FRATERNITY

Roman Catholic Diocese of Kurunegala

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St. Anne

Patroness of the Diocese of Kurunegala

Pray for Us!

News Highlights

- Farewell to Rev. Sr. Maria Goretti, the Principal of Holy Angels Girls' College at Kuliyapitiya
- Sacred Heart Rally
- Installation of the Relic of St. Anthony at Maholawa
- Monthly Recollection and Presbyteral Meeting - June
- Annual Feast at Hiripitiya

Insights

- *MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE IV WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY*

Infocus

- *Bulletin Announcements.*
- *Church feasts in the month of July.*

Farewell to Rev. Sr. Maria Goretti, the Principal of Holy Angels Girls' College at Kuliyapitiya



His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala graced the occasion of the farewell ceremony of Rev. Sr. Maria Goretti, the outgoing Principal of Holy Angels Girls College at Kuliyapitiya and the installation of Rev. Sr. Magaret Mary as the new Principal on 07th June 2024. Rev. Fr. Tharanga Dilekshika, Director of Catechetics, Education and Bible Apostolate, Rev. Sr. Christine Mendis, Regional Superior, Rev. Fathers, Sisters and Directress of the Zonal Education Office at Kuliyapitiya and other distinguished guests participated in the occasion.

Sacred Heart Rally



The Diocesan Sacred Heart Rally of the Sacred Heart Confraternity was held at Our Lady of Fatima church at Malkaduwawa on 08th June 2024. His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, presided over the Holy Eucharist and graced the meeting. Rev. Frs. Lionel Fernando, Thusitha Priyanga, Niroshan Jayakody and Himishka Roshan concelebrated the Holy Mass. Rev. Fr. Jude Lasantha, the Diocesan Chaplain and the Diocesan Committee had organized the event.

Installation of the Relic of St. Anthony at Maholawa



His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala installed the relic of St. Anthony at St. Anthony's church, Maholawa on 09th June 2024. Also, it was the birthday of His Lordship and greetings were expressed by the parishioners. Rev. Fr. George Dixon, Parish Priest of Pannala and the Church Pastoral Council had organized this event meaningfully.

Monthly Recollection and Presbyteral Meeting - June



Monthly Recollection and the Presbyteral Meeting for the month of June were held on 10th June 2024 at the Bishop's House, Kurunegala. Rev. Fr. Jude Lasantha, Parish Priest of Walpitagama delivered the day's reflection during the Eucharistic Adoration based on the priestly spirituality poured out from the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Annual Feast at Hiripitiya



His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, blessed the renovated church and presided over the Solemn Festive Mass of the annual feast of St. Anthony at Hiripitiya on 30th of June 2024. Rev. Fr. Upul Silva, Parish Priest of Wellawa and Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, Secretary to the Bishop also took part at the feast. Rev. Fr. Patrick Rathugama, the Parish Priest, and the Parish Pastoral Council of Hiripitiya had organized the feast meaningfully.

An Outdoor Function at Katupotha - Legion of Mary





My dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

The second half of the year begins with the month of July. It is good to look back personally how each one has contributed to the proclamation of the Good News within the responsibilities assigned in the diocese. The personal evaluation will help to realize the position of each one in order to launch deeper to achieve the pastoral goals.

Indigenous Clergy/Religious Sunday will be celebrated on 28th July. It is a reminder to us that the faithful including the widow's mite has contributed by prayer, sacrifice and financial assistance during our formation to the priesthood and religious life. Therefore, it is our duty and obligation to pray for all these benefactors. Now it is our turn to invite the faithful to continue the same generously for the future of the Church.

The on-going formation program for the priests ordained in 1994, 1995 and 1996 will be held from 22nd – 25th July at the National Seminary. Three of our priests will participate in this program. It is also an opportunity to meet the classmates and contemporaries to renew fraternity.

The feast of Our Lady of Madhu at Moroththa will be celebrated on 13th and 14th July under the guidance of Fr. Milroy Francis, the parish priest of the Sacred Heart of Jesus parish, Malsiripura. Since it is a diocesan celebration, your presence is highly appreciated.

The feast of St. Anne, the patroness of the diocese in the cathedral parish will be on 27th and 28th July. It is the feast of the diocese and therefore all are invited to the feast.

The Sacred Heart Confraternity annual gathering with the Eucharistic celebration was held in the church of Our Lady of Fatima at Malkaduwawa. It was well attended and organized. I thank Fr. Jude Lasantha, the Spiritual Director and the members of the Confraternity.

We warmly welcome back to the diocese Fr. George Linton Perera, who returned to Sri Lanka a few days ago, after serving the Sri Lankan migrant Catholic Community in Brescia for the last six years. He is appointed as the parish priest of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish at Kadawelagedara. He was replaced in Brescia by Fr. Christy Leonard.

The newly formed Presbyteral Council (Senate) meeting will be held on Monday, 15th July in the Bishop's House at 9.30 a.m. This is an important consultative body to discuss policy matters for the mission of evangelization in the diocese. You will observe that I have increased the membership in the senate in order to have wider forum to have a better sharing and participation. Hence your presence is essential as the majority are elected by the presbyterium and the others are selected by the Bishop in their official capacity.

The presbyteral meeting of the month of July will be on Monday 08th at the Bishop's House conference hall and the Eucharistic Adoration begins at 9.00 a.m. in the Bishop's House chapel. Kindly be on time to adore and worship the Eucharistic Lord.

Thank you & may God bless you!

+ Harold Perera

+ Harold Anthony Perera
Catholic Bishop of Kurunegala

CATHOLIC BISHOP OF KURUNEGALA
SRI LANKA

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE IV WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

28 July 2024

"Do not cast me off in my old age" (cf. Ps 71:9)

Dear brothers and sisters,



God never abandons his children, never. Even when our age advances and our powers decline, when our hair grows white and our role in society lessens, when our lives become less productive and can risk appearing useless. God does not regard appearances (cf. 1 Sam 16:7); he does not disdain to choose those who, to many people, may seem irrelevant. God discards no stone; indeed, the "oldest" are the firm foundation on which "new" stones can rest, in order to join in erecting a spiritual edifice (cf. 1 Peter 2:5).

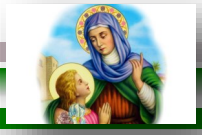
Sacred Scripture as a whole is a story of the Lord's faithful love. It offers us the comforting certainty that God constantly shows us his mercy, always, at every stage of life, in whatever situation we find ourselves, even in our betrayals. The Psalms are filled with the wonder of the human heart before God who cares for us despite our insignificance (cf. Ps 144:3-4); they assure us that God has fashioned each one of us from our mother's womb (cf. Ps 139:13) and that even in hell he will not abandon our life (cf. Ps 16:10). We can be certain, then, that he will be close to us also in old age, all the more because, in the Bible, growing old is a sign of blessing.

At the same time, in the Psalms we also find this heartfelt plea to the Lord: "In my old age do not abandon me" (cf. Ps 71:9). Words that are strong, even crude. They make us think of the extreme suffering of Jesus, who cried out on the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mt 27:46).

In the Bible, then, we find both the certainty of God's closeness at every stage of life and the fear of abandonment, particularly in old age and in times of pain. There is no contradiction here. If we look around, we have no difficulty seeing that its words reflect an utterly evident reality. All too often, loneliness is the bleak companion of our lives as elderly persons and grandparents. Often, when I was Bishop of Buenos Aires, I would visit rest homes and realize how rarely those people received visits. Some had not seen their family members for many months.

There are many reasons for this loneliness: in many places, above all in the poorer countries, the elderly find themselves alone because their children are forced to emigrate. I think too of the many situations of conflict. How many of the elderly are left alone because men – youths and adults – have been called to battle, and women, above all women with small children, have left the country in order to ensure safety for their children. In cities and villages devastated by war, many elderly people are left alone; they are the only signs of life in areas where abandonment and death seem to reign supreme. In other parts of the world, we encounter a false belief, deeply rooted in certain local cultures, that causes hostility towards the elderly, who are suspected of using witchcraft to sap the vital energies of the young; when premature death or sickness, or any other misfortune strike the young, the guilt is laid at the door of some elderly person. This mentality must be combatted and eliminated. It is one of those groundless prejudices from which the Christian faith has set us free, yet which continues to fuel generational conflict between the young and the elderly.

Yet if we think about it, this accusation that the elderly "rob the young of their future" is nowadays present everywhere. It appears under other guises even in the most advanced and modern societies. For example, there is now a widespread conviction that the elderly are burdening the young with the high cost of the social services that they require, and in this way are diverting resources from the development of the community and thus from the young. This is a distorted perception of reality. It assumes that the survival of the elderly puts that of the young at risk, that to favour the young, it is necessary to neglect or even suppress the elderly. Intergenerational conflict is a fallacy and the poisoned fruit of a culture of conflict. To set the young against the old is an unacceptable form of manipulation: "What is important is the unity of the different ages of life, which is the real point of reference for understanding and valuing human life in its entirety" (Catechesis, 23 February 2022).



The Psalm cited above – with its plea not to be abandoned in old age – speaks to a conspiracy surrounding the life of the elderly. This may seem an exaggeration, but not if we consider that the loneliness and abandonment of the elderly is not by chance or inevitable, but the fruit of decisions – political, economic, social and personal decisions – that fail to acknowledge the infinite dignity of each person, "beyond every circumstance, state or situation the person may ever encounter" (Declaration *Dignitas Infinita*, 1). This happens once we lose sight of the value of each individual and people are then judged in terms of their cost, which is in some cases considered too high to pay. Even worse, often the elderly themselves fall victim to this mindset; they are made to consider themselves a burden and to feel that they should be the first to step aside.

Then too nowadays many women and men seek personal fulfilment in a life as independent as possible and detached from other people. Group memberships are in crisis and individualism is celebrated: the passage from "us" to "me" is one of the most evident signs of our times. The family, which is the first and most radical argument against the notion that we can save ourselves by ourselves, has been one of the victims of this individualistic culture. Yet once we grow old and our powers begin to decline, the illusion of individualism, that we need no one and can live without social bonds, is revealed for what it is. Indeed, we find ourselves needing everything, but at a point in life when we are alone, no longer with others to help, with no one whom we can count on. It is a grim discovery that many people make only when it is too late.

Solitude and abandonment have become recurrent elements in today's social landscape. They have multiple roots. In some cases, they are the result of calculated exclusion, a sort of deplorable "social conspiracy"; in others, tragically, a matter of an individual's personal decision. In still other cases, the elderly submits to this reality, pretending that it is their free choice. Increasingly, we have lost "the taste of fraternity" (*Fratelli Tutti*, 33); we find it difficult even to think of an alternative.

In many older persons we can observe the sense of resignation described in the Book of Ruth, which tells the story of the elderly Naomi who, after the death of her husband and children, encourages her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to return to their native towns and their homes (cf. Ruth 1:8). Naomi – like many elderly people today – is afraid of remaining alone, yet she cannot imagine anything different. As a widow, she knows that she is of little value in the eyes of society; she sees herself as a burden for those two young woman who, unlike herself, have their whole lives before them. For this reason, she considers it best to step aside, and so she tells her young daughters-in-law to leave her and to build a future in other places (cf. Ruth 1:11-13). Her words reflect the rigid social and religious conventions of her day, which apparently seal her own fate.

The biblical narrative then presents us with two different responses to Naomi's words and to old age itself. One of the two daughters-in-law, Orpah, who loves Naomi, kisses her and, accepting what seemed the only solution possible, goes her way. Ruth, however, does not leave Naomi's side and, to her surprise, tells her: "Do not press me to leave you" (Ruth 1:16). Ruth is not afraid to challenge customs and inbred patterns of thought. She senses that the elderly woman needs her and she courageously remains at her side in what will be the start of a new journey for both. To all of us, who are accustomed to the idea that solitude is our unavoidable lot, Ruth teaches that in response to the plea "Do not abandon me", it is possible to say, "I will not abandon you". Ruth does not hesitate to subvert what seemed to be an irreversible situation: living alone need not be the only alternative! Not by chance, Ruth – who remained at the side of the elderly Naomi – was an ancestor of the Messiah (cf. Mt 1:5), of Jesus, Immanuel, "God with us", the one who brings God's own closeness and proximity to all people, of all ages and states of life.

Ruth's freedom and courage invite us to take a new path. Let us follow in her footsteps. Let us set 3 out with this young foreign woman and the elderly Naomi, and not be afraid to change our habits and imagine a different kind of future for our elderly. May we express our gratitude to all those people who, often at great sacrifice, follow in practice the example of Ruth, as they care for an older person or simply demonstrate daily closeness to relatives or acquaintances who no longer have anyone else. Ruth, who chose to remain close to Naomi, was then blessed with a happy marriage, a family, a new home. This is always the case: by remaining close to the elderly and acknowledging their unique role in the family, in society and in the Church, we will ourselves receive many gifts, many graces, many blessings!

On this Fourth World Day devoted to them, let us show our tender love for the grandparents and the elderly members of our families. Let us spend time with those who are disheartened and no longer hope in the possibility of a different future. In place of the self-centred attitude that leads to loneliness and abandonment, let us instead show the open heart and the joyful face of men and women who have the courage to say "I will not abandon you", and to set out on a different path.

To all of you, dear grandparents and elderly persons, and to all those who are close to you I send my blessing, accompanied by my prayers. And I ask you, please, not to forget to pray for me.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2024
FRANCIS

Bulletin Announcements.....

July 05

44th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination of His Lordship—(05/07/1980)

July 08	**July 14**
Monthly Recollection & Presbyteral Meeting	Feast of Our Lady of Madhu – Moroththa
July 15	**July 20**
Acies ceremony - Legion of Mary	Marian Prayer Rally
July 27	**July 27**
Media Workshop – Kuliyapitiya	Vespers of St. Anne's Cathedral, Kurunegala
July 28	**July 28**
Feast of St. Anne's Cathedral, Kurunegala	Indigenous Clergy Day

ANECDOTES & SCRIPTURE NOTES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS – *Values, Compassion, Solidarity*

In 1976, at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with a relish to run the race to finish and win. All, that is, except one little boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other runners heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then they all turned around and went back. One girl with Down's Syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line. Everyone in the stadium stood to applaud, and the cheering went on for several minutes.

REFLECTION



We can read books, listen to the directions others give, or practice regularly to learn the rules of a sporting event or of life. The most valuable lessons we learn in life, however, often come spontaneously. In the end, it really doesn't matter who wins the race, but what we do on the way to the finishing line. It's the journey that matters, not only the destination.

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

Church Feasts in the month of July.....

Kuliyapitiya Deanery

Parish	Church	Saint	Date
Irabadagama	Irabadagama	Sts. Peter & Paul	07.07.2024
Kuliyapitiya	Koshena	Our Lady of Holy Rosary	07.07.2024
Thisogama	Prasannagama	Sacred Heart	14.07.2024
Irabadagama	Muthugalayagama	St. Elizabeth	21.07.2024
Kadawalagedara	Kadawalagedara	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	21.07.2024
Thalagahapitiya	Weerakodiyana	St. Hugo	21.07.2024
Mandakondana	Kadigamuwa	St. Rita	28.07.2024

Kurunegala Deanery

Parish	Church	Saint	Date
Maho	Maho	St. Thomas	07.07.2024
Melsiripura	Moroththa	Our Lady of Madhu	14.07.2024
Bulupitiya	Bulupitiya	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	21.07.2024
Galgamuwa	Galgamuwa	St. Benedict	21.07.2024
Kurunegala	Kurunegala	St. Anne	28.07.2024

Sacred Heart Confraternity – Catholic Diocese of Kurunegala




















CONGRATULATIONS & OUR PRAYERFUL WISHES

HIS LORDSHIP MOST REV. DR. HAROLD ANTHONY PERERA



44th Anniversary of the Priestly Ordination
05th of July 2024

Anniversary of the Canonical Installation As the Bishop of Kurunegala
11th of July 2024





MAY THE LORD GIVE YOU GOOD HEALTH AND STRENGTH TO REMAIN CLOSE TO HIS HEART WITH VERY BEST WISHES AND PRAYERS.

Presbyterium of Kurunegala

Birthdays - Rev. Fathers

01st of July	-	Very Rev. Fr. Nihal Obris
01st of July	-	Rev. Fr. Mariyathas SJ
10th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Kapila Manjula
13th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Herman Perera
13th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Ramesh Lasantha Fernando
15th of July	-	Very Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka Fernando
16th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Lionel Fernando
18th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Camillus F. Fernando
20th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Linton Perera
25th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Kasun Madushanka

Ordination Anniversaries

05th of July	-	Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera (The Bishop of Kurunegala)
12th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Camillus F. Fernando
18th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Linton Perera
19th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Michael Costa
20th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Linus Mcleod
20th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Monty Perera
20th of July	-	Rev. Fr. A.D. Ancelot
20th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Jude Dassanayake
21st of July	-	Very. Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka Fernando
21st of July	-	Rev. Fr. Herman Perera
21st of July	-	Rev. Fr. Lionel Fernando
24th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Stanley Peiris



Birthdays - Rev. Sisters and Brothers

07th of July	-	Rev. Sr. Jacintha Jayasinghe (Perpetual Help Sisters - Weralugama)
13th of July	-	Rev. Sr. Mary Mangalie (Holy Angels - Karagahagedara)
14th of July	-	Rev. Sr. Senali Fernando (Salvatorian - Bamunawala)
15th of July	-	Rev. Sr. Mary Melinda (Holy Angels - Karagahedara)
18th of July	-	Rev. Sr. Maria Visidagama (Holy Angels - Kuliyapitiya)

Death Anniversary

15th of July	-	Rev. Fr. Don Julian

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