# FRATERNITY



Roman Catholic Diocese of Kurunegala

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## *Awarding Ceremony of 19th Batch of JVI*

The Certificate Awarding and the closing ceremony of Residential English Batch 19 of Joseph Vaz Institute were held on 11th April 2024 at Pope Francis Integral Formation Centre, Dikkele with the presence of His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala and the Chancellor of JVI. Sixty five students were awarded for the successful completion of the residential course. Very Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka, the Vicar General and Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, Secretary to the Bishop also joined the event. Very Rev. Fr. Sagara Perera, the Director, Rev. Fr. Navin Perera and Rev. Fr. Damitha Madusanka and the Staff of JVI organized the ceremony meaningfully.



## *Diocesan Celebration of National Small Christian Community Sunday*

His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Catholic Bishop of Kurunegala presided over the Small Christian Communities Sunday on 14th of April 2024 at St. Anthony's church, Barigoda. Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, Secretary to the Bishop also took part at the celebration. Rev. Fr. Lionel Fernando, the Diocesan Director of SCCs and the Parish Pastoral Council had made all the arrangements for a meaningful celebration. During the Holy Mass, new lay leaders of the SCCs at Barigoda took oath and were blessed.



## *Retreat for the DPC - 2024*

Retreat for the members of Diocesan Pastoral Council was held on 19th and 20th April 2024 at Pope Francis Integral Formation Centre, Dikkele. Rev Fr. Alvin Peter Fernando, Veteran Scripture Scholar preached the retreat. His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala presided over the DPC meeting on the following day. Very Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka, Vicar General, Very Rev. Fr. Nihal Obris, Episcopal Vicar, Rev. Fr. Lionel Fernando, the Diocesan Director for SCCs, representatives of Religious Congregations also participated at the meeting.



## *5th Year Remembrance of Easter Sunday Attack*

Diocesan Commemoration of the 5th Year Remembrance of the Easter Sunday Attack was held on 21st April 2024 at St. Anne's Cathedral Kurunegala. His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Catholic Bishop of Kurunegala. Representatives from Inter-Religious Forum took part at the event. It was well organized by Janasetha-SEDEC Kurunegala and the Parish Priest and the Parish Pastoral Council of St. Anne's Cathedral, Kurunegala.



## *Opening and the Blessing of "Divine Crust", the Bread Shop*

His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Catholic Bishop of Kurunegala blessed and declared open the "Divine Crust", the Bread Shop and the Eatery on 24th April 2024 at the premises of Catholic Centre Kurunegala. Very Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka, the Vicar General, Very Rev, Fr. Prasantha Amarasekara, the Dean of Kurunegala Deanery and many priests took part at the grand opening. Special thanks to Very Rev. Fr. Sagara Perera, the Procurator General for his untiring efforts.



## *Awarding Ceremony of National Bible Quiz Competition*

Awarding Ceremony of National Bible Quiz Competition 2023 was held on 23rd April 2024 at Our Lady of Fatima church, Malkaduwawa. Winners of the competitions received their certificates from His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, at the ceremony. Very Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka Fernando, Vicar General, Very Rev. Fr. Prasantha Amarasekera, the Dean of Kurunegala took part at the event. Rev. Fr. Tharanga Dilekshika, the Director of Catechetics, Education and Bible Apostolate and his team had organized the ceremony. Rev. Fr. Niroshan Jayakody, the Parish Priest of Malkaduwawa facilitated the day.





My dear Fathers, Sisters & Brothers,

The month of May begins with the feast of St. Joseph, the worker. It coincides with the International Workers' Day, popularly known as the May Day. St. Joseph, the carpenter in Galilee is a role model to all of us who are responsible for the care of the flock of God.

The month of May is dedicated to Mary the Mother of God. Devotion to Blessed Virgin Mary is popular in the Church. The apostolic exhortation "*Marialis Cultus*" of Pope Paul VI begins thus: "From the moment we are called to the See of Peter, we have constantly striven to enhance devotion to Blessed Virgin Mary." Mary is truly a prime role and example of faith and dedication to all the followers of Christ. During the May novenas, the faithful are encouraged to pray for our country, so that our people may live in peace and harmony. The main Marian procession in the city of Kurunegala will be on Saturday, 01st June, after the vespers service in the Cathedral.

I thank all of you for commemorating the 05th Anniversary of the Easter Sunday bomb attack and the special prayers offered for those victims and cause for justice. The main commemoration was organized at the Cathedral. I thank Fr. Placidus De Silva, the Parish Priest Fr. Lakshan Perera, Asst. Parish Priest and Fr. Thusitha Priyanga, the Director "*Janasetha*" and his team for organizing the event meaningfully with the participation of other religious dignitaries.

I thank the organizers of the annual picnic as well as those extended hospitality to us very generously.

The Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. Wyman Croos, the Bishop-elect of Ratnapura will be on Saturday, 01st June at the Bishop's House premises, Madola, Avissawella. The diocese of Kurunegala expresses prayerful wishes to the new Bishop.

The next Presbyteral meeting will be on Monday, 13th May at Pope Francis Integral Formation Centre, Dikkele. The Eucharistic Adoration begins at 9.00 a.m. as usual in the Bl. Carlo Acutis chapel.

May God bless you!

✠ Harold Anthony Perera
Catholic Bishop of Kurunegala (N.W.P.)

# LETTER TO THE PARISH PRIESTS

## *HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS*

Dear Brother Priests,



The International Meeting "Parish Priests for the Synod", and the dialogue with all of you who have taken part, provide me with the opportunity to pray for the parish priests the world over. To all of you, I address these words with great affection.

It is so obvious as to sound almost banal, but that does not make it less true: the Church could not go on without your dedication and your pastoral service. So, before all else, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for the generous work that you do each day, sowing seeds of the Gospel in every kind of soil (cf. *Mk*4:1-25).

As you have experienced in these days of sharing, the parishes in which you carry out your ministry vary widely, from those on the outskirts of great cities – as I know personally from Buenos Aires – to those in sparsely populated areas that are the size of vast provinces. They range from those in town centers in many European countries, where ancient basilicas house dwindling and aging communities, to those where celebrations are held beneath the branches of great trees and the songs of birds mix with the voices of small children.

Parish priests are well aware of this, since they know from within the life of God's People their joys and hardships, their resources and their needs. For this reason, a synodal Church needs its parish priests. Without priests, we will never be able to learn how to walk together and to set out on the path of synodality, "the path which God expects of the Church of the third millennium".[1]

We will never become a synodal and missionary Church unless parish communities are distinguished by the sharing of all the baptized in the one mission of proclaiming the Gospel. If parishes are not synodal and missionary, neither will the Church be. The Synthesis Report of the First Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops is very clear in this regard. Parishes, beginning with their structures and the organization of parish life, are called to think of themselves "primarily as being of service to the mission that the faithful carry out in society, in family life and the workplace, without concentrating exclusively on their own activities and their organizational needs" (8.1).Parish communities increasingly need to become places from which the baptized set out as missionary disciples and to which they return, full of joy, in order to share the wonders worked by the Lord through their witness (cf.*Lk*10:17).

As pastors, we are called to accompany in this process the communities that we serve, and at the same time to commit ourselves with prayer, discernment and apostolic zeal in ensuring that our ministry is suited to the needs of a synodal and missionary Church. This challenge is set before the Pope, the bishops and the Roman Curia, and it is also set before you, as parish priests. The Lord who has called us and consecrated us asks us today to listen to the voice of his Spirit and to advance in the direction that he points out to us. Of one thing we can be sure: he will never leave us without his grace. Along the way, we will discover how to set our ministry free from the things that wear us down and rediscover its most authentic core, the proclamation of God's word and the gathering of the community for the breaking of bread.

I encourage you, then, to accept this, the Lord's call to be, as parish priests, builders of a synodal and missionary Church and to devote yourselves enthusiastically to achieving this goal. To this end, I would like to offer three suggestions that can help to inspire your lifestyle and activity as pastors.



1. I ask you first to *live out your specific ministerial charism in ever greater service to the varied gifts that the Spirit sows in the People of God*. It is urgent to "discover with faith, the many and varied charismatic gifts of the laity, be they of a humble or more exalted form" (Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, 9), which are indispensable for evangelizing any number of human situations and contexts. I am convinced that in this way you will bring to light many hidden treasures and feel less alone in the demanding task of evangelization. You will experience the joy of being true fathers, who do not dominate others but rather bring out in them, men and women alike, great and precious possibilities.

2. With all my heart, I suggest that you *learn to practise the art of communal discernment*, employing for this purpose the method of "conversation in the Spirit", which has proved so helpful in the synodal journey and in the proceedings of the synodal Assembly itself. I am certain that you will reap from it many good fruits, not only in structures of communion such as parish councils, but in many other fields as well. As the Synthesis Report makes clear, discernment is a key element in the pastoral activity of a synodal Church: "It is important that the practice of discernment be exercised also in pastoral settings, in a way adapted to differing contexts, in order to illumine the concreteness of ecclesial life. This will help to recognize better the charisms present within the community, to distribute wisely different responsibilities and ministries, and to plan in the light of the Spirit pastoral projects that go beyond the mere programming of activities" (2.1).

3. Finally, I would like to urge you to *base everything you do in a spirit of sharing and fraternity among yourselves and with your bishops*. This is something that emerged forcefully from the International Conference for the Permanent Formation of Priests, on the theme, "Fan into Flame the Gift of God that You Possess" (*2 Tim*1:6), which took place last February here in Rome, with over 800 bishops, priests, lay and consecrated men and women, engaged in this area and representing some 18 countries. We cannot be authentic fathers unless we are first sons and brothers. And we cannot foster communion and participation in the communities entrusted to our care unless, before all else, we live out those realities among ourselves. I am quite aware that, amid the constant call of our pastoral responsibilities, this commitment may seem burdensome, even a waste of time, but the opposite is true: indeed, only in this way will we be credible and our activity not end up scattering what others have already gathered.

It is not only the synodal and missionary Church that needs parish priests, but also the ongoing process of the 2021-2024 Synod, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission", as we look forward to the Second Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which will take place in the coming month of October. In order to prepare for it, we need to hear your voice.

For this reason, I invite those who have taken part in the International Meeting "Parish Priests for the Synod" to be missionaries of synodality, among yourselves and, once you return home, with your fellow parish priests. I ask you to encourage reflection, with a synodal and missionary mindset, on the renewal of the ministry of parish priests, and enable the General Secretariat of the Synod to gather your distinctive contributions in view of the preparation of the *Instrumentum Laboris*. The purpose of the present International Meeting was to listen to parish priests, but that cannot finish today: we need to continue to hear from you.

Dear brothers, I am at your side in this process, in which I myself am taking part. I bless all of you from the heart, and in turn, I need to feel your closeness and the support of your prayers. Let us entrust ourselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary *Hodegetria*, Our Lady of the Way. She shows us the way; she leads us to Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 2 May 2024

FRANCIS

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[1] *Address for the Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Establishment of the Synod of Bishops*, 17 October 2015.

https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2024/05/02/0351/00737.html?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR0_BiE2KzwedzlEAUPC-0V9Z-gnw7B9UdYjIC7fU1AVpHr6ra57GQ2urMQ_aem_AaslbaZJM_jtXjH0VTCQ-FwwRQm1XGJF_zS1XUWCUhaSqpDMs6touUyVPdIWDAL-ChJ8Y4pUwDSkNpu3K1ZsMon1#en



## Bulletin Announcements in the month of May

**May - 01**
May Day/ Workers' Day

**May - 03 & 04**
New Catechists' Training Programme Kurunegala Deanery

**May - 11**
SSVP - Scholarship Day "Sathpahana" - Kuliyapitiya

**May - 12**
World Communication Day

**May - 13**
Monthly Recollection & Presbyteral Meeting

**May - 14**
Appointment of His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera as the Bishop of Kurunegala (2009)

**May - 15**
Erection of the Diocese of Kurunegala (1987)

**May - 23, 24 & 25**
Youth Pilgrimage

**ANECDOTES & SCRIPTURE NOTES FOR ALL OCCASIONS**

### APPLYING IT – *Gospel living*

A priest sitting next to a soap sales rep on a flight from New York to Boston. Noticing his Roman collar, the sales person said, "There is so much evil in the world and so many wicked people. The message you preach hasn't done much good, has it?" Minutes later they were walking through Logan Airport and the priest noticed a man who had obviously not washed in days. He turned to the sales rep and observed, "Obviously, soap hasn't done much good in the world either." "Oh," replied the salesman, "soap is only useful when it is applied." "Exactly," added the priest, "the Christian message only works when we use it."



**REFLECTION**

*The story goes that when someone asked Mohandas Gandhi what he thought of Christianity, he replied that he thought it would be a good idea. In other words, the theory seemed good to him, but he implied that it was not practiced. Jesus' teaching and example is always good but, like soap, it must be applied, lived, day in and day out, to the hilt. God's invitation always stands, but it comes with a R.S.V.P.*

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

## Church Feasts in the month of May

### Kuliyapitiya Deanery

| Parish | Church | Saint | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Katupotha | Wariyapola | St. Joseph | 01.05.2024 |
| Kuliyapitiya | Kuliyapitiya | St. Joseph | 05.05.2024 |
| Walpitagama | Yayamulla | Our Lady of Fatima | 12.05.2024 |
| Hettipola | Madainna | Our Lady of Perpetual Help | 12.05.2024 |
| Mandakondana | Horagasagara | Good Shepherd | 12.05.2024 |
| Kadawalagedara | Gomugomuwa | Risen Christ | 12.05.2024 |
| Nalawalana | Hendiyagala | Our Lady of Tears | 19.05.2024 |
| Daraluwa | Gananketa | St. Isidore | 26.05.2024 |
| Kuliyapitiya | Unaleeya | Our Lady of Fatima | 26.05.2024 |
| Kattimahana | Henegedara | Queen of Peace | 26.05.2024 |

### Kurunegala Deanery

| Parish | Church | Saint | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Polgahawela | Udapola | St. Joseph | 01.05.2024 |
| Hiripitiya | Galweheragama | St. Joseph | 05.05.2024 |
| Maho | Nagollagama | St. Joseph | 19.05.2024 |
| Millawa | Hadurukkanda | Our Lady of Lourdes | 12.05.2024 |
| Galgamuwa | Peella | Our Lady of Lourdes | 12.05.2024 |
| Dambadeniya | Metiyagane | St. Philip Neri | 26.05.2024 |
| Kurunegala | Kurunegala | May Feast | 02.06.2024 |

## Vocation Camp - St. Joseph Vaz Minor Seminary, Millawa








## Presentation of the First Copy of Liturgy Guidelines Book to His Lordship







## Awarding Ceremony of National Bible Quiz Competition -2023








## Retreat for the Members of DPC






## Opening of "Divine Crust"

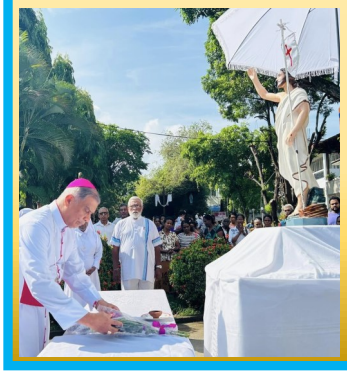




# 05th Year Remembrance of Easter Sunday Attack











## Birthdays of Rev. Fathers

05th of May - Rev. Fr. Anil Marcus Wanigasekara
06th of May - Rev. Fr. Gerard Jayawardana
07th of May - Rev. Fr. Viyan Rajith (Don Bosco)
09th of May - Rev. Fr. Ruchira Nuwan
10th of May - Rev. Fr. Michael Costa
11th of May - Rev. Fr. Linus Mcleod
24th of May - Rev. Fr. Lakshan Malina Perera
29th of May - Rev. Fr. Alex Janaka Fernando
30th of May - Rev. Fr. Baylon Perera (SJ)

## Ordination Anniversary

25th of May - Rev. Fr. Lesley Anthony

## Birthdays of Rev. Sisters and Brothers

02nd of May - Rev. Sr. Nilushika Fernando (Good Shepherd Sisters - Dummalasuriya)
03rd of May - Rev. Sr. Nishali Kurera (Holy Family Sisters - Malkaduwawa)
03rd of May - Rev. Sr. Mary Sebastian (Holy Angels Sisters - Kuliyapitiya)
05th of May - Rev. Sr. Oshani Fernando (Sisters of Cross of Chavanod - Bingiriya)
15th of May - Rev. Sr. Patricia (Salvatorian Sisters - Care Home - Bamunawala)
24th of May - Rev. Sr. Mary Margaret (Holy Angels Sisters - Kuliyapitiya)

## Death Anniversary

01st of May - Rev. Fr. Norbert Fernando
06th of May - Rev. Fr. Marshal Fernando

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