FRATERNITY

Catholic Diocese of Kurunegala

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Commemoration of All Soul's Day



His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, celebrated the Eucharist at Malkaduwawa Cemetery on 02nd November 2024. Rev. Fr. Placidus De Silva, the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Pushpamal Fernando, the Asst. Parish Priest of Kurunegala, Rev. Fr. Maria Arul CMF, Rev. Fr. Tharanga Dilekshika, the Diocesan Director of Catechetics, Education and Bible Apostolate Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, Secretary to the Bishop concelebrated at the Holy Mass. The cemetery was blessed after the Eucharistic Celebration.

Confirmation at Pellandeniya



Forty eight candidates form the Parish of Pellandiniya received the Sacrament of Confirmation form His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, on 3rd November 2024 at St. Anthony's church, Pellandeniya. Rev. Fr. Gration from the diocese of Galle and Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, Secretary to the Bishop also joined the Holy Mass. Rev. Fr. Dimuthu Fonseka, the Parish Priest and the Parish Pastoral Council of Pellandiniya had made all the arrangements for a meaningful celebration.

Annual Feast at Ambanpola



His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, presided over the festive high mass of Michael, the Archangel church, Ambanpola on 10th November 2024. Also His Lordship blessed the completed church. Rev. Fr, Himishka Roshan, Secretary to the Bishop also joined the celebration. Rev. Fr. Rufus Thalis, the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr, Johnson CMF, the Assistant Parish Priest the Salvatorian Sisters at Ambanpola Convent and the faithful at Ambanpola, organized the feast meaningfully.

Requiem Mass at Bingiriya



Zonal Requiem Mass to remember the deceased members of the Sacred Heart Confraternity was celebrated at Christ the King church, Bingiriya on 06th November 2024. His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, presided over the Eucharistic Celebration organized by the Sacred Heart Confraternity. Rev, Fr. Jude Liyanage, the Chaplain of Sacred Heart Confraternity and his team together with Rev. Fr. Jude Dassanayake and the community at Bingiriya organized the event meaningfully.

Year Planning and the Presbyteral Meeting - November



The presbyteral Meeting for the month of November was held on 11th November 2024 at the Bishop's House, Kurunegala. The meeting was held to plan out the mission of the coming Jubilee Year 2025 on the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope"

Diocesan Pastoral Council



The meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Laity Council was held on 23rd November 2024 at the Bishop's House, Kurunegala. Rev. Fr. Tharanga Dilekshika, the Diocesan Director of Catechetics, Education and Bible apostolate delivered the key note address. His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, presided over the meeting. Very Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka Fernando the Vicar General, Very Rev. Fr, Nihal Obris, the Episcopal Vicar and Rev. Fr. Lionel Fernando, the Diocesan Director of SCC's joined the DPC meeting.

Confirmation at Pannala



After a successful period of preparation fifty two candidates from the parish of Pannala received the Sacrament of Confirmation from His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, on 24th November 2024 at St. Agnes' church, Pannala, Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, Secretary to the Bishop and Rev. Fr. Ramesh Lasantha also joined the celebration. Rev. Fr. George Dixon, the Parish Priest of Pannala and the Parish Pastoral Council organized the day's proceedings systematically.

Confirmation at Nalawalana



His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala administered the Sacrament of Confirmation for the fifty-five candidates from the parish of Nalawalana on 30th November 2024. Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, Secretary to the Bishop took part at the celebration. Very Rev. Fr. Nihal Obris, Parish Priest of Nalawalana, Rev. Sisters of the Association of Divine Mercy and the Catechists had organized the event meaningfully.



My dear Fathers, Sisters, & Brothers,

With the dawn of the month of December, another new liturgical year begins with the first Sunday of Advent. Sunday readings are taken from the YEAR C and week days the YEAR 1. Kindly brief your lectors to follow the Ordo. The season of Advent is twofold. While the Church prepares for the celebration of the historical birth of Jesus, the faithful are reminded of the second coming of Christ at the end of times. The Gospel for the first Sundays of Advent focuses on the future coming of Christ. The second and third Sundays highlight the Christ's adult ministry and the final Sunday draws us to his birth. The message Jesus brought was love and peace to the world. We are called to be witnesses to this peace and love.

Since December 08th falls on a Sunday, the feast of the Immaculate Conception is shifted to Monday, 09th December. It is a day of Obligation. Therefore, the masses have to be celebrated in all the churches so that the faithful may fulfill their obligation.

Due to this change, I was compelled to shift the date of the Advent Recollection of the Priests and Religious working in the diocese. As I have informed you already, it will be on Tuesday, 10th December at Our Lady of Fatima church, Malkaduwawa. The program commences at 9.00 a.m. Time will be allocated for confessions, followed by the Eucharistic celebration. Kindly be on time.

The presbyteral gathering for the diocesan priests will be held on Monday, 16th December at Pope Francis Integral Formation Centre at Dikkele, Pannala. Program begins at 9.30 a.m.

The National Seminary closes for the Christmas vacation on Friday, 20th December and the Brothers of our diocese will take part at the appreciation gathering of our estate workers on the same day at Dikkele center. The Vicar General has already assigned the Brothers of the Department of Theology for the parish work during Christmas and New Year.

In keeping with the decisions made during the consultation, accordingly the pastoral plan for the Jubilee Year 2025, is prepared with specific dates. The dates are given in the diary. Please cooperate with the Task Force in order to celebrate the Jubilee of the Birth of Jesus, the Son of God, our Lord and Master.

The new appointments with the general transfers will be effective from 01st January 2025. Kindly be in your new places on or before 19th January 2025. In the last presbyteral meeting, I have briefed you well, how a smooth transfer takes place in order to avoid unnecessary embarrassment to the incoming and as well as the outgoing priest. The transfers are an opportune time to recall and submit to the promise of obedience that you made at the Priestly Ordination.

I Thank the Priests and Religious working in the diocese for the generous collaboration, communion and participation to implement the pastoral plan of the diocese in the year 2024.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas!

I wish you all a very happy Christmas!

+ Harold Anthony Perera
Catholic Bishop of Kurunegala

CATHOLIC BISHOP OF KURUNEGALA SRI LANKA

Solemnity of The Nativity of the Lord

Pope Leo the Great

I. All Share in the Joy of Christmas



Our Saviour, dearly-beloved, was born today: let us be glad. For there is no proper place for sadness, when we keep the birthday of the Life, which destroys the fear of mortality and brings to us the joy of promised eternity. No one is kept from sharing in this happiness. There is for all one common measure of joy, because as our Lord the destroyer of sin and death finds none free from charge, so is He come to free us all. Let the saint exult in that he draws near to victory. Let the sinner be glad in that he is invited to pardon. Let the gentile take courage in that he is called to life. For the Son of God in the fullness of time which the inscrutable depth of the Divine counsel has determined, has taken on him the nature of man, thereby to reconcile it to its Author: in order that the inventor of death, the devil, might be conquered through that (nature) which he had conquered. And in this conflict undertaken for us, the fight was fought on great and wondrous principles of fairness; for the Almighty Lord enters the lists with His savage foe not in His own majesty but in our humility, opposing him with the same form and the same nature, which shares indeed our mortality, though it is free from all sin. Truly foreign to this nativity is that which we read of all others, no one is clean from stain, not even the infant who has lived but one day upon earth (Job 19:4). Nothing therefore of the lust of the flesh has passed into that peerless nativity, nothing of the law of sin has entered. A royal Virgin of the stem of David is chosen, to be impregnated with the sacred seed and to conceive the Divinely-human offspring in mind first and then in body. And lest in ignorance of the heavenly counsel she should tremble at so strange a result, she learns from converse with the angel that what is to be wrought in her is of the Holy Ghost. Nor does she believe it loss of honour that she is soon to be the Mother of God. For why should she be in despair over the novelty of such conception, to whom the power of the most High has promised to effect it. Her implicit faith is confirmed also by the attestation of a precursory miracle, and Elizabeth receives unexpected fertility: in order that there might be no doubt that He who had given conception to the barren, would give it even to a virgin.

II. The Mystery of the Incarnation is a fitting theme for Joy both to angels and to men

Therefore the Word of God, Himself God, the Son of God who in the beginning was with God, through whom all things were made and without whom was nothing made (John 1:1-3), with the purpose of delivering man from eternal death, became man: so bending Himself to take on Him our humility without decrease in His own majesty, that remaining what He was and assuming what He was not, He might unite the true form of a slave to that form in which He is equal to God the Father, and join both natures together by such a compact that the lower should not be swallowed up in its exaltation nor the higher impaired by its new associate. Without detriment therefore to the properties of either substance which then came together in one person, majesty took on humility, strength weakness, eternity mortality: and for the paying off of the debt, belonging to our condition, inviolable nature was united with passible nature, and true God and true man were combined to form one Lord, so that, as suited the needs of our case, one and the same Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, could both die with the one and rise again with the other.

Rightly therefore did the birth of our Salvation impart no corruption to the Virgin's purity, because the bearing of the Truth was the keeping of honour. Such then beloved was the nativity which became the Power of God and the Wisdom of God even Christ, whereby He might be one with us in manhood and surpass us in Godhead. For unless He were true God, He would not bring us a remedy, unless He were true Man, He would not give us an example. Therefore, the exulting angel's song when the Lord was born is this, *Glory to God in the Highest, and their message,*

peace on earth to men of good will (Luke 2:14). For they see that the heavenly Jerusalem is being built up out of all the nations of the world: and over that indescribable work of the Divine love how ought the humbleness of men to rejoice, when the joy of the lofty angels is so great?

III. Christians then must live worthily of Christ their Head

Let us then, dearly beloved, give thanks to God the Father, through His Son, in the Holy Spirit, who for His great mercy, wherewith He has loved us, has had pity on us: and when we were dead in sins, has quickened us together in Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5), that we might be in Him a new creation and a new production. Let us put off then the old man with his deeds: and having obtained a share in the birth of Christ let us renounce the works of the flesh. Christian, acknowledge your dignity, and becoming a partner in the Divine nature, refuse to return to the old baseness by degenerate conduct. Remember the Head and the Body of which you are a member. Recollect that you were rescued from the power of darkness and brought out into God's light and kingdom. By the mystery of Baptism, you were made the temple of the Holy Ghost: do not put such a denizen to flight from you by base acts, and subject yourself once more to the devil's thraldom: because your purchase money is the blood of Christ, because He shall judge you in truth Who ransomed you in mercy, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

https://thesacredfaith.co.uk/home/perma/1545482160/article/on-the-feast-of-the-nativity.html

What is the Jubilee?

“Jubilee” is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the instrument used to mark its launch. In this case, the instrument in question is the *yobel*, the ram's horn, used to proclaim the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This (Jewish) holiday occurs every year, but it takes on special significance when it marks the beginning of a Jubilee year. We can find an early indication of it in the Bible: A Jubilee year was to be marked every 50 years, since this would be an “extra” year, one which would happen every seven weeks of seven years, i.e., every 49 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). Even though it wasn’t easy to organize, it was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

Quoting the prophet Isaiah, the Gospel of Luke describes Jesus’ mission in this way: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord,” (Luke 4:18 -19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus lives out these words in his daily life, in his encounters with others and in his relationships, all of which bring about liberation and conversion.

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a “Holy Year,” since it is a time in which God's holiness transforms us. The frequency of Holy Years has changed over time: at first, they were celebrated every 100 years; later, in 1343 Pope Clement VI reduced the gap between Jubilees to every 50 years, and in 1470 Pope Paul II made it every 25 years. There have also been “extraordinary” Holy Years: for example, in 1933 Pope Pius XI chose to commemorate the 1900th anniversary of the Redemption, and in 2015 Pope Francis proclaimed the Year of Mercy as an extraordinary jubilee. The way in which Jubilee Years are marked has also changed through the centuries: originally the Holy Year consisted of a pilgrimage to the Roman Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul, later other signs were added, such as the Holy Door. By participating in the Holy Year, one is granted a plenary indulgence.

https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/segni-del-giubileo.html

ANECDOTES & SCRIPTURE NOTES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

STATUE – *Faith*

While visiting the home of his sister, a priest noticed the beautiful statue of Jesus on the mantle. He thought to himself, "Wonderful! They still have this figure of Jesus, a symbol of God's great love for this family." He walked to the dinner table and sat down for the meal. A little boy, his nephew, age four, looked at him and said, "I always know when you're coming, Father Donald, because Mom puts that statue out."

REFLECTION



The statue in the house, as any statue, evokes our faith. The statue of Jesus can speak to our belief in the divinity of Jesus, in the love for us manifested in his life, in his challenge to live as he did. It is a gift from God. Faith, of course, is not just having the statue, but demands of us something much more deeply rooted. Faith is even more than accepting as true what God has revealed in Scripture, in our tradition, in the church's authoritative teaching. It goes beyond intellect; it engages the whole person. It means being open to God in the everyday events of life, trusting God to care for us. It informs everything we do.

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

Bulletin Announcements….

December - 07
Christmas get-together
Communication

December - 07
Christmas get-together
Sacred Heart Confraternity

December - 10
Priests/Religious Advent Recollection

December - 14
Catechists' Christmas Gathering
"Sathpahana" - Kuliyapitiya

December - 16
Presbyteral Gathering for Christmas
(Priests)

December - 16 & 17
Catholicism 1st Seminar 2025
for children hot having teachers

December - 21
Christmas get-together
Legion of Mary

December - 21
Christmas get-together
SSVP

December - 25
Christmas Day

Kuliyapitiya Deanery

Parish	*Church*	*Saint*	*Date*
Thalgahapitiya	Thalgahapitiya	St. Francis Xavier	01.12.2024

Kurunegala Deanery

Parish	*Church*	*Saint*	*Date*
Wellawa	Wellawa	St. Francis Xavier	01.12.2024
Malpitiya	Udupitiya	St. Francis Xavier	08.12.2024

Requiem Mass - organized in 05 zones by Sacred Heart Confraternity











Requiem Mass organized by Legion of Mary






Visit to "Daham Sevana " Jesuit Religious Training Centre






Presbyteral Meeting for the year planning for Jubilee Year 2025

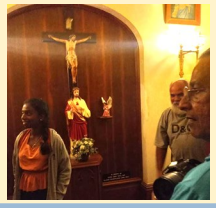




Activities of Providence Home - Mawathagama

Annual Trip to Ella and Leadership Programme





Congratulations and Prayerful Best Wishes!



Rev. Fr. Joseph Tissera

60th Ordination Anniversary
21.12.1964 - 21.12.2024

Birthday
22. 12. 1935

Ad Multos Annos Vivat!

Birthdays - Rev. Fathers

01st of December	-	Very Rev. Fr. Sagara Prishantha Perera
06th of December	-	Rev. Fr. Sampath Sujeewa
18th of December	-	Rev. Fr. Rufus Thalis
22nd of December	-	Rev. Fr. Joseph Tissera
24th of December	-	Rev. Fr. Anthony Christy Kumara
25th of December	-	Rev. Fr. Damitha Madusanka
25th of December	-	Rev. Fr. Nquyen Quang Vinh (SDB)

Ordination Anniversaries - Rev. Fathers

08th of December	-	Rev. Fr. Christy Leonard
09th of December	-	Rev. Fr. Eymard F.C. Fernando
17th of December	-	Very Rev. Fr. Prasantha Amarasekara
21st of December	-	Rev. Fr. Joseph Tissera
21st of December	-	Rev. Fr. Robert Jayathilake
21st of December	-	Rev. Fr. Neil Chrishantha Dabarera
21st of December	-	Very Rev. Fr. Sagara Prishantha Perera
21th of December	-	Rev. Fr. Susantha Bernard
22nd of December	-	Rev. Fr. Alex Janaka Fernando

Birthdays - Rev. Sisters and Brothers

01st of December	-	Rev. Bro. Malinda Priyanath (National Seminary)
06th of December	-	Rev. Sr. Mary Thanuja (Holy Angels' - Kuliyapitiya)
07th of December	-	Rev. Bro. Nadun Adeesha Perera (National Seminary)
20th of December	-	Rev. Sr. Regina Thuram (Sisters of Providence - Irabadagama)
20th of December	-	Rev. Sr. Mary Yeonne (Holy Angels' - Kuiyapitiya)
20th of December	-	Rev. Sr. Winifreeda (Sisters of Divine Saviour - Bamunawala)

Death Anniversary

14th of December	-	Rev. Fr. Hector Fernando
21st of December	-	Rev. Fr. Quentin Perera

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