FRATERNITY

Roman Catholic Diocese of Kurunegala

Volume 23 Issue 04 April 2024



News Highlights

- Lenten Recollection - 2024
- Mawathagama Calvery Day
- Palm Sunday
- Chrism Mass - 2024
- Easter Triduum Service at Kurunegala

Infocus

- *URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS*

  EASTER 2024

Miscellaneous

- Bulletin Announcements
- Anecdotes & Scripture Notes for all occasions

Lenten Recollection - 2024



Lenten Recollection for priests and religious working in the diocese of Kurunegala was held on Monday, 11th March 2024 at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Malkaduwawa. Rev. Fr. Shanil Jayawardena OMI delivered the keynote address. After the address it was the time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which was followed by the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala.

Mawathagama Calvery Day



Friday, 22nd March 2024 was the day for Annual Diocesan Way of the Cross at Mawathagma. For a meaningful preparation towards the Easter, at each station a short reflection was delivered. At the twelfth station His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala presided over the Eucharistic Celebration. A large number of lay faithful, priests and religious have gathered for the Way of the Cross. Rev. Fr. Neil Chrishantha, the Parish Priest and the Parish Pastoral Council together with the Diocesan Liturgical Team had organized the day's proceedings.

Palm Sunday



His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, celebrated the Holy Eucharist on Palm Sunday at St. Anne's Cathedral, Kurunegala. Rev. Fr. Maria Arul CMF and Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan also joined the Holy Mass. Rev. Fr. Placidus de Silva, the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Lakshan Perera, Asst. Parish Priest and the Parish Pastoral Council had organized the Liturgy.

Chrism Mass - 2024



Chrism Mass of this year was held on 25th of March at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Yakadapotha. His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala presided over the Eucharistic Celebration. Rev. Fathers concelebrated at the Eucharistic Celebration while a number of religious and lay faithful participated at the Mass. Rev. Fr. Jude Madhusanka, the Parish Priest of Yakadapotha and the parishioners facilitated the day immensely. The Diocesan Liturgical Team had tirelessly worked for a meaningful liturgy. His Lordship blessed and declared open the newly built Mission House that was constructed with the contribution of local and foreign benefactors.

Easter Triduum Service at Kurunegala



2024 Easter Triduum Services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil Service were presided over by His Lordship Most. Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera the Bishop of Kurunegala at St. Anne's Cathedral, Kurunegala. Rev. Fr. Placidus de Silva, the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Lakshan Perera, Asst. Parish Priest and the Parish Pastoral Council had organized these services meaningfully. Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, Secretary to the Bishop also took part at the services.

Easter Celebrations









My dear Fathers, Sisters & Brothers,

The Lord is truly risen as He said. Alleluia! I wish you a Very Happy Easter with the blessings of the Risen Lord. Easter reminds us that we are called to be His witnesses. The Sacred Scripture gives us a good picture of the apostolic mission of building the first Christian community. Let us promote our small Christian communities. You can easily make use of the Acts of the Apostles to educate our faithful to experience the sharing community of the apostolic times.

Mrs. Barbara Rettig, the Head of the Asia Section III of the Aid to the Church in Need in Germany was in the diocese during the first week of March. The Directors/ Chaplains of different apostolates were able to present to her the areas of our pastoral ministry in the diocese. She visited some parishes and mission stations to meet the faithful. I also had one to one discussion. I thank all the priests who contributed in one way or the other to make her stay happy and successful. On her return to Germany, she has conveyed her thanks to us.

The Chrism Mass was well organized by Fr. Jude Madushanka Perera, the Parish Priest of Yakadapotha with the assistance of the diocesan liturgical committee and the parishioners. I thank each and every one of them. The presence of the Sisters working in the diocese was very remarkable this year.

Fr. Neil Dabarera, the Parish Priest of Mawathagama together with his parishioners had organized the diocesan pilgrimage at the Calvary shrine. I thank them all.

The security during the Holy week was well arranged by the Police in the Kurunegala district. We thank the Senior DIG, DIG, Division SSPs, ASPs and all other officers for their dedicated services.

I am informed by Very Rev. Fr. Austin Marcus Fernando, the Rector of the Minor seminary, that the two students who sat for the National Seminary entrance examination have been successful. While congratulating the two seminarians, I thank Fr. Rector and Fr. Kapila Manjula for their untiring efforts.

The diocese of Kurunegala warmly welcomes the nomination of the new Bishop of Ratnapura in the person of Fr. Wyman Croos of the diocese of Chilaw. We express our prayerful wishes to the Bishop-elect. We also express thanks to Bishop Cletus Perera OSB for his Episcopal ministry in the diocese of Ratnapura.

The Small Christian Community Sunday will be celebrated on 14th April at St. Anthony's church, Barigoda. Kindly encourage your faithful to be actively involved in their communities.

Good Shepherd Sunday (Vocation Sunday) will be on Sunday, 21st April and the collection will be allocated to the formation in the Major Seminaries and Daham Sevana, Kalutara.

I bring to your kind attention the commemoration of the 5th anniversary of Easter Sunday attack. Our agitation for justice cannot be stopped as we are members of the mystical Body of Christ. Hence the active participation in all the parishes is essential in order to be in solidarity with those affected. Since we do not have the presbyteral meeting in Aprill, the details of the programs will be conveyed to you soon. Rev. Fr. Placidus de Silva, the Parish Priest of the Cathedral and Fr. Thusitha Priyanga, the Director, *Janasetha* will organize at the Cathedral premises. I encourage you to take part at the commemoration procession which begins at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday 21st April 2024 from the Marist Stella College grounds Negombo to Katuwapitiya church.

The Presidential Commission Report that was handed over to the CBCSL in 06 CDs were studied by a panel of lawyers and submitted a short report to the Bishops on 29th February 2024, on the crucial aspects to be further investigated based on the evidence and findings of the Commission of Inquiry on the Easter Sunday attacks. Certain folders of Volume 3 could not be opened, though evidence was given in the open sessions. It was decided to send this particular report to H. E. the President of Sri Lanka and the Hon. Minister of Public Security. In my capacity as the President of the CBCSL, I have already acted accordingly, and requested them to make those documents available to us.

The next presbyteral meeting with the Eucharistic adoration will be held on Monday, 13th May 2024 at the Bishop's House. Kindly be on time.

Thank you & may God bless you!

+ Harold Perera

CATHOLIC BISHOP OF KURUNEGALA SRI LANKA

+ Harold Anthony Perera
Catholic Bishop of Kurunegala

URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

EASTER 2024

Central loggia of the Vatican Basilica ***Sunday, 31 March 2024***

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!

Today throughout the world there resounds the message proclaimed two thousand years ago from Jerusalem: "Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, has been raised!" (*Mk* 16:6).



The Church relives the amazement of the women who went to the tomb at dawn on the first day of the week. The tomb of Jesus had been sealed with a great stone. Today too, great stones, heavy stones, block the hopes of humanity: the stone of war, the stone of humanitarian crises, the stone of human rights violations, the stone of human trafficking, and other stones as well. Like the women disciples of Jesus, we ask one another: "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" (cf. *Mk* 16:3).

This is the amazing discovery of that Easter morning: the stone, the immense stone, was rolled away. The astonishment of the women is our astonishment as well: the tomb of Jesus is open and it is empty! From this, everything begins anew! A new path leads through that empty tomb: the path that none of us, but God alone, could open: the path of life in the midst of death, the path of peace in the midst of war, the path of reconciliation in the midst of hatred, the path of fraternity in the midst of hostility.

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen! He alone has the power to roll away the stones that block the path to life. He, the living One, is himself that path. He is the Way: the way that leads to life, the way of peace, reconciliation and fraternity. He opens that path, humanly impossible, because he alone takes away the sin of the world and forgives us our sins. For without God's forgiveness, that stone cannot be removed. Without the forgiveness of sins, there is no overcoming the barriers of prejudice, mutual recrimination, the presumption that we are always right and others wrong. Only the risen Christ, by granting us the forgiveness of our sins, opens the way for a renewed world.

Jesus alone opens up before us the doors of life, those doors that continually we shut with the wars spreading throughout the world. Today we want, first and foremost, to turn our eyes to the Holy City of Jerusalem, that witnessed the mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, and to all the Christian communities of the Holy Land.

My thoughts go especially to the victims of the many conflicts worldwide, beginning with those in Israel and Palestine, and in Ukraine. May the risen Christ open a path of peace for the war-torn peoples of those regions. In calling for respect for the principles of international law, I express my hope for a general exchange of all prisoners between Russia and Ukraine: all for the sake of all!

I appeal once again that access to humanitarian aid be ensured to Gaza, and call once more for the prompt release of the hostages seized on 7 October last and for an immediate cease-fire in the Strip.

Let us not allow the current hostilities to continue to have grave repercussions on the civil population, by now at the limit of its endurance, and above all on the children. How much suffering we see in the eyes of the children: the children in those lands at war have forgotten how to smile! With those eyes, they ask us: Why? Why all this death? Why all this destruction? War is always an absurdity, war is always a defeat! Let us not allow the strengthening winds of war to blow on Europe and the Mediterranean. Let us not yield to the logic of weapons and rearming. Peace is never made with arms, but with outstretched hands and open hearts.



Brothers and sisters, let us not forget Syria, which for thirteen years has suffered from the effects of a long and devastating war. So many deaths and disappearances, so much poverty and destruction, call for a response on the part of everyone, and of the international community.

My thoughts turn today in a special way to Lebanon, which has for some time experienced institutional impasse and a deepening economic and social crisis, now aggravated by the hostilities on its border with Israel. May the Risen Lord console the beloved Lebanese people and sustain the entire country in its vocation to be a land of encounter, coexistence and pluralism.

I also think in particular of the region of the Western Balkans, where significant steps are being taken towards integration in the European project. May ethnic, cultural and confessional differences not be a cause of division, but rather a source of enrichment for all of Europe and for the world as a whole.

I likewise encourage the discussions taking place between Armenia and Azerbaijan, so that, with the support of the international community, they can pursue dialogue, assist the displaced, respect the places of worship of the various religious confessions, and arrive as soon as possible at a definitive peace agreement.

May the risen Christ open a path of hope to all those who in other parts of the world are suffering from violence, conflict, food insecurity and the effects of climate change. May the Lord grant consolation to the victims of terrorism in all its forms. Let us pray for all those who have lost their lives and implore the repentance and conversion of the perpetrators of those crimes.

May the risen Lord assist the Haitian people, so that there can soon can be an end to the acts of violence, devastation and bloodshed in that country, and that it can advance on the path to democracy and fraternity.

May Christ grant consolation and strength to the Rohingya, beset by a grave humanitarian crisis, and open a path to reconciliation in Myanmar, torn for years now by internal conflicts, so that every logic of violence may be definitively abandoned.

May the Lord open paths of peace on the African continent, especially for the suffering peoples in Sudan and in the entire region of the Sahel, in the Horn of Africa, in the region of Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the province of Capo Delgado in Mozambique, and bring an end to the prolonged situation of drought which affects vast areas and provokes famine and hunger.

May the Risen One make the light of his face shine upon migrants and on all those who are passing through a period of economic difficulty, and offer them consolation and hope in their moment of need. May Christ guide all persons of good will to unite themselves in solidarity, in order to address together the many challenges which, loom over the poorest families in their search for a better life and happiness.

On this day when we celebrate the life given us in the resurrection of the Son, let us remember the infinite love of God for each of us: a love that overcomes every limit and every weakness. And yet how much the precious gift of life is despised! How many children cannot even be born? How many die of hunger and are deprived of essential care or are victims of abuse and violence? How many lives are made objects of trafficking for the increasing commerce in human beings?

Brothers and sisters, on the day when Christ has set us free from the slavery of death, I appeal to all who have political responsibilities to spare no efforts in combatting the scourge of human trafficking, by working tirelessly to dismantle the networks of exploitation and to bring freedom to those who are their victims. May the Lord comfort their families, above all those who anxiously await news of their loved ones, and ensure them comfort and hope.

May the light of the resurrection illumine our minds and convert our hearts, and make us aware of the value of every human life, which must be welcomed, protected and loved.

A happy Easter to all!

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/20240331-urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html



Church Feasts in the Month of April

Kurunegala Deanery

Parish	Church	Saint	Date
Mawathagama	Weuda	Our Lady of Rosary	21.04.2024

Kuliyapitiya Deanery

Dummalasuriya	Siyambalagasruppa	Christ the Saviour	21.04.2024

Bulletin Announcements

April 07
Divine Mercy Sunday

April 14
National Small Christian Community Sunday

April 15,16, 17
Fraternal Exposure

April 18, 19
Catholicism 01st Seminar for Children, not having Teachers

April 20
Diocesan Pastoral Council - "PFIFC" - Dikkele

April 21
05th Anniversary of Easter Sunday Attack

April 23
Head Prefects' Training Programme - 02 Deaneries

April 27
Sacred Heart Confraternity Leaders annual get-together-PFIFC

April 27
SSVP - Annual General Meeting - "Sathpahana"-Kuliypitiya

LIVING FAITH

The National Seminary of Our Lady of Lanka at Ampitiya, recommends the bi-annual journal "Living Faith".
The Journal contains scholarly articles on current topics in theology and pastoral life of the Church written by qualified persons.

Subscription for
02 copies (01 year with delivery charges - Rs. 1,000.00) 04 copies (02 years with delivery charges - Rs. 2,000.00)
All priests and religious are encouraged to subscribe.

Contact:

Rev. Fr. Arulanantham Uthayadas
Editor – Living Faith
076 0010071
authayadas@gmail.com

Rev. Fr. Arosh Priyanga Appuhamy
Father In-charge of Marketing and Distribution - Living Faith
076 7452685

ANECDOTES & SCRIPTURE NOTES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

GOING TO HEAVEN – Witness, Discipleship

Two young boys spent every afternoon after school with their grandparents. They were quite active and frequently got into mischief. On such occasions the grandmother patiently spoke with the boys and encouraged them to be kind to each other so they would "make Jesus happy and go to heaven." However, the grandfather grew weary of the boys' misbehavior and frequently yelled, bellowed and screamed at them. One day the grandmother overheard her two grandsons taking in the living room. The older said, "Scott, you're not going to go to heaven because you keep acting bad." The younger replied, "Who cares? I'll be in the hell with grandpa." When this account was recounted to the grandfather, he was shocked!

REFLECTION

DISCIPLESHIP



Our words and actions really speak volumes, especially in a family setting. it is so easy to make an impression on others, particularly younger family members. Parents and grandparents must teach their children, above all, by example. That's how we best love our children and prepare them to live lives of love, imitating Jesus. With the help of God, we help others to become genuine disciples of Jesus by the example we give. That is a major ministry we perform all during our life. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Sent by - His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera

Visit of Mrs. Barbara Rettig, the Head of the Asia Section III of the Aid to the Church in Need in Germany











Chrism Mass









Blessing of newly built Mission House at Yakadapotha







Organizing Security with the Police Officers before the Easter






The Diocese of Kurunegala extends prayerful best wishes to

Msgr. P. Anton Wyman Croos
Bishop Elect of Diocese of Ratnapura



Way of the Cross at Mawathagama











Birthdays - Rev. Fathers

07th of April	-	Very Rev. Fr. Austin Marcus Fernando
12th of April	-	Rev. Fr. Alexi Callistus
20th of April	-	Rev. Fr. Jude Madusanka
21st of April	-	Rev. Fr. Lesley Anthony
22nd of April	-	Rev. Fr. T. P. Johnson (CMF)
29th of April	-	Rev. Fr. Navin Lakshan

Ordination Anniversaries

03rd of April	-	Rev. Fr. Patrick Jayakody
15th of April	-	Rev. Fr. Ramesh Lasantha
15th of April	-	Rev. Fr. Kasun Madusanka
24th of April	-	Rev. Fr. Ruchira Nuwan
24th of April	-	Rev. Fr. Damitha Srilal
24th of April	-	Rev. Fr. Nalinda Lanka Sri
24th of April	-	Rev. Fr. Chamika Pushpamal

Birthdays - Rev. Sisters and Brothers

11th of April	-	Rev. Sr. Christine Kurumblapitiya (Salvatorian - Bamunawala)
30th of April	-	Rev. Sr. Shiroma (Salvatorian Sisters Provincialate - Bamunawala)

Published By - Catholic Bishop's House - Kurunegala, Sri Lanka. Tel - + 9437 2222854

Editorial Board - Rev. Fr. Sanjaya Pradeep, Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, Rev. Fr Navin Lakshan,

Graphic Designing & Artwork by - Hiran Perera - JVI Catholic Bookshop 0716 144443