

Messenger

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• Archbishop asks Catechists How many of us know what we teach?

The Archbishop of Colombo, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith at a special meeting with English Medium Catechists of the Archdiocese recently, questioned their belief and knowledge in the teaching of Catechism.

"How many of us know what we believe and how many of us know what we teach?" the Archbishop asked.

"To be a catechist, is a matter of deep commitment to Christ and to the faith. If we are not convinced that we are disciples of Christ, who commissioned each one of us to 'go out to the world

A New English Catechism from next year

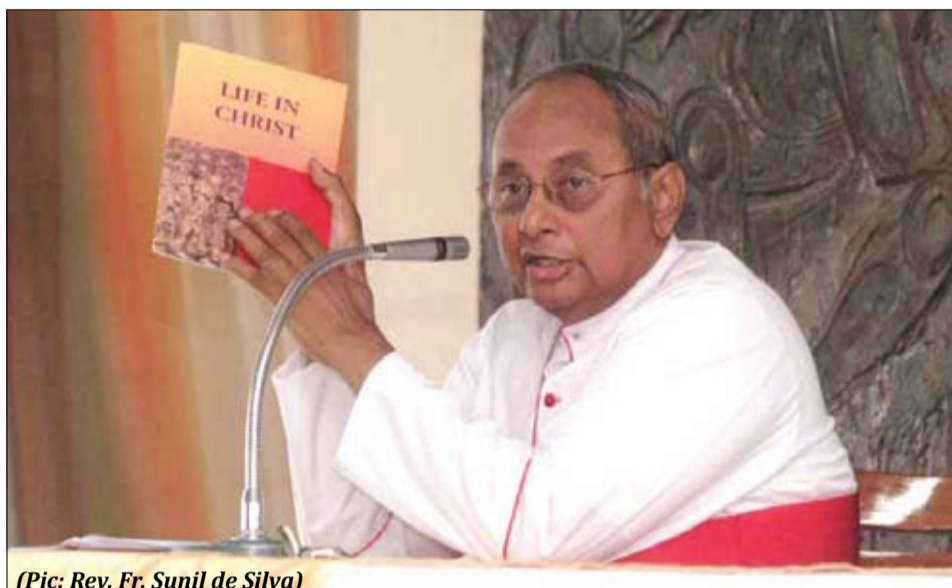
'Life in Christ' the English Catechism books written by His Grace, Archbishop Emeritus Oswald Gomis, for students of Year One to Year Eleven will comprise the Sunday School syllabus for 2013.

and preach the Good News' which demands a deeper commitment, then our teaching becomes a shallow exercise," His Eminence pointed out.

The special gathering was held at the Blessed Joseph Vaz Centre, Colombo 8, in view of the

'Year of Faith' declared by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, from October 11, 2012 to November 24, 2013. Of the 126 parishes belonging to the Archdiocese of Colombo, 54 conduct Catechism classes in English.

The emphasis here is to train catechists



(Pic: Rev. Fr. Sunil de Silva)

to impart faith to the children with the help of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), which has been promulgated for the

Catholic Church by Pope John Paul II.

His Eminence declared that CCC is a precious and indispensable

tool and one of the most important fruits of the Second Vatican Council. In the Apostolic Constitution, (Contd. P 3)

Felicitations!



Their Grace, Archbishops' Emeriti, Nicholas Marcus Fernando and Oswald Gomis will be felicitated by the Presbytery on December 3, 2012 on reaching the 80th milepost in their lives journey.

Para-liturgical service will take place at the Sacred Heart Chapel, Archbishop's House at 11.30 a.m. for the service of love rendered by the Archbishops to the Archdiocese.

His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Nicholas Marcus Fernando celebrates his birthday on December 6 while His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis celebrates his on December 12.

'Maintain intimacy with the Lord through prayer'

His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Fernando, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo addressing a seminar on the 'Year of Faith' at the Kotte Deanery reiterated its relevance at a time when our faith is being challenged by various opposing forces of society including false prophets.

"This is the time to maintain intimacy with the Lord through prayer

in order to deepen the faith," His Lordship stated, adding that the Catechism of the Catholic Church, promulgated 20 years ago was mainly for adult Catholics rather than for children and invited the faithful to become more familiar with its teachings which provide them with guidance to various aspects of Catholic life and are based upon the vision of the Second Vatican Council.



The seminar was conducted by the Education Media and

Cultural Committee of the Kotte Deanery Pastoral

(Contd. P 2)

Christmas Articles

Please send in your contributions for the Christmas Issue of the Messenger before December 7, 2012.

- Editor



GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR LOYALTY TO ALMA MATER



Rushka Silva

At the High Achievers' Award Ceremony Edexcel 2012, of the British Council, held at Musaeus College Auditorium, Rushka Marie Silva a student of St. Bridget's Convent was awarded "World Prize" for Accounting at the London G.C.E. (Advanced Level) Examination, June 2012. She is presently reading for her degree at the University of Kent.

We at St. Bridget's Convent are proud of this young Bridgetine for her achievement, bringing credit to her Alma Mater, on revival of the London G.C.E. (A/L) classes, after a lapse of many years. We wish Rushka God's blessings and success as she pursues her academic career.

- SBC Media Unit

"Gleaned from the classics"

Si computes annos, exiguum tempus; si vices rerum aevum putes.

(from Pliny the younger)

If you count the years, a brief period but if you reckon the changes, an age!



'Love's Invisible Radiance

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Pg



Reconciliation requires Reparations

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Pg



Christ the King

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"Revival of Faith in the Family"



His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Cletus C. Perera addresses the gathering. Seated on his left is Very Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando, Vicar General, Ratnapura

Five Catholic couples selected from the 21 parishes of the Diocese of Ratnapura, gathered at the Catechetical Centre recently to participate in an awareness programme on the "Revival of Faith in the Family" organised by the Vicar General of Ratnapura, Very Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando.

His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Cletus Chandrasiri Perera OSB Bishop of Ratnapura addressing the meeting said the Year of Faith has been

declared from October 2012 to November 2013 as the Christian faith is diminishing in European countries. The Catholic youth in these countries were distancing themselves from Church activities and Sunday Mass is attended only by the elderly. The Youth and children do not attend Mass and they are swept by the modern cultural set up. They have lost faith in God and do not like to discuss religion.

"Our people who go there

adopt their lifestyle and live it here. They have a very lethargic attitude towards Mass and the faith. This is happening in the Colombo Archdiocese too. If we fail to act now this 'culture' will spread to other parishes. We have to fight against secularism.

"We have our divine resources which should be utilized to bring the prodigals to our fold. We have to guide our Catholic families in the parishes during this 'Year of Faith'. A team comprising of priests, religious and lay families has already been set up and will function under the direction of the Bishop, to strengthen the faith in God among the Catholic families in the Diocese," His Lordship said.

Very Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando said there are about 24,000 Catholics in the Diocese of Ratnapura. "We should instill the message of the Gospel into their minds and hearts."

Mr. Anton Peiris, a parishioner touched on family unity, understanding, trust and love between husband and wife. Only those parents who have faith in God will have faith in their children and wives, he said.

Rev. Sr. Yogarane Rajaratnam translated the Sinhala speeches into Tamil for the benefit of the Tamil faithful.

J. Antony

Kandy Annual Adult Baptism ceremony



The annual Adult Baptism ceremony, conducted by Joseph Vaz Information Office, Kandy, was held at St. Anthony's Cathedral, Kandy, recently. The Chief celebrant was His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando, Bishop of Kandy. The six month classes were conducted by Rev. Sr. Mary Cecilia Perera of Holy Angels' Congregation, in association with Rev. Fr. Sudath Perera, Director, Family and Media Services, Diocese of Kandy. The 17 years of service of Rev. Sr. Theodore Fernando (Holy Angels) was also remembered on that day.

Picture includes (L to R) Rev. Fr. Gunasekaram, Rev. Fr. Ivan Jayasundera (Parish Priest, Kandy) Most Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando, Bishop of Kandy, Rev. Fr. Sudath Perera, (Diocesan Director for Media and Family Services) Rev. Sr. Cecilia Perera, (Holy Angels) Our Lady of Lanka Convent, Mahayaya, Kandy with the newly baptised adults.

M. Emil P. Perera

Advent

Contd. from Pg1

Every evening during the season of Advent, each family may come together beside the Advent wreath, to do this service prayerfully.

1. Sing a hymn to the Holy Spirit
2. Light a lamp of the Advent wreath
3. Examination of conscience and a penitential hymn to be followed.
4. The day's Gospel text to be read by Father Mother or an elder.
5. Observe reflective moments of silence
6. Inspirational thoughts to be shared with one another.
7. Present one's intentions to the Lord.
8. Recite the Lord's prayer.

• Sing a Thanksgiving Hymn

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF FAITH

O Father, God of my life, this day, I renew my act of Faith in you, make me Lord yours wholly and guide me the way you want.

Create in me a heart ready for all circumstances: In times of joy, may I praise your goodness; in times of sorrow, may I turn to your compassion; in times of darkness, may I trust in your providence; in times of suffering, may I cling to your Cross; in times of my unfaithfulness, may I taste of your mercy; and in times of abundance, may I echo your generosity by sharing with those in need. O Kind Father, grant me such living Faith through Christ Our Lord.

- Amen.

Date	Gospel	Date	Gospel	Date	Gospel
Dec. 02	St. Luke 21:25-28,34-36	Dec. 10	St. Luke 5:17-26	Dec. 18	St. Matthew 1:18-25
Dec. 03	St. Matthew 8:5-11	Dec. 11	St. Matthew 18:12-14	Dec. 19	St. Luke 1:5-25
Dec. 04	St. Luke 10:21-24	Dec. 12	St. Luke 1:26-38	Dec. 20	St. Luke 1:26-38
Dec. 05	St. Matthew 15:29-37	Dec. 13	St. Matthew 11:11-15	Dec. 21	St. Luke 1:39-45
Dec. 06	St. Matthew 7:21-24-27	Dec. 14	St. Matthew 11:16-19	Dec. 22	St. Luke 1:46-56
Dec. 07	St. Matthew 9:27-31	Dec. 15	St. Matthew 17:9a,10-13	Dec. 23	St. Luke 1:39-45
Dec. 08	St. Luke 1:26-38	Dec. 16	St. Luke 3:10-18	Dec. 24	St. Luke 1:67-79
Dec. 09	St. Luke 3:1-6	Dec. 17	St. Matthew 1:1-17		

(See page 14)

Catholic Literary Awards Festival

The 27th Annual Catholic Literary Awards Festival, of the National Catholic Writers' Association (affiliated to ICOM - International Catholic Organization for Media, Geneva, Switzerland), was held at Paul VI Centre, Colombo 11, last week. The Chief Guest was Very Rev. Fr. Patrick Perera, (Episcopal Vicar Northern Region).

The guest speaker was Mr. Tillekeratne Kuruwita Bandara, a veteran journalist and writer. His theme was "Christianity and its national identity." Addressing the gathering he said, Christianity spread in

Sri Lanka, after 1505 A.D. after the Portuguese invasion but the Lord Jesus Christ, was not a Westerner. He was born in Asia, lived preached and died in Asia. The literary role by the Christian Missionaries and Catholics in Sinhala Literature was highly commendable he said.

The annual report was presented by Mr. Maximus Roy Perera, General Secretary NCWA and the welcome address was given by Mr. Peter Perera, President of NWCA.

The special awards went to Mr. Marcelline Heenkenda (Matara - Galle Diocese) an eminent

artist and painter. (KALA SURU/කලාසුරු) Rev. Fr. Gerald Fernando (Former Director Media - Diocese of Kurunegala) (LIVISURU/ලිවිසුරු) for journalistic excellence; (Radio Veritas, Manila, Philippines); Mrs. Matilda Adikaram (Kalawa/කලාව) (KIVISURU/කිවිසුරු) (Diocese of Anuradhapura).

Certificates and prizes were also awarded to the winners of the literary contests conducted by NWCA.

Emil P. Perera

Kirimetiyyagara Curia celebrates 2750th meeting



The 2750th meeting of the Senior Legion of Mary Praesidium of the Kirimatiyyagara Parish, belonging to the Ragama Curia was held recently under the guidance of the Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Roshan Fernando and Rev. Fr. Nihal Ranatunga.

Picture shows members of the Praesidium with the Rev. Fathers.

Damian Fonseka

Maintain intimacy...

Contd. from Pg. 1

Council, headed by Rev. Fr. Edmund Tillekeratne, Dean of the Kotte Deanery in collaboration with the Kotte Deanery Fathers, at St. Thomas' Church, Kotte recently.

The resource persons for the seminar which was conducted in English, Sinhala and Tamil in parallel, were Very Rev. Fr. Daya Shelton Welikadaarchchi, Episcopal Vicar and Rector of Deva Dharma Niketanaya, Rev. Fr. Indrajith Perera, Archdiocesan Coordinator for Liturgy, Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Fernandopulle, Episcopal Vicar of the Colombo South Region and Parish Priest of St. Thomas' College, Kotte, and Rev. Fr. Anselm Fonseka OSB, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church, Rajagiriya and Rev. Fr. Benedict OFM also addressed the gathering.

The large representations from Kotte and the surrounding parishes brought encouraging feed back, together with many expressing views of the seminar being fruitful in contributing to the deeper understanding and appreciation of the immense treasures of the Catholic Faith.

Trevor Ludowyke

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Fund and Jumble Sale in aid of Little Sisters' of the Poor

Fund and Jumble Sale 2012, organised by the Little Sisters' of the Poor in aid of the Welfare of the Home, will be held on December 1 - 2, at St. Mary's Home for the Elderly, 204, T.B. Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10 (Adjoining St. Joseph's College), from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. Entrance free.

All are welcome!

Holy Childhood Movement celebrates 25 years of service

The Silver Jubilee of the Holy Childhood Movement was held last month under the auspices of the Archbishop of Colombo, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith at Christ the King, Church, Hingurakgoda, in the Anuradhapura Diocese.

The Solemn Mass was presided by His Eminence who was the founder of the Holy Childhood Movement in Sri Lanka, when he was the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in 1987.

In his homily, His Eminence emphasized the responsibility of

bringing up children and protecting them from the evils of society. He urged animators to be another parent to the little children who were entrusted to them.

His Eminence also pointed out that it was God and not he who was the real founder of the Holy Childhood Movement in Sri Lanka.

The event was graced by the Bishop of Anuradhapura, His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Norbert Andradi OMI, His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Swampillai, Bishop of Trincomalee, His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, Bishop

of Kurunegala, and the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) Rev. Fr. Reginald Saramadu.

The theme for this year was "We are the little Missionaries, let us go forward with grateful memories."

Around 200 selected animators from the 12 Diocese and Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) Diocesan Directors also participated. A new Sinhala Holy Childhood song CD was also released by His Eminence.

Asika Priyadharshana

7th Year Anniversary Blessings on President Rajapaksa



On the occasion of the anniversary of the induction of Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, as Executive President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, a thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration was held at All Saints' Church, Borella, presided by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Maxwell Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo.

Moreover the parishes of Badulla, Monaragala, Kurunegala, Galle, Ampari and Batticaloa too celebrated thanksgiving services, in respect of this event.

Faculty of Hotel (HOSPITALITY) Aquinas UC creates history



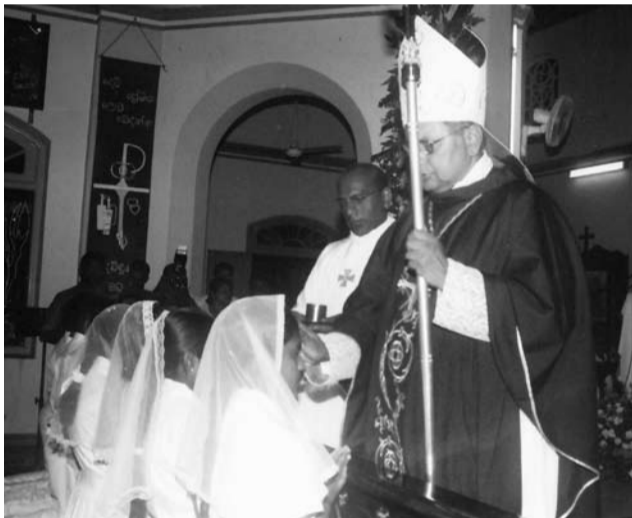
The Faculty competitively selected a batch of 22 Sri Lanka Army Officers for training last October and concluded the course of study with 100% success this October, leading to the prestigious Aquinas Diploma in Hotel Management.

It is probably the first time in Sri Lanka that the Armed Forces were trained to receive a prestigious Hotel Diploma from any recognized Institute of proven stature His Emi-

nence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith.

Photo shows His Eminence The Chancellor, the Rector - Very Rev. Dr. Placidus De Silva, Rev. Fr. Raymond Samarakoon, Vice Rector and Course Director, and Academic Director of the Faculty, Mr. Milinda Hettiarachchi. Deluxe Lecturers of international experience VIP's from the SL Army and the successful Army Officers, at the celebration after the Convocation.

Confirmation Service at Kirimetiyyagara Parish



Around 250 children from the Parish of Kirimetiyyagara received the Sacrament of Confirmation last month.

Picture shows His Eminence, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith administering the Sacrament to the children. At his side is Rev. Fr. Nihal Ranatunga.

How Many....

Contd. from Pg. 1

Fidei Depositum, on the publication of C.C.C, signed on the thirtieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, Blessed John Paul II wrote: *This Catechism will make a very important contribution to work of renewing the whole life of the Church ... I declare it to be a valid and legitimate instrument for ecclesial communion and a sure norm for teaching the faith.*

"There are so many Catechism books published throughout history and they remain only as contents,

but how many of us, and how many of our people know the basic Catechism of the Church," His Eminence queried. "Only through believing, then, does faith grow and become stronger. The CCC thus provides a permanent record of the many ways in which the Church has meditated on the faith and made progress in doctrine, so as to offer certitude to believers in their lives of faith," His Eminence reiterated

Attention of the catechetics was also drawn to the increasing secularization taking place in society where people are becoming more and more consumer-oriented and religion has become a private affair. Many youngsters are getting into an attitude of eating, drinking and merry making. "Faced with this kind of situation, I want all of you to grab the opportunity given to us by the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, in declaring this 'Year of Faith', and commit deeply to teach the faith of the Church to the children in your parishes by becoming the second parent to them. They come to you on Sundays while going through a lot of difficulties in their personal lives," the Archbishop of Colombo observed.

His Eminence also introduced the English Catechism books written by His Grace, Archbishop Emeritus Oswald Gomis, *Life in Christ*, for students of Year One to Year Eleven and declared that these books will be the Sunday School syllabus for the English medium beginning from 2013.

Appreciating the hard work done in compiling these books, His Eminence thanked His Grace for presenting the basic Catechism book, '*Mahaopadeshaya*' in Sinhala, English and Tamil as well.

His Grace, Archbishop Emeritus Oswald Gomis addressed the catechists reminding them that it is the mission of Christ entrusted to all catechists through the apostles, and that every catechist is committed to share the mission of Christ and teach faith to the children.

Very Rev. J. D. Anthony, Episcopal Vicar for Formation and Seminaries, Very Rev. Fr. Daya Shelton Welikadarachchi, Episcopal Vicar for Bible Apostolate, Rev. Fr. Indra Fernando, Director of Catechetics and several others participated at the meeting. (*Archdiocesan website*)

SUNDAY PUNCH

by Camillus



Church in the World

Pope's book on childhood of Jesus has family focus

VATICAN CITY - Pope Benedict's third and final book on Jesus' life has been launched, and this time he delves into Christ's childhood.

"The Pope's book refers especially to the infancy of Jesus in the context of a family and focuses on family tradition," said Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture, at a press conference recently.

The book launch was held at the Pius X Hall, just off Saint Peter's Square, and was presented by the two publishing houses in charge of its release, the Vatican Publishing House and publisher Rizzoli.

Hundreds gathered at the hall to hear Cardinal Ravasi and the Director of the Vatican Publishing House, Father Giuseppe Costa. The two clergymen were also joined by theology Professor Maria Clara Bingemer of the Pontifical Catholic University in Rio de Janeiro and Paolo Mieli, the former director of the Italian national newspaper *Corriere della Sera*.

The book is the Pope's third and final volume in his "Jesus of Nazareth" series. It examines the detail and context of Jesus' birth found in the Gospels, particularly focusing on his parents, the magi and Simeon.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY OF SRI LANKA
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EDITORIAL

November 25, 2012

Death be not proud, for God has vanquished you

November is the month to remember those who have gone before us into eternal life. What is truly amazing and profound is that, someday, each and every one of us will join them. We will pass through this earthly life into death and hopefully be reborn into the very intimacy of Christ in Heaven. The good thing is that all of us have redemption and Heaven gifted to us, if we truly believe in Him and follow the path that He has set for us – by first loving God our Father with all that we are and loving our neighbour equally. We should rejoice, because we have a good God.

There are some cultures, especially in the pagan world, where they do not believe in life after death. They follow a lifestyle of nihilism, or nothingness. What a sad way to live (or not live, rather!). Many communist societies espoused nihilism and their subjects (the hapless masses) lived as if there is no eternity in the afterlife. Their souls were numbed and empty of the very life-force that God has given each of us. Through years of indoctrination and brainwashing, they have become like robots – lifeless and visionless – living day by day and endeavouring to please only their most basic needs and desires. This continues to happen in many societies and amongst many individuals who have rejected God and replaced Him with other gods, such as money, technology, self indulgence, earthly pleasures at the cost of eternity, materialism, base ideologies and many more crude replacements for our most noble king of the universe, Who is also a gentle father to us all – God.

Death is serious business. It is the leap into the unknown. It is the ultimate test of faith. For some people it is a very scary reality indeed, but one that we can never avoid. We may be able to prolong it perhaps, with ever new medical technologies and discoveries, but never avoid. The fear comes in the form of going from what we know, the earthly life, the daily routine, the sun's warmth and the sound of birds, the familiarity of our dear friends and loved ones to a zone which we may be totally unfamiliar.

The best way to approach death is by embracing God fully and walking through that unfamiliar and scary door with our hand firmly placed in His. For this you require immense faith in our God. But He has given all the evidence and witness we need of Who He is and what He promises us for all eternity. Christ said He is the Truth. Many thousands or millions or martyrs and saints died cruel deaths with a firm conviction and unshakeable faith for this Truth. So why do we find it so hard to trust God's own Son who came down and bore witness to His most beautiful Father? Why is it so hard? Do we not have enough faith? Do we not love Him enough to believe in Him and His promise to us?

Truth and lie can never co-exist. Christ is the Truth and He cannot and did not lie. If this is true, then His death on the cross and His resurrection in actual flesh and bone three days later, which was witnessed by many people, is reality. This is the crux, the most fundamental reality, of our Christian faith. As amazing as it sounds, we, as Christians are called to this reality – that someday, we too, will be brought to life after death. If we follow Christ then it also means we will be reborn in the flesh as He was. He ate fish with His followers and broke bread with His disciples, following His resurrection. How fantastic is that.

*"Death be not proud though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so....
....Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings and desperate men,
....one short sleep past, we wake eternally,
and death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die."*

John Donne

When the right answer alone is not enough

Truth alone is not enough. It must be balanced off with the other transcendental properties of God: Oneness, goodness and beauty. That might sound abstract, but what it means concretely is that sometimes we can have all the right answers and still be wrong. How? If we are acting in truth how can we be wrong?

The first pitfall is this: We may be acting out of truth and, in fact, doing all the right things, but our energy can be wrong. T. S. Eliot once famously said: "The last temptation is the greatest treason: To do the right deed for the wrong reason." We can see what is at stake here by looking at the older brother of the Prodigal Son. On the surface his devotion to his father lacks nothing. He rightly attests that his life is blameless and a paradigm of filial devotion. He has kept all the commandments, has never left his father's house and has done all the required work. The irony is that he fails to notice that he is not in fact inside his father's house, but is standing outside it and is being gently invited in by his father. What is keeping him outside since after all, he is doing everything correctly? Bitterness and anger. His actions are correct, but his heart is wrong. Bitterness and anger are not the right energy to fuel truth. We can be scrupulously faithful and still find ourselves standing outside God's house and outside the circle of community and celebration because of a bitter heart. Gratitude is the energy that ultimately needs to fuel the truth.

Like the older brother

of the Prodigal Son, we can be doing everything right and still, somehow, be wrong. And where this is particularly important in terms of a challenge is in our efforts, both as individuals and as Churches, to offer the truth, the right answers, to those around us be them our own children who no longer go to church or society as a whole. If inside our speaking the truth there are elements of elitism, arrogance, anger, lack of respect, lack of understanding or, worse still, embittered moralising, our truth will not be heard, not because our truth is wrong but because our energy is.

That is why Jesus warns us to "speak our truth in parables". Truth is not a sledgehammer; it is an invitation that we must respectfully offer others.

And there is still a second potential pitfall: We can have the right answers and the right energy, but have the wrong understanding of those answers. We see this, for example, in Mark's Gospel when Jesus asks the disciples the question: "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answers, and answers correctly, by saying: "You are the Christ, the Messiah." But he is immediately shut down by Jesus ("Don't tell that to anyone!") and is subsequently rebuked with the words: "Get behind me, Satan!" Why? Wasn't he correct?

Peter's answer was correct, Jesus was the Christ, but his understanding of what that meant was mostly wrong. For Peter, the concept of a Messiah connoted earthly power and especially earthly privilege, whereas for Jesus it meant suffering and dying. Peter had the

right answer, but the wrong understanding of that answer. Some scholars speculate that this is the real reason behind the so called "messianic secret" in the gospels-where Jesus repeatedly asks his disciples not to reveal his identity. His reluctance to have his disciples broadcast publicly who he is, was based upon his fear that they could not, before the Resurrection and Pentecost, properly understand his identity and would invariably preach a false message.

We can have the right answers and still be wrong because we have the wrong energy to go along with the answers or because we have a wrong understanding of the answers. We may well have the water of life, the truth that sets people free and the right cause, but nobody except our own kind will accept to receive it from us if our energy is wrong or our understanding of that truth is wrong. It is easy to rationalise that it is because we are prophetic, the faithful remnant, the last warriors of truth still standing, that we are not being heard. But more often than not we are not listened to because we are misguided, elitist or unloving, not because we are warriors for truth or justice.

And so we need to be humble and heed Jesus's warning to guard the "messianic secret" and "speak our truth in parables." In brief, we need to be solicitous always lest a false energy behind our truth of a misunderstanding of that truth have us so fall out of discipleship that Jesus has to reprimand us with the words: "Get behind me, Satan!"

Rev. Fr. Ronald Rolheiser
(The Last Word)

Checks and balances needed for stable Government

By Jehan Perera

Although the war ended more than three and a half years ago, Sri Lanka is not yet on the way to become a stable, democratic country. The main political features in Sri Lanka are the ongoing concentration of power in the hands of the government leadership. This gives an impression of stability. But there is a serious problem of democracy, if by that we mean a system of checks and balances and not only elections. The Opposition parties are weak and disunited and cannot mount a challenge to the government. The 18th Amendment of 2010 further concentrated power in the Presidency and removed the two-term limit on the Presidency.

As there has been no progress towards a political solution to the ethnic conflict, there is continued polarization between the government and the Tamil ethnic minority. The root causes of the war, the sense of discrimination and deprivation of the Tamils, have not been dealt with. This is why the Tamil people in those areas in which they are a majority consistently vote against the government. They are unhappy as there is no political solution after the war that enables them to have even limited powers of self-government. There continues to be a large military presence in the North and East, and the military intrudes into civilian life more than is necessary now that there is no more war or terrorist activity. The people also feel that the government has not invested sufficiently in resettling the people who lost everything during the war. Due to this, the

government has not held elections in the Northern Province, which is more than 95 percent Tamil, as they do not wish to lose those elections. So there is no real democracy in the North.

At this time the opposition parties and civil society are marginal actors. The opposition is fragmented and does not have a leadership that can appeal to the people. It is like a village in which there is only one shop. The people have no choice but to go to that shop, even if the commodities there are very expensive and of poor quality. As for civil society, the government does not pay any heed to it. There is also a culture of fear that keeps people from mobilizing against the government. The disappearances, abductions and killings that took place during the war time are very much less today, but they still take place, and this chills the civil society. Where they can, civic and religious groups are actively involved in building bridges between the ethnic communities, by holding awareness campaigns and organizing exchange visits. However, these actions do not compensate for the absence of a political solution that the Tamils think is fair by them. They feel discriminated against and marginalized.

In conclusion, there are two key challenges that Sri Lanka faces. The first is the old challenge of addressing the ethnic conflict. The Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) appointed by the government after the war, has stated that the main cause of violence in Sri Lanka was the failure of successive governments to find a solution to the

(Contd. on Pg. 15)

Bishops' Synod XIII on New Evangelization

A call to clear deserts and open new wells!

The 13th General Synod of Bishops that took place in Rome from October 28, came to a close with a special concluding message addressed to the Catholic Church highlighting the freshening up of methods of evangelization to meet the current needs of the world as a matter of urgency. It is in the priority of interest to place the Gospel message afresh- as one of hope and regeneration to a world full of deserts in which people are lost, and whose well-springs of life and joy are apparently drying out. This "desertification" that has thinned down the spirit and the spiritual has to be arrested so that people can see the Light of Truth and walk in it; these fast drying-out wells that are bereft of clean water have to be filled to quench the spiritual thirst of modern-day men and women.

Modern society is lost in the deserts of pleasure and material well-being while they are thirsty for an enduring spiritual energy that will help them see beyond the bodily, and sense to enable them to reach out to the beyond and transcendence of life eternal. The real meaning of the nature and destiny of the human being has to be discovered and affirmed. The Church comes through once again at the beginning of a new century of secular history and a third-millennium of redemption identified by recent Popes as the expert of humanity, its mother and teacher as well as an educator of human conscience. Thanks to Her, men of our age can soar up to the height of real Truth that frees them totally, and yearn for abiding beauty which defies the scourge of sin and the darkness of death. Out of over 400 participants, by far the largest in any synod, 262 were officially Synod Fathers of whom 182 were elected by the various national Episcopal conferences and the Union of Superiors General of religious orders. Whilst the newest independent nation of Sudan was represented, Chinese bishops were notable absentees having been prevented from travel by the government authorities. At the Synod's closing, 45 propositions were presented to the Pope which would be matter for a future official papal exhortation on the Synod's theme of New Evangelization for the transmission of the Faith.

Encounter with Christ

Evangelization, the Synod Fathers tell us, simply means the leading of men and women of our time to an encounter with Jesus. There is a need to revive the faith that runs the risk of being eclipsed in today's cultural contexts that prevent it taking root in persons and thwarting its presence in society. There is the phenomenon of rapidly changing socio-cultural, economic, civil and religious scenarios around us. The Church is in fact the space provided by Christ in history for this encounter since it is the sanctuary from which the streams of the sacramental life flow. The reading of the Scriptures in a contemplative and prayerful manner and disposing ourselves to an authentic conversion will prove to be the foundations of the new evangelization. The Synod Fathers incite us to seize every opportunity for evangelization. Though we see in society a web of contradictions and challenges that is wounded by evil, it is still loved by God. The utter faith we have in the Risen Christ who

saved us through his passion and death continues to empower the Church that is always alive. The saints and martyrs of today are its protagonists. Fighting the principalities and powers as in Paul's day creates grounds for our forward journey as for example globalization which opens the door to expand the presence of the Gospel by globalizing its message. Secularization calls for a more creative and transformative presence of the Church at the heart of the world. The new faces of the poor provide opportunities not merely for charitable services but also the difficult engagement of struggle against injustice that is its cause and thus works for human liberation and integral development of people. How well the Fathers point out that even in the most deplorable forms and expressions of atheism and agnosticism, one is able to discern not just a void, but a longing and an expectation that awaits an adequate response!

Naturally the family and the life-style of the consecrated religious are ideal oasis for the transmission of the faith for they stand for the Beatitudes of the Gospel. The essential role of the family across the continents is an evangelizing source without parallel. It is the first school of humanity and living faith. While a shattered family is the greatest hindrance to evangelization, a new evangelization is unthinkable without a vibrant formation of families to be missionary cells. Marriage and family life are today battered on many fronts by new styles of life and short-sighted political policies. The final message of the Synod says that we need God-fearing and Spirit-filled couples and families to become models of communion and service who should be the seeds of a more loving and peaceful society. It is so poignantly stated that: "Family life is the first place in which the Gospel encounters the ordinary life and demonstrates its capacity to transform the fundamental conditions of existence in the horizon of love." Adjacent to the domestic sphere comes consecrated life of those who embrace a life-style of poverty, chastity and obedience in the radical imitation of Jesus who bear witness to the supernatural horizon of the meaning of human existence. Their option fully relativizes all that is good in this world and thus points to life-beyond. The Church very much desires that they become protagonists of the new evangelization in continuing their life and work in the particular fields to which the charisms of their institutes assign them.

"Village Fountain"

Parallel to the home and family, we have the parish which is the basic cell of faith, worship, communion and mission in the Church. Pope John XXIII has referred to the parish as the "village fountain" from whose well all can drink, tasting in it the freshness of the Gospel. Within it are the small Christian communities, acts of popular piety, sacraments, devotion to the saints which really is the way of experiencing the communion of saints and the pastoral role exercised by the priest. Along side are the laity who hold other ministries, like catechists, prayer leaders etc. One must not forget Christians who are not fully united to us but who thirst for Christ and his truth and are fully dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel.

The interventions of some of the delegates of these churches showed how they bore witness to this thirst and missionary zeal. Much concern has been expressed by the Synod about the world's youth whom the Lord wishes that they respond to him in order to have a fuller life. One must appreciate their aspirations for authenticity, truthfulness, freedom, generosity and above all the spirit of enthusiasm and idealism. However, these have to be guarded against being poisoned by the fallacies and selfish ventures of worldly trends, which to their own advantage, dissipate the energies and waste their passion for love and life. What better evangelizers can we dream for the world of youth, than the youth themselves! The world youth today are ample proof of how youth can make themselves open to the spirit, the sense of the spiritual and faith.

The Synod has not forgotten to recall the task of the Gospel encounter with human cultures and the variety of religious experiences around the world through dialogue. It has raised once again the issue of the dialogue between faith and reason and how Christian faith could stand without fear vis-à-vis science and scientific research. It is basically the question of evangelizing human intelligence that searches for truth and has an insatiable thirst for new knowledge. The field of science is pre-eminently the stage for faith-reason dialogue. We have to show that it is not unreasonable to espouse a religious faith and that religion even in a secular age is not the denigration of either reason or human rationality! In fact, reflection on Christian faith is needed for a more profound understanding and also deepening of the faith: One that is not blind, but enlightened. This exercise is precisely called theology which can genuinely be done by people of faith. Faith further can welcome the fruits of sound thinking and also heal the contradictions and errors, reasons that can make us fall.

Integral Formation

In the field of education the Church is capable of contributing to the integral formation of the person. Catholic centers of education are prime agents of this service. Much attention must also be drawn to new media technology which is a good place to touch the heart of man. Speaking about science and technology, the message says: "When science and technology do not presume to imprison humanity and the world in a barren materialism, they become an invaluable ally in making life more humane." Evangelizing efforts must also welcome those expressing the human genius in the field of arts in its various forms. Art can express spirituality in its efforts to portray beauty. The way of beauty is a particularly imposing path of the new evangelization. Among other important areas where the impact of the Gospel can be channeled are the spheres of economics and labour and that of politics that should be challenged to aspire to common good. In addition, people of other faiths



are natural partners of the Church. Such inter-religious dialogue is a contribution to peace as well and an antidote to fundamentalism. Gazing at the face of God through contemplation in prayerful silence amidst the cacophony of noise and turning to the many faces of the poor in gestures of charity accompanied by commitment to justice on their behalf are today, two important evangelizing activities.

A new Evangelisation

Churches in all continents must evangelize taking into consideration their particular contexts. The Catholic Oriental Churches and those of Eastern Europe, the first beneficiaries of evangelization are exhorted to greater devotion. Africa has to work out its evangelization work in dialogue with its old and newer cultures while its politics must ensure respect for human rights and free its countries from violence and conflicts that beset them. North American Christians must continue in their spirit of faith, charity and mission while also opening doors to migrants and refugees. It is encouraged to join hands with the Latin American Church in the on-going evangelization of the continent they share. In Latin America it must be shown that the Gospel could be the source of a new, just and fraternal society. The minority-Christian Asia living in the midst of a continent that houses almost two-thirds of world's population is invited once again to take on the path of evangelization through dialoguing with its cultures, religious traditions and masses of the poor as Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC) teaches. It is in this continent, that the Holy Land is located where the mighty drama of Salvation was accomplished in the life of Jesus Christ. Europe too is very specially addressed, the continent strongly marked by an aggressive secularization and recently incurring wounds inflicted by regimes hostile to God, Humanity and Faith. One must not forget the rich Christian heritage that missionary Europe and medieval spirituality has bequeathed to the Church and the world. The present difficulties should not deter, but serve as a challenge and an occasion for a more vivid proclamation of Christ and His Gospel of life. In all these appeals underlie the deserts that cloud the world's journey to God and the wells of the spirit that have dried out. Only the Lord of our faith can fill these wells with the waters of life, which will reveal to us our own story and engage us as his missionaries, like the Samaritan woman at the well in conversation with Jesus of Nazareth. It is this encounter that has to be facilitated through the new evangelizing efforts of the Church. The journey is across the deserts of this world where nourishment has to be provided to the spirit of mankind. In this desert shines brightly, Mary who is the star of evangelization to whom the Church confides herself.

Rev. Fr. Leopold Ratnaskera OMI

I knew a man who buys lottery tickets every week. He looks very unhappy and sad, almost to the extent of being depressed. When inquired why he looks so sad he said, "I buy the lotto every week, but I have never won anything. I will be happy one day, when I win the lotto."

Marci Shimoff in her book *"Happy for No reason"* talks about people who are always happy in spite of their circumstances. She shows us why we should not wait for the fulfillment of future dreams to be happy; e.g. "I will be happy when I get married to the girl/boy of my fantasies," "I will be happy when I get that job." Marci Shimoff asks us to find reasons for happiness today in the present moment that we are in. She talks about happiness coming out merely from within.

I know of a Franciscan priest who starts the day proclaiming, "God has given us a new day. Let us

rejoice and be glad in it." One day I asked him why he is so grateful for the new day that God has given him. He opened the morning paper and showed me the obituary column. "You see all these people did not get this new day. But we are lucky to be given another day by God."

Some Catholics involved in the Charismatic Movement in Sri Lanka start and finish their activities by loudly acclaiming, "Praise the Lord." When asked, the leader of the community told me, "We are in the habit of praising the Lord for everything that he has given us." Especially at the end of the day they recall what God had given them during the day and praise Him and thank Him for them.

American psychologist Wayne Dyer says that when you give even a small gift to someone the giver as well as the receiver get a serotonin surge which makes them feel happy. Research

Happiness

has shown that any act of kindness, however small, delivers as much pleasure to the giver as well as to the receiver. And now the researchers have found out that the act of giving makes even the witnesses of the gesture happy. So even persons who are at the site of the act of giving, and seeing the act, are benefiting from an act of kindness.

When visiting California I saw one of the funniest scenes in my life. I saw hundreds of people seated on their exercise mats and laughing aloud. I thought that this crowd had just escaped from the mental hospital nearby. I was happy that I was not in the midst of the escaped mentally ill patients. They were involved in a morning "laugh therapy."

At 7.00 a.m. in the morning this group of peo-



Bits and Pieces Madi

ple of various ages come to this park with exercise mats. There were two certified "laugh therapists." They encourage the people to laugh. There were no discussions or lectures. The participants are just encouraged to laugh

their guts out for about thirty to forty-five minutes. The therapists invited me to join their session. Unfortunately I was 'overdressed' for this occasion.

The therapists told me that these people

had lots of physical as well as psychological problems. Their physicians and psychologists had referred them to this group because they had seen the power of laughing and smiling. They told us this type of laughing has led to cures of diseases such as cancer as well as anxiety and depression. Till I met those "laugh therapists," I did not know the medicinal effects of laughing.

Let us acknowledge the power of a laughing, smiling and the therapeutic effect of a positive and optimistic attitude towards life. Let us view a glass as half full than half empty, and understand the value of giving where not only the giver and the recipient, but also the person who is witnessing the act of giving enjoys its therapeutic effects. "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it".

(Psalms 118:24.)

Do we practice idolatry?

St. Paul wrote that among matters to be put to death is, 'covetousness which is idolatry' (Col. 3: 5). 'Covetousness' is excessive and spiritually forbidden desire. Hence idolatry involves forbidden desire. Idolatry simply stated is any desire or service that usurps the rightful place that solely belongs to God.

Man has a long history of blatant idolatry. Ancient Mesopotamia had a collection of over 1500 gods. The Athenians had more gods than people. Idolatry is specially reprehensible in that it denies God's rightful place and belittles man.

The scriptures are replete with warnings against idolatry. "Children, be on your guard against false gods." (1 John 5: 21), "Idolaters shall have their place in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone" (Rev. 21: 8).

One does not have to physically worship a graven image to be guilty of idolatry. The Bible mentions, "Setting up their idols in their heart". (Ezek. 14: 3). "Repent and turn yourself from your idols" (Ezek. 14: 6).

Idolatry occurs when we begin to value anything more than we value God. If we spend more time thinking about our hero than

God, that is idolatry. If our every thought is about the latest gadget or our personal appearance, that's idolatry. If the first priority in our lives is our family, even that's idolatry.

righteousness." Everything else must come after.

The most common idol on earth is money and possessions. The psalmist says, "The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the

Ananda Perera

the sidelines.

A sportsman gives all his time and energy for sports as his ulterior mo-

the Lord, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of any-

thing in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth. You shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God," (Exodus 20: 2-5).



When God said, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3), he was not just talking about the imaginary deities that seem so ridiculous to us today. He was talking about anything that usurps his place as number one in our hearts. The solution to this problem is as simple as Christ's admonition in Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his

work: of men's hands. They have mouths but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear; nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them" (Psalm 135:15-18). Here we see the folly of idolatry - worshipping the work of men's hands. But that is going on today, isn't it?

How do you know what you are worshipping? The thing you work for, sacrifice for and live for, is your God. Our idols may appear in the form of many of our preoccupations. For example, children are the gifts of God. Parents doting on children to the point of becoming excessively possessive is idolatry. In many a home, children are given the pride of place, banishing God to

active is winning medals, trophies, praise and publicity. His talents originate from God. He forgets that without good health from God he can achieve nothing. The youth crave for good looks and are overly concerned about the temporal beauty that fades. God gets lost in their superficial way of living that makes them forget their God who sustains them.

Most of us practise some form of idol worship. We hero worship actors, actresses, sportsmen, political figures: Even pets can be included in this list when we lavish much of our attention on them denying the time that should be rightfully given to God.

The omnipotent God, only to whom worship, reverence and thanksgiving is due every moment of our lives, is a jealous God. "I



A CROSS
The Way 100

By Sirohmi Gunsekera

"The End"

"Have you heard that December 23rd is the End of the World?" asked Malia.

"I heard that it was the 21st. Rumours are flying around about three days of darkness around Christmas time," replied Niha.

"Well," what should a good Catholic do? Make her Confession and prepare to die. Then even if the End doesn't materialize, she or he is prepared," said Malia. - "Yes, the best way to live is to live as if today is your last day on earth. You should have a clear conscience even if you don't make your Confession. Remember to say "I love you" and show your love to those you care about. Then you have no regrets when you die. If you are loving and forgiving, then you are prepared to die, don't you think?" asked Nihal.

"I know, looking back on a long life, there are so many instances where I have found it hard to forgive those who have hurt me. I used to nurse grudges and feel resentful until I realized that I was only hurting myself by remembering emotional wounds. Then I started praying that I will be able to forgive and forget, especially my best friend Lola who broke up my marriage. I realized that no third party can break up a relationship unless there was something wrong in the first place. I was insecure and our marriage was doomed from the start. Now that I have forgiven Lola my mind is at peace," said Malia.

"So if the end of the world comes, you are ready?" asked Nihal.

"I suppose so. I still don't know what will happen after we die. I am somewhat afraid of the Unknown and the Untried!" replied Malia.

"That is why you put your faith in God and ask Him to lead you through to a land of everlasting sunshine which is Heaven," concluded Nihal.

TAKE TIME FOR A MINUTE OF HUMOUR - SMILE!



"Not long ago Udurawana had been appointed as a professor to Kelaniya University. He brought a plumber one day and when other professors inquired why, he said, "I want to know, where, the question paper is leaking."

Rev. Fr. Fracced Anthony Fernando OMI

Art & Architecture in Liturgy

compiled by: Kishani S. Fernando

King of Kings of Peace, Love and Truth

So the divine King appears. He casts His glance over all the world... what does he see? This could well be the theme of the painting at St. Cecilia's Church in Seeduwa. Here the artist depicts the resurrected Christ as a liberator and saviour from social ills that plague this day and

age. The lower part of the painting shows the injustice and inequities of political and social upheavals, dictatorships and murders that echo the words of Jesus "for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword". The top part of the painting shows the flowering of the Kingdom of God in the lives of the just and the peace loving.

The Feast of Christ the King was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925. The feast is intended to proclaim Christ's royalty over individuals, families, society, governments, and nations. A royal hero and warrior who upon the battlefield of Golgotha struggles and dies in triumph.



The Feast of St. Cecilia, patron saint of music is marked on November 22.
Pic: St. Cecilia's Church, Seeduwa.

Reminiscing the past... thanking God... and moving forward....



Ninth of November was a special day for Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya as they celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Holy Family Congregation in Sri Lanka. It was a day set apart by the present school administration and the Past Pupils' Association to host all the Sisters of the Holy Family who had served the school. It was indeed touching to see many familiar faces as they made their way back to school.

The Sisters were warmly welcomed and conducted in a ceremonial procession from the School Chapel to the school quadrangle led by the Western Band. Here representatives of the five Holy Family Associates, teachers and students joined in to celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass, officiated by the Holy Family Priests. The celebration commenced with the reminiscing and appreciation of the trials and tribulations of the first Mothers of the Holy Family who had travelled from Bordeaux in France to our country 150 years ago. It was their vision and mission that had been carried down the ages by the Sisters of the Holy Family to the present day. At the end of the Mass, the jubilee candle was lit and the 150th birthday cake was cut amidst much cheering from the students. The invitees were then treated to tea and a presentation projecting the school's education policy with its focus on fulfilling the hopes, aims and ambitions of the founding Mothers. Thereafter



Artistic depiction of the arrival of the first Sisters in Ceylon in 1862-by Shovana Perera

a dance and song recital by the present and past pupils was followed with lunch. The day ended with the inaugural screening of the film "Satd prayanaya" on the "Journey" of the Holy Family Sisters.

This was one of the celebrations among a series of Thanksgiving Masses, congregations and get together held in the Jaffna and Colombo provinces to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Holy Family Congregation in Sri Lanka.



Ending the food lottery

Once the greatest threats to agriculture were bad weather and poor farming. Now this has been surpassed by an even greater threat: escalating prices caused by speculation. But politicians have an opportunity to act to help the hungry

Harvest should be a season of plenty and, around the world, there is indeed more than enough food to go round. But whether we can afford it is another matter. This summer, newspaper headlines have yet again been dominated by rocketing food prices as the world experiences the third price spike in the space of five years.

Over the next few weeks, members of the European Parliament and finance ministers, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, will thrash out new rules that will influence the price we pay for food. The decisions they make could have a huge impact, not only on the price you or I pay for our weekly groceries, but also on the number of hungry people worldwide. Here in the UK, at a time when incomes are shrinking, we're paying 37.9 per cent more for our food than we did just seven years ago. Globally, the price of maize hit record levels in July and in Mozambique, one of many countries where maize is a staple, it cost twice as much in July as it did in April.

In developing countries where people often spend between half and 90 per cent of their incomes on food, sudden increases in the price of basic foods can spell disaster.

Nuria Mohammed, a vegetable farmer in Ethiopia's Oromiya region, remembers how in 2008 a local drought left her completely dependent on wheat and maize. Prices in the local market had more than doubled at that time and she had to sell her five cattle in order to buy food for her family. The cattle had become so thin that they fetched about a quarter of their normal price.

Nuria's children, Faiza and Fatima, both under five, were treated for malnutrition. "When I was nursing Faiza I was so sick I could not breastfeed her properly" she recalls.

Selling off vital possessions such as cattle is a typical response to rising food prices.

Taking children out of school and cutting out expenditure on "luxuries" like health care are also common coping strategies - and all have long-term impacts on peoples lives.

So why are food prices rising so much? The most immediate answer is often to be found in poor harvests caused by extreme weather, such as this summer's drought in the US Midwest. The growing appetite for biofuels is also a culprit as it diverts agricultural products used in food away from people's stomachs and into the tanks of cars.

But financial speculation is also playing a major role in pushing up food prices, leading to widespread calls for regulation to limit its effects. Proposals to do precisely this are the battleground for the brewing EU food row.

Financial speculation allows banks like Barclays and Goldman Sachs to make massive profits by buying and selling food "futures contracts" effectively betting on the price of basic foods like wheat, maize and sugar.

Futures contracts were invented in the US in the nineteenth century to help farmers deal with the uncertainty of growing crops, by allowing them to sell their produce at a future date at a guaranteed price. For example, a farmer might agree to sell a tonne of wheat at harvest time for £100. This type of contract meant that farmers could plan ahead without worrying that the price of their produce might suddenly drop during the course of the year while their crops were in the ground. Similarly, a miller could agree a contract to buy a tonne of wheat for a particular price at a future date, which would insure them against sudden increases in the price.

By the 1900s, however, future contracts were being bought and sold by bankers and traders who had little or no involvement in the actual food being traded, instead betting on changing food prices as a way to make money. In the 1930s, following the Wall Street crash, regulations were introduced by the US Government to limit bankers' and traders involvement in the markets. These regulations stayed in place as a check on excess speculation until the 1990s, when aggressive lobbying by the finance sector weakened the regulations and the doors were opened for rampant billing on food. The price of food in a future contract helps to determine the real

price of food. For example, if a tonne of wheat is selling for £100 today but through a futures contract a farmer can sell it for £200 in three months' time, then he may well choose to hold back from selling the wheat until then. By restricting the quantity of wheat available for sale, prices are pushed up.

Since deregulation, banks and hedge funds have created new, complicated investment products to enable them to make money from speculating on food. Barclays, the biggest UK player in the commodity markets, is estimated to have made as much as £500 million from food prices in the past two years alone. Despite the huge amounts of money pouring into agricultural commodity markets, not a penny of it is spent on improving food production. The money merely feeds the financial markets.

Speculation can be curbed through relatively simple regulation, that would bring it into the open and also limit the number of contracts that financial players could hold in the commodity markets at any one time. Legislation to do this has already been passed in the US, although its implementation has been delayed by a sustained attack from Wall Street

The European proposals for similar legislation have been the subject of a war of amendments and counter-amendments. In the coming weeks, the decisions made by the finance ministers and MEPs examining the regulation will determine whether or not the new rules are strong enough to tackle speculation. As in the US, the finance sector on this side of the Atlantic is lobbying hard against tough controls. And the UK Government, with its ear to the City of London, has been one of the main blocks to effective regulation.

Nevertheless, the voices calling for action on speculation are getting louder, and come from quarters as diverse as the global peasants' movement



La Via Campesina, the UN Conference on Trade and Development and businesses like Starbucks, where CEO Howard Schultz says his business has been affected by soaring coffee prices.

Pope Benedict has also raised the issue, asking a UN food conference last year: "How can we ignore the fact that food has become an object of speculation or is connected to movements in a financial market that lacking in clear rules and moral principles, seems anchored on the sole objective of profit?"

Willi George Osborne likely to play a key role at the EU, the World Development Movement has launched a photo petition, asking people to send us a photo of themselves with a written message to the Chancellor, which we will present to him before he meets the other finance ministers to make their decision. We have a unique opportunity to restore some balance to food markets and help prevent the price spikes that push millions of people from poverty and hunger. It must not be wasted.

(Courtesy: The Tablet - 29 September 2012)

Vespers in the Sistine Chapel for the 500th anniversary of Michelangelo's ceiling

Between heaven and earth

At the Angelus on All Saints, we remember that we are a Church on a journey

The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel tells a "story of light, of liberation, of salvation... of God's relationship with humanity", the Pope said on Wednesday evening, 31 October, during Vespers to celebrate the fifth centenary of Michelangelo's narrative masterpiece. "In that moment of contact between the finger of God and the finger of man", he continued, "we perceive the point of contact between heaven and earth". Thus, it is within the liturgy that this masterpiece is best understood. Communion "between heaven and earth" is the message of the liturgical Solemnity of All Saints, which the Church celebrated on Thursday, 1 November. *(Courtesy: L'Osservatore Romano)*

"In that moment of contact between the finger of God and the finger of man", "we perceive the point of contact between heaven and earth".



On the importance of the Eucharist

By Michael Seagriff

If God used Balaam's donkey to get that prophet's attention, I guess he can use me to get yours. At the end of this post. I am going to ask you to help get the poignant reflection of Father Mark set forth below into the hands of every Bishop and priest in this country. We can do it! But first I want to share a few thoughts that have long been embedded in my heart.

That which is most essential for our sanctification and salvation is that which we most frequently ignore: The Eucharist. The late Apostle of the Eucharist, Father John Harden, S.J. realised "that everything, everything, quote EVERYTHING of our faith (indeed the virtue of faith itself) depends on our faith in God being really present with us today in both His human and Divine nature, united in His Divine Person in the Holy Eucharist."

The time for mincing words is over. Current polls, as well as what we observe with our own eyes, make it clear that a majority (an overwhelming majority of those identifying themselves as Catholics, perhaps as much as 80 percent, including 80 percent of those few Catholics who bother attending Sunday Mass) no longer believe that Our Lord is really, truly and substantially present Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Blessed Sacrament. The sad but truthful reality is that in far too many of our churches we have lost the sense of the Sacred and an appreciation for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that are essential for fostering and maintaining a belief in the Real Presence.

"The sanctity of the Christian people," Pope Pius X wrote, "depends in large measure on the holiness of their priests." Neither we nor our priests can ever be holy if we fail to make the Eucharist

the centre of our daily lives. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen so candidly observed: "The moral rot of the priesthood starts with a want of lively faith in the Divine Presence, and the sanctity of the priesthood starts there too."

We do not need any more study groups or committees or commissions in the Catholic Church. All lukewarmness toward or outright opposition to the promotion of Eucharistic Adoration and spirituality must cease. We need Bishops, priests religious and lay people to get on their knees before their Eucharistic Lord. It is He, not any of them. Who will gift us with a deep, abiding, life-changing, sanctifying belief in His Real Human and Divine Presence here among us. Everything else we need or think we need individually or as Church will flow from Him. Any notion that the answer to solving the myriad social and financial ills of our nation and

world rests on political activity, social justice programs and governmental largesse must be jettisoned. The long-standing pattern of many Church leaders remaining deafeningly silent while increasing numbers of "self-proclaimed Catholics" publicly misrepresent what it means to be Catholic must change. The hesitancy and fear to clearly inform Catholics that they will lose their eternal souls if they persist in advocating, engaging in, supporting or voting for any one who supports such intrinsic evils as abortion, contraception, euthanasia, foetal stem cell research, human cloning, and homosexual marriage, has to end.

So what can we simple people do about all of this? Listen to the prophets among us. Among those voices resonating in the Church today is Father Mark whose love for our Eucharistic Lord and his brother priests know no bounds. His blog, *Vultus Christi*, is a must

read for any one who loves God and wants to take His call to personal holiness seriously. With the good Father's indulgence. I am setting forth one of his more recent reflections, one that I am asking everyone who may read this column to copy and give to your Bishops and priests - every Bishop and every priest in this country. Impractical and impossible goal, you say? You are right unless God wills it!

The simple man writing this blog entry is convinced that there is nothing of more value that any of us can do today than to pass the following reflection on as requested. Let everyone you know on Facebook, Twitter, Google and other social media, and all those who visit your blog know of this request. Add a link to this post to all the other blogs you visit. Let's see God do the impossible because one humble priest has the courage to speak the truth and we simple people responded. God is counting on you!

Love's Invisible Radiance

By Father Mark (September 1, 2012)

There are so many tabernacles on earth
where I am, for all intents and purposes,
like one buried, hidden, forgotten, and out of sight.
My divine radiance is diminished
because there are so few adorers
to act as the receptors of My radiant Eucharistic love
and to extend My radiance through space
and into the universe of souls.
Where there is faith in My real presence,
there will be adoration:
And where there is adoration,
there will also be an efficacious radiance of My presence
drawing souls to My Eucharistic Heart
and surrounding them, even at a distance,
with the healing influence of My Eucharistic Face.
In those places where I am exposed upon the altar
to receive the adoration, the reparation,
and the companionship of My friends
- and, first of all, of My priests -
My radiance is powerful and strong.
Faith, adoration, and love act as receptors;
thus is My power drawn out and made effective,
invisibly but really, in space and in time.
It was the same with My Sacred Humanity during My life on earth;
the faith and love of My friends
drew out the virtue of My Divinity.
and an invisible radiance acted in souls, and upon them.
bringing healing, holiness,
and many graces of conversion.
When I am adored in a place,
My hidden action upon souls is wonderfully increased.
The place where I am adored becomes a radiant centre
from which love, and life, and light
are diffused in a world in the grip of hatred,
and darkness, and death.
Chapels of adoration are not mere refuges for the devout.
They are the radiant, pulsating centres
of an intense divine activity
that goes beyond the walls of the place where I am adored
to penetrate homes, and schools, and hospitals;
to reach even those dark and cold places
wherein souls are enslaved to Satan;
to penetrate hearts, heal the infirm,
and call home those who have wandered far from Me.
For these reasons, the work of perpetual adoration,
or even of prolonged daily adoration,
is intensely apostolic and supernaturally efficacious.
Would that My bishops understood this!
But, alas, they put their trust in human schemes.

in plans devised by the worldly-wise,
and in programs drawn-up along shortsighted human principles.
And so they go and they will continue to go
from failure to failure, and from disillusionment to disillusionment,
I have not set bishops over My flock
to govern, and to teach, and to sanctify, out of their personal abilities
and by making use of the wisdom of this passing world.
I have set them as lights upon a lampstand
to shine in every dark place,
and I have equipped them with supernatural gifts and divine power
to accomplish that for which I chose them
and set them over My Church.
Woe to those bishops
who trust in purely human solutions
to the problems that beset My Church.
They will be grievously disappointed.
and many souls will fall away
because they have neglected to take up
the supernatural weapons I have prepared for them
in this time of spiritual combat.
My presence in the Blessed Sacrament
preached, and confessed.
and surrounded by adoration, love, and heartfelt reparation
is the single greatest remedy for the evils that afflict My Church
and for the sorrows that weigh so heavily upon My priests.
My ways are not your ways.
nor do I act according to the principles of worldly success.
I act in the silent, humble, hidden reality of My Eucharistic presence.
Adore Me, and the radiance of My Eucharistic Face
will begin to change the face of the earth.
even as it heals My priests, calls sinners home to My Heart,
and enlivens the hearts of those grown weary and sad
(like the disciples on the road to Emmaus)
with a spark of divine vitality and with the fire of My Eucharistic love.
I speak to you in this way not only for you,
beloved friend of My Heart.
but also for those who will receive these words, ponder them,
and out of them draw the inspiration
to love Me more generously, more fruitfully, and more joyfully.
I speak to you for the sake of My priests.
You will be astonished at the reception given to these words of Mine.
Many souls of priests will be quickened and consoled by them.
Many priests will be moved to spend time
in the radiance of My Eucharistic Face,
and to abide close to My pierced Heart.
This is My desire for them.
I want to draw all My priests into the radiance of My Face
and, then, into the sanctuary of My open Heart.

(From *In Sinu Iesu*- The Journal of a Priest)

Current Affairs

Reconciliation requires Reparations

Whenever there have been mass violations of human rights as during a war and normalcy is restored, the victims are likely to carry bitter memories. These people need to come to terms with what happened during the war. The United Nations' Organization recognizes that the State has a duty to protect people who are civilians even during a war. Where the State has failed to protect them they have a right to be compensated for such failure. They need also to know the truth about what happened to their husbands, their sons and daughters who were victims of human rights violations during the conflict. This applies both to Sinhalese and Tamils. If one commits murder rape or subjects another human being to torture, one is guilty of a crime under the national law - the Penal Code. Such

persons should be arrested and arraigned before the ordinary courts of law. In addition, the victim has a right to reparations.

In addition to crimes under the national laws there are also those recognized by the UN as crimes. These are war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. These are not crimes under the national law, unless the particular country has signed up to be a member of the Rome Statute. We have not signed up for the Rome Statute.

We cannot however ignore crimes like rape, murder or torture which may have been committed by our nationals during the war. The political conflict does not justify any person committing such crimes against civilians. So if there is evidence against persons including members of the Armed Forces having committed such national crimes they should be arrested and ar-

raigned before our courts of law. We should do so for our own interest to safeguard our society. After every war there is a significant increase in crimes of violence often committed by ex-army personnel. We are presently facing this problem. Do we ignore them because they are ex-army personnel? Only at our peril. Similarly if Army personnel have committed crimes under the national laws, during the war and which have no relationship to the conflict, then they too should be tried for such crimes. There was no excuse for them to commit crimes against civilians who were not combatants.

Our government won the war in May 2009. The government celebrated the victory. But it is also necessary to recognize the victims of the war. Firstly they have to be identified. Secondly they need to be given an opportunity to tell their story for that would reduce their sor-

row. Thirdly they need to be compensated. This is the need for reparations to the victims. The 2005 UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to Remedy and Reparation, provide an International Bill of Rights for victims. These have been recognized as essential principles to be followed in a post conflict situation where there have been mass violations of human rights.

The Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) has been a step in this direction. It may not be adequate with regard to determining accountability. But it has gone some way to meet the other requirements specified in the UN Guidelines. The Government has implicitly recognized the victims of the war but has provided reparations more on a collective than individual basis.

The Government has carried out a massive infrastructure devel-

opment program in the North. The A - 9 has been reconstructed. Hospitals and schools that were destroyed are being rebuilt for the benefit of victims. Irrigation tanks, dams and channels are being restored. The victims have been given cash grants and re-settled. But these projects have been touted by the Government as development efforts rather than as collective reparations. While there may be great benefits in such collective reparations, they might easily lose their objective of being reparations, becoming humanitarian or developmental instead. So despite large government expenditure the people have not been reconciled to the government.

Reparations must be victim-led. The victims should have been consulted and they should have been made partners of the collective reparations. There can be no - one size fits all - solutions. Every

situation and set of victims will organically reveal different considerations, needs and requirements. It is as much about the way that they are treated, consulted and respected procedurally throughout the reparation process, as it is about the substantive remedy, material or otherwise. It is here that the best efforts of the Government have come to naught. Indeed the treatment, involvement and empowerment of victims in the process can, in and of itself, constitute a valuable part of the package of reparations. The Government missed the opportunity to consult and make the victims' part of the process of reparations.

Even now it is not too late to try those who have committed crimes like torture, rape and murder, under the national law, with victims given the opportunity to give evidence

(Messenger Political Analyst)

Brief but superlative innings

Rev. Fr. Lawrence V. G. Perera OMI. was born in Moratuwa on November 8, 1922 and was ordained a priest on March 17, 1949. He attained eternal glory on November 13, 1962. This November we commemorate his 90th Birth Anniversary and his 50th Death Anniversary.

He represented St. Sebastian's Moratuwa at cricket. Throughout his life he displayed great sportmanship. As a priest he served at Fatima Church and was appointed as Parish Priest of Paiya-

gala. Subsequently he was transferred as the Parish Priest of Kuda Madhu Church, Dehiyagatha. He initiated the youth society of the Blessed Sacrament and formed St. Michael's Society which was well patronised by poorest of the poor.

While being in charge of the Dehiyagatha Parish he commenced the building of St. Maria Goretti's Church at picturesque Kindigoda and St. Sebastian's Church at Dambadura. Fr. Lawrence got the services of Maestro Sunil

Santha and Lyricist Fr. Moses Perera to compose the still popular hymn in honour of St. Maria Goretti. The Boat Procession (*Boattu Perahera*) in the Dandugam Oya was the brainchild of Fr. Lawrence.

In 1959 he was transferred to Allagollewa in the North Central Province. Where he worked with his friend Rev. Fr. Reginald De Silva OMI. Fr. Lawrence was the architect of the new church at Allagollewa. While in Allagollewa he participated at the Madhu Festivals.

He was entrusted with the decoration of the vehicle carrying the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Madhu. He brought in local flavour by using lotus flowers and Muthu Kuda. Fr. Lawrence and Fr. Reginald could be hailed as the pioneer missionaries of the North Central Province of the OMI clergy.

Fr. Lawrence passed away when he was only 40-years-old. The service rendered by him during the brief stay on earth was incredible. His exemplary and saintly life would certainly have won him Celestial Bliss.

Cecil Perera

Congratulations and Prayer-filled Blessings on 60th Wedding Anniversary



B. Edmund Mendis and L. Winifreeda Mendis of No. 12 De-La-Salle Street, Mutwal, Colombo 15 will be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on November 26, 2012.

A Thanksgiving Holy Mass will be celebrated to mark this occasion on the same day at 5.00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church, Mutwal.

Mr. Edmund Mendis is a Legionary and an area leader of the Parish while Mrs. Winifreeda Mendis is the President of St. Vincent de Paul Society and a member of the Sacred Heart Society. She retired as a Registrar of Marriages after a period of 38 years. She continues to be of immense service to the Society as a Justice of the Peace.

A tribute to my grandfather

My Grandfather Mr. S.P.S. Anselem Silva was born on February 12, 1933. He was the only son of Mr. Serpinu Silva and Mrs. Emiline Costa. He had his primary and secondary education at De Mazenod College, Kandana where he excelled as a sportsman.

After finishing his education he joined the Railway Department as a district inspector in 1960. He was devoted and dedicated to service and was praised by many. During this time he married the youngest daughter of late lawyer Mr. D.G. F. Walter. He had four children, two boys and two girls. He was a loving father who guided his children in the correct path with good morals. After a loyal and a truthful service of 33 years he retired from his position

in 1993.

After his retirement he dedicated his life for church service and humanitarian work. He was the pioneer who initiated the Sunday School morning meal at St. Andrew's Parish. He was never reluctant to help the poor and the needy. He was elected as the vice-president of the parish council and did a honourable service. He was elected as the President of St. Vincent De Paul's Society for the Colombo North Deanery. He did a great service by helping the poor in their financial difficulties and by distributing dry food for the poorest of the poor.

He was also a loving grandfather to all of us. He looked after us with immense care and with joy and happiness.



He was a jolly person who used to share jokes and enjoy music with us. He used to accompany us to the beach and we even enjoyed a game of cricket. He was a friend who shared our problems and he was a father who guided us. We miss his bright smile and tears may come when we remember those sweet memories but there is one last hope that we will meet in heaven in the presence of our God.

Praveen Silva

My Old Rugged Cross

(A thought for November)

In my room there is an altar.
On the altar is a cross
It's old and I have mended it
A precious relic of the past

A votive lamp stands before it.
It lights through night and day
To tell the Lord I love Him and that
His burden I share even
in my small way.

Sometimes the burden's heavy.
Then I think HE bore
the cross for me
In pain and anguish all the way
To Sacred Calvary

Behind the cross there lies a tale
Of sacrifice of life.
A young man who laid down his life
Fighting for the right.

He lies somewhere in alien soil
A field where poppies bloom,
He owned this cross, His sister,
A bride of Christ,
Gifted it to me.

I treasure my cross, and pray for all
who die to preserve the right.
That man may live in peace,
To fight for justice and right.

Dear God, give peace to all these souls
who die to keep us free
Jesus set us free from sin and earth.
Holy Cross of Christ,
I bow before thee.

Clivee Taylor

A better tomorrow, is the wish of all

The true experience of supreme happiness emerges from serving others. We cannot close our eyes to people in need and remain extravagant, unless we are hard-hearted.

We spend most of our vacation and free time in at picnic spots, shopping malls, theatres or visiting relatives and friend. And it gives us momentary happiness, when helping someone in need and rewards us with lasting happiness. The innerjoy and satisfaction expressed through the smile on the face of the beneficiary, will definitely make a permanent impact on your life.

Some time back on a busy road, I spotted an elderly lady standing near a huge bundle of hay expecting a generous helping hand to load it on her handcart. I voluntarily did the job. Though it was an insignificant act, it made her immensely happy and she expressed her gratitude with a broad smile. In everyone's story of greatest happiness, there will be definitely an indication of helping someone in need.



The question is, what difference can an individual make to the vast volume of suffering humanity? As each drop of water contributes towards making the mighty ocean, if everyone realizes his or her responsibility in assisting the needy, it would make a world of difference.

The choice is left to us whether to involve oneself in micro or macro level social activities. At micro level the concentration is on our immediate neighbors. But their are also possibilities of reaching out to many persons through associating oneself with social work organizations.

Social workers of all kinds can make a significant progress in the lives of many people. According to the National Association of Social Workers, 'the primary mission of social work is to improve human well-being and help to meet basic human needs of all people, paying special attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed and living in poverty'. Undoubtedly if we are motivated to do social work, it will bring about greater personal satisfaction and meaning to our life.

"The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others".

Victor Anthony

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(N4476)

THANKSGIVING

MY GRATEFUL THANKS

To God Almighty, Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Anthony, St. Jude, Infant Jesus for special favour granted
- Duleep CC

"God works in mysterious ways" (N4357)

THANKSGIVING

I thank you Lord Jesus in your holy name for all that you have done, for me, and will do in future, as I stand in faith and agreement in prayer I pray for all my brothers and sisters in Christ who may be praying to God for help, as I stand in faith and expection in your prayer. I thank you for helping me in my desperate time of need Amen. Thank you Sacred Heart of Jesus our Lady of Fatima, St. Anthony, St. Jude, Divine Mercy for all the favours granted. FCT. (N4405)

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (never known to fail)

Oh most beautiful flower of Mt.Carmel. Fruit wine, Splendrous of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, Assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary Mother of God. Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh show me here you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. Amen. **ZENOBIA (N4393)**

WANTED A KIDNEY

A patient (52 years) needs a kidney urgently. Anybody who wishes to donate a kidney with B+ blood group will be given a cash present Contact - 011-2445313 (Q12N5542)

Make life better for those you love. Give them the Messenger

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION THROUGH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS

Lord Jesus, by faith in your merits, I now take your precious blood and sprinkle it over myself and my family, right from the crown of my head to the very soles of my feet. I claim total and complete protection for my life and my family. Lord Jesus keep me free from evil, sin, temptation, satan's attacks and afflictions, fear of darkness, fear of man, sickness, diseases, doubts, anger, and all calamities that is not of thy kingdom.

Fill me Lord Jesus with the gift of your Holy Spirit and grant me the gifts of wisdom, so that I may live today in your glory by doing that which is right.

I praise you Jesus, I thank you Jesus,
I love you Jesus, I adore you Jesus.

Holy Spirit thou who makes me see everything and shows me the way to reach my ideal, thou who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me, I in this short dialogue want to thank thee for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from thee no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. (Mention your request) Thank You, Holy Spirit, for Your love towards me and my loved ones. Amen.

(N4383)

G.P

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

Oh! Holy St. Anthony, Gentlest and kindest of All Saints, your burning love for God, your exalted virtue and your great charity to your fellow creatures made you worthy when on earth to possess miraculous powers. Miracle waited at your word and that word you were ever ready to speak at the request of those in trouble. The anxious prayer of bitter trial was never addressed to you in vain. To the sick you gave back health, you restored what was lost, the sorrow stricken were the object of your tender compassion, even the dead you raised to life when the wounded heart cried on to thee from the depth of its anguish. When on earth, were you not the Saint who had the tenderest compassion on those in distress and sorrow. Encouraged by this thought and convinced by the efficacy of your intervention. thanking you for the favours you have already granted me, I appeal to you to grant me this favour, (mention favour) Oh! St. Anthony, please whisper my prayer to the ears of the Infant Jesus who loves to linger in your arms. One word from you is enough, my prayer will be answered. **ZENOBIA (N4393)**

The Bishop House of Chilaw Diocese invites applications from male persons for the post of **CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY**. The candidate should possess a good command of English and computer literacy which is essential. No Age limit. Should possess an excellent character. Apply before 15th December Contact Nos : 032 - 2222332 / 2223377 / 2220625 (Q12N5553)

THANKS FOR FAVOUR GRANTED

Oh Holy Spirit. Thou who makes me see everything and, shows me the way to reach my ideal. Thou who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank Thee for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from thee no matter how great the material desire may be. I want to be with thee and my loved ones in your perpetual glory Amen.

PRAYER TO VIRGIN MARY (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

Oh! Most beautiful Flower of Mt.Carmel. Fruit wine splendrous of heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, Assist me in my necessity. Oh! Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary Mother of God. Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh show me here you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee Holy Mary. I place this cause in your hands. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. Amen. (N4393)

Visit St. Ann's Shrine at Thalawila

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(N4381)

"A wise man which built a house and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock" (Luke 6:48-49)

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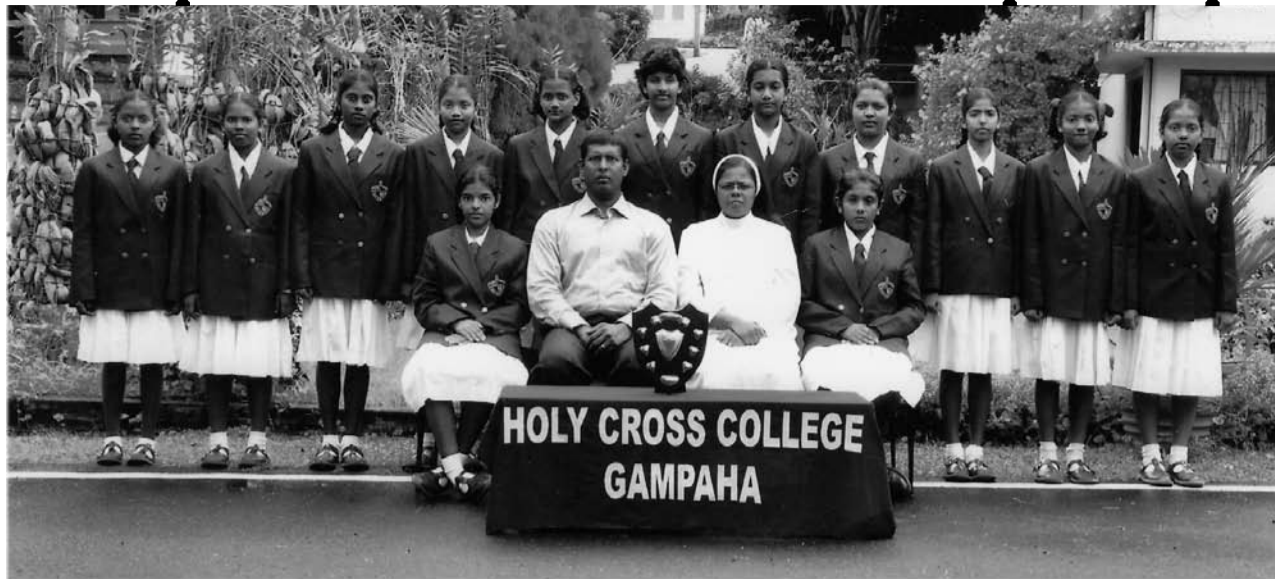
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Gampaha District Badminton Championship



Holy Cross College Badminton Club - Gampaha won the Gampaha District Badminton Championship and were Runners-up in Western Province Badminton Tournament at the National Sports Festival - 2012 conducted by the Western Province Sports Ministry.

Winning Team:

Seated from left to right : Ashini Navoda (Captain), Mahesh Ekanayake (Coach), Rev. Sister Mary Deepani (Principal), Petronilda Binyanwila (Vice Captain)

Standing from left to right :

Salini Dias, Thehani Sanjula, Pavani Navodya, Tharushi Ishara, Maneesha Dilakshi, Anuki Viveka, Hansani Jayasinghe, Dinithi Dias, Januli Thinara, Dakshina Nishani, Dilushi Hasinika.

Rain

Wind blows hard and fast,
Trees sway this way and that,
Blue clouds are pushed away,
The sky becomes gray and dark.

Lighting flashes and thunder follows,
It battles the animals and us all,
What a horrifying noise it makes,
Make all of us shiver and shudder in vain

Sky's open out and water gushes down,
It wets the dry and parched land,
Make it fertile and the crops grow,
Rain a God given gift for all.

R.A. Yoshika Pabasarie
St. Anne's Girls School - Wattala
Grade 12

Lawrentian All-Island Basketball Champions - 2012



The under 19 Lawrentian Basketball team emerged National Champions at the All Island School Games 2012 Basketball Tournament organized by Ministry of Education, held September 24, 2012 at St. Joseph's Girls' School, Nugegoda.

They played the finals were against Holy Family Convent Kurunegala who were beaten 70 to 64. The winning team were unbeaten throughout the entire tournament.

Sherline

Confirmation students gain valuable insights



Confirmation students at St. Sebastian's Church, in the Parish of Goddalla, were enriched by a talk on modern Mass Media and its contribution towards the life of youth

and society. Highlighting the negative aspects of its influence, emphasis was drawn on to what extent the youth should make use of it or not. The programme was conducted by

Kumara Nayanajith, sub-editor of Pradeepaya, at the invitation of the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Morris Anderson and his assistant Rev. Fr. Dinesh Duminda.

Fifth Anniversary of the Holy Angels' Girls School of Hope - Payagala



The Holy Angels' Girl's School of Hope, Payagala recently celebrated their 5th Anniversary and the First Prize Giving in the midst of a large gathering of parents well wishes and distinguished guests. Archbishop Emeritus Rt. Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis who initiated the school was the Chief Guest. Very Rev. Fr. Ivan Perera the Episcopal Vicar and the National Director of Catholic Education who worked hard from the beginning of the school to build it up. Rev. Fr. Ivan Pietersz,

the founder of the school and Rev. Mother Raymond Wijeyasuriya the Superior General of the Sisters of the Holy Angels were the guests of honour.

The Prize Giving was concluded with songs, colourful dances and a short drama from Shakespeare. Archbishop Emeritus Rt. Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis in his speech said that he is full of joy, gratitude and hope because his dream has come true. He said he is grateful to Mother Raymond Wijeyasuriya for accepting the school.

Appreciating the work of the teachers he said that, during the past five years the school has been conducted so well and it has made remarkable progress. He was surprised and happy to see how the children achieved so much improvement in such a short period. Impressed by the performance of the children, he hoped that the School of Hope, will prosper day by day.

Mrs. Merina Sudarshani

A gift to baby Jesus - this Christmas

As children and youth at Christmas, you make an effort to construct the crib at home. You even do up the Christmas tree and adorn your homes with decorations.

This time, during the "Year of Faith", you are called upon to do something more. As children you are invited

to construct the 'Advent Wreath', at the place where your family gathers together in prayer.

It will be a reminder to pray together, as one family, during the Season of Advent. Make this the gift you give to baby Jesus, this Christmas.

How to make an advent wreath

Make a circle of diameter about 12 inches and paint it green or cover it with decorative foliage. Make use of 5 oil lamps - 3 painted in purple, one in pink and the other in white. Place the white lamp at the centre and the rest on the circle.

The method of lighting

During the first, second and fourth weeks of Advent, purple lamps are to be lit and in the third week the pink lamp, and on Christmas Day, the white lamp is to be lit.



(see page 1 & 2)

What it says in
the Readings

Blessings on him who comes in the name
of the Lord! Blessings on the coming
kingdom of our Father David!

Mk. 11:9

LITURGICAL CALENDAR YEAR B
25th Nov. - 2nd Dec. 2012

**Sun: 34TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME**

**FEAST OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

Dan 7: 13-14; Rev. 1: 5-8;
Jn. 18: 33-37

Mon: Rev. 14: 1-5; Lk. 21: 1-4

Tue: Rev. 14: 14-19; Lk. 21: 5-11

Wed: Rev. 15: 1-4; Lk. 21: 12-19

Thu: Rev. 18: 1-2, 21-23; 19: 1-3;
Lk. 21: 20-28

Fri: Feast of St. Andrew Dung-Lac,
Priest, and Companions

**SS Andrew Dung-Lac and Com-
panions.** In the 17th, 18th and 19th
centuries in Vietnam, many Chris-
tians suffered martyrdom. On June
19, 1988 Pope John Paul II canonized
117 of these, 96 native Vietnamese
men and women, 11 Dominicans
from Spain, and 10 French mission-
aries.

Rom 10: 9-18; Mt. 4: 18-22

Sat: Rev. 22: 1-7; Lk. 21: 34-36

Sun: FIRST SUNDAY OF

ADVENT

Lk. 21: 25-28; 34-36

Checks and balances...

Contd. from Pg. 4

ethnic conflict. There is a need for the government to talk to the leaders of the ethnic minority parties and work out a political solution that will satisfy all sides. But this is not happening. The second challenge is to safeguard and strengthen the system of checks and balances to control the abuse of power that comes from having absolute power. At present the government is seeking to impeach the Chief Justice.

It is no coincidence that the Supreme Court has been acting as a check and balance on the government. Therefore retaining an independent judiciary would be of the highest national importance. But it will be difficult for the Chief Justice to prevail, even if she is not guilty of the financial misdeeds and other offences she is being charged with. The problem is that the Parliament has the power to impeach her, and the government has a 2/3 majority. We cannot expect a judicial process to take place in which the charges will be debated in a fair manner and a fair decision is arrived at. It is most likely that political considerations will determine the outcome. The government leaders may feel that they have a mandate from the people to do as they please. But it is not good governance or democracy when the government, however popular, dismantles the system of checks and balances. The recent statement of the Catholic Bishops calling on the government to respect the independence of the judiciary is a welcome intervention. Private diplomacy can supplement this public call to strengthen Sri Lankan democracy.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Response Lord, may your kingdom come.

For the Church: That all its members may work with courage and faith for the spread of the reign of God in the world by striving to live good and holy lives. Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, may your kingdom come.

For all world leaders: That they may realise that they are working to build up the kingdom of God whenever they work to promote a more just and a more human world. Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, may your kingdom come.

For all those who are suffering persecution because of their allegiance to Christ: That God may sustain their hope and their love.
Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, may your kingdom come.

That of all our loyalties, our loyalty to Christ and his Gospel may come first in our lives.
Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, may your kingdom come.

Feast of Christ the King

First Reading:

Dan. 7: 13-14

Prophet Daniel tells us his vision of the Son of Man. His dominion is everlasting and His Kingdom will not be destroyed.

Second Reading:

Rev. 1: 5-8

Jesus is glorified because he saved the world by His Blood. The second coming of Christ is predicted. This coming will be in glory.

Gospel:

Jn. 18: 33-37

Jesus stands before Pilate, who questions Him about the kingship. Christ is a king but His kingdom is not of this world.

Reflection

Today is the last Sunday of this liturgical year, and we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. Unlike the kingdoms that we see in this world Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. Jesus clearly states this in the Gospel of today. "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship is of this world my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world."

This kingship of Jesus cannot be understood by all. Only the faithful and the truthful could understand this. That is why Jesus wanted to know from Pilate whether this was revealed to him or whether he had just heard it. But when Jesus came to know that this was not revealed to him. Jesus went on to explain it to him. Jesus is a king. But a spiritual king. That is the reason why Jesus says, "You say that I am a king, for this reason I was born, and for this I have come to the world to bare witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice."

Jesus' kingship was not one that was inherited or one that fell on him. It was hard earned. He suffered, died and was buried in order to bring salvation for all mankind. In suffering and death he obeyed the will of God. In his obedience he inherited the kingdom of God. This he did by way of love and it is His Blood that saved us from our sins and made us partakers of His kingdom.

About this kingdom, and the coming of the Son of Man, prophet Daniel had a vision. This vision he elaborates in the First Reading. "And I saw, coming on the

clouds of heaven one like the Son of Man, and he came to the ancient of days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom and all peoples, Nations and languages should serve him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed." In this vision the appearance of the Son of Man is seen and we are reminded of our responsibility to the one who served us and made us partakers of the kingdom.

Though the Son of Man is no more present the Second Reading reminds us of His second coming in glory. It says "Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him. Everyone who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will wait on account of Him." That is how the Son of Man will come the second time and that is how the world will greet Him.

Therefore on this feast day of the Kingship of Christ we too should do whatever we could to inherit the kingdom of God which Christ obtained for us by way of offering his life in obedience to the will of God.

Aid Story

A dialogue between a recent convert and a Christian Pundit, "So you have been converted to Christ you said?" "Yes" Let me test you to see whether you are a real Christian. You must be knowing a lot about Christ."

Tell me, what country was he born in?" "I do not know."

"What was his age when he died?" "I do not know."

"You certainly know very little for a man who claims to be converted to Christ."

"You are right; I am ashamed at how little I know about him, but this much I do know. Three years ago I was a drunkard, I was in debt, my family was falling to pieces. My wife and children would dream my return home each evening. But now I have given up drinking, we are out of debt, ours is now a happy home, my children eagerly wait for my return each evening. All this Christ has done for me. This much I know of Christ. To really know Christ, one must be transformed by what one knows.

Rev. Fr. Ciswan De Croos

CROWNING THE LITURGICAL YEAR: Feast of Christ the King, a different kind of Kingdom, a different kind of King

By Tanya Ferdinandusz

Just as the year is divided into seasons, the Church divides the year into liturgical seasons—Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Times. Today, as a fitting crown to our liturgical year, we celebrate the feast of Christ the King.

In today's First Reading, Daniel writes of his vision of a mighty and powerful king, whose sovereignty is eternal, whose empire is indestructible (Daniel 7:13-14). The Second Reading reminds us that Jesus is "Ruler of the kings of the earth" (Revelation 1:5).

We have few kings or queens in our world today, yet we can all think of rulers who behave as if their powers were absolute and unfettered. The feast of Christ the King was instituted in the days of Fascism, as a reminder of a higher power, that was over all earthly rulers, whether political or religious. Yet, as we read the Scriptures, we find that Jesus does not really match up to either ancient or modern concepts of kingship—instead, He inaugurates a different kind of Kingdom, and reveals Himself as a different kind of King.

Jesus was of royal lineage, coming from the line of King David, who was considered Israel's greatest king. Yet, there was nothing 'kingly' about the manner of Jesus' birth, his family, his job, or his lifestyle. Though born in Royal David's

City, Jesus was not born in a palace, but in poverty; He donned no grand robes or golden rings; He was crowned with thorns and His throne was a cross. His Kingship was seldom evident in the externals. In the wilderness, when Satan offered Him the kingdoms of the world, Jesus refused; when the well-fed multitude tried to crown Him king, Jesus slipped away. Nevertheless, despite the lack of outward trappings, many acknowledged and marvelled at the unmistakable authority with which Jesus spoke, taught and acted.

Jesus was a contradiction: Although He spoke and acted with power, He did not wield political power like the Roman rulers, nor even the religious power of the Pharisees and Scribes. In today's Gospel, this puzzles Pilate, and he questions Jesus. Jesus explains the contradiction: Yes, He is a King; but His is a different kind of kingship and He rules over a different kind of kingdom (John 18:36). This is why the reign of Jesus, the King of kings, is often not apparent in our world today.

To understand this better, let's consider the story of David. David was anointed king long before he was crowned king. Saul's vindictive jealousy compelled David to live as an outlaw for years. Only after Saul's death was David given his rightful place as king. Je-

sus is the Christ – the Anointed One of God. Yet, although He is supreme over all powers and authorities (Ephesians 1:20-23), He is not always or everywhere acknowledged as king... yet.

The season of Advent begins next Sunday. Advent (which means 'arrival' or 'coming') not only recalls the first coming of Jesus in the incarnation, but more important, awaits and anticipates the Second Coming of King Jesus, when every knee will finally bow, and every tongue finally confess that 'Jesus is Lord' (Philippians 2:10-11).

OUR RESPONSE

In the meantime, how are we, the people of God, to respond? In today's Gospel, Jesus tells Pilate, "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice" (John 18:37).

To be a Christian is not only to confess Jesus as our Saviour and King, not only to bear the seal of baptism, but to align ourselves with Him, by 'listening' to His voice (which includes obedience). We have just recently concluded the Year of the Word of God and commenced the Year of Faith. It is essential that we listen to God's voice as He speaks to us through His Word, and it is vital that we respond with 'the obedience of faith' that Paul so passionately pleaded for (Romans 1:5, 16:26).

† IN MEMORIAM

OUR DEAREST

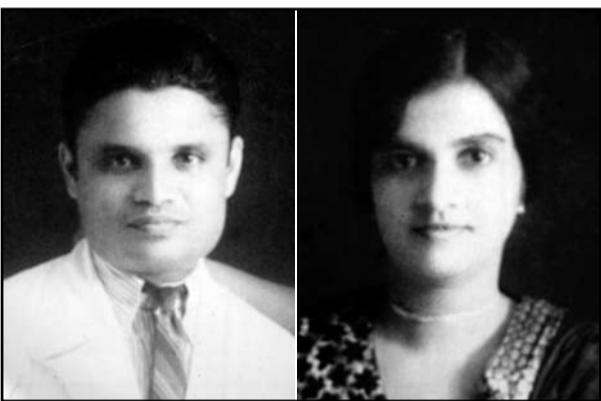


THATHA AND AMMA

You will live forever in our hearts. Our Love for you will never die. Thank you for your love for us. May you always rest in God's loving embrace! your ever loving children, Francis, Lawrence Swarna and Lalitha

(N4339)

OUR DARLING



DAD AND MOM

You will live forever in our hearts. Our Love for you will never die. Thank you for your love for us. May you always rest in God's loving embrace! your ever loving children, Carmel and Lennie

(N4339)

1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
Called to Eternal Home
6th Nov 2011



SR. DENISE OF MARY IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

(Little Sisters of the Poor) (Sr. Denise Karunaratne) Affectionately, prayerfully remembered by your beloved sisters

Rev. Sr. Gertrude Karunaratne (H.F. Contemplative), Rev. Sr. Felicia Karunaratne (F. M.M.), Lily (Late), Violet, Rita and brother Maxi, and their families (N4372)

25th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

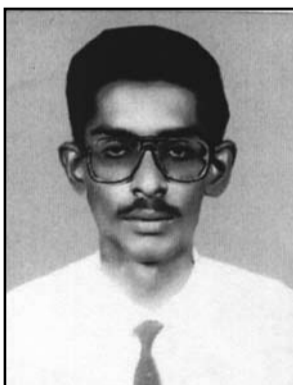
In treasured memory of
ALOYSIOUS LEONARD OUTSCHOORN

of Hendala died on 2nd December 1987. In silence and in prayers I remember you. Fondly remembered by your ever loving daughter.

Sylvia.

(N4367)

43RD BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
30th Nov 2012



JEETH BASTIAN

Birthday's in Heaven, Are a wonderous thing, Every ones invited, And all the angels Sing, They Sing Happy Birthday. May your day be filled with Love and lots of Birthday wishes, sent from earth to Heaven above. God Bless you darling, till we meet again.

Fondly remembered by your ever loving Dada, Mummy, Sisters, Brother-in-laws, Niece, Nephews and loved Ones.

(NG4498)

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY
21st Nov 2012



SANJAY BRITTO

Softly in the morning You heard a gentle call You took the hand God offered you And quietly left us all May you rest in peace. Fondly remembered by Your loning mummy and family members mass was offered on 21st Nov 2012 at Niramala Chaple 33, Clif-ford place, Colombo -4.

(N4355)

2ND YEAR REMEMBRANCE IN LOVING MEMORY OF A PRECIOUS SISTER



ZENOBIA FERNANDO
Called to rest on 23.11.2010

you have left foot prints with us, of the example of how to serve God. Your godly life has touched and inspired our own, and that made us what we are today. thank you for the love you had for us. grant her eternal rest o Lord.

Fondly rememberd by your everloving sisters, brother, and all your loved ones.

(N4385)

DEATH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

06

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10

*

1957



REV. BRO. DENZIL MENDIS, FSC

The De La Salle Brothers community in Sri Lanka sincerely thank Most Rev. Bishops, Rev. Fathers, Rev. Brothers, Rev. sisters, the Maha Sanga and the Clergy of other religious denominations who attended the funeral service of our dear departed Rev. Bro. Denzil Mendis, the Principal of St. Anne's College, Kurunegala.

We also thank the Deputy Principal, the Clergy, the Staff, the Students and Parents of St. Anne's College, the School Development Society, the Old Boys Association and the Colombo Union, for the commendable religious services conducted at the College premises and for their valuable services.

We thank Hon. Johnston Fernando - the Minister of Internal Trade and Cooperatives, Mr. Tissa R. Balalla, the Governor of NWP, Mr. Athula Wijesinghe the Chief Minister of NWP, the Parliamentarians, Provincial Councillors, Municipal Councillors, and Officials of various Ministries and Departments for their peresence. We commend the services rendered by the Police Department Kurunegala and Mutwal.

We wish to thank the Provincial Directors, Zonal Directors and other Officials of the Education Department of NWP, the Principals, Staffs and Students of the neighbouring schools of Kurunegala.

All the relatives, friends and well-wishers who attended the funeral in large numbers, sent messages of condolences, floral tributes, displayed banners and helped in numerous ways are remembered with thanks

The Brothers community regrets their inability to extend their appreciation to everyone individually. We are grateful to all who rallied to share our grief for our beloved Brother Denzil Mendis.

May his soul rest in peace.

(N4298)

IN EVER LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DEAR PARENTS



SEBASTAIN AND MAVIS RASIAH

Today, Tomorrow, and whole life through, we will always love and cherish you.

Peayerfully remembered by your loving daughters, sons, in laws, & grand children.

Mass will be offred on 1st Dec 2012 at 6.00pm St. Lucia's Cathdral Kotahena, Mayfield Road.

(N4259)

15TH YEAR REMEMBRANCE IN TREASURED AND EVER-LOVING MEMORY OF

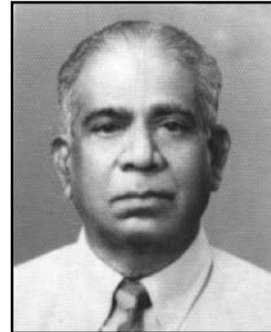


LAWARENCE JOHNPULE

Called to our Father's Home on the 25th Nov 1997

Those we hold dear never truly leave us they live on in the kidness they showed the comfort they shared and the love they brought into our lives. Remembered with love and gratitude by your ever loving wife Queenie and all your loved ones. Wattala (N4259)

A DECADE HAS PASSED

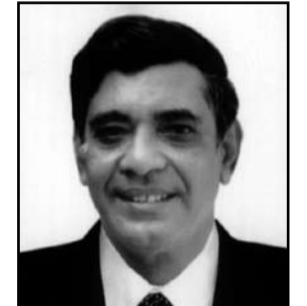


JOSEPH EMMANUEL BRITTO

Called to rest 20. 11. 2002

All you left with us are growing up day by day. We still follow your footpath. Time can never keep us away from you in the world of memories. Remembered by beloved children, Grand Children, in laws and all. (N4322)

1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY



BRIAN VANDERWALL
On 17th Nov 2012

"We do not lose ones we love, they only go before"

Prayerfully remembered by his loving wife Patricia, son Adrian, daughter-in-law Minuka, family, friends and his faithful students of the Radio Lab, Kotahena. (N4323)

WICKREMERATNE



WILLIAM HENRY MARY ELLEN

TITUS HEROLD; JOSEPH DOUGLAS; FRINCIS PAMELA; PATRICK, & HERBERT.

Happy age those who have died in the lord, let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

(N4353)

7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
30th Nov 2012



STANLEY BRITTO

In our hearts memory lingers Sweetly tender fond and true

There is not a day darling daddy That we do not think of you

Fondly remembered by your loving Wife and Family members.

(N4355)

5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
21st Nov 2012

RITA CLARICE THIMBIRIPOLA (Nee Kongahage De Silva)
A Beloved Wife & Precious Mother



All our life we shall miss you As the years come and go But in our hearts you will Live forever

Fondly remembered by your ever Loving husband Gerry, Children. Priyantha, Rohan, Shamanthi, Nalin & Ajith. Daughters-in-Law, Winifred, Susima & Hementhi & Grand Children. (N4398)

WANTED:

To purchase grave in mahiyawa R.C. Section - please Contact - 0812424296 (N4406)

MATRIMONIAL

Bridegroom

Sinhalese Catholic mother seeks for her son, 40, 5' 8" I.T. Manager, nonsmoker Teetotaler, owns a house, bride below 35 from a devoted catholic family, preferably a qualified teacher. caste immaterial
No N4321, C/o, Colombo Catholic Press, Colombo 8.

Roman Catholic Parents in Katunayake seek a decent and educated life partner for their 27 years old son, 5' 6" well educated, well employed owning house and financial assets. Tel: 011-2256838 after seven P.M
No NG4477, C/o, Colombo Catholic Press, Colombo 8.

Sinhala, Catholic parents close to colombo seek catholic educated pretty daughter preferably a private or government teacher (English, Science, IT) for their son 34 years 5'8" handsome graduate engaged in his business earns five figure salary owns valuable assets. Phone:0778305802
No N4377, C/o, Colombo Catholic Press, Colombo 8.

Catholic - Buddhist respectable parents from Moratuwa, living overseas seek a pretty, educated kindhearted daughter from a respectable catholic family for their son, 25years, height 5' 7", fair, handsome, qualified

in professional Business accountancy and well employed as financial analyst. please reply with full details and clear photographs by E-mail only to "wghm987@gmail.com
No N4390, C/o, Colombo Catholic Press, Colombo 8.

Catholic Parents seek pretty partner for their son 27 yrs qualified in Accountancy degree in Australia and working with permanat Residency, but prefer to reside in Srilanka and work as an Accountant. He is 5' 7" smart and well built, was educate in a leading colombo school will arrive early december for a short holiday. Parents father tamil mother burgher kindly request quick response Contact 011-2290492, 071-7508485, 0778800690. E'mail: eleesaab@gmail.com
No N4397, C/o, Colombo Catholic Press, Colombo 8.

Bride
 Sinhalese parents seek a well educated suitable partner for their academically and professionally qualified catholic daughter, 35 years, 5' 4" tall holding an executive post in the state service. She inherits substantial assets. Please reply with full details. E-mail: mtp4702@gmail.com or contact 0718386893
No N4394, C/o, Colombo Catholic Press, Colombo 8.

Sinhalese Roman Catholic parents from Gampaha District seek a M.B.B.S. Doctor or Engineer for their daughter age 27 years, height 5' 3.5" pleasant looking M.B.B.S. Doctor working in a government hospital. dowry will be given contact 0777 - 665601
No NG4497, C/o, Colombo Catholic Press, Colombo 8.

Sinhala Roman Catholic parents in Kandy seek well employed suitable partner for their pleasant BSc. Graduate (Business Management) daughter 30 years, 5' 2" employed in government service under the Graduate training scheme. Dowry modern upstairs house.
No N4296, C/o, Colombo Catholic Press, Colombo 8.

Sinhala Catholic parents from Ratmalana seek a kind hearted understandable partner between 35 to 40 years for their daughter age 33.
No N4374, C/o, Colombo Catholic Press, Colombo 8.

Sinhalese parents seek a suitable partner for their Engineer daughter, born in 1972, 5' owns two story house with assets. Tel: 0718607611
No N4354, C/o, Colombo Catholic Press, Colombo 8.

Gampaha District catholic sinhala parents seek professionally qualified kindhearted partner for only daughter age 22 height 5' 4"

pretty convent educated ACCA (UK) finalist dowry house property and cash contact : 077 2992320
No N4309, C/o, Colombo Catholic Press, Colombo 8.

Sinhala catholic professionally qualified parents from Colombo. seek a partner with good qualities (preferably a medical doctor / surgeon / professionally qualified person) living in Srilanka or abroad, for their only child daughter educated in a leading catholic convent in Colombo. she is a Medical Doctor, well mannered, very attractive, 25 years of age 5' 2" fair and smart. she has an outgoing personality, is a very capable and talented person. she is also a Canadian PR holder & inherits substantial wealth in colombo. Please reply with full family details and contact information
No N4273, C/o, Colombo Catholic Press, Colombo 8.

Sinhala Catholic parents from Colombo District seek professional or well employed groom for daughter 26 plus height 5' 4", with masters degree from well known overseas university. Must be well mannered and spoken with religious values. Substantial dowry available. Reply with family details and contact number.
No N4215, C/o, Colombo Catholic Press, Colombo 8.

Imported Christmas Trees For Sale

06 Feet - Rs. 4,500/=
 07 Feet - Rs. 5,500/=

Multi function light set free with every tree

Hot Line - 077-3504255
 (N4395)



POWERFUL HOURLY NOVENA TO THE INFANT JESUS
 O Jesus, Who has said, "Ask and you shall receive, seek, and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you" through the Intercession of Mary. Thy most Holy Mother, I knock, I seek, I ask that my prayer be granted.
 (Make your intention)
 O Jesus, who has said, "all that you ask of the father in my name, He will grant you." Through the Intercession of Mary. Thy most Holy Mother, Intercession of Mary. Thy most Holy Mother, I humbly and urgently ask Thy father in Thy Name that my prayer be granted.
 (Make your intention)
 O Jesus who has said, "Heaven and Earth shall Pass away, but words shall not pass" through the Intercession of Mary. Thy Most Holy Mother, I feel confident that my prayer will be granted. (Make your intention)
ZENOBI (N4393)

THANKSGIVING ST. CLARE

"May the sacred heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified and loved forever and at all times. Thanking most miraculous St. Clare for an impossibility being granted
A.D.T
 (N4280)

KOTTE
 Upper Floor two bed room house fully tiled on rent Suitable for a Couple
 T.P. 0775128122
 (N4412)

Middle Aged woman to stay and work at home at Nagoda - Kaudana is needed. Fluency in English is necessary
 0774281426
 (N4404)

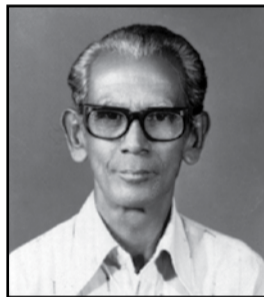
7TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY



VIOLETTE SENEVIRATNE
 Died 25th Nov 2005
 Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.
 Fondly remembered by your loved ones.
 16, Gomis Mawatha, Kelaniya.
 (N4359)

† IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DARLING DADDY AND MUMMY
 Called to rest on



November 24, 1996
KINGSLEY HAKEL



December 07, 2010
DAGMA HAKEL

*Treasured memories keep you near
 As time unfolds another year
 No need for words except to say
 Still loved, still missed in every way*

Eternal rest grant unto our Darling Daddy & Mummy
 O Lord

Fondly remembered and sadly missed by your ever-loving daughters, sons, in-laws and grand children (N4419)

THANK YOU



E.D. PATRICK SILVA
 (J.P. All Island)
 Called to rest 11.10.2012

We convey our sincere gratitude to the clergy. Our relatives and friends, neighbours and special thanks goes to Hon. Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva, Hon. SNR. Minister A.H.M. Fowzie, Hon. MPs. Joseph Micheal Perera. Dr. Jayalath Jayawardene, the management and the staff of capital Maharajah, Mas Holdings (pvt) Ltd. Union Assurance plc. AF. Raymonds ltd and thoes who made their contributions, In various ways.

Loving wife Marian daughter Jeewanthi, sons AjjthSujith and Christo, Sujeewa and Margie, Grand Children Heshan and others
 Tel :011- 2974701
 (N4378)



JOHN DOUGLAS



HUBERT AND ANN RASIAH



LOURDES DOUGLAS



PIUS DOUGLAS



THERESE DOUGLAS



VAZ DOUGLAS

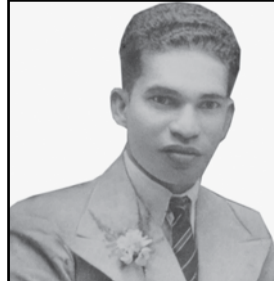
Fondly remembered by all Loved ones.
Masses will be offered for the souls of our loved ones, and all the souls in purgatory on 24.11.2012 at Poor Clare's Tewatte at 6.30a.m.; On 27.11.2012 at St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah, 5.15p.m. and at the Basilica Tewatte at 9.30a.m.
Orange Hill, Estate, 879, Tewatte, Ragama.
 (N4447)

28TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY



BRIDGET RUPASINGHE
 Called to rest
 25th Nov 1984
 We loved you mummy. and remember you in our Prayers. Fondly remembered by your children and grand children
 (N4332)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DEAREST PARENTS
 46th Death Anniversary 1st Year Remembrance



MR. M. AUSTIN DE SILVA
 17-02-1967



MRS. A. WINIFREDA AGNES (FERNANDO)
 22-11-2011

Called to rest in the Arms of Jesus.
*God, our Heavenly Father,
 we thank you for the precious
 Gifts of a loving Father
 and Mother and for their lives.*

Fondly remembered by loving son, Fr. Placidus, daughters, Sriyani, Swarna, and Evangeline, in laws, grand & great grand children, Friends & Relatives.
20/1, Captain Kelum Rajapakse Mawatha, wattala.
 (Q12N5547)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



50 YEARS
DOL DE SILVA (DERRICK)
 12.04.1911-22.11.1962



10 MONTHS
HARRIET DE SILVA
 05.09.1922-03.01.2012

HEAVENLY FATHER GRANT THEM ETERNAL REST

Fondly remembered by daughter Maryclare & loved ones.
 (N4456)

**ANNUAL FEAST OF
ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BOPITIYA
9TH DECEMBER 2012**



Hoisting of the Flag Staff - 29th November at 4.00p.m.

Preparatory Novenas - 29th November - 7th December, daily at 7.00p.m.

**THURSDAY - 6TH DECEMBER -
SPECIAL DAY DEDICATED TO CHILDREN**

Holy Masses will be celebrated at 6.30 a.m., 8.00 a.m., 11.00 a.m., and 7.00p.m.

Vespers Service 8th December at 7.00p.m.

Other Masses at

Festive High Mass

5.00a.m., 6.30a.m. - Sinhala Masses

Sunday 9th December at 8.00a.m. 12.00noon - Tamil Mass and 5.00p.m. - Sinhala Mass

Blessing of the O/L students at the end of the 5.00p.m. Mass

*Overnight stay
could be arranged
Contact :
07779220033*

Rev. Fr. Erinton Silva - Parish Priest

(Q12N5539)

If you have travelled with **Superlink** this would not have happened...

Dotty, why are you looking sad after your trip to the Holy Land?

Yes Wimala, Although, I went to Holy Land I was very disappointed we were not taken to the Milk Grotto, we did not get an opportunity to float in the Dead Sea, no cable car ride to Mt. of Temptation and a priest from Sri Lanka did not accompany us.

Its not only that even the food was horrible. We were asked to take Seeni Sambal, Katta Sambal from Sri Lanka.

What ???

That's what I told you, you should have traveled with **Superlink Travels** you would have had the best service, best food, church services and comfort!

What a mistake !!! I should have taken your advice.

(Q12N5540)

Superlink Travels
Special Budget Pilgrimage to

Including a Cable-Car Ride from Jericho to Mt. of Temptation

Holy Land

Now Only **Rs. 143,000/-** *
Per Person (Twin-Sharing Basis)

Including - All Meals and Luxury Accommodation

Priest from Sri Lanka will celebrate Holy Masses (Daily) arranged in the most significant places.

Hurry! Book Now !!
Must Book Before **30th Nov. 2012**
ONLY LIMITED BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

Visiting most significant places Including:

- Church of the Annunciation
- Garden of Gethsemane
- Mt. of Beatitudes
- Church of Multiplication
- Baptism
- Boat Ride in the Sea of Galilee
- Church of Agony
- Calvary - Tomb of Jesus
- Jericho / Sycamore tree
- Nazareth
- Last Supper Room
- Bethlehem
- Church of Nativity
- Church of Holy Sepulcher
- Way of the Cross
- Cana
- Western Wall
- also including visit to **Milk Grotto** and a float in the **Dead Sea**

Dep: 21st Feb 2013

For bookings please Contact:
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* Conditions Apply

**OLD BOYS' UNION OF THE HOLY CROSS COLLEGE,
KALUTARA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HOLY CROSS COLLEGE, KALUTARA, OLD BOYS' UNION. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 2ND DECEMBER 2012 AT THE HOLY CROSS COLLEGE AUDITORIUM COMMENCING AT 10.45 A.M. PRECEDED BY HOLY MASS FOLLOWED BY RECTOR'S BREAKFAST AT 9.00A.M.



AGENDA OF THE AGM

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1. PRAYER. | 2. COLLEGE ANTHEM. |
| 3. LIGHTING OF THE OIL LAMP. | 4. PRESENTATION OF PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES. |
| 5. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL REPORT. | 6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS. |
| 7. PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. | 8. ANY OTHER MATTERS. |
| 9. NATIONAL ANTHEM | |

12.30 PM: FELLOWSHIP & LUNCH @ GARDEN BEACH HOTEL - KALUTARA NORTH

MANGALA SILVA - SECRETARY INTERIM COMMITTEE OF THE HCC, KALUTARA - OBU

(N4492)