man and man goodwill,  
The love all unsuspecting,  
The love that works no ill.  
In loyal lowly service,  
Let each from other learn,  
The guardian and the guarded,  
Till Christ Himself return.

To Him our land shall listen,  
To Him our peoples kneel;  
All rule be on His shoulder,  
All wrong beneath His heel;  
O consummation glorious  
Which now by faith we sing;  
Come, cast we up the highway  
That brings us back our King!





Lenten  
Reflections:  
Conducted at  
The Cathedral  
of Christ the  
Living Saviour  
from 13th  
March to 10th  
April 2019.

At the start of Lent, I made a personal commitment that I would attend the weekly Lenten Reflections (1 hour a week) conducted at the Cathedral. The title “Faithful Living in Faithless Times” was a motivation in itself; for do we not live in what feels like Faithless Times, with a myriad distractions and obligations and perhaps a fear of not being accepted?

By choosing four well known Biblical figures to illustrate the theme, we were thereby engaged in the study, reflection and hopefully application of what it meant to live faithfully in faithless times. During the study each character was brought alive with the parallels drawn with life then and life now.

Starting with Daniel, we learnt of a man, “a righteous man of princely lineage” whose God given wisdom placed him in high authority. He chose simplicity over ostentation even when he was offered the best. Daniel continued to pray to his God against the express command of the king, thereby giving those who were jealous a chance to destroy him. God was Sovereign to Daniel and he knew that whatever happened to him the God he prayed to, was his judge. This story taught us that by being truly engaged with our God and never wavering in our faith can only result in God working his plan even when all seems lost.

Stephen, the second biblical figure we looked at, is traditionally known to have been a Deacon who aroused hatred in the synagogues by his teachings. He was stoned to death for speaking of his beliefs and becomes the protomartyr or first known Christian

martyr. Stephen was not rewarded for his faithfulness in this world, but he knew he was going where he could see his God.

The only female figure we reflected upon was Esther. Her origins were unknown to the king she married. Obedient and beautiful, Esther was at the right place at the right time and understood that she had been placed to save her people. In a world where no one likes to be held accountable, Esther like her name, meaning star, encourages us of our purpose and opportunity which we dare not ignore.

We read of Noah who accepted God's will to punish all living beings for their misdeeds. The great flood was a reversal of creation which destroyed the world. Only Noah and his family and the animals in the Ark survived. After the flood, Noah honored his Lord with burnt offerings. His obedience and continued devotion to God earned him God's blessing.

Lastly we looked at Peter, traditionally known as the first Bishop of Rome. He was crucified by Emperor Nero and asked to be crucified upside down as he was not worthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus Christ. Of course there is a lot more about his life we can all read in the Good Book from which we learn many lessons.

Faithful Living involves submitting and honouring God always is what I understood and will try to practice long after Easter has come and life continues in its uncertain way. The only certainty we have is reaching God by our faithfulness.

I am not erudite nor have I studied Theology. My simple life was enhanced by reflecting on these wonderful and powerful biblical characters.

### [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 - Curate (0777138831)  
Revd. Ratnamalar Ratnarajah - Curate (0779428297)

<b>LECTIONARY - May 2019</b>		
<b>Date: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – Third Sunday of Easter</b>		
<b>Theme: “They Recognised the Risen Lord”</b>		
<b>Reading</b>	<b>Passage</b>	<b>Name of Reader</b>
New Testament Lesson	Acts 9: 1 – 6. (7 – 20)	Dinushka Paranavitana
Psalm	30	Jayantha Gunasekera
Epistle	Revelation 5: 11 - 14	Himani Pieris
Gospel	St. John 21: 1 - 19	Shanthikumar Sadanandan
Intercessions		Jill Macdonald
Offertory		Sadanandan Family
<b>Date : 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>		
<b>Theme : “Jesus the Good Shepherd”</b>		
New Testament Lesson	Acts 9: 36 – 43	Delani Mitchell
Psalm	23	Navvya Wannakuwatte
Epistle	Revelation 7: 9 – 17	Radhika Salgado
Gospel	St. John 10: 22 - 30	Indrani Senanayake
Intercessions		Dharshini Masilamani
Offertory		Wannakuwatte Family
<b>Date: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>		
<b>Theme : “Jesus’ New Way – A New Creation of Love”</b>		
New Testament Lesson	Acts 11: 1 - 18	Shanika Rodrigo
Psalm	148	Niroshala Manuel
Epistle	Revelation 21: 1 - 6	Niran De Mel
Gospel	St. John 13: 31 - 35	Ivyin Jesumaney
Intercessions		Nirubala Vincent
Offertory		Jesumaney Family
<b>Date 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>		
<b>Theme “The Promised Holy Spirit to the Church”</b>		
New Testament Lesson	Acts 16: 9 – 15	Charles Sanders
Psalm	67	Sharmini Derrick
Epistle	Revelation 21: 10, 22 - 22:5	Shiona Weerasekera
Gospel	St. John 14: 23 - 29	Jason Senanayake
Intercessions		Sriyantha Senaratna
Offertory		Senanayake Family