FRATERNITY



Catholic Diocese of Kurunegala

Roman Catholic Diocese of Kurunegala

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St Anne's Cathedral Feast 2024

News Highlights

- Confirmation at Kurunegala
- Monthly Recollection and the Presbyteral Meeting - July
- 15th Anniversary of the Canonical Installation of His Lordship
- General Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Apostolate of Social Communication
- Youth Sports Festival - 2024
- Annual Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Bulupitiya

Insights

- The Passion of Saint John the Baptist
- The Feast of the Transfiguration

Miscellaneous

- Anecdotes & Scripture Notes for all occasions.
- Church Feasts and Bulletin Announcements.



Confirmation at Kurunegala



Seventy eight candidates form the Parish of Kurunegala received the Sacrament of Confirmation from His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, at St Anne's Cathedral, Kurunegala on 7th July 2024. Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, the Secretary to the Bishop also joined the Mass. Rev. Fr. Placidus de Silva, the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Lakshan Perera, the Asst. Parish Priest of Kurunegala, Rev. Bro. Bob Livera, the Head Catechist of the Sunday School and the Staff organized the day's proceedings meaningfully.

Monthly Recollection and the Presbyteral Meeting - July



Monthly Recollection and the Presbyteral Meeting for the month of July was held on 8th July 2024 at the Bishop's House. The day's reflection was given by Rev. Fr. Placidus de Silva, the Parish Priest of Kurunegala based on the Call of all Baptized towards holiness.

15th Anniversary of the Canonical Installation of His Lordship



A special thanksgiving Mass on the occasion of 15th Anniversary of the Canonical Installation of His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, as the Bishop of Kurunegala was organized on 11th July 2024 at the Claretian House, Gepallawa. His Lordship delivered a talk to the novices of the congregation. Very Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka, Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Maria Arul CMF, the Novice Master, Rev. Fr. Jude Shylan CMF, the Busar, Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, Rev. Fr. Navin Lakshan and Rev. Fr. Nalinda Lanka, also joined the celebration.

Annual Feast at Moroththa



Annual feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary at Moroththa was celebrated on 14th July 2024. His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, presided over the Festive High Mass on the feast. Very Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka Fernando, the Vicar General officiated at the Vespers Service. Rev. Fr. Milroy Francis, the Administrator of the Shrine, the Dominican Sisters at Melsiripura and the Community at Moroththa with the collaboration of the pilgrims had made all the arrangements for a meaningful feast.

Annual General Meeting of the Diocesan Apostolate of Social Communication



Annual General Meeting of the Diocesan Apostolate of Social Communication was held on 19th July 2024 at Malkaduwawa. His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, presided over the meeting. During the meeting, new members of the Diocesan Team were elected. At the end, Mr. Cyril Perera was felicitated by the National Writers Guild. Very Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka, the Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Jude Chrishantha, the National Director of Social Communication and his team joined the ceremony. Rev. Fr. Ananda Weerakoon, the Diocesan Director of Social Communication and his team organized the meeting.

Youth Sports Festival - 2024



His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, graced the inauguration ceremony of the Youth Sports Festival - 2024 organized by Catholic Youth Federation of Kurunegala Diocese on 20th July 2024 at Kuliyapitiya. Very Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka Fernando, the Vicar General was the chief guest at the prize giving ceremony in the evening. Rev. Fr. Dimuthu Fonseka the Diocesan Director of Youth Apostolate and his team had organized the Youth Sports Festival successfully.

Annual Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Bulupitiya



His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, presided over the Solemn Festive Mass of Our Lady of Mount Carmel church at Bulupitiya on 21st July 2024. Also, His Lordship blessed the newly built Grotto at the church premises. Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, Secretary to the Bishop and Rev. Fr. Nalinda Lanka, Asst. Procurator also joined the celebration. Rev. Fr. Antony Christy Kumara, the Parish Priest of Bulupitiya and the Parish Pastoral Council organized the feast meaningfully.





My dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

The feast of Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary will be on Thursday 15 August, and it is a day of obligation. Pope Pius XII, by the Apostolic Constitution ***MUNIFICENTISSIMUS DEUS*** solemnly defined the Assumption of Mary to the glory of heaven on 01 November 1950 as a dogma of faith. Let us pray in a special way to seek her intercession on behalf of our beloved Nation as we are on the door step of a decisive presidential election.

The first meeting of the new Presbyteral Council (Senate) was held at Bishop's House in July and the discussion was on the Catechetical and Bible Apostolate in the diocese. A committee was formed to study about the Sinhala Theologate as there are some issues regarding the affiliation and to find out how we can utilize the theologate building at Kuliyapitiya during the week days, as it is available on week days.

The feast of our Lady of the Holy Rosary was celebrated at Moroththa in the parish of Malsiripura. I thank Fr. Milroy Francis, the Dominican sisters for organizing the feast. It was observed that many pilgrims participated at the festive mass.

On the invitation of Rt. Rev. Dr. Norbert Andradi OMI, the Bishop of Anuradhapura Rev. Fr. Milroy Francis has expressed the desire to exercise his priestly ministry in the diocese of Anuradhapura as a fidei donum priest. We thank Fr. Milroy for his readiness to serve in this missionary area. We appreciate all his services in the diocese since priestly ordination and wish him God's abundant blessings. I am personally happy to make this contribution from the diocese as a sign of our solidarity with a most needed diocese.

Rev. Fr. Lakshan Malina Perera, the assistant at Kurunegala parish will be the acting Parish Priest of Malsiripura from 24 August 2024 and Fr. Pushpamal Fernando will be the Assistant Parish Priest of Kurunegala from 14 September2024.

Dom Massimo Lapponi OSB and his little community left for Rome after staying for almost 13 years at St. Therese church, Illukhena in the parish of Kuliyapitiya. We invoke God's abundant blessings on them to continue their mission in Farfa Sabina, Rome. Don Eugenio Gargiulo OSB, the Prior of the Abbey of S. Maria in Farfa had been a good friend of our diocese, and he was called to eternal rest. Let us remember him in our prayers. May he rest in peace!

The sports meet of the Catholic youth in the diocese was held at Kuliyapitiya grounds and on the same day the National Bible examination was held at Holy Angels girls' college, Kuliyapitiya. I thank our youth director Fr. Dimuthu Fonseka and Director catechetics, Bible and education Fr. Tharanga Dilekshika for their commitment. The awards ceremony for 108 students who completed the two-month study program was held at Pope Francis Integral Formation Centre, Dikkele. I thank Fr. Sagara Perera, Fr. Navin Perera, Fr. Damitha Sri Lal and Fr. Ramesh Lasantha who were responsible for the success of this project.

The feast at St. Anne's Shrine at Kattimahana will be on 24 and 25 August. It is a diocesan feast. Your assistance and participation are solicited. Fr. Sydney Liyanaga, the Administrator/Parish Priest has already planned the celebrations.

Due to the Presidential election, some of our programs will have to be re-scheduled. The feast of St. Joseph Vaz Minor Seminary will be held on Saturday, 14 September and the 25 Anniversary of the Sacerdotal Ordination of Rev. Frs. Ajith Rohan, Bruno Gamini and Upul Silva will be on Monday 30 September 2024. Kindly make a note in your diary.

Many of you have not seen St. Anne's newly constructed convent of the Holy Angel Sisters at Kattimahana. You may pay a visit when you go for the feast, and I am sure that the Sisters will welcome you warmly.

The next presbyteral meeting will be held on Monday, 12 August at Bishop's House and the Eucharistic Adoration begins at 9.00 a.m. Please be on time.

May God bless you!

+ Harold Perera

+ Harold Anthony Perera
Catholic Bishiop of Kurunegala

CATHOLIC BISHOP OF KURUNEGALA
SRI LANKA



The Passion of Saint John the Baptist



John, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, was born approximately six months before the Savior of the World. He was likely born in the small, rural Jewish town of Ein Karem, located in the hill country about five miles west of Jerusalem. The surrounding land would have been utilized for agriculture and herding, centered around a town hub and water well. Uniquely, John was blessed with the presence of both the Son of God and the Mother of God at his birth. Many Catholic theologians, including the Angelic Doctor of the Church, Saint Thomas Aquinas, believe that while John was conceived in Original Sin, he was sanctified in the womb immediately after the Blessed Virgin Mary greeted his mother Elizabeth, several months prior to John's birth. "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb…" (Luke 1:41). This leap in the womb has been interpreted as John's sanctification by grace before he was born. Jesus would later say of John, "Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:11).

Not much is known about John's childhood other than what is stated in the Bible, "The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel" (Luke 1:80). Though he would have been raised devoutly in the Jewish faith by his parents in their hometown, John eventually entered the desert, about twenty miles east of his hometown, to live as a hermit, praying, practicing penance, and preparing for his mission.

John's first mission was to serve as the precursor of the Lord. As the last of the Old Testament prophets and the first of the New Testament prophets, he bridges the gap to Christ. John's mission was to precede Jesus "in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord" (Luke 1:17). Sometime between the years 27–29, John received inspiration from God in the Judean desert and started to gather disciples whom he taught, called to repentance, and baptized with water. John's preaching was fierce, branding some a "brood of vipers" and demanding evidence of their conversion. He called tax collectors, soldiers, religious leaders, the average townspeople, and even Herod to repent. Many responded.

John's life reached its earthly climax when he saw Jesus, the Son of God, approaching him in the desert while he was baptizing. John immediately exclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel…Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:29–31; 34). John reluctantly baptized Jesus, after which the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in a visible form and the Voice of the Father thundered, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). With that, John's life began to recede into the background, "He must increase; I must decrease" (John 3:30).

Today, the Church commemorates one of the oldest feasts within the Church, the Memorial of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist. Just as John preceded Jesus in birth, preaching, and baptizing, so too did he precede Jesus in death, dying as a prefiguration of the one who would give His life sacrificially on the Cross.

John's death resulted from his bold proclamation of the truth. His call to repentance extended to everyone, including Herod Antipas, the tetrarch, ruler of Galilee and Perea. Although it appears that the area where John was preaching (the Jordan Valley) was not directly governed by Herod, Herod nonetheless was well aware of John's preaching and his condemnation of him. As a result, Herod was able to have John arrested and imprisoned.

John was most likely imprisoned in a fortress constructed by Herod Antipas' father, Herod the Great, named Machaerus, northwest of the Dead Sea, in modern-day Jordan. Alternatively, he might have been imprisoned in the Herodium, another palace under Herod's control just south of Jerusalem.

Two of the Gospels narrate the story of John's death: Matthew 14:1–12 and Mark 6:14–29. John's criticism of Herod was specific. He condemned Herod's unlawful marriage to his brother's wife, Herodias. Though Herod seemed to fear John and his disciples because of John's popularity and the power of his words, he decided to appease Herodias' hatred of John for condemning her and Herod. On Herod's birthday, Herodias' daughter, traditionally named Salome, performed a dance for Herod and his guests that so pleased him that he promised her anything she asked of him, up to half of his kingdom. Her mother saw her opportunity for revenge and convinced her daughter to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. In his weakness, Herod complied.

After John's death, the Bible tells us that "His disciples came and took away the corpse and buried him; and they went and told Jesus" (Matthew 14:12). The news caused Jesus to withdraw alone in a boat to a deserted place to pray. Jesus not only grieved with human sorrow over the death of his cousin, but he also came face-to-face with the reality of His own fate. Thus, His time of prayer was a period in which He perfectly renewed His fidelity to the Mission on which He was sent, to give His life for the salvation of souls. Traditionally, it is believed that John's body was buried in the town of Sebaste, about fifty miles north of Jerusalem. Various traditions have evolved over the centuries about what happened to his head. Some say Herodias buried it in a dung heap to hide it from his followers and it was later discovered, buried in the Mount of Olives, and today is preserved in the Church of San Silvestro in Capite, Rome, Italy. This tradition, among many others, is impossible to confirm.

As we honor this man so highly honored by our Lord, we also honor our Lord Himself. John's life was given to the mission to which he was called. He never wavered and willingly accepted even death, rather than shy away from God's will. He introduced the Lamb of God to the world and led the way for Jesus by his preaching, baptism of repentance, and death, which prefigured Jesus' own death. As you ponder Saint John's life, reflect especially upon the wholehearted commitment he made to selflessly give himself to the mission he received. Where you see hesitancy in your own life, take inspiration from Saint John the Baptist, praying that you will exemplify his courage and resolve to fulfill the will of God.

https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/august-29the-beheading-of-st-john-the-baptist/



Lenten Collection from Parishes - 2024

Kurunegala Deanery		
No.	**Parish**	**Amount 2024**
01	Kurunegala	400,000.00
02	Millawa	21,400.00
03	Pellandeniya	86,000.00
04	Nikaweratiya	24,500.00
05	Solewewa	9,100.00
06	Malpitiya	55,020.00
07	Melsiripura	29,500.00
08	Bakmeegolla	85,000.00
09	Maho	94,327.00
10	Polgahawela	44,500.00
11	Bulupitiya	51,470.00
12	Mawathagama	75,000.00
13	Malkaduwawa	150,000.00
14	Wellawa	39,550.00
15	Galgamuwa	108,000.00
16	Yakadapotha	52,210.00
17	Hiripitiya	18,630.00
Total		**1,344,207.00**

Kuliyapitiya Deanery		
No.	**Parish**	**Amount 2024**
01	Thalgahapitiya	374,000.00
02	Hiripokuna	200,350.00
03	Kattimahana	155,800.00
04	Kuliyapitiya	500,000.00
05	Pannala	58,790.00
06	Hettipola	79,000.00
07	Kadawalagedara	87,000.00
08	Daraluwa	65,000.00
09	Mandakondana	61,000.00
10	Nalawalana	133,300.00
11	Sirigala (Dambadeniya)	60,000.00
12	Gonawila	8,500.00
13	Thissogama	112,422.00
14	Thambakanda	63,730.00
15	Udubaddawa	95,400.00
16	Walpitagama	101,220.00
17	Katupotha	61,300.00
18	Dunakadeniya	343,750.00
19	Dummalasuriya	86,000.00
20	Karawwewa	120,000.00
21	Irabadagama	62,000.00
22	Barigoda	81,500.00
23	Bingiriya	106,150.00
Total		**3,016,212.00**

Kurunegala Deanery	1,344,207.00
Kuliyapitiya Deanery	3,016,212.00
Total	**4,360,419.00**
Less Administrative Expenses	- 377,521.00
Balance	**3,982,898.00**

Shepherds Fund from the Priests - 2024

01	Fr. Basil Rohan Fernando	200,000.00
02	Fr. Alex Janaka Fernando	8,550.00
03	Fr. Lionel Fernando	20,000.00
04	Fr. Patrick Jayakody	10,000.00
05	Fr. Jude Dassanayaka	25,000.00
06	Fr. Joseph Tissera	5,000.00
07	Fr. Neil Dabarera	5,000.00
08	Frs. Navin Perera, Nalinda Lanka and Himishka Roshan	20,000.00
09	Fr. Lakshan Malina Perera	10,000.00
10	Fr. Kapila Manjula	10,000.00
11	Fr. Leslie Anthony	100,000.00
12	Fr. Bruno Gamini	5,000.00
13	Fr. Ramesh Lasantha	5,000.00
14	Fr. Kasun Madhusanka	5,000.00
15	Fr. Herman Perera	15,000.00
16	Fr. Piyal Janaka	50,000.00
17	Fr. Patrick Rathugama	10,000.00
18	Fr. Damitha Sri Lal	10,000.00
19	Fr. Dimuthu Fonseka	15,000.00
20	Fr. Chandana Hapuarachchi	50,000.00
21	Fr. Austin Marcus Fernando	5,000.00
22	Fr. Alexi Callistus	10,000.00
23	Fr. Nihal Obris	10,000.00
24	Fr. Ananda Weerakoon	25,000.00
25	Fr. Anil Marcus	20,000.00
26	Fr. Tharanga Dilekshika	10,000.00
	Total	**658,550.00**

Shepherds Fund - 2024

Kurunegala Deanery	1,344,207.00	
Kuliyapitiya Deanery	3,016,212.00	
Total	4,360,419.00	
Less Administrative Expenses	- 377,521.00	
Balance		3,982,898.00
Contribution of individual Priests of the Presbyterium		658,550.00
Brothers of the National Seminary (Kurunegala Diocese)		10,500.00
National College of Education – Bingiriya		2,050.00
Bishop		346,002.00
Total **LKR**		**5,000,000.00**

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver."

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

Bishop



ANECDOTES & SCRIPTURE NOTES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

COST OF CONVERSION – *Discipleship*

The priest-chaplain at a Catholic hospital was called to the room of a dying man who had once professed himself godless. "Father", said the man, "I am dying. I know all about the Catholic faith and its obligations. I want to make sure about getting my eternal reward so I want you to admit me into the Church before I die. But before you baptize me, I want to know how much it is going to cost." "Well," said the priest, "it won't cost you a cent to become a Catholic, but, if you live, it will cost you plenty of blood, and sweat, and tears to follow Jesus."

REFLECTION



Does this man know what he is asking for? If he takes the Gospel to heart, a great deal will be asked of him. The authentic disciple of Jesus will not be content with what someone has called "soft Christianity," and another "Christianity Lite," which is a minimalist approach to discipleship. Just pondering Matthew, chapters five to seven, will make this very clear.

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

Bulletin Announcements in the month of August.

August 10	**August 10**
Sacred Heart Confraternity Annual Pilgrimage	Retreat SSVP at Galgamuwa Shrine
August 12	**August 12 & 13**
Monthly Recollection & Presbyteral Meeting	Catholicism 02nd Seminar for Children, not having Teachers
August 17	**August 24**
Annual Retreat – Legion of Mary	Vespers – St. Anne's Shrine – Kattimahana

August 25

Feast of St. Anne's Shrine – Kattimahana

Church Feasts in the month of August.

Kuliyapitiya Deanery

Parish	*Church*	*Saint*	*Date*
Walpitagama	Navasigahawatte	St. John Mary Vianney	04.08.2024
Karawwewa	Karawwewa	Our Lady of Good Health	11.08.2024
Kuliyapitiya	Yakwila	Immaculate Heart of Mary	11.08.2024
Nalawalana	Gonawila	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	11.08.2024
Irabadagama	Hettirippuwa	St. Roche	18.08.2024
Hiripokuna	Hiripokuna	St. Helen	18.08.2024
Kattimahana	Kattimahana	St. Anne	25.08.2024

Kurunegala Deanery

Parish	*Church*	*Saint*	*Date*
Malsiripura	Malsiripura	Sacred Heart	04.08.2024
Maho	Uduweriya	Queen of the Universe	11.08.2024
Bakmeegolla	Bakmeegolla	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	18.08.2024
Millawa	Raddegoda	St. Anne	18.08.2024

Youth Sports Festival - 2024













National Bible Quiz Examination - 2024






Certificate Awarding Ceremony of Residential English Batch 20 - JVI





Committee Meeting Sacred Heart Confraternity



Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, August 15

By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. Hence if anyone, which God forbid, should dare willfully to deny or to call into doubt that which we have defined, let him know that he has fallen away completely from the divine and Catholic Faith.

Munificentissimus Deus,

Pope Pius XII, 1950



https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/august-15---assumption-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary/

Birthdays and Ordination Anniversaries

Birthdays - Rev. Fathers

11th of August -	Rev. Fr. Upul Silva
14th of August -	Rev. Fr. Nalinda Lanka Sri
18th of August -	Rev. Fr. A.D. Ancelot
31st of August -	Rev. Fr. D. Susantha Bernard

Ordination Anniversaries



01st of August -	Very Rev. Fr. Nihal Obris
01st of August -	Very Rev. Fr. Austin Marcus Fernando
01st of August -	Rev. Fr. Gerald V. Fernando
01st of August -	Rev. Fr. Sudath Tissera
02nd of August-	Rev. Fr. Basil Rohan Fernando
02nd of August-	Rev. Fr. Rufus Thalis
02nd of August-	Rev. Fr. Gerard Jayawardena
05th of August -	Rev. Fr. Terrance Kannangara
10th of August -	Rev. Fr. Jerome Perera
10th of August -	Rev. Fr. Anil Marcus Wanigasekara
24th of August -	Rev. Fr. Ananda Weerakoon

Birthdays - Rev. Sisters & Rev. Brothers

02nd of August -	Rev. Sr. Suneetha Fernando (Perpetual Help) -Kadawalagedara
06th of August -	Rev. Sr. Lila Fernando (Good Shepherded) - Dummalasuriya
15th of August -	Rev. Sr.Mirium Ruwani (Holy Angels) - Karagahagedara
21st of August -	Rev. Sr. Mary Assumptha (Holy Angels) - Kuliyapitiya
23rd of August -	Rev. Bro. Bob Livera (De La Salle Brothers) - Kurunegala
25th of August -	Rev. Sr. Therese Padma (Perpetual Help) - Weralugama
28th of August -	Rev. Sr. Nita Aberatne (Divine Saviour) - Bamunawala

Death Anniversary

05th of August - Rev. Fr. Linus Kurukula Aratchi

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