FRATERNITY



Catholic Diocese of Kurunegala

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"October: the Month Of the Holy Rosary"

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DPC Special Meeting



A special meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council was held on 07th September 2024 at Holy Angels Girls College—Kuliyapitiya. His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala headed the meeting. Very Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka Fernando, the Vicar General also participated in the meeting. Very Rev. Fr. Nihal Obris, the Episcopal Vicar and the Co-ordinator of all apostolates and his team organized the event. The main objective of the meeting was to invite the lay leaders to make a public statement regarding the responsibility at the presidential election.

Annual Feast of the Minor Seminary



The Annual Feast and the Parents' Day of St. Joseph Vaz Minor Seminary, Millawa were celebrated on 14th September 2024. His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala was the Chief Guest at the celebration. After celebrating the Festive Mass, the variety entertainment programme was staged. Mr. D. C. H. Jayasinghe, a member of the Minor Seminary staff for more than 25 years was felicitated by His Lordship appreciating his dedicated services to the Minor Seminary and the Diocese as well. Very Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka, the Vicar General, Very Rev. Fr. Nihal Obris, the Episcopal Vicar and many other Priests, Brothers and Sisters took part at the feast. Under the directions of Very Rev. Fr. Austin Marcus Fernando, the Rector, Rev. Fr. Kapila Manjula Jayasekara, the Vice Rector and Bursar organized the event meaningfully.

Annual Feast of Our Lady of Good Health, Polgahagara



Annual Feast of the church of Our Lady of Good Health, Polgahagara was celebrated on 15th September 2024. His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, presided over the Festive High Mass concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, the Secretary to the Bishop. Also His Lordship blessed the newly fixed Crucifix above the Altar. Rev. Fr. Ananda Weerakoon the Parish Priest of Dunakadeniya and the church Pastoral council of Polgahagara had made all the arrangements for a meaningful celebration.

Silver Jubilee of Priesthood



Rev. Fr. Ajith Rohan Fernando, Parish Priest of Solewewa, Rev. Fr. Bruno Gamini, Parish Priest of Daraluwa and Rev. Fr. Upul Silva, Parish Priest of Wellawa celebrated their Silver Jubilee Mass of the Priestly Ordination with the presbyterium on 16th September 2024 at the Chapel of Bl. Carlo Acutis, PFIFC, Dikkele. Based on the special call of Priesthood Rev. Fr. Milroy Francis, Parish Priest of Thalawa delivered the homily during the Eucharist His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, appreciated their priestly ministry throughout the past twenty five years in the Vineyard of the Lord.

Blessing of the Newly Built Pre-School at Irabadagama



His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala blessed and declared open the newly built St. Joseph's Pre-School of Providence Sisters on 28th September 2024. Mr. Felix Fernando, CEO of Omega Line Ltd who financially helped this project was the Guest of Honor of the opening ceremony. The opening ceremony and the blessing was organized by the Rev. Sisters of Providence at Irabadagama.

Annual Feast of Michael the Archangel at Nalawalana



His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala presided over the Festive Mass of the church of Michael the Archangel, Nalawalana on 29th September 2024. Very Rev. Fr. Nihal Obris, the Parish Priest of Nalawalana Rev. Fr. Damitha Madushanka, Rev. Sisters of the Association of the Divine Mercy and the Parish Pastoral Council organized the feast meaningfully.





My dear Fathers, Sisters & Brothers,

Holy Father invites us during this month of October to pray for a shared mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Lord. The commitment of the Church is always to interpret the signs of the times in the light of the Good News and embark on a missionary journey through participation and communion. This invitation is for a Synodal Church. The second session of the Synod on Synodality will be in the month of October and let us pray for a successful outcome.

The month of October highlights the devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus. She can be called the Icon of the Synodal Church. Mary, the mother of the Church accompanies the pilgrim Church, as she accompanied her Son Jesus in His mission to redeem the world.

This is the month of the Holy Rosary. Many of our faithful have neglected praying the rosary daily as a family unit due to the beehive of activities in this consumeristic society. It is our responsibility to catechize them once again about the need to the pray as a family in order to keep the domestic Church together. The family that prays together stays together.

The World Mission Sunday this year will be on Sunday, 20 October and it carries the theme “Go and Invite Everyone to The Banquet”. This is the final destination of every christian to enjoy the eternal banquet of God. While inviting the faithful to pray for the missionaries in the world, request them to contribute generously to the solidarity fund. It is in giving that we receive. All collections to be handed over to the Diocesan Director of the Missionary Activity at your earliest.

The year 2025 celebrates the Jubilee of the Birth of Jesus, God becoming man. The Catholic National Commission for Missionary Activity will guide us with the programs for 2025 in accordance with the intentions of the Holy Father. Once we receive, let us meet in the month of November to plan out the programs for the year 2025. The date will be informed soon.

All of us prayed for a peaceful Presidential Election. Once again, we need to pray for a peaceful General Election. There will be a high competition due to the preferential system. Kindly encourage the people to cast their vote without fail as it is a sacred duty of every loyal citizen to send the honest representatives, who commit themselves to build the country.

We were compelled to anticipate the dates of the annual retreat due to the General Election on 14 November 2024. I have already communicated to you about this change. What man proposes God disposes. Let us take a time out from all our other activities, and have a deep encounter with the Lord who has called us to be with Him, through the accompaniment of the preacher in order to guide our faithful according to the teachings of Jesus, our Lord and Master.

I am much thankful to the members of the Diocesan Laity Council for taking the leadership to issue a statement prior to the recently concluded Presidential election.

Rev. Fr. Pushpamal Fernando returned to the diocese after completing his studies in Rome. He has obtained Licentiate in Sacred Theology, specialization in Matrimony and Family from the Pontifical Institute of John Paul II in the Lateran University, Rome. He received a special award as third in the batch top for the year 2023/2024. We congratulate him for the successful completion of his post graduate studies.

The National Seminary began the academic year 2024/2025 and three of our diocesan students were promoted to the National Seminary, Ampitiya and while two others were promoted to the Intermediate Seminary, Kaluthara. Let us accompany them in our prayers.

Since we are having the Annual Retreat during this month of October, there will be no monthly Adoration and the presbyteral meeting. The College of Consulters meeting will be held on Monday, 07 October 2024 at 10.30 a.m. in the Bishop’s House.

Thank you and may God bless you!

+ Harold Perera

+ Harold Anthony Perera,
Catholic Bishop of Kurunegala

CATHOLIC BISHOP OF KURUNEGALA
SRI LANKA



FROM THE MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2024

20 October 2024

Go and invite everyone to the banquet (cf. *Mt* 22:9)



Dear brothers and sisters!
The theme I have chosen for this year's World Mission Day is taken from the Gospel parable of the wedding banquet (cf. *Mt* 22:1-14). After the guests refused his invitation, the king, the main character in the story, tells his servants: "Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find" (v. 9). Reflecting on this key passage in the context of the parable and of Jesus' own life, we can discern several important aspects of evangelization. These appear particularly timely for all of us, as missionary disciples of Christ, during this final stage of the synodal journey that, in the words of its motto, "*Communion, Participation, Mission*", seeks to refocus the Church on her primary task, which is the preaching of the Gospel in today's world.

1.*"Go and invite!" Mission as a tireless going out to invite others to the Lord's banquet*

In the king's command to his servants we find two words that express the heart of the mission: the verbs "to go out" and "to invite".

As for the first, we need to remember that the servants had previously been sent to deliver the king's invitation to the guests (cf. vv. 3-4). Mission, we see, is a tireless going out to all men and women, in order to invite them to encounter God and enter into communion with him. Tireless! God, great in love and rich in mercy, constantly sets out to encounter all men and women, and to call them to the happiness of his kingdom, even in the face of their indifference or refusal. Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd and messenger of the Father, went out in search of the lost sheep of the people of Israel and desired to go even further, in order to reach even the most distant sheep (cf. *Jn* 10:16). Both before and after his resurrection, he told his disciples, "Go!", thus involving them in his own mission (cf. *Lk* 10:3; *Mk* 16:15). The Church, for her part, in fidelity to the mission she has received from the Lord, will continue to go to the ends of the earth, to set out over and over again, without ever growing weary or losing heart in the face of difficulties and obstacles.

I take this opportunity to thank all those missionaries who, in response to Christ's call, have left everything behind to go far from their homeland and bring the Good News to places where people have not yet received it, or received it only recently. Let us not forget that every Christian is called to take part in this universal mission by offering his or her own witness to the Gospel in every context, so that the whole Church can continually go forth with her Lord and Master to the "crossroads" of today's world. "Today's drama in the Church is that Jesus keeps knocking on the door, but from within, so that we will let him out! Often we end up being an 'imprisoning' Church which does not let the Lord out, which keeps him as 'its own', whereas the Lord came for mission and wants us to be missionaries" (*Address to Participants in the Conference organized by the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life*, 18 February 2023). May all of us, the baptized, be ready to set out anew, each according to our state in life, to inaugurate a new missionary movement, as at the dawn of Christianity!

To return to the king's command in the parable, the servants are told not only to "*go*", but also to *"invite"*: "Come to the wedding!" (*Mt* 22:4). Here we can see another, no less important, aspect of the mission entrusted by God. As we can imagine, the servants conveyed the king's invitation with urgency but also with great respect and kindness. In the same way, the mission of bringing the Gospel to every creature must necessarily imitate the same "style" of the One who is being preached.

2. *"To the marriage feast". The eschatological and Eucharistic dimension of the mission of Christ and the Church.*

In the parable, the king asks the servants to bring the invitation to his son's wedding banquet. That banquet is a reflection of the eschatological banquet. It is an image of ultimate salvation in the Kingdom of God, fulfilled even now by the coming of Jesus, the Messiah and Son of God, who has given us life in abundance (cf. *Jn* 10:10), symbolized by the table set with succulent food and with fine wines, when God will destroy death forever (cf. *Is* 25:6-8).

Christ's mission has to do with the fullness of time, as he declared at the beginning of his preaching: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand" (*Mk* 1:15). Christ's disciples are called to continue this mission of their Lord and Master. Here we think of the teaching of the Second Vatican Council on the eschatological character of the Church's missionary outreach: "The time for missionary activity extends between the first coming of the Lord and the second…, for the Gospel must be preached to all nations before the Lord shall come (cf. *Mk* 13:10)" (*Ad Gentes,* 9).

We know that among the first Christians missionary zeal had a powerful eschatological dimension. The fullness of life, which is Christ's gift, is anticipated even now in the banquet of the Eucharist, which the Church celebrates at the Lord's command in memory of him. The invitation to the eschatological banquet that we bring to everyone in our mission of evangelization is intrinsically linked to the invitation to the Eucharistic table, where the Lord feeds us with his word and



with his Body and Blood. As Benedict XVI taught: "Every Eucharistic celebration sacramentally accomplishes the eschatological gathering of the People of God. For us, the Eucharistic banquet is a real foretaste of the final banquet foretold by the prophets (cf. *Is* 25:6-9) and described by the New Testament as 'the marriage-feast of the Lamb' (*Rev* 19:9), to be celebrated in the joy of the communion of the saints" (*Sacramentum Caritatis*, 31).

Consequently, all of us are called to experience more intensely every Eucharist, in all its dimensions, and particularly its eschatological and missionary dimensions. In this regard, I would reiterate that "we cannot approach the Eucharistic table without being drawn into the mission which, beginning in the very heart of God, is meant to reach all people" (ibid., 84). The Eucharistic renewal that many local Churches are laudably promoting in the post-Covid era will also be essential for reviving the missionary spirit in each member of the faithful. With how much greater faith and heartfelt enthusiasm should we recite at every Mass: "We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again"!

In this year devoted to prayer in preparation for the Jubilee of 2025, I wish to encourage all to deepen their commitment above all to take part in the celebration of Mass and to pray for the Church's mission of evangelization. In obedience to the Saviour's command, she does not cease to pray, at every Eucharistic and liturgical celebration, the "Our Father", with its petition, "Thy kingdom come". In this way, daily prayer and the Eucharist in particular make us pilgrims and missionaries of hope, journeying towards everlasting life in God, towards the nuptial banquet that God has prepared for all his children.

3. *"Everyone". The universal mission of Christ's disciples in the fully synodal and missionary Church*

The third and last reflection concerns the recipients of the King's invitation: "everyone". As I emphasized, "This is the heart of mission: that 'all', excluding no one. Every mission of ours, then, is born from the heart of Christ in order that he may draw all to himself" (*Address to the General Assembly of the Pontifical Missionary Societies*, 3 June 2023). Today, in a world torn apart by divisions and conflicts, Christ's Gospel remains the gentle yet firm voice that calls individuals to encounter one another, to recognize that they are brothers and sisters, and to rejoice in harmony amid diversity. "God our Saviour desires everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (*1 Tim* 2:4). Let us never forget, then, that in our missionary activities we are asked to preach the Gospel to all: "Instead of seeming to impose new obligations, [we] should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 14).

Christ's missionary disciples have always had a heartfelt concern for all persons, whatever their social or even moral status. The parable of the banquet tells us that, at the king's orders, the servants gathered "all whom they found, both good and bad" (*Mt* 22:10). What is more, "the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame" (*Lk* 14:21), in a word, the least of our brothers and sisters, those marginalized by society, are the special guests of the king. The wedding feast of his Son that God has prepared remains always open to all, since his love for each of us is immense and unconditional. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that *everyone* who believes in him may not perish but may have life eternal" (*Jn* 3:16). Everyone, every man and every woman, is invited by God to partake of his grace, which transforms and saves. One need simply say "yes" to this gratuitous divine gift, accepting it and allowing oneself be transformed by it, putting it on like a "wedding robe" (cf. *Mt* 22:12).

The mission *for* all requires the commitment *of* all. We need to continue our journey towards a fully synodal and missionary Church in the service of the Gospel. Synodality is essentially missionary and, vice versa, mission is always synodal. Consequently, close missionary cooperation is today all the more urgent and necessary, both in the universal Church and in the particular Churches. In the footsteps of the Second Vatican Council and my Predecessors, I recommend to all dioceses throughout the world the service of the Pontifical Mission Societies. They represent the primary means "by which Catholics are imbued from infancy with a truly universal and missionary outlook and [are] also a means for instituting an effective collecting of funds for all the missions, each according to its needs" (*Ad Gentes*, 38). For this reason, the collections of World Mission Day in all the local Churches are entirely destined to the universal fund of solidarity that the Pontifical Society of the Propagation of the Faith then distributes in the Pope's name for the needs of all the Church's missions. Let us pray that the Lord may guide us and help us to be a more synodal and a more missionary Church (cf. *Homily for the Concluding Mass of the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops*, 29 October 2023).

Finally, let us lift our gaze to Mary, who asked Jesus to perform his first miracle precisely at a wedding feast, in Cana of Galilee (cf. *Jn* 2:1-12). The Lord offered to the newlyweds and all the guests an abundance of new wine, as a foreshadowing of the nuptial banquet that God is preparing for all at the end of time. Let us implore her maternal intercession for the evangelizing mission of Christ's disciples in our own time. With the joy and loving concern of our Mother, with the strength born of tenderness and affection (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 288), let us go forth to bring to everyone the invitation of the King, our Saviour. Holy Mary, Star of Evangelization, pray for us!

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 January 2024, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul
FRANCIS



Bulletin Announcements - October

October—05
Head Catechists' Meeting - Bulupitiya Centre

October—13
National Laity Sunday

October—17
Day of Prayer—Kurunegala Youth

October—20
World Mission Sunday

October—21 & 26
Annual retreat

Anecdotes and Scripture Notes for All Occasions

THE OTHER SIDE – *Value of Life*

The famous book *The Other Side of the Mountain* by E. G. Valens, which was later made into a movie, told the story of a young woman, a champion skier, who had an accident that paralyzed her. What she had valued most in her life was her ability to be a champion skier, but she had not thought much about the value of her life. The unfortunate accident taught her that life has value only if you first appreciate it in yourself. Though never able to walk again, a rebirth of self-took place when she began to place a high value on her person and also taught others to value themselves.

Reflection



Value for the human person is measured not by what we do but by who we are. It is the realization that the flesh-and-blood person is not somehow less human or less deserving of dignity because of a disability. This realization does not always come easily. Sometimes it takes a dramatic life-changing event to help a person come to this truth. It was that way with the young champion skier who in losing her life, as she saw it, gained it in a way she could never have imagined.

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

Church Feasts in the month of October

Kuliyapitiya Deanery

Parish	*Church*	*Saint*	*Date*
Kuliyapitiya	Ilukhena	St. Therese	06.10.2024
Thalgahapitiya	Hirigolla	Our Lady of Holy Rosary	06.10.2024
Hiripokuna	Kirindegama	St. Francis of Assisi	06.10.2024
Walpitagama	Walpitagama	Our Lady of Holy Rosary	13.10.2024
Thambakanda	Thambakanda	St. Bruno	20.10.2024
Daraluwa	Daraluwa	Raphael the Archangel	27.10.2024

Kurunegala Deanery

Parish	*Church*	*Saint*	*Date*
Hiripitiya	Thambagalla	Our Lady of Holy Rosary	06.10.2024
Nikaweratiya	Kadigawa	Our Lady of Holy Rosary	06.10.2024
Malkaduwawa	Malkaduwawa	Our Lady of Fatima	06.10.2024
Wellawa	Hegawa	St. Jude Thaddeus	20.10.2024
Hiripitiya	Galewewa	St. Jude Thaddeus	27.10.2024
Mawathagama	Ambakote	St. Joseph	27.10.2024



Bishop Raymond Peiris' 07th Death Anniversary – 29.09.2024



Annual Feast of St. Joseph Vaz Minor Seminary Millawa – Kurunegala 14.09.2024



Silver Jubilee Celebration



Congratulations!

Rev. Fr. Chamika Pushpamal Fernando

Obtained Licentiate in Sacred Theology, specialization in Matrimony and Family from the Pontifical Institute of John Paul II in the Lateran University, Rome.
Special award as the third in the batch top for the year 2023/2024.



Annual Pilgrimage – Sacred Heart Confraternity








Birthdays In The Month Of October

Birthdays - Rev. Fathers

03rd of October –	Rev. Fr. Neil Chrishantha Dabarera
03rd of October –	Rev. Fr. Sanjaya Pradeep
05th of October –	Rev. Fr. Placidus de Silva
12th of October –	Rev. Fr. Milroy Francis
13th of October –	Rev. Fr. Patrick Rathugama
18th of October –	Rev. Fr. Maria Arul (CMF)
20th of October –	Rev. Fr. Bruno Gamini
24th of October –	Rev. Fr. Ajith Rohan Fernando
24th of October –	Rev. Fr. George Dixon
29th of October –	Rev. Fr. Christy Leonard
30th of October –	Rev. Fr. Manjula Piryantha (Don Bosco—Matiyagane)

Birthdays - Rev. Sisters and Brothers

07th of October -	Rev. Sr. Felix Fernando (Sisters of Divine Saviour - Bamunawala)
09th of October -	Rev. Sr. Suganthi (Sisters of Divine Saviouir - Bamunawala)
19th of October -	Rev. Sr. Janette Rajasekara (Sisters of Apostolic Carmel - Polgahawela)
20th of October -	Rev. Sr. Christopher (Sisters of Holy Angels - Mawathagama)
23rd of October -	Rev. Bro. Chrishan Lahiru (National Seminary - Ampitiya)
24th of October –	Rev. Sr. Benadicta (Sisters of Mary Immaculate - Mawathagama)
24th of October-	Rev. Sr. Princy (Sisters of Mary Immaculate - Mawathagama)
28th of October -	Rev. Sr. Leonard (Holy Angles' - Kuliyapitiya)

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