FRATERNITY

Catholic Diocese of Kurunegala

Roman Catholic Diocese of Kurune- Volume 27 Issue 09 September 2024



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

25 ANNIVERSARY

Of Priesthood



Rev. Fr. Ajith Fernando



Rev. Fr. Bruno Gamini



Rev. Fr. Upul Silva

11.09.1999 - 11.09.2024

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- Confirmation at Thisogama
- Monthly Recollection and Presbyteral Meeting - August
- Badge Ceremony - Holly Childhood Society
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- Retreat for Families at Kuliyapitiya Deanery
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Annual Feast at Koswatta



His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, blessed the newly built statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the High Altar and presided over the Solemn Festive Mass of the feast of St. John Bosco at Koswatta on 04 August 2024. Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, the Secretary to the Bishop, also took part at the feast. Rev. Fr. Patrick Jayakody, the Parish Priest of Hettipola, and the church Pastoral Council of Koswatta had organized the feast meaningfully.

Confirmation at Thisogama



Twenty - eight candidates from the parish of Thisogama received the Sacrament of Confirmation from His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala at St. Sebastian's church, Thisogama on 10 August 2024. Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, the Secretary to the Bishop also joined the Mass. Rev. Fr. Rohan Fernando, Parish Priest, and the Parish Pastoral Council together with the Staff of Sunday School organized the day's proceedings meaningfully.

Monthly Recollection and Presbyteral Meeting - August



The Monthly Recollection and the Presbyteral Meeting for the month of August were held on 12 August 2024 at the Bishop's House, Kurunegala. Rev. Fr. Linton Perera, the Parish Priest of Kadawalagedara delivered the day's reflection during the Eucharistic Adoration.

Badge Ceremony - Holly Childhood Society



The Badge Ceremony for the members of Holy Childhood Societies in the Kuliyapitiya deanery was held at St. Joseph's church at Kuliyapitiya on 17 August 2024. His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, presided over the Holy Eucharist. Rev. Fr. Lakshan Malina Perera and Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan also joined the celebration. Rev. Fr. Placidus De Silva, the Diocesan Director for PMS, together with the Diocesan Committee had organized the event.

Annual Feast at Bakmeegolla



His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala presided over the Festive High Mass of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Bakmeegolla on 18 August 2024. Very Rev. Fr. Prasantha Amarasekera, the Parish Priest and the church Pastoral Council had organized the feast meaningfully. Rev. Fr. Himishka Roshan, Secretary to the Bishop concelebrated at Eucharist.

Retreat for Families at Kuliyapitiya Deanery



His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala, participated in the inaugural session of the retreat for the families in the Kuliyapitiya deanery held on 19 August 2024 at "*Sathpahana",* Kuliyapitiya. Rev. Fr. Gihan Gunathilake, the National Director for Family Apostolate and his team conducted the programme. Rev. Fr. Rufus Thalis, the Diocesan Director for the Family Apostolate and the diocesan Committee had organized the day's proceeding.

Annual Feast of St. Anne at Kattimahana



The Annual Feast of St. Anne's National Shrine, Kattimahana was celebrated on 24th and 25th August 2024. His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Wimal Siri Jayasooriya, the Bishop of Chilaw officiated at the Solemn Vespers. The Festive High Mass was celebrated by His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, the Bishop of Kurunegala. The traditional bullock carts festival was on 26 August. Very Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka Fernando, the Vicar General and the priests, religious and pilgrims participated in the feast. Rev. Fr. Sidney Liyanage, the Administrator and the festival committee tirelessly worked for a meaningful celebration.





My dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers

In the month of September, the feast of the exaltation of the Cross will be celebrated. This is the day the Church celebrates the finding of the true Cross by St. Helena and honour the Cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. The Cross is the sign of the victory over sin. Jesus said that if anyone wants to follow Him, to deny oneself and take up the cross. It is the path of the Christian life. Therefore, the Cross must not be considered as a burden, but a path to sainthood.

Most of our programs have to be postponed due to the Presidential election in September. It is the date that we elect the Head of our country. We are not aligned to any political party, but we need to encourage the faithful to vote to the rightperson, who could realize the aspirations of our people for a just society and the freedom of proclamation and worship. Let us pray for a just and fair election sans violence, in particular after the announcements of the results.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka will also issue a statement on the forthcoming Presidential election. I appreciate very much, if this be read on Sunday during the time of announcements.

The feast of St. Anne at the Kattimahana shrine was celebrated and we thank Rev. Fr. Sidney Liyanage, the Administrator and all those Priests, Brothers, Sisters and lay faithful who committed themselves for a successful completion of the feast.

Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of the Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Ponniah, the Bishop of Batticaloa and appointed the Most Rev. Dr. P. Anton Ranjith, the Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Batticaloa. While thanking Bishop Joseph for his episcopal ministry, we extend our prayerful wishes to the new Apostolic Administrator.

The Brothers of the National Seminary will be in some of the parishes for the pastoral exposure from 01st - 20th September. This is a good opportunity for them to visit the Small Christian Communities in your parish.

On the invitation of the Dicastery for Evangelization, I am leaving for Rome on 27th August and return on 02nd September. During my absence, Vary Rev. Fr. Piyal Janaka Fernando, the Vicar General will be the Administrator of the diocese. My prayers are assured for you at the tomb of St. Peter, the Apostle.

Thank you and may God bless you!

+ Harold Perera

CATHOLIC BISHOP OF KURUNEGALA SRI LANKA

+ Harold Anthony Perera,
Catholic Bishop of Kurunegala



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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2024

STATEMENT OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE IN SRI LANKA

We the members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference in Sri Lanka wish to address the Catholic faithful and all peace-loving and patriotic citizens of Sri Lanka prior to the forthcoming Presidential Elections to be held on 21st September 2024 when the Sri Lankan voters' maturity and genuine concern for the Nation will be put to the test.

In the first instance, it is our contention that the country needs a leader who safeguards the independence of the three pillars of democracy in our country, namely, the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. Indeed, we have seen how attempts have been made to interfere in the freedom of the Judiciary by the powers that be. Thus, it is important that the valued vote is to be used judiciously to change the political culture that has been protecting corrupt individuals and promoting others.

The voter must display the desire to see that justice is meted out to the citizens after proper investigations into the robbery of the country's assets, the politically motivated abductions, disappearances and killings of persons, the crimes committed during the protracted war in the North and East, the civil-unrest in the South and the senseless massacre that took place on Easter Sunday 2019 with a most horrendous bomb attack. All those culpable must be found and dealt with according to the laws of the country and no one should be allowed to interfere in the process of seeking justice for the 274 victims killed and the 500 or so persons injured, some very seriously.

Prevention of waste and mismanagement of human, natural and material resources in the overall development of the country ought to be a concern of the voter. It is important to ensure that meritocracy, a characteristic of democracy, is practiced in governance. The widening gap between the rich and the poor needs to be addressed and remedied. The Church teaches that ***"the State is the steward of the people's resources which it must administer with a view to the common good."*** (Pope John Paul II, Message for the 1998 World Day of Peace, No. 5). The privatization of profit-making ventures must not be seen as the only solution to the economic problems in the country.

The necessity to change the political culture that drives people to crave for positions of power and authority for their selfish interests and agendas at the expense of people's welfare and development of the country needs to be emphasized. The Sri Lankan Nation needs a wise and courageous leader to make the long awaited system-change to eradicate corruption and its related ills.

The candidates for the Presidential election are solicited to desist from deceiving the voter by offering allurements, favours and making false promises, and to check on the organizers and supporters of their campaigns in this regard. Those who violate election laws cannot be trusted to govern the country with integrity and justice.

We call on all registered voters to cast their vote to elect the leader who would govern the country according to the democratic and moral principles based on the values of the four main religions in the Island, respecting also the cultural ethos of the people.

As religious leaders, we invite the candidates vying for the Presidency to find inspiration in the sacred axiom of Jesus: "***not to be served but to serve"*** (Mk.10:45). It is an invitation to put power into practice as service.

We kindly appeal to all concerned to conduct a free and fair Presidential election and thereafter work towards a united Sri Lanka as we invoke God's blessings upon our beloved motherland.

We call upon our dear faithful to pray intensely for the Nation and its well-being and for the wisdom needed for all our citizens to choose wisely, Sri Lanka's next leader.

May God bless Sri Lanka!

+ Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera
Bishop of Kurunegala
The President
Catholic Bishops' Conference in Sri Lanka

+ Rt. Rev. Dr. J. D. Anthony
Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo
The Secretary General
Catholic Bishops' Conference in Sri Lanka

26/08/2024



ANECDOTES & SCRIPTURE NOTES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

SIMON OF CYRENE – *Cross, Discipleship*

Legend has it that Simon of Cyrene, a stranger who was forced to help Jesus carry his cross (Mark 15: 21), became a follower of Christ, then a bishop in the early Church, and eventually a saint. We are told that he suffered martyrdom for his faith. Of course, we can't be sure of that, but we do know that his two sons, Alexander and Rufus, became Christians, because Saint Mark mentions them by name in his gospel. How proud they must have been to know that their father actually carried the cross of Jesus. How singularly blessed his sons must have felt that their father actually walked in the Master's footsteps, the dream of every true disciple.

REFLECTION



Simon, who actually walked the way of the cross, sets an example for us to follow. As disciples of Christ, we too must carry the cross. It could be illness, loss of a loved one, poverty, injustice, or misunderstanding. For parents, it might be the non-Christian lifestyle of their children, such as marriages outside the Church, or addiction to drugs or alcohol. For the disciple of Christ, it is not just a matter of enduring these crosses, but carrying them for the atonement of one's sins of others. That is why Saint Paul states in his letter to the Philippians, "For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well" (1:29).

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

Bulletin Announcements in the month of September.

September 07
Diocesan Pastoral Council – Kuliyapitiya

September 09
Monthly Recollection & Presbyteral Meeting

September 10
Praesidium Ceremony – Legion of Mary

September 14
St. Joseph Vaz Minor Seminary Feast – Millawa

September 15
National Youth Sunday

September 16
Day of Prayer – Kuliyapitiya Youth

September 22
National Catechetical Sunday

September 28
Diocesan SSVP Rally – "Sathpahana' – Kuliyapitiya

Church Feasts in the month of September.

Kuliyapitiya Deanery

Parish	*Church*	*Saint*	*Date*
Pannala	Bammanna	Holy Cross	08.09.2024
Katupotha	Katupotha	Our Lady of Refuge	08.09.2024
Dunakadeniya	Polgahagara	Our Lady of Good Health	15.09.2024
Ududdawa	Ududdawa	St. John of Arc	29.09.2024
Nalawalana	Nalawalana	Michael the Archangel	29.09.2024

Kurunegala Deanery

Parish	*Church*	*Saint*	*Date*
Maho	Polpithigama	Queen of Peace	08.09.2024
Dambadeniya	Dambadeniya	Queen of the Apostles	08.09.2024
Millawa	St. Joseph Vaz Minor Seminary		14.09.2024
Galgamuwa	Moragollagama	Our Lady of Sorrows	15.09.2024
Mawathagama	Mawathagama	Our Lady of Sorrows	15.09.2024
Malpitiya	Kohilegedara	Michael the Archangel	22.09.2024
Galgamuwa	Ambanpola	Michael the Archangel	29.09.2024



Silver Jubilee of Priesthood.

Our Prayerful wishes....
Bishop and the Presbyterium of Kurunegala



Rev. Fr. Ajith Rohan Fernando: Born on 24th October 1970 to (late) Mr. Anthony Lawrence Fernando and (late) Mrs. K.L. Mary Agnes Perera in Hettipola, Rev. Fr. Ajith Rohan Fernando is the third of a family of four. He received his primary and secondary education from Tekeewa Primary School and Gamini Vidyalaya at Koswatta, St. Xavier's College, Marawila and St. Anne's College, Kurunegala. Late Rev. Fr. Peter Fernando is his vocation director and he joined St. Paul's Minor Seminary, Marawila in 1986 and later entered the newly established Diocesan Minor Seminary of Kurunegala, St. Joseph Vaz Seminary in 1987. Then, he completed his priestly formation at the National Seminary of Our Lady of Lanka, Ampitiya form 1992-1998. On 11th September 1999 the Most Rev. Dr. Raymond Peiris, the First Bishop of Kurunegala ordained him a priest at St. Anne's Cathedral, Kurunegala. He was the Assistant Parish Priest of Hiripokuna, Kuliyapitiya and the Acting Parish Priest of Kadawalagedara. Then he went for higher studies in Social Studies in Asian Social Institute, Manila and in 2002 he was appointed as the Director of "Janasetha" Sedec, Kurunegala and continued his duties there till 2012. From 2012, he is serving as the Parish Priest of Solewewa and continuing his social projects such as Drinking Water Project of preventing Kidney Diseases, Monitoring a Dental Unit in Solwewa hospital, a Milk Factory, a school for the disabled children and a preschool. In his native church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Hettipola, he will celebrate his 25th Anniversary of the Priesthood on11th September 2024 at 10.30 a.m.



Rev. Fr. Bruno Gamini Kumar was born of (late) Mr. K.H.A. Joseph Edward and (late) Mrs. A.L. Mabel Therese on 20th October 1971 in Irabadagama, Sandalankawa. And he is the Second of a family of four. He received his primary and secondary education from Roman Catholic School, Irabadagama, Government School at Hendiyagala and St. Anne's College, Kurunegala. Then he entered St. Joseph Vaz Minor Seminary, Millawa, Kurunegala in 1988. And his vocation director is Rev. Fr. Anthony Tissera. From 1992 to 1999, he continued his priestly formation at the National Seminary of Our Lady of Lanka, Ampitiya. He was ordained a priest by His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Raymond Peiris, the First Bishop of Kurunegala on 11th September 1999 at St. Anne's Cathedral, Kurunegala. As an Assistant Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Bruno has served in Melsiripura, Kurunegala and Kuliyapitiya. Then, He was the Parish Priest of Mandakondana, Udubaddawa, Dummalasuriya and at present Daraluwa. Similarly he has continued his teaching apostolate in St. Joseph's College, Kuliyapitiya, St. John of Arc School, Udubaddawa and St. Anne's School, Kattimahana. Also he has been the Chaplain for the University students for five years.



Rev. Fr. Upul Silva was born on 11th August 1972 at Hiripitiya and his parents are (late) Mr. Everil Silva and (late) Mrs. Philomina Silva. He is the youngest of a family of three. He received his primary and secondary education from St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa and St. Anne's College, Kurunegala. Rev. Fr. Austin Marcus Fernando is his vocation director and he entered St. Joseph Vaz Minor Seminary, Millawa, Kurunegala on 24th August 1989. He completed his formative years at "Daham Sevana" - Kaluthara and the National Seminary of Our Lady of Lanka from 1992 - 1999. Then, He was ordained a priest by His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Raymond Peiris, the First Bishop of Kurunegala on 11th September 1999 at St. Anne's Cathedral, Kurunegala. As the Assistant Parish Priest, he has served in Kattimahana, and Kadawalagedara and then he obtained Licentiate in Sacred Scripture from Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome. He was appointed as the Director of Dewa Darma Nikethanaya (Lay Theologate) and later served as the Diocesan Director of Pontifical Mission Societies, Pubuduwa, Bible Apostolate and the Minor Seminary Rector. Also, Fr. Upul rendered his services as the Parish Priest of Udubaddawa, Thissogama and at present in Wellawa.

Rev. Fr. Ajith Fernando, Rev. Fr. Bruno Gamini and Rev. Fr. Upul Silva will celebrate their Jubilee Mass with the presbyteral family on 30th September at 10.00a.m. at Bl. Carlo Acutis Chapel of Pope Francis Integral Formation Centre, Dikkele.

Annual Feast of St. Anne's National Shrine - Kattimahana
















Retreat for the Members of the Legion of Mary





Badge Ceremony - Holy Childhood Society












Retreat for the Members of the Diocesan Committee of Communication Apostolate








May His Lordship Rest in Peace!

7th Death Anniversary

29-09-2024

Most Rev. Dr. Raymond Peiris

First Bishop of Kurunegala



Birthday	: 9th August 1932
Sacerdotal Ordination	: 20th December 1958
Episcopal Ordination	: 18th July 1987

Birthdays - Rev. Fathers

05th of September -	Rev. Fr. Jamika Sumedha Perera
11th of September -	Rev. Fr. Sudath Tissera
15th of September -	Rev. Fr. Jerome Perera
16th of September -	Rev. Fr. Jude Dassanayake
18th of September -	Rev. Fr. Terence Kannangara
21st of September -	Rev. Fr. Gomi Divakara Fernando
24th of September -	Rev. Fr. Gerald V. Fernando

Ordination Anniversaries

01st of September -	Rev. Fr. Chandana Happuarachchi
03rd of September -	Rev. Fr. Anthony Christy Kumara
03rd of September -	Rev. Fr. Patrick Rathugama
06th of September -	Rev. Fr. Rohan W. Fernando
07th of September -	Rev. Fr. Sidney R. Liyanage
07th of September -	Rev. Fr. Placidus de Silva
09th of September -	Rev. Fr. Milroy Francis
09th of September -	Very Rev. Fr. Nalin Fernando
11th of September -	Rev. Fr. Ajith Rohan Fernando
11th of September -	Rev. Fr. Bruno Gamini
11th of September -	Rev. Fr. Upul Silva

Birthdays - Rev. Sisters and Brothers

02nd of September -	Rev. Sr. W.N. Hashani (Divine Saviour—Bamunawala)
05th of September -	Rev. Sr. Malani Gunathilake (Prepetual Help—Kadawalagedara)
08th of September -	Rev. Bro. Roshan Dias (De La Salle Brothers—Kurunegala)
11th of September -	Rev. Sr. Clarice Fernandopulle (Sisters of Providence—Irabadagama)
14th of September -	Rev. St. M. Loraine (Apostolic Carmel–Plogahawela)
17th of September -	Rev. Sr. Nadeeka (Dominican Sisters of Molta–Melsiripura)
20th of September -	Rev. Sr. Aruni Nanayakkara (Holy Angles—Kuliyapitiya)
22nd of September -	Rev. Sr. Emi Philomena (Sisters of Mary immaculate—Mawathagama)
26th of September -	Rev. Sr. Subashini (Holy Family—Nikaweratiya)

Death Anniversary

29th of September - *The Most Rev. Dr. Raymond Peiris,*



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