



"Doors should
always be open"



First
Sunday
in
Advent

01
December



Messenger

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"Holy Mary, Mother of God, you have given the world its true light,
Jesus your Son – the Son of God" - *Deus Caritas Est*

The Archdiocese of Colombo inaugurated the 'Marian Year', on Sunday, November 24, at a Solemn Ceremony held at St. Lucia's Cathedral, Kotahena presided over by the Archbishop of Colombo, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, in the presence of a large gathering of Rev. Fathers, Sisters, Legionaries and devotees of Mary from the different Parishes...

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Church's teaching on abortion is unchangeable, says Pope Francis

EWTN News - In his first Apostolic Exhortation, *'The Joy of the Gospel'*, Pope Francis explained that the Church can never change its teaching on abortion, which is part of a broader understanding of human dignity.

At the same time, he said in the document released on Tuesday, November 26, the Church must increase efforts to "accompany" women in difficult pregnancies.

"Precisely because this involves the internal consistency of our message about the value of the human person, the Church cannot

EVANGELII
GAUDIUM
Esortazione apostolica

"I want to be
completely honest
in this regard..."

be expected to change her position
on this question," the Holy Father

said of abortion.

"I want to be completely honest in this regard. This is not something subject to alleged reforms or 'modernizations.' It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life."

"On the other hand, it is also true that we have done little to adequately accompany women in very difficult situations, where abortion appears as a quick solution to their profound anguish, especially when the life developing

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Statement from the Archbishop of Colombo

I have been made to understand that the Government of Sri Lanka is making plans to establish a casino village in the Katana area, of the Gampaha district, in order to attract foreign investments. This move will threaten the spiritual mores of even the rural and traditional village values of our motherland. Hence, I wish to express my sense of protest and condemnation of this move to sell the spiritual and cultural dignity of Sri Lanka for financial gain.

The Sri Lankan soil fed by the religious traditions of the four world religions is not on sale, it must be told. And I call upon all those who cherish that to protect and oppose this move strongly and call upon the Government not to go ahead with these plans. Development, yes, but not at the price of our dignity.

Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith
Archbishop of Colombo

St. Joseph's Carol Service

Mary Our Blessed Mother faced life's challenges becoming our example to meet the uncertainties of life in Society today.

Based on the theme 'Magnificat', St. Joseph's College, at Maradana has organised a Christmas Carol Service to be held on December 7, 2013 at 6.15 p.m at the Stanley Abeysekera Auditorium. His Lordship Rt Rev. Dr. Bishop Emmanuel Fernando, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo, will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest.

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We wish **Mr. Camillus Perera** our cartoonist a very happy birthday for December 1. May God bless him with good health and abundance of wit and humour.

Seminar for Catholic Unions

The Faith Animation Mission of the Archdiocese of Colombo organised a seminar for representatives of the Catholic Unions from both Government and Private Sector, at the Blessed Joseph Vaz, Deva Dharma Niketanaya, Borella.

Addressing the gathering His Eminence

Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith said that the challenge of the day is to be a Christian on the true sense of the term, "to bear Christ in your soul and to bring Him to your places of work." He added that bearing suffering and persecution for Christ, is the cross

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Joy to the World 2013

A spectacular Christmas musical extravaganza organised by the Archdiocese of Colombo and Blessed Joseph Vaz Trust, will be held on Saturday December 14, at Nelum Pokuna, Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre at 7.00 p.m.

The proceeds are in aid of the Poverty



Alleviation Projects of the Archdiocese of Colombo and the Blessed Joseph

Vaz Trust. Tickets available at Sarasavi Bookshop, (Nugegoda, Maharagama), Sandeepa Bookshop (Borella), Vibrations (Union Place), Yamaha Music Centre, Vanapetha Bookshop (Dehiwela)
Online: www.ticketslk.com



Patronal Feast

Prayerful wishes to His Grace Most. Rev. Dr. Nicholas Marcus Fernando Archbishop Emeritus

December 6.

Ad Multos Annos!

Conventional Prior of OSB



Very Rev. Fr. Shamindra Jayawardene OSB, has been elected Conventional Prior of the Priory of Sri Lanka. His Councilors are Very Rev. Frs. Anselm Fonseka, Yovan Saverimuttu, Eugene de Silva and Clement Gnanapragasam.

(Contd on Pg. 2) >>>

Red Mass

The Annual Traditional Red Mass for Lawyers will be held on December 7, 2013 at the Convent of the Little Sisters' of the Poor, 204, Darley Road, Maradana at 9.00 a.m.

The Chief Celebrant for the Eucharistic Celebration will be His Lordship, Bishop of Anuradhapura - Rt. Rev. Dr. Norbert Andradi OMI.

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FROM THE DIOCESES

25th Anniversary of Holy Mass for Peace and Unity in Sri Lanka

A special Holy Mass for Peace and Unity in Sri Lanka was celebrated at the Shrine of St. Jude, Rockville, Maryland, USA. A large gathering of Sri Lankan Catholics (Christians of other denominations and Buddhists) and

American friends of Sri Lanka attended the afternoon ceremony organized by the Sri Lankan-American Catholics of the Metropolitan of Washington, for the 25th year in succession. Dr. and Mrs. Gregory Fernandopulle

and Mr. Edward Peries, who organized the First Peace Mass held in 1989, coordinated the events.

Rev. Fr. Percival D'Silva of the Blessed Sacrament Shrine, Washington, D.C., was the Cel-

ebrent. He was assisted by Sri Lankan Deacons Rev. Eranga de Silva and Rev. Asita Hettiarachchi, and Rev. Gerald Ferreira from St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, Maryland, USA.

Remembering Rev. Fr. Ignatius Perera



At the request of students, Rev. Fr. Placidus de Silva, Rector Aquinas University College, Borella celebrated a Holy Mass, to mark the 98th birth anniversary of Rev. Fr. Ignatius Perera, founder of the Radio and Electrical Laboratory at Kotahena. **S.J.K. Kurera**

Faith Animation Programme for Lay Leaders



The Faith Animation Team held a programme for lay leaders at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Pallansena recently.

Around 500 parishioners participated in the programme on the invitation of the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Jayantha Nimal.

The Programme

was conducted by Rev. Fr. Cecil Joy, Archdiocesan Co-ordinator for the Faith Animation Mission who gave a presentation on the demographic changes of the Catholic population in Sri Lanka, by means of data taken from the Government Census Report.

Accordingly the Catholic population has come down from 9% in

2001 to 7% in 2012. The reasons given were; Family Planning, School System, Mixed Marriages and non approved assemblies.

The programme ended with a short community prayer followed by Benediction imparted by Rev. Fr. Arulanandam Udayadas.

Melvyn de Costa

Writing Skills Programme for children

A programme to enhance writing skills of children will be conducted at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Bandiripuwu on Sunday, December 1 from 9.00 - 10.30 am.

The programme will be conducted by Mr. Kumara Nayanajith of the *Gnanarthapradeepaya*.

Christmas Breeze 2013

The Annual Christmas Carol Service, 'Christmas Breeze', organised by the Christian Society of D.S. Senanayake College will be held on Monday December 2, at 2.00 pm. in the College Main Auditorium.

Mr. D.M.D. Disanayake, Principal of the College, will be the Chief Guest while Catholic and Christian Priests will be Guest of Honour for the occasion.

Chrishanthi Fernando

Tracing the shadow behind the Christmas Story

Rev. Fr. Don Anton Saman Hettiarachchi, Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Aquinas University College will conduct a lecture on 'Christmas with the Hebrew Scriptures', on Monday, December 16 from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm, at the Peter Pillai Auditorium of Aquinas University College, Borella.

Participants are requested to bring a Recommendation Letter from the Parish Priest and the Holy Bible.

Farmers donated mamoties



Catholic Provincial Councillor Sirikamal de Silva donated a stock of mamoties to the farmers of Moragoda at a function held under the patronage of Rev. Fr. Ruwan Sandasiri, Parish Priest of St. Sebastian's Church, Moragoda recently. **Nimal Perera**

'Christ the King' Rally



'Christ the King' Rally took place last Sunday at De Mazenod Church, Mattakuliya.

Picture shows members of the Christian Workers Movement, Ratnapura who participated in the Rally.

Theobald Samaratunga

Conventional Prior...

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Fr. Shamindra hails from the Parish of Nayakakanda, Wattala and is an Old Boy of St. Anthony's College, Wattala and Katugastota, Kandy.

He completed his philosophical and theological studies at the National Seminary in Ampitiya and obtained a BA in Psy (Hons) from the University of Peradeniya and also holds a B.Psy and L. Psy from Rome.

We wish him God's choicest blessings as he shepherds the Sylvestro-Benedictine flock in Sri Lanka.

Seminar for...

Contd. from Pg. 1

the cross that each Christian has to carry. "This is the call of the Christian but the price of being Christ's true missionary is beyond compare."

The objective of the Seminar was to focus attention on the challenges faced by the Church today and to help the faithful to be steadfast in their faith, to appreciate the beauty of Christ's teachings.

Rev. Fr. Anton Dinesh

Red Mass...

Contd. from Pg. 1

All Catholic Judges and Lawyers are cordially invited for the Holy Mass. The Mass will be followed by breakfast.

Archdiocese of Colombo Catholic Lawyers' Guild

Intellectuals enjoy the day



Intellectuals like doctors, lawyers and lecturers are also humans. They also like to sing and dance, but they do not have an opportunity to do so. These intellectuals after a day's hectic programme at the National Seminary at Ampitiya, seem to enjoy themselves.

J. Antony

Church Feasts

Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be celebrated at Polwatte, Burullupitiya Parish on Sunday December 8. Festive Mass at 8 am. Chief celebrant - Rev. Fr. Asanga Nanayakkara OMI of "Nazareth", Wennappuwa. Vespers Service on previous day at 7 pm presided over by Rev. Fr. Dennis Iddamalagoda OMI, Director of De Mazenod English Academy, Katuwapitiya, Negombo.

The 22nd Annual Feast of Christ the King Church in Uluambalama, Bolawalana Parish will be celebrated on Sunday December 1. Festive Mass at 8 am. Chief celebrant - Very Rev. Fr. Patrick Perera, Archdiocesan Episcopal Vicar. Vespers Service on previous day at 7 pm presided over by Very Rev. Fr. Ivan Perera, Archdiocesan Episcopal Vicar.

St. Joseph's ...

Contd. from Pg. 1

St. Cecilia's Choir of St. Joseph's College comprising about 80 students will sing in Sinhala, Tamil, English and in an African Language as well. The Primary School Teacher's Choir and the College OBU Choir will add to the beauty of the evening.

The Western Band of the College will accompany the Choirs. All are welcome!

Rev. Fr. K.D.A. Lakshman



Church in the Modern World

Pope Francis sends Golden Rose to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Cardinal Marc Ouellet, President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, presented a golden rose from Pope Francis to Our Lady of Guadalupe, calling the Rose a sign of love, gratitude and enthusiasm.

"Our hearts more than our heads know the debt of love we owe you," the Cardinal said to the

Blessed Mother. "This is why we beg you to receive from us a special gesture of grateful love."

He prayed that the Rose remind the Virgin Mary of "the gold, frankincense, and myrrh offered by the Magi who once hastened to the manger to adore the King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

Cardinal Ouellet presented the Golden Rose at Our Lady of Guadalupe Basilica in Mexico City as part of the "Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization" Conference, led by the Pontifical Commission for Latin America and co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, the Guadalupe Basilica and the In-

stitute of Higher Guadalupe Studies.

The Cardinal led the Congregation in a reflection and heartfelt prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe before the presentation of the Golden Rose to the Virgin Mary, whose 500-year-old image is imprinted on the tilma of St. Juan Diego.



Catholic Social Media Summit Stresses Evangelization

EWTN News -A youth symposium on social media in the Philippines highlighted the call of the new evangelization to explore digital means of sharing the Gospel.

"If we are to share the Good News with our brothers and sisters in the 'digital continent,' we must speak a 'language' they can understand and be present as authentic witnesses to our faith," said Msgr. Paul Tighe, Secretary of the Vatican's Pontifical Commission on Social Communication.

Msgr. Tighe delivered the keynote address at the Philippines' Catholic Social Media Summit, held at Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Intramuros, Manila from Nov. 23-24.

The event, organized by Youth Pinoy in collaboration with the Episcopal Commission on

Youth and the Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, drew more than 400 participants from across the country.

In his address, Msgr. Tighe discussed the challenges facing the Church in the digital culture and the need to effectively communicate the 'Word of God' to today's social media generation.

He stressed the importance of being good citizens of the digital world, open to dialogue and witnessing a life that is consistent with evangelization. In addition, he emphasized that the language of digital and social communications are conversational and interactive.

Msgr. Pedro C. Quitorio III, media office director for the Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said that Christians who want to participate in

the movement to "evangelize" the digital continent should be like Mary. Presenting the image of Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth, Msgr. Quitorio said online evangelizers should "carry the Word in their wombs," just like the Blessed Mother.

"Only when you are filled with the Word will you be qualified to post about it on social media," he said.

The closing day of the Social Media Summit also coincided with the feast of the Christ the King and the closing of the Year of Faith.

We welcome your articles for the Christmas issue before December 15

Vatican World Youth Day (WYD) 2016 in Krakow, Poland

From July 25 to 1 August 2016 the world's youth will meet in Krakow, Poland to celebrate the 31st World Youth Day, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, Archbishop of Krakow, announced in a recent statement. This past summer at WYD in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Pope Fran-

cis made the announcement that the next meeting would be held in the birthplace of John Paul II, who the Holy Father himself will canonize on April 27.

As soon as the location of the next world meeting was made known, the WYD website krakow2016.com was cre-

ated. The internet site provides useful information for youth who are interested in travelling to Poland for the event and preparing for WYD. Information on the city itself, as well as the latest news on the event can be found in the website.

Church's Teaching... Contd. from Pg. 1

"On the other hand, it is also true that we have done little to adequately accompany women in very difficult situations, where abortion appears as a quick solution to their profound anguish, especially when the life developing within them is the result of rape or a situation of extreme poverty," he continued.

The apostolic exhortation, also known by its Latin title, *Evangelii Gaudium*, follows the 2012 bishops' synod on the new evangelization, which was held as part of the Year of

Faith. The 224-page document outlines the Pope's vision for a missionary Church, whose "doors should always be open."

The Pope's words on abortion came amid a broader set of comments on human rights. Discussing the need to show love for migrants, the poor and victims of human trafficking, he added that there is a need to show "particular love and concern" for "unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us."

"Nowadays efforts are made to deny them their human dignity and to do with them whatever one pleases, taking their lives and passing laws preventing

anyone from standing in the way of this," he lamented.

While the Church's defense of life is often presented as an "ideological, obscurantist and conservative" position, he said, "this defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right. It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development."

"Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be."

Holy Mary....

Contd. from Pg. 1

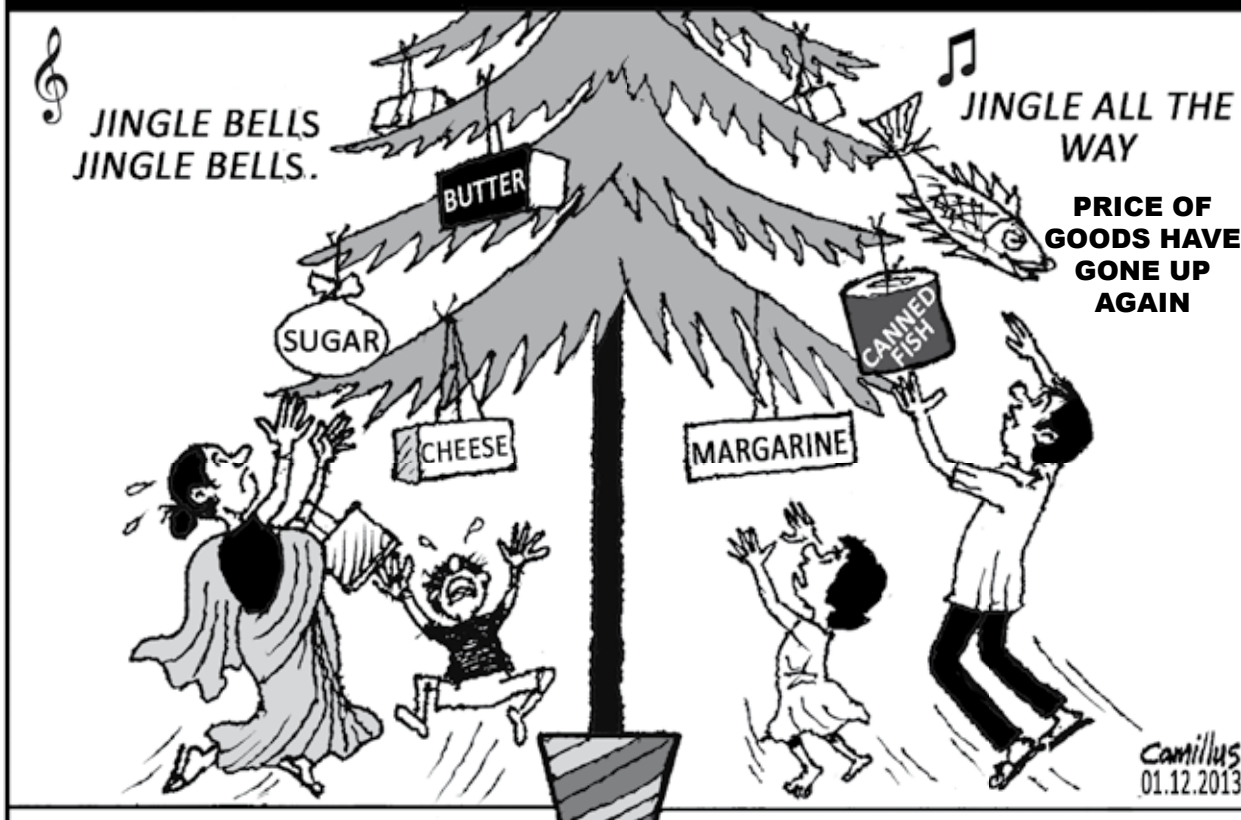
Elaborating the importance of the 'Marian Year' in his homily, His Eminence said that it was on a sunny day, in the fourth month of the year when the sun was at its hottest, that Our Lord from the cross, covered in blood and sweat gave His Mother to us, the Church. This was the supreme moment, a moment filled with emotion and passion, a moment where He reveals His concern for His Mother, becoming a part of her sorrow and the pain in losing her son and then making that supreme gesture of handing over His Mother to the protection of the Universal Church, "Women behold thy son, son behold thy mother" (John 19:26).

His Eminence noted that it was Pope Paul VI who officially proclaimed the title 'Mother of the Church' during the Second Vatican Council and this filial love and devotion to the Blessed Mother takes us to Jesus Christ and keeps us close to Him.

At the end of his homily, His Eminence made a reference to the Book 'Light of the World', by Peter Seewald, which is a compilation of interviews the author had with His Holiness Benedict XVI. In the course of his interview Seewald questions the Holy Father and asks him, "Who is Mary to you?" To this the Holy Father replies, "Mary is an expression of God's power and intimacy to me."

SUNDAY PUNCH

by Camillus



Judging others: What does the Bible say?

"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

Mathew 7:1-2

Many of us make comments sometimes which take the form of judgments of the behaviour of others. We may not feel we are doing anything wrong or even feel justified. The words of Jesus should lead us to be cautious in doing so. Sometimes we ascribe the sufferings of people to some behaviour of theirs, but we cannot adopt the attitude of the Pharisees and the Scribes which Jesus condemned. The Pharisee who was praying felt self righteous and even told God that he was not like the publican who was also praying nearby. They were considered as sinners because of their occupation as tax collectors. Such collective judgments are wrong. Stereotyping people because of their caste, class ethnicity or religion is also wrong.

How does the words of Jesus apply to those in authority who are normally expected to judge? What about the parents who have to look after their children and often are called upon to judge the behaviour especially of their teenage children. Should they accept the false excuses of their teenage children and fail to judge the bad behaviour of their children? What about teachers who have to discipline their pupils who resort to acts of indiscipline? They must exercise their judgments and mete out punishments. Modern liberal culture bans corporate punishments, and the Bible says, "Spare not the rod and spoil the child". Of course punishments should not be an expression of the anger of the parent or the teacher but the just desert for the offence and punishments cannot be excessive. When Jesus says that we are not to judge, he is not talking about the judgment in a courtroom. He is not talking about judging open and obvious sin. What he is talking about is a hasty, uncharitable, "holier than thou" type of attitude. We sometimes call this "jumping to conclusions." It's at the very heart of gossiping and tale carrying and the spreading of rumours or rumour mongering.

Jesus was not saying we should never assess people with some discrimination, but rather that we should not have a harsh, judgmental spirit. Jesus said there are problems with that kind of judging. It is overly critical, always going around searching for faults, always suspecting the worst in the actions of people.

We can understand better what Jesus meant when we take into account another statement of Jesus in Matthew 5:20: "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." We must have a different kind of righteousness from what the Scribes and Pharisees had. Their righteousness was superficial and represented a false front.

A newspaper reporter saw a man in his field, sitting in a chair and hoeing his weeds. The reporter jumped to the conclusion that the man must be lazy. So he rushed back to his car to bring his camera to take a picture. But then when he looked more closely he saw that the legs of the trouser pants he wore were hanging loose -- the man had no legs. So what seemed at first to be a story of laziness turned into a story of great courage?

"Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7). That is why we do not have the right to sit in judgment on someone else's motives, because we do not know what they are. Only the Lord knows all. We cannot know everything in everybody else's heart. We cannot read the motives of others. We cannot see as God does. So we need to give the benefit of the doubt and not go by appearances.

Thomas Cardinal Cooray: A Summary of his life and work

(Contd. from last week)

Effort to revamp Religious Education

To face this tragedy of the takeover of schools, Cardinal Cooray strived enthusiastically to set up a network of religious education at parish level. He established a strong Commission for Catechetics, having got four priests and a number of lay apostles trained, to commence this work. Today's interest in the teaching of catechism in Daham Pasalas owes much to him.

The takeover of the Catholic Teachers' Training College in Bolawalana meant another blow. To meet this challenge Cardinal Cooray established in 1972, the National Centre for Catechetics (now named "Cardinal Cooray Catechetical Centre") at Tammitta, to train religion teachers for the diocese and the nation.

The Catholic Church with the UNP?

It was often said that Cardinal Cooray favoured the UNP. Now this is a matter that needs explanation. We got our National Independence in 1948. That was almost at the time Cardinal Cooray assumed office as Archbishop. The world at the time was in turmoil. On the one hand, the Western part of the world was trying to rehabilitate itself after the great and unprecedented disasters of World War II and, on the other the Eastern bloc was being consumed by what was called atheistic Communism. It was not only Eastern Europe that faced the threat of Communism but also the East. The large land mass in Asia - China fell into the hands of the communists, Indo-China was being threatened. In our own country we had the Communist Party and the other Marxist Parties like the LSSP and the BLP.

With the rampant persecution of the Church in predominantly Catholic countries like Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Russia etc. and closer China, there was naturally a great fear of the trends here. At the time the UNP was the only outstanding democratic party led by reliable and respected leaders like the Hon. D.S. Senanayake, S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike and companions. This was the time of the first parliamentary election. Then came the second. At the time there was an alternate democratic party - the S.L.F.P led by Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike. Unfortunately, at the elections this party also linked in sympathy with the Marxist groups. This situation became worse when it came to the election of 1956. The victorious M.E.P was a coalition including all the left elements. Thus the Church had little or no option except to be on the side of the UNP.

This was inevitable, yet unfortunate. As a result, the Catholic Church got branded as an ally of one political party, and the UNP took the Catholic vote to be its birth-right. The UNP at the time made the great error to take the Catholic Community for granted. I believe they realized their error in 1970. Hope they remember that lesson!

This "taking for granted" had sad consequences. The UNP, did sweet nothing to stand up for the rights of the Catholic minority, and in fact after its debacle in 1956 and the resurgence of religio-nationalism, the leaders of the party were literally scared to move a finger in defense, while there was much discrimination against the Catholics at the time. The 1963 Coup, whose architects are now well known to be non-Catholics, made matters worse. Finally, this was what made Cardinal Cooray make that famous statement at the National Synod of 1965 - "The tragedy in this country is that one group is frightened to do the right thing while the other group is not frightened to do the wrong thing."

However, I must confess with gratitude, the UNP in later years had courageous men like President J.R. Jayawardane and Nissanka Wijeratne who ventured to rectify, at least some mistakes of the previous Government, by granting in 1980 partial assistance to the Private Schools. In fact this was the belated fulfillment of a promise President

The Memorial Oration of the first Sri Lankan Archbishop and Cardinal, Servant of God, Thomas Cardinal Cooray,, was delivered by His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis, Archbishop Emeritus of Colombo and Chancellor of the University of Colombo, on Friday November 8, at the Don Peter Auditorium of Aquinas University College, Colombo 8.



Jayawardane, then a cabinet minister, made to the Cardinal been commissioned by the then Prime Minister with the approval of the Minister of Education, during a Negombo bye-election.

The Cardinal did not cling on to any group. He maintained his independence and his only concern was the welfare of the Church. In fact when Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike was swept to power in 1970, in spite of all the displeasure toward her over the takeover of schools, the Cardinal clearly said "She is a good lady. It is a pity that she did not have any experience when she came into power the last time." Madam Sirimavo herself understood the Cardinal's pain over that issue. She had great concern for him even when he was in retirement.

Cardinal promotes the Lay Apostolate

Cardinal Cooray showed great interest in the Lay Apostolate. He was very concerned about all the lay associations both at parish level and the diocesan level. This was one of his prime concerns during his official visits to the parishes. In fact the Lay Apostolate became so active in the Archdiocese

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A Summary of..... Contd. from Pg. 8

that it attracted the attention of elements that were then strongly opposed to the Catholic Church. They twisted the term Catholic Action to *Katholika Aakramanaya* whereas the Sinhala word for lay apostolate was *Katholika Prayathnaya*. So they made Catholic Action a bad word.

It was Cardinal Cooray's concern for the Lay Apostolate and the lay apostles that made him build in 1972 the 9 floor, Paul VI Centre, at Maliban Street, Pettah. He established this Centre to house the Central Offices of National and Diocesan Lay Apostolate Organizations. He wanted to provide them with better facilities for their meetings and other activities and thus help expand their work.

Appreciation of local art and culture

Much as the Cardinal had a good portion of his training in Rome he did not become a Roman as some tend to. He had his feet firmly on Sri Lankan soil. Hence he had a great admiration for Sri Lankan art and culture. Besides introducing some of these elements into seminary formation, he also took measures to promote artists, actors and film-makers. Cardinal Cooray, as Archbishop, held a gathering of artists in these fields, and entertained and spoke to them in his own Archbishop's residence. I remember that gathering at which film stars like Rukmani Devi, Hugo Master, Joe Abeywickrema, Gamini Fonseka Denawaka Hamine and others were present.

He also took a bold step promoting the depiction of Christian themes in native art. In fact he declared open an Exhibition at the Art Gallery, Colombo. It was organized by artist K.D.L.E (Douglas) Perera. There was much debate and discussion on this new initiative of Christian themes in native art and the Cardinal permitted a healthy debate in the Catholic journals.

Indigenization of the Church

Very few would know that Cardinal Cooray proposed the revision of dates for the celebration of Easter in Sri Lanka, at the Vatican Council II. Wanting to be one with his people, he bemoaned that fact that sometimes the Sacred Triduum of the Holy Week fell on the Sinhala and Hindu New Year days. He wanted the Holy Week to precede the national New Year celebrations so that the Christians too could join the celebrations heart and soul, with the rest of the Sri Lankan Community. He therefore proposed a formula to Rome. He wanted Sri Lanka to be permitted to commence the Holy Week latest by 5th April so that Easter Sunday would fall the latest by 13th April i.e. the New Year day.

His concern for the Church as Metropolitan

Cardinal Cooray was indeed a man of great simplicity and holiness. He loved God above everything else. At the same time he loved the Church and not simply his own archdiocese. He, as Metropolitan, had the welfare of the whole Church in Sri Lanka. In fact it was his concern for the Church at large that made him work also for the welfare of other dioceses. He worked a lot for the social upliftment and education of people in far remote places there, like Allegollewa, Kaagama, Kala Oya and Talawa,

It was his concern and foresight

that made him takeover voluntarily, from the Bishop of Jaffna, the management of the Central Province in 1950, and make the Diocese of Anuradhapura a reality in 1982.

His concern for the Universal Church

It was his concern for the Universal Church that made him become one of the prelates to pioneer the *Radio Veritas* project in the Philippines. Again it was this same concern that led him to be one of the Founding Fathers of the FABC – the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences. He played a leading role in Vatican II serving in a number of sub committees. As Cardinal he served as a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Revision of Canon Law.

Few would know that Cardinal Cooray was named Papal Delegate to crown Our Lady of the Ocean at Fremantle in 1969.

Cardinal Cooray's concern for the fisher folk

At the time Cardinal Cooray assumed duties as Archbishop there was a long standing system in the Church to help the fisher folk. This system known as the "Fist Rent" was originally intended to help the fishermen in time of distress. At times it favoured the Church.

Basically it meant that the fishermen had to give a certain percentage of their daily catch (in cash) to the Church. During the time of the monsoons or bad weather, when people could not go fishing, they had to be paid a set amount each day.

This system meant a lot of work for the priests along the coastal areas like Negombo, Chilaw, Mannar etc., but it was a great relief to the fishermen and they appreciated it. However, people who believed that this was a source of great income to the Church made a big issue of it and blamed the Church. They blamed it as an exploitation of the fishermen. Cardinal Cooray solved this problem by relieving the priests of this responsibility and making arrangements for the fishermen to fall in line with national insurance systems.

He then took the positive step of sending two priests to Antigonish in Canada to be trained in fisheries development, and got several new features introduced to the fishing industry like the nylon nets and outrigger boats.

Furthermore, Cardinal Cooray explored the eastern coast of Sri Lanka and discovered uninhabited beach lands in places like Mankerni, Panchankerni, Waakare etc. for the western coast fishermen, so they could fish there during the monsoon season in the west. This helped the people of Negombo, Pamunugama, Chilaw, Mannar etc. to keep themselves employed throughout the year, without being grounded during the southwest monsoon.

Housing and Social work

Cardinal Cooray was very concerned with the poor and their housing. Much as it is too many to be noted in detail here, there are several housing schemes he initiated for the poor. Often he gave Church lands, and at times he bought lands for them. In fact, this is one of the first things he did when he was made Coadjutor. At his appointment the Old Joes gave him a gift of rupees five thousand, handsome at the time. The first thing he did was to purchase a land in Munhena, Maggona with that, and distribute it to the poor there, living without houses.

To strengthen his social apostolate he established what was called the

SEDEC – Socio-Economic Development Centre. It finally evolved into the National SEDEC and is also called CARITAS. So, Cardinal Cooray is the founder of SEDEC.

It was his deep concern for the poor that made him to get the Sisters of Mother Teresa to Sri Lanka. His first effort failed because of the attitude of the then Government to give visas. However, with his determination he succeeded in this too. Their first home was the mission house of the Church in Madampitiya. Today they have expanded their work to many parts of the Archdiocese and the Island.

The First Papal visit to Sri Lanka

It was a unique privilege for Cardinal Cooray to welcome a Pope to set foot for the first time on the soil of Sri Lanka. He welcomed Pope Paul VI on 4th December 1970 at the Katunayake International airport.

The National Basilica of Our Lady of Lanka

The building of the National Basilica could be described as his 'magnum opus'. He launched on the construction of the Basilica almost as soon as he assumed responsibility as Archbishop. His motivation was not the perpetuation of his memory in brick and mortar, but his deep sense of fidelity and obligation to honour the commitments of his predecessor, and his gratitude to the Blessed Virgin. As you know the vow for the safety of Sri Lanka was made by his predecessor. As always there were pseudo prophets also at that time who raised voices against the construction of the Basilica. They argued that there were more important issues than waste money on this colossal building. Cardinal Cooray was not a person to be deterred by such people. He had the courage of his convictions and never succumbed to the temptation of "popularitis" like Pontius Pilate. He risked his popularity to do the right thing. Thus, every brick in the Basilica has a story.

He had to buy more land in Tewatte for the project. On 4th February 1951, he commenced building work. While the building work was going on, which lasted almost the whole period of his episcopate, he prepared the infrastructure for the centre of pilgrimage comprising the roads, the water service, the drainage system, the bathing places, the large reservoir, the trees, the foliage and all these as the material facilities for the pilgrims. For their spiritual advantage he built the prayer houses of Contemplative Nuns (the Rosarians and Poor Clares), the Retreat House in 1963, and the two convents of the Providence Sisters for service there, designed the statue of Our Lady of Lanka, built the Grotto and worked out all the minute details of the Basilica such as the tabernacle, the Blessed Sacrament chapel, the altar railing comprising the variety of valuable local timbers and, finally brought it to completion before he retired from the office of Archbishop on 2nd September 1976 reaching the age of 75.

The solemn Consecration of the Basilica at Tewatte and the Coronation of the statue of Our Lady of Lanka took place on 6th February 1974, at which he with justifiable pride presided. The crowds that flock there now verily justify and pay dividends for all the great suffering and pain he endured.

His final wish

We knew that the Cardinal,

like every human being, had to face the inevitable end – his departure from this life. Being fairly close to him, I could ask him the rather intimate question without embarrassment. I asked him "Your Eminence, now some day where do you wish to be interred? Is it in the crypt of the Basilica where three places are prepared?" His very humble reply was – "Yes, if you think I am worthy of it." Accordingly, after his demise on 29th October 1988, we interred his mortal remains in the crypt of the Basilica of Our Lady of Lanka on 3rd November 1988, the house he built for God, in gratitude to the Most Blessed Virgin, our Heavenly Patroness.

THE MAN – THOMAS COORAY

Most of what I said so far was about the birth and work of Cardinal Cooray. Before I conclude I wish to record here a very few of the outstanding characteristics of this great personality whom I had the good fortune to associate closely.

First and foremost Cardinal Cooray was deeply a man of God. He was a person with a deep spirituality – a man of prayer and self-sacrifice.

He was a man with initiative, drive, gentle force, integrity and ability. He had the courage of his convictions. When something had to be done, he consulted persons knowledgeable on the subject, weighed matters in his own mind, prayed before God and went ahead. Thereafter, nothing could deter him.

He cared least for popularity. In fact he was very unpopular for some projects he initiated. With tremendous foresight he would launch out amidst much criticism and time has proved him right.

One more of his remarkable qualities was that when he entrusted responsibility to others (which he often did) he took the blame for any error on their part. He did not palm off blame on others. He was humble enough and bold to do so. You could work for him with the trust that he would not let you down in case you fail.

Finally, he was a perfect gentleman. He always believed in respecting others. He was always in good attire and he used to say "be so, otherwise you do not respect the persons you meet."

CONCLUSION

It was Shakespeare who wrote that some people are born great, others acquire greatness, while still others have greatness thrust upon them. In the case of Cardinal Cooray – He was certainly not born great. But he certainly acquired greatness and God without doubt thrust greatness upon him. For who can now equal the firsts that he scored. He was the first seminarian in the present Minor Seminary of St. Aloysius, he was the first student to be sent to the Colombo University (then University College) from there, he was the first Oblate Priest to be sent to Rome for studies, he was the first native to be the Superior of the Oblate Scholasticate, he was the first native to be the Archbishop of Colombo and finally he was the first Sri Lankan to be a Cardinal of the Catholic Church, the first Sri Lankan to vote for the election of a pope, the first to welcome a pope on Sri Lankan soil and the first Sri Lankan to build a basilica in Sri Lanka.

He held office with dignity, worked in sincerity, lived in simplicity, maintained modesty, overflowed in charity and died in deep sanctity. It is my firm hope, and I trust the hope of many, to see him raised to the Altar, also as the first Sri Lankan Saint.

Doctor warns of 'utilitarian' anthropology in care of elderly

During a conference for health care workers to discuss proper methods of care for the aged, in Rome, a Swiss doctor spoke of the world's increasing elderly population, noting the importance of upholding human dignity in the treatment of common diseases.

Dr. Christoph von Ritter, an M.D. from Lausanne University in Switzerland who holds a Ph.D. from the LSU Medical Center in Shreveport, La and is currently working as a doctor and professor at the University of Munich gave a talk during the conference addressing the topic of finding a "sustainable concept for the care of elderly people with neurodegenerative disease."

Finding a "sustainable" solution to providing healthcare for each of the elderly in an aging population, Ritter admitted, "is not an easy question." He said that it was almost impossible with an elderly society, with an increasing number of neurodegenerative diseases to come up with a sustainable solution and the basis for this could be the Christian anthropologic view.

Addressing the fact that elderly who suffer from various illnesses are often euthanized, the doctor observed that "if you look at the current situation, then it seems that euthanasia is the only option



because we are looking at a utilitarian, materialistic anthropologic view."

"This is a view that gives human dignity only to people that contrib-

ute to society and people that can defend their needs." With this approach, he highlighted that the person "would inevitably lose" their dignity, adding that "with that kind of anthropologic view, an elderly person has to leave society."

In order to find a "sustainable solution," the doctor pointed to "the Christian view," which understands that "man is an image of God."

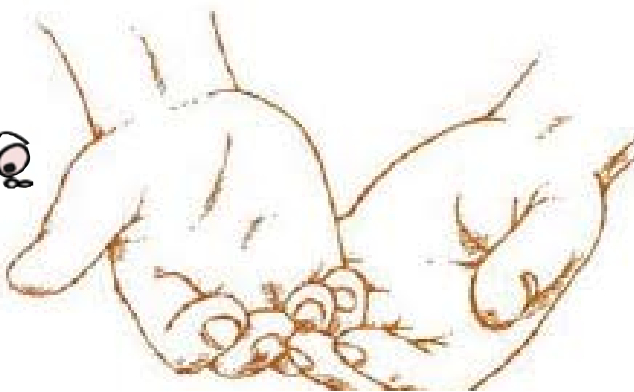
"Then of course you don't have to add anything to society, you have an inherent dignity and that inherent dignity lifts you over any utilitarian thought."

EWTV News

Like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable, who sang his own praises when he went to pray in the church, most of us adopt the same attitude in varying degrees. Although our external prayer is not boastful of ourselves, our internal disposition in prayer is somewhat like this: "Dear Lord, so far in my life, I've done all right. I haven't let down anyone. I have been generous and large-hearted. I have been fulfilling my obligations and responsibilities. I have not wronged anyone. I think my performance has so far been creditable." I think most of us can

Can We Honestly Pray the "Lord's Prayer?"

Thoughts that haunt me



relate to this prayer, Can't we? Christianity is much easier to preach than to live. It's easy to go to church. It's hard to be the church. It's easy to read the Bible. It's much harder to live the Bible. The inconsistency of knowing God and living Christianity is what drives others crazy. That's why Christians are often called

hypocrites.

Here is the Lord's prayer. Can anyone of us truly pray it?

I cannot say 'Our' if I do not leave room for others' needs too. If my world is exclusively mine and if I have been too selfish to leave out others. If others have no relevance, no importance in my life. If I do not stretch out to others. Or simply put, if I do not make the fulfilling of the needs of others the highest priority in my life.

I cannot say 'Who art in heaven' if all my interests and pursuits

are earthly. If my living is restricted to worldly living through pleasure seeking. If I do not consider myself a mere pilgrim on this earth journeying towards a destination that satisfies the eternal thirst of the soul, the encounter with God.

I cannot say 'Hallowed be thy name' if I, his handpicked creation, desecrate his name through a life of sin and indulgence in immoral living.

I cannot say 'Thy kingdom come' if I am unwilling to give up my kingdom of false values,

pretences and hypocritical living. If I do not empty myself to allow God in.

I cannot say 'Thy will be done' if I still have it my way and am not amenable to change. If I feel I can manage things on my own and am the master of my destiny. I cannot say 'On earth as it is in heaven' if I do not realize that my responsibility is to discover God in whomever I meet, specially the discarded, the outcasts, the neglected, the disabled and the rejected in society.

I cannot say 'Give us this day our daily bread' if I ignore the dire needs of others, if I turn my back on the desperate pleas of others for help and strength, if I live in my own world of indifference to shut out others.

I cannot say 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us' if our hearts are not relenting,

if we harbour ill will towards those who wronged us, if we wish that the person who hurt us should be doomed and not prosper or make any headway in life.

I cannot say 'Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil' if I am not prepared to shed my old sinful self, my inclinations towards immoral ways or if I am not inclined to pray when temptation tries to drag me away from God.

I cannot say 'Amen' unless I honestly determine, come what may, henceforth I turn a new leaf in my life. It is sometimes a difficult task to shed my old ways as they give me a satisfaction that however does not last. I need to get through to you O Lord, through the narrow and difficult path, through thickets and brambles. This I know, is a tall order.

Ananda Perera

Lord if I can

Lord if I can know you are love
For you have told me so
But my frailty fails me more
For you are God of immense Love

If I can know you are the truth
For truth is what you have taught us

Untruth sadly is my cloth in disguise
For I cannot bear to hear
told the truth

If I can know you are the Life's way
For you've told there's no other way

Not your way have I so far trodden
Paths misleading have I so long trodden

If I can know you are the leading Light
For I've lived in the dark in my life throughout
But I'm afraid to look at the light shine out
For I've erred much in life throughout

R.V.A. Navaratne

A CROSS The Way

By Sirohmi Gunasekera
Christmas is round the corner

"We are already in December and there is a nip in the air, heralding Christmas weather," remarked Ophelia.

"I know. I can feel the excitement but I want to look forward to a spiritual festival. After all, it is the birthday of Baby Jesus. Besides, He was born amid the poor and the destitute and I don't think that we should have five star hotel celebrations in honour of His birth," replied Ravin.

"Yes, in Sri Lanka, Christmas is considered the festival of the rich and everyone wants money to celebrate it. Even non-Christians come round with lists for they say that they all want to enjoy

"Naththal"(Christmas)," chimed in Shalini.

"I think that we have misunderstood the celebration. Jesus came to earth to save humankind from sin and He died a horrible death on the Cross. So why are we spending money and eating and drinking to excess to celebrate Jesus' birth?" asked Ophelia.

"Let's make ours a truly spiritual Christmas by spreading goodwill. We can visit orphanages and homes for elders and brighten up the lives of the lonely. If you have spare cash, you can give a gift or some goodies but that should not be the main thing," said Ravin.

"I know. Charity is good but it is more important to spend time and effort bringing sunshine into the lives of people who are miserable. There are so many who don't even come to Church" said Shalini.

"Anyway, we don't have to confine ourselves to Christians. There are also some rich yet lonely people. We can reach out to people living in big houses as well as those in shanties. Christmas is the Season for Sharing and Caring," said Ophelia.

"Let us first make up our minds to be sensitive to the needs of others, especially their emotional needs. See beneath the surface and make a person feel cared for. There are so many who feel unwanted and unloved," concluded Ravin.



Compiled by: Kishani S. Fernando

The Virgin and Child in Art

Let us mark the beginning of the Marian Year with a look at some world famous Marian icons



The Virgin and Child from the Catacomb of Priscilla



The earliest known image of the Virgin and Child is a 3rd-century wall painting in the Catacomb of Priscilla. It sets the pattern for future images of this kind, in that the composition explicitly leads our attention toward a meditative encounter with Christ. In this painting, the prophet on the left points to the star above Mary, who looks down at her son, who turns from his mother to look us straight in the eye. This face-to-face intimacy of the Virgin and Child images, have continued down the ages for more than a millennium. They function not to represent a scene from history but to bring God and man together in a mutual regard. In eastern art this function is served by setting the Virgin frontally before us and having her long fingers do the pointing. This pattern, was imitated in the widely popular western image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. A similar type is the *Salus Populi Romani* (Protectress of the Roman People), in which the Virgin's hands rest protectively on the child's lap instead of pointing to him, although even here the composition draws the eye to the child. The icon of the *Salus Populi Romani*, traditionally is believed to have been painted by St. Luke the Evangelist.

In Medieval and Renaissance Art the Virgin and Child image will often use props to encourage meditative response. In one tradition a goldfinch will perch on Mary's hand, "pointing" to the child's divinity by way of a folk story that the red marking on the bird came from Christ's blood on the day of the Crucifixion. In another, the bird is a swallow, the folklore this time being that swallows bury themselves in the ground in winter and "rise again" in spring. In Caravaggio's *Madonna of Loreto*, the pilgrims in their ragged clothing invite the viewer to consider his or her own poverty of spirit. Globe-like objects in the baby's hand, symbolizing the sphere of the Earth, are another way to guide the mind toward the mystery of Almighty God's being incarnate in this little child. In Botticelli's *Madonna of the Pomegranate* the fruit of the title is especially significant because of its famously red juice, pointing forward to the blood that Christ will shed. Some-

times the fruit will be a cluster of grapes, pointing to the same blood by way of Eucharistic allusion.

A sculpture tradition, the Throne of Wisdom, has the child on the Virgin's lap with a volume of Scripture on his own, inviting a variety of topics of contemplation. The metaphor of the Virgin as Christ's throne goes back at least as far as the 3rd century and Gregory Thaumaturgus' second homily on the Annunciation: "Thy praise, O Most Holy Virgin, surpasses all laudation, by reason of the God who received the flesh and was born man of thee. To thee every creature, of things in Heaven and things on earth and things under the earth, offers the meet offering of honour. For thou hast been

indeed set forth as the true cherubic throne." Methodius' *Oration Concerning Simeon and Anna* (also 3rd century) speaks of Mary as the Christ Child's "virginal throne."

In the 15th century a more "humanized" version evolved from the Throne of Wisdom in which Mary is teaching the Christ Child to read the book. And we see a delightful painting in the Austrian Virgin and Child with the Writing Case,

where the lesson has put the child to sleep - emphasizing the child's twofold identity as divine and human. Human, because the boy has fallen asleep during his lesson; divine, because the pen signifies his authorship of all.

In the Gothic era another sculptural type has a standing Virgin, life size or a little less, holding the child in her arms. Often placed at a column in the nave close to the sanctuary, such sculptures seem to have been intended more for cult than for meditation.

A development that becomes important after the medieval period brings the child John the Baptist into the composition, sometimes with his parents and others. The *Virgin Lactans* (Nursing Madonna), was another advance, in which the child suckles at his mother's breast. This was however not encouraged in the context of any nakedness in sacred images and the *Virgin Lactans* fades from view.



A Place of Serenity to Experience the Presence of The Lord

"Supuwath Arana" is an apostolate that was created in year 2000 by the Archbishop Emeritus Most Rev. Dr. Nicholas Marcus Fernando as an evangelical preaching, retreat and meditation center. It was officially declared open by the Archbishop Emeritus, Most Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis in year 2007.

"Supuwath Arana is a Psycho Spiritual, Social holistic formation center which caters to a large segment of the population by leading people to find solace in the Lord in finding answers to their grieving problems.

This center has an environment conducive for prayer and meditation which leads to experience of inner harmony and tranquility.

"Supuwath Arana" will be Blessed by His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith The Archbishop of Colombo, on the 11th day of December 2013. A Holy Mass will be celebrated by His Eminence at 7 pm on this day, to give Thanks to Our Lord for all the graces bestowed, in making Supuwath Arana a place of serenity.

One could obtain necessary guidance from our reception office or call 011 4375771, 4375773
Visit our website : www.supuwatharana.org

Meditation Chapel

The Chapel

Environment inside the Chapel

First floor stair-way

Auditorium Environment

Auditorium

Residential facilities

Aquarium

Indoor Refectory

Open Refectory

Floating Meditation Hall

Side stage of the Synagogue

Synagogue

Sermon Hall

The Holy Shroud Chapel

Copies of the Holy Shroud

A Potter with a lump of clay at the entrance

Director's office



The Spiritual Journey at "Supuwath Arana"

The Boat which
The Blessed Sacrament is exposed

The Blessed Sacrament

Thanksgiving Wall

Gethsemane

The 'Way of the Cross'

Cross on Calvary

Confession Chamber

Holy Family Chapel

Holy Family

Grotto of Lourdes

Our Lady of Lourdes

Experience the sacramental
life within the Gospel Village

The birth of Christ

Baptism of Jesus
by John the Baptist

First Miracle at Cana

Sacrament of Confession

Jesus on the Cross

Risen Lord

Sermon on the Mount

Washing of the feet
at the Last Supper

Anointing by the Holy Spirit

Mission of the Church

Mt. 25:35

Appreciation

'Seeker after the truth'

Eymard who passed away recently, was my second cousin – his father and my father were first cousins. Relationships aside, he and I were friends of about the same age, and we were contemporaries at the Peradeniya University where he was senior to me by a year or two.

We hailed from devout Catholic families. His father – Uncle Eldred, and my father's brother – Eric Mendis, both of them, exemplary Catholics and dedicated teachers of impeccable character, were informed that the Vatican had decided to confer them Papal Knighthoods – make them 'Chevaliers.' These two unpretentious, saintly men politely declined the offer.

The then Archbishop had to plead and persuade them to accept the honour, which they reluctantly did at a private, low-key ceremony with no fanfare or publicity.

I was an avid reader of Eymard's articles which were published mostly in 'The Island.' They were well-written and interesting. It was evident to any reader that he was a well-read intellectual with a



Eymard de S Wijeyratne

sharp, analytical mind and a flair for expressing his ideas clearly and logically. This seeker after the truth, had a resolute passion for veracity and authenticity. The occasional quotations in Latin and Greek were indicative of his 'classics' background.

Although I am a Jesuit priest I must candidly confess that Eymard knew much more than I about the writings of prominent Catholic philosophers, theologians, and 'Church Fathers', papal bulls and encyclicals, pronouncements of Councils, Synods and what not. He was fully committed to the vision and mission of the

Second Vatican Council (VC II) and was thoroughly conversant with the inspiring VC II documents. He could quote them chapter and verse at a drop of a hat. He was disappointed that the Church was slow to implement the many valuable recommendations of VC II. Some of his writings on the Church were critically 'hard-hitting.' He called a spade a spade, did not mince his words and pull his punches.

He vehemently condemned clericalism, hierarchical careerism, ostentatious, extravagant pomp and pageantry and hypocrisy, just as Christ condemned the Pharisees and Scribes of His time. Needless to say, Eymard was a 'persona non grata' to many ecclesiastical powers-that-be.

If the present Jesuit Pope Francis, had an opportunity of reading Eymard articles on the Church he would probably say "Here is an outspoken man after my heart. I wish I had bishops and cardinals of his caliber."

May God reward Eymard, a prophet of our times, with eternal peace and rest.

Rev Fr. Derrick Mendis, SJ

A loving tribute to my Grandmother

The dazzling star that shined for our whole family;

God blessed you with 96 years of fruitful life on this earth.

We were blessed to be your grandchildren.

You were the finest, purest and the most beautiful woman that I ever saw in my life. You were my best friend, a caring and loving mother to me and my everything.

The bond that we both had together is unbreakable and will last forever.

You were always my shadow guiding me and protecting me.

The prayers you said and the way you recited the Rosary daily, inspired me to understand the power of prayer.

We laughed together, we cried together and we shared thoughts, life experiences and they will always be in my heart.

I was privileged to spend half of my life with you, sharing your past and



Clera Angelina Karunanayake

all the advice that I could take forward in my future.

You showed me that life is worth, life is a journey of ups and downs but we need to proceed with being humble, helping others in many ways, doing good and having faith in God.

All our grandmothers are unique, caring and loving but you were exceptional.

Siumie Nikita Dassanaikie - Student
Catholic University of Korea
Seoul, Korea

Two more TOR Priests



Rev. Deacon Mervyn Fernando, TOR

Hailing from Kalutara, Katukurunda, is the son of late H. Alphonsus Fernando and late H.M.B. Mary.

He did his schooling at Katukurunda Maha Vidyalaya and

was recruited to be a Franciscan candidate in 1976. He made his first profession on March 25, 1978 and his Solemn Profession in 1982.

In 1989, he was sent to Manila, Philippines to study the teaching techniques of catechetical at the East Asian Pastoral Institute. He completed the four year Theology course at Blessed Joseph Vaz Theologate (Devadharma Niketanaya) in Colombo in 1987. He was Provincial Councillor for 8 years and was Director of the Minor Seminary from 1990 to 1993.

Rev. Deacon Mervyn Fernando, TOR will be ordained a priest by Rt. Rev. Dr. Cletus Chandrasiri Perera, OSB, Bishop of Ratnapura at 9.00 am on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at the Church of Our Lady of Good Voyage, Sindhathriya, Waikkala.

He will celebrate his first Holy Mass at his Parish Church of St. Philip Neri's, Kalutara, Katukurunda, on Sunday, December 15, 2013.



Rev. Deacon Donald Narangoda, TOR

is the youngest son of late Liveris Narangodage and Mrs. Wattage Jean. He had his schooling at Wanduramba Maha Vidyalaya in Galle and Ampara Central College in the Eastern Province.

In 1985 he entered the TOR Minor Seminary and after the initial formation he made his first profession in 1990 and Solemn Profession in 1996. He passed out as an English special teacher from the DELIC Institute of the Teacher Training College of Bolawalana, Negombo. Later he graduated from the University of Jayawardanapura and obtained the Diploma in Education from Colombo University.

He completed the four year Theology Studies at Blessed Joseph Vaz Theologate (Devadharma Niketanaya) in Colombo. He will be ordained a priest by Rt. Rev. Dr. Cletus Chandrasiri Perera, OSB, Bishop of Ratnapura at 9.00 am on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at the Church of Our Lady of Good Voyage, Sindhathriya, Waikkala.

His first Holy Mass will be celebrated at his Parish Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, Ampara on Sunday, December 29, 2013.

Rev. Fr. Mark Fernando, TOR

Letters to the Editor ... Letters to the Editor ...

Dignity and Sanctity of the Holy Mass

It is unfortunate indeed that many Catholics do not know the true significance of the sacrifice of the Holy Mass. They fail to understand the Mass as the Mystical renewal of the suffering and death of Our Lord, a moment rich in untold blessings.

The habitual late comers and those who stand outside the Church indulging in idle talk make themselves the servants of Satan. He understands well how important it is for Christians to assist at Holy Mass with reverence and devotion. Hence he makes every effort to distract them. There are some who think they can pray just as well at home without going to Church. God requires us to hear Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. He speaks to all Christians through the Church "My house shall be called the House of Prayer" (Mt.21:13). It is necessary to behave with great reverence in the House of God. "Revere my Sanctuary I am the Lord" (Lev 26:2).

We cannot get ourselves distracted and allow vain, wordly,

and even sinful thoughts fill our minds in the presence of the Lord. The Council of Trent says that "God gives the grace of contrition and forgiveness of sin to those who assist at this sacrifice with a sincere heart, with faith, piety and reverence. In one of the prayers which the priest recites in the Canon of the Mass he says, "Be mindful O Lord of all here present whose faith and piety are known to thee." If we go often to Holy Mass our faults will be corrected, our wounds, will be healed, our hearts purified and will sanctify our souls.

We know that we can do nothing better for our parents, friends, for the dying, for the conversion of sinners, for the souls in purgatory, than to hear and offer up for them the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and we cannot give greater Glory and joy to the Blessed Trinity, to the Blessed Virgin and to all the saints than by assisting at Holy Mass with devotion.

Maurice Nanayakkara
Panadura

Authorities please look into this and avoid repetition!

On Saturday 9, November, 2013 the Sunday School (Daham Pasala) exam was held. On the same day some students had a Music Theory test conducted by IWMS (Institute of Western Music and Speech), at the same time. Parish-wise arrangements were made to have the Sunday School exam kept early in the day for those students, at a Convent pre-arranged by the parish. The Sunday School exam was to go on till 8.30 am, and the IWMS requested the candidates to occupy their seats 30 minutes prior to the exam (IWMS test started at 9.00 am).

The parents requested very kindly to allow their children to leave just five minutes early at 8.25 am to allow them to have breakfast, to use a rest-room (toilet) and travelling time to the next venue which generally takes more than 15 minutes with heavy traffic in the city. This was agreed by the priest but the Rev. Sister-

Charge of the exam objected at the day of the exam and did not allow the students to leave at 8.25 am and the answer scripts were collected only at 8.30 am. The earliest possible time to leave the convent premises around 8.35 am.

It was after 8.50 am I managed to drop my kids at the IWMS venue. The children were excited. They could not have breakfast nor use of rest room for another two hours. My children dressed up at 5.30 am as the Rev. Sister requested the older children to be brought at 5.50 am as they had a two and half hours paper and the other children were again taken at 6.50 am as their paper was one and half hours.

The children were up from 4.30 am and were left without any food and other essentials till 11.00 am.

This is the second year both exams fell on the same day and time. Last year the co-operation was re-

ceived from the Rev. Sisters and the children were on time for the next exam. This time either the, priest fooled the parents or the Sister took revenge from these small children?

Since I am a strong believer that children should not be over taxed beyond their limits and also the children study Religion in schools sit for all 3 term tests in Religion in schools, the parents should be given the option to decide which exam their child should sit for as you cannot sit for 2 examinations at the same time.

The Catholic Church authorities also should understand that these children have studied for one whole year and whether depriving them to sit for the Religion test is correct by keeping the exam on the same day for the second consecutive year?

Sunimal Fernando
Moratuwa.

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Ps. 84:8

LITURGICAL CALENDAR YEAR C 2nd Decembere 2013

Sun:	1st Sunday of Advent Is. 2:1-5; Rom.13:11-14;Mat. 24:37-44 2 Sam 5:1-3; Col 1:12-20; Lk. 23:35-43
Mon:	Is. 4: 2-6 (or 2,1-5) Mt. 8:5-11
Tue:	Memorial of St. Francis Xavier, Priest, solemnity Patron of Mission Lands Is. 52:7-10; Mt. 28:16-20
Wed:	Morial of St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor Is. 25:6-10a; Mt. 15:29-37
Thu:	Is. 26:1-6; Mt. 7:21, 24-27
Fri:	Memorial of St. Nicholas, Bishop Is. 29:17-24; Mt. 9:27-31
Sat:	Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor Is. 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt. 9: 35- 10:1, 6-8
Sun:	2nd Sunday of Advent Bible Sunday Is. 11:1-10; Rom. 15:4-9; Mt.3:1-12

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Response: Lord, hear us in your love.

As we wait in joyful hope for the final coming of Christ, that we may be alive to His presence among us, and eager to do His work in the world. For this we pray to you, O Lord.

Response: Lord, hear us in your love.

For the Church: That it may continue to act as a beacon of hope for the world, directing it towards Christ and His kingdom. For this we pray to you, O Lord.

Response: Lord, hear us in your love.

For all those who live without faith and who are going through a winter of despair, that the light of Christ may shine for them. For this we pray to you, O Lord.

Response: Lord, hear us in your love.

That we may truly encounter, meet and experience Christ in the Eucharist, and thus grow in faith, hope and love. For this we pray to you, O Lord.

Response: Lord, hear us in your love.

Advent: A time for Remember

Advent is the pre-Christmas season, from the first Sunday of which begins the Church's new liturgical year. The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin '*adventus*,' meaning "coming." Beginning on the Sunday following the Solemnity of Christ the King, Advent is a preparation for the coming of Christ, i.e., for His coming at Christmas and for the Parousia, the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time.

The exact origins of this season are uncertain. However, as early as 380, the Council of Saragossa is known to have ordered a 3-week fast in preparation for the feast of the Epiphany. It would help to note here that Adventus, Epiphania and Natale were then all synonymous, first for the Incarnation itself, then for the feast that celebrates the Incarnation, viz., Christmas. In the 5th century, Bishop Perpetuus of Tours (461-490) is said to have established a fast commencing on the feast of St Martin on November 11. The Council of Tours (567)

First Reading: Is. 2:1-5

Prophet Isaiah speaks, of the day of the Lord. On that day the house of the Lord will be raised like to the highest mountain and all people would flow into it. The Lord will then make judgment and there will be peace.

Second Reading: Rom. 13: 11-14.

St. Paul tells the Romans to be awake as the coming of the Lord is nearer than the day they first believed. Therefore he wants them to keep away from evil and put on Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Mt. 24: 37-44.

Jesus refers to the day of Noah; how the people were living in sin when the floods came and destroyed them. Therefore he wants them to keep away from evil and put on Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection.

Today is the First Sunday of Advent and the Readings reveal the need to live in expectation. This expectation is in relation to the Second Coming of the Lord. This day is called in different ways; the day of the Lord, the Second Coming, the day of judgment, the end of the world ...etc. This will definitely happen, but no one knows the day except the Father in heaven. It may not happen during the next few decades. But each day we

come closer to the day. Therefore the Readings tell us to be ready when the Lord appears. Now is the time for us to mend our ways and turn away from our sins. Then we will be living in expectation.

After the destruction of Judea and Jerusalem the Jews were taken into exile to Babylon. Prophet Isaiah foretells that this city will rise up like to the highest mountain. Not only the Jews, but all people will come to worship the Lord in that house. The people were thus given some hope so that they will turn back to the Lord out of faith and love.

St. Paul in the Second Reading reminds the Romans that the Second Coming of the Lord is at hand. At hand in the sense that salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. Therefore he wants them to keep away from sin. He wants them to cast off all the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. He tells them. "Let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in revealing and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy, but put on Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires," thus we are invited to live in readiness. In the Gospel Jesus is referring to the time of Noah. At that period men

were living in sin. And they were destroyed by the floods. They were caught unawares. Only Noah, the only righteous person and his family were saved by the Lord. So it will be during the Second Coming. Therefore the Lord wants us to be ready and be prepared. He says, "Watch therefore for you do not know this, that if the householder had known during what part of the night the thief would come, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Therefore let us be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour we do not expect. Therefore let us turn away from our sinfulness and live in holiness. Let us begin it here and now.

Aid Story.

Once there was a king who had a clown (*Andare*). One day this clown uttered some foolish thing and the king got very angry. As a punishment the king ordered the clown to carry a heavy iron rod so that he will always remember his foolishness. But the king said, "If you meet anybody more foolish than you, give it to him." The clown carried this iron rod for years hoping that he will meet somebody more foolish than him. After

many years the king grew old and was on the sick bed. Thinking that at least on his death bed the king would forgive him and take away the heavy iron rod the clown went before the king. But nothing happened. So the clown thought for a moment and started to question the king. "Your majesty you are a great king; intelligent and wise. You never fought a war without planning ahead therefore you won all the wars. By the way now you are on your death bed, have you prepared for your death and all that thing about judgment after death?" The king said, "Well I did not think of it. I thought with all this power and wealth I will never die; but now I regret about it." Just then the clown took the heavy iron rod and said; "last I have found a man more foolish than me;" and handed over the iron rod to the king."

Aid Story2.

A group of young students being little puzzled by a problem went to one of their favourite teachers for advice. The teacher tried his best to help them. And in concluding he said to them "live the day before you die for God." One of the boys objected: "How can we do that? We don't know what day we're going to die." The teacher smiled; "Then live everyday as if it were the day before you die. It's as simple as that."

Rev. Fr. Ciswan De Croos

also mentions an Advent Season. By the 8th century, the first Sunday in Advent marked the beginning of the official Church year. During the 9th century, Pope Gregory I shortened the season of Advent from 6 weeks to the 4 weeks that precede Christmas. In the modern liturgical calendar, which came into effect on December 1, 1974, the Sundays of Advent (as do those during the Seasons of Lent and Easter) take precedence over all solemnities and feasts of the Lord.

Advent, like the rest of the Liturgical Year, is a time for remembering and we remember by actualizing, by somehow bringing the past into the present. As Vatican II says: "Through the Liturgical Year, the Church unfolds the whole mystery of Christ from His Incarnation and Birth to the Ascension, Pentecost and His Second Coming" (SC 102). Advent is thus a season of "joyful expectation" of a coming for which we ought to wait in happy anticipation along with a penitential preparation for "judgement day!"

Traces of the penitential aspect of Advent still do remain, e.g., the omission of the 'Gloria' and the progressively changing liturgical colours of the vestments,



i.e., purple, rose, white, signifying Christian 'Metanoia' (change of heart and lifestyle). Interestingly, it is this Second Coming of Christ at end-time that is the focus of the Advent Readings at Holy Mass upto December 16. Indeed, it is only from December 17 to 24, the last week preceding Christmas, that the Liturgy refers to the Coming of Jesus in flesh and blood at Christmas in human history, with the role of Our Blessed Mother in the saving mystery being given emphasis. Between these two Comings, stands the Season of Advent. Understood in this light, Advent becomes a kind of anticipation of the Feast of Christmas, a celebration viewing the Incarnation in the light of its full and final achievement. Christian Spirituality has maintained this way of approaching Advent since the time of St Bernard, an approach that finds its best justification in the liturgy itself; for between the first and the Second Coming, the present coming of Christ in grace in our hearts is constantly taking place, challenging us to actually live the Paschal Mystery in the present.

One of the important feasts that occur during the Advent Season is the memorial of St Nicholas, the holy bishop of Myra. The generosity of his charity towards the poor having evolved into today's Christmas gift-giving custom, his feast is an apt occasion to expound the true meaning and significance of Santa Claus amidst rampant commercialization.

The Popes and the Rosary



"Numerous predecessors of mine attributed great importance to this prayer: Worthy of special note in this regard is Pope Leo XIII who on September 1, 1883 promulgated the Encyclical *Supremi Apostolatus Officio*, a document of great worth, the first of his many statements about this prayer, in which he

proposed the Rosary as an effective spiritual weapon against the evils afflicting society.

Among the more recent Popes who, from the time of the Second Vatican Council, have distinguished themselves in promoting the Rosary I would mention Blessed John XXIII and above all Pope Paul VI, who in

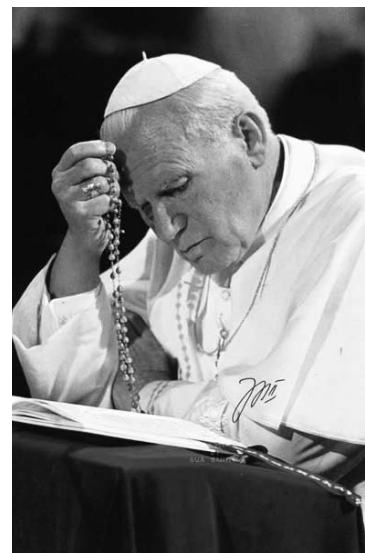
his Apostolic Exhortation *Marialis Cultus* emphasized, in the Spirit of the Second Vatican Council, the Rosary's evangelical character and its Christocentric inspiration. I myself have often encouraged the frequent recitation of the Rosary.

From my youthful years this prayer has held an important place in my spiritual life. I was powerfully reminded of this during my recent visit to Poland, and in particular at the Shrine of Kalwaria. The Rosary has accompanied me in moments of joy and in moments of difficulty. To it I have entrusted any number of concerns; in it I have always found comfort.

Twenty-four years ago, on October 29, 1978, scarcely two weeks after my election to the See of Peter, I frankly admitted: "The Rosary is my favourite prayer. A marvelous prayer! Marvellous in its simplicity and its depth. It can be said that the Rosary is, in some sense, a prayer-commentary on the final chapter of the Vatican II Constitution, *Lumen Gentium*, a chapter which discusses

the wondrous presence of the Mother of God in the mystery of Christ and the Church. Against the back ground of the word Ave Maria the principal events of the life of Jesus Christ pass before the eyes of the soul. They take shape in the complete series of the joyful sorrowful and glorious mysteries and they put us in living communion with Jesus through-we might say - the heart of His Mother. At the same time our heart can embrace in the decades of the Rosary all the events that make up the lives of individuals, families, nations the Church and all mankind. Our personal concerns and those of our neighbour, especially those who are closest to us, who are dearest to us. Thus the simple prayer of the Rosary marks the rhythm of human life.

With these Words, dear brothers and sisters, I set the first year of my pontificate within the daily rhythm of the Rosary. Today, as I begin the twenty-fifth year of my service as the Successor of Peter, I wish



to do the same. How many graces have I received in these years from the Blessed Virgin through the Rosary: *Magnificat anima mea Dominum!*

I wish to lift up my thanks to the Lord in the words of His Most Holy Mother, under whose protection I have placed my Petrine Ministry: *Totus Tuus!*

Rosarium Virginis Mariae
Blessed John Paul II
Courtesy: Fraternity

Christian mission is key ingredient for the future good of Asia

VATICAN (Asia News) A symposium held at the Aula Magna of the Pontifical Urbaniana University in October heard that the future good of Asia can be guaranteed if religious freedom and the commitment of Christians in society is affirmed.

The opinion was also expressed that despite suffering from persecution and marginalisation, Christians are even now able to be signs of humanity full of hope for their continent and the World.

The symposium was organised to mark the 10th anniversary of the news service of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Mission, *Asia News*, run under the theme, *Ten years of Asia - Ten years of our history*, it retraced the pages of *Asia News*.

George Cardinal Pell, from Sydney in Australia, noted "*Asia News* has become an indispensable source of information on the social, political, economic and religious life in Asia." He described it as a photograph of the Asian reality in

its development and its contradictions, as well as giving a glimpse into its future path and reality.

Other speakers at the symposium included Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-fai, the Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples: Father Samir Khalil Samir, an Islamic scholar from Beirut; and economist, Angelo Caloia, a professor at the Catholic University of Milan and Lumsa.

Cardinal Pell highlighted the influence of Asia on Oceania and in particular his own country of Australia, whose exports of raw materials and food, in large part, go to Asia and China. materials and food, in large part, go to Asia and China.

He called the economies of China and Australia interdependent.

Noting that Australia is a country of immigrants he explained that Asian Catholics from the Middle East, The Philippines, Vietnam and India have become a source of strength and vitality

for the Catholic community.

"The Vietnamese community," he added, "is a source of growth in vocations to the priesthood and in 2011, Father Vincent Long van Nguyen, who came to Australia as a refugee, became the first Vietnamese bishop in the country."

He spoke of a strong and inevitable religious impulse in the human heart in Asia, which stands in stark op-

position to the materialism and secularism of globalisation, sparking a strong religious revival.

Archbishop Hon spoke of the necessary link between contemplation and mission, and communion and action, which he said is required for all missionary activity.

Courtesy: Sunday Examiner

Annual Diocesan themes for World Youth Days

HONG KONG (SE): Pope Francis has chosen themes from the Beatitudes for the next annual Diocesan World Youth Days leading up to International World Youth Day, which will be held in Krakow, Poland, in 2016, Vatican Radio reported.

The title of the 2014 gatherings will be *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven* (Matthew 5:3) and for 2015, *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God* (Matthew 5:8).

World Youth Day in Krakow will bring everything together under the theme, *Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy* (Mt. 5:7).

"The Shattered Crucifix"

Once there was an old man, who had three sons. At his death bed, he called them and divided his properties among the three sons. To the eldest he gave the house, to the second, he gave the farm and to the youngest he said, "You are most precious to me, my son, to you I give this crucifix," saying the man breathed his last, leaving the youngest son so much anger, resentment and envy.

One night in a fit of anger, he grabbed the crucifix and threw it to the floor. The crucifix was shattered and broken into tiny, shining pieces and he

found inside the crucifix were many precious jewels and stones hidden by the father. The son understood the words of his father, "You are precious to me, my son, to you I give this crucifix."

Have you ever tried to take a closer look at the crucifix?

A moment with the words, "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day and follow my steps" (Luke 9:23).

Sent by Anton selemberam



Young World

First Holy Communion Service at Payagala Parish



First Holy Communion Service was held recently at the Payagala Parish with 87 children receiving Jesus, for the first time.

Holy Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Sisira Samarakoon, Parish Priest, St. Joseph's Church, North Payagala.

Nihal Fernando

Silver Medal for Javelin Throw



Sayona Chamika Gunaratna, an A/L student of Good Shepherd Convent, Panadura represented Sri Lanka at the Junior South Asian Athletic Meet held in Ranchi, India and won 2nd place in the Javelin throw event. She was awarded a silver medal.

Teaching the young ones their writing skills



The National Catholic Writers' Association held a programme for school children at St. Mary's College, Ja-ela, recently.

The Programme was organised by Mr. Maximus Roy, former Secretary and present Treasurer of the Catholic Writers' Association.

The speakers were Mr. Calistus Jayamanne and Mr. Peter C. Perera.

Pic R. Joseph Priya

Confirmation Service at Peralanda Parish



Around 240 children from the Parish of Peralanda, received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph's Church, Peralanda, officiated

by His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Fernando, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo.

Addressing the children,

His Lordship said that they were receiving the Holy Spirit in a very special way. This was the moment to be aware of the presence of God within you and to listen to His voice. "He may be telling you to dedicate your lives to be priests and nuns or dedicated laity to serve the Lord."

Rev. Fr. Patrick Perera OMI, and Rev. Fr. Felician Fernandez OMI, were the concelebrants.

*Pic. C. R. Dickson Anthony
Text : Emilda Douglas*

Rhythm of the Maroons - 2013



Rhythm of the Maroons (R.O.M) 2013, organized by Ananda College concluded on a successful note, at Museaus College Hall. 2013 marks the eight consecutive year of ROM.

This year we saw the participation of more than 30 schools. The event was judged by well-known personalities in the field of music, Nelu Adhikari, Vasantha Geekiyanage, Heshan Gamage and Jagath Priyanka. Two school choirs were selected for the final. They were Museaus College, and Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena.

Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena walked away with the trophy for the Best School Choir. They performed the famous, "We shall rebuild" (Tsunami Song) and *Ran Kurahan*.

*Sr. Mary Renuka Silva
Principal of Good Shepherd Convent - Colombo 13.*

An Unusual Dream



One day after I went to sleep I saw a dream about visiting fairyland.

I was watching television and fairy visited me from the balcony and she asked me to come with her to fairyland. So I got ready and went with her.

Something like a light came across my face and the fairy disappeared and suddenly I found myself in front of a palace. The fairy opened the door and there was a bridge of different colours and which was glittering. We went across that bridge and entered a room, where I saw a person who I remembered like I have seen and known before. The person was Jesus, I was surprised to see him. He told me that, he had heard that I had a dream about seeing him. He told me that I must be very happy seeing him and told me to spend the day, with the fairies and have a nice time. So I went with the fairy and talked with others and enjoyed the day a lot.

Suddenly I heard someone calling me and when I opened my eyes I realised that I had seen a dream and that I had seen the heaven not fairy land.

*- Adhya Madulika
Grade 8*

*St. Avillahi Theresa
Sunday School - Kottikawatta
(Kollonawa Parish)*

MOTHER



She kept me in the
womb for nine months,
She always looked after me,
She always kept me safe,
And always gave me what I needed.

I always wanted to say, "I love you, Mum"
But always I felt shy,
I ask God to give me confidence,
To say "I love You Mom."

*Nathma Perera
Loyola College, Bopitiya
Grade 7- E2,*

English with Fun and Entertainment

Dear Readers,

In our tenth lesson we practised the speech sounds (l r j w,) read anecdotes about the Heaven’s entrance exam, Charlie Chaplin’s the first of millions of laughs and some inspirational quotes, brain teasers and witty riddles.

In this lesson we’ll learn the speech sounds (i:) (i) (e), characteristics of speaking, a useful conversation, two anecdotes, a vocabulary enrichment activity, some riddles and proverbs.

Thanks for the readers who made valuable suggestions and for using these lessons effectively. You are invited to share your experiences to enrich our lessons further.

With best regards!

NJ

Phonology – **Task 1** Read aloud

i:	i	e
bee key sea	bill give sing	bed stem friend says
need leave these	sit rich sick	bet breath test leapt
neat leaf peace eager ceiling teacher	silly city busy wicked village minute receive machine police	every any heavy better repent invent detest expect head led red wed

feet / fit	bead /bid	ease / is	least - list - lest
heat / hit	feel /fill	sleep/ship	peak - pick - peck
lead / lid	bead / bid	leap / lip	read - rid - red

Read aloud very fast and practise

1. Bill needs six clean dishes.

3. It’s a pity Eve isn’t free.

5. It’s silly to leave this morning.

7. It isn’t easy to speak English.

9. These women are extremely busy .
- 2.She went to bed between ten and eleven.

4. Twenty men are ready.

6. She said she slept very well.

8.I expect a letter every Wednesday.

10.My best friend is an engine driver.

Task 2 Read the sentences and notice the difference between (i i:) and between (i e)

(1)Look! That man over there is going to slip / sleep

(2) Let’s all live / leave together.

(3)He’s drawing a picture of a ship / sheep

(4) Could you give me a pin/pen please?

(5)The bill / bell was a very big one.

(6) This is where I slipped /slept.

Task 3 Read aloud and practice- Speaking – What is speaking?

- (a) Speaking is oral production of meaningful language

(b) * Speaking is an active process It is a spontaneous process

(c) * Speaking involves coordination of the organs of speech and the brain

(d) * Speaking is encoding a message.

Speaking is encoding information verbally. It integrates the ideational, inter-personal and textual functions of language. Ideational is topic oriented. Interpersonal means that communication needs a minimum of two persons. When we speak our speech induces a response from the listener. The speaker ought to kindle thoughts, ideas and responses in the listener.Textual is that what we speak is a verbal text. The text has a theme. The speaker has the option to highlight any part of the thematic interaction and play down the rheme.

e.g. What is your name? My name is (known part) Name is unknown part
e.g. **Rose**
My name is Rose The known part is the theme and the unknown part is the rheme

Task 4: Read aloud and practise the dialogue with your friends playing the different roles

Scene One: Two foreigners Mr. and Mrs. Adams are in Sri Lanka.
They are on their way to Arugam Bay by car. Car proceeding uphill
Maria : Oh, this is wonderful. Look at those little paddy fields. They are like steps down the hill. Sri Lanka is a beautiful country, isn’t it.
Derek : I suppose it is.That’s why we came here.
Maria : Aren’t you driving too fast Derek?
Derek : Am I?.....(Car chugs to a halt)
Maria : Oh! Dear. What happened?
Derek : I don’t know. The engine just stopped. What was the last town?
Maria : I’m not sure.
Derek : I think it was Balangoda. What are we going to do now?

Maria : Perhaps someone here speaks English. I’ll ask. Does anyone here speak English?
Derek : I think they are calling someone
Maria : Yes. Someone is coming.
Upali : Hello. What’s the trouble?
Derek :My car has broken down. I don’t know what the trouble is.
Does anyone here know about cars?
Upali : There is a mechanic just down the road. I’ll send someone to fetch him.
Maria : It’s very hot in here.
Upali : Would you like to go to my house. It’s down the road.
My sister speaks English. She is a teacher.
Maria: That’s very kind of you. I would like to get out of the sun.
Upali : By the way I’m Upali Dassanayake.
Derek : U-pa-li Da-sa-na-ya-ke?.Is that right? Well, I’m Derek
Adams and this is my wife Maria.
Upali : How do you do?
Derek : How do you do?
Maria : Glad to meet you.... I’m going to Upali’s house. Aren’t you coming?
Derek: No. I think I’ll wait here for Mr. Martin Baas.
Upali : I’ll leave your wife at my house, Mr. Adams and then I’ll come back

Task 4 :
When their car suddenly came to a halt how did Derek and Maria react?

Task 5 : How did Upali help them ?

Task 6 :
Read the anecdote about the car accident and answer the questions given below

The Car Accident...
A woman and a man are involved in a car accident. Their cars are totally demolished but amazingly neither of them are hurt. After they crawl out of their cars, the woman says, "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left but fortunately we are not hurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be really good friends."
The man thinking there might be a bright side to this, replied, "I agree with you completely. "The woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished but this bottle of wine didn't break. Surely we must drink this wine and celebrate our good fortune."
Then she hands the bottle to the man. The man shakes his head in agreement, opens it and takes a few very large swigs from the bottle and then hands it back to the woman.
The woman takes the bottle, immediately puts the cap back on, and hands it back to the man. The man asks, "Aren't you having any?"
The woman replies, "No. I think I'll just wait for the police."
(i) What were demolished in the accident?
(ii) What must be the sign from God?
(iii) How did the woman suggest celebrating their good fortune?
(iv) Why did the woman wait for the police?

Task 7: In the following list of words you will get five similar words for each and one extra word that doesn’t suit the context. Underline it.

1.able	talented intelligent bright clever gifted intellectual
2.absolute	inspiring total control outright complete entire
3.adorable	gorgeous delightful lovable endearing charming wonderful
4.adventurous	daring bold audacious brave courageous bright
5.academic	new theoretical abstract educational speculative hypothetical
6.acceptable	satisfactory tolerable okay suitable adequate complete
7.acclaimed	old commended, praised applauded admired celebrated
8.accomplished	full talented gifted skillful proficient expert
9.accurate	precise exact true truthful perfect liable
10.aching	painful sore tender pricking sensitive wise

Answer:
Task 4 Maria was excited and she asked as to what really happened and Derek responded saying that the car just stopped and asked for the last town they passed. They looked for someone who could speak in English to find someone who could repair car.

Task 5:Upali found a mechanic to repair the car and in the meantime helped Maria to rest at his place with his sister.

Task 6:1.The two cars of the woman and the man involved in the accident 2. That both them should meet and be friends 3. The woman suggested to drink the bottle of wine miraculously saved from the accident 4, perhaps she wanted to police to charge the man for driving after drinking wine.

Task 7 (i) intellectual (ii) inspiring (iii) wonderful (iv) bright (v) new (vi) complete

QUIZ - On Catholic Themes

(..... from last week)

QUESTIONS

1. THE CHURCH AND CHURCH TEACHINGS

Mary

536. In the Rosary how many sets of mysteries are there??
537. What is the 5th Sorrowful Mystery?
538. When was the Feast of the Holy Rosary established? By whom?
539. Which month is observed as the month of the Holy Rosary?
540. What is another name for the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel?
541. "Take this Scapular; it shall be a Sign of Salvation, a Protection in Danger and a Pledge of Peace. Whosoever dies wearing this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire." - To whom did Our Lady make this promise?
542. To which saint is attributed the spread of the devotion to the Holy Rosary?
543. Who originated the Miraculous Medal also known as the Medal of the Immaculate Conception?
544. What are the words written on the Miraculous Medal?
545. Mary is often pictured with a crown of stars on her head. How many stars are there on the crowns?
546. What do the stars in Mary's crown represent?
547. In 1981 Our Lady appeared to six children in Bosnia. What is the name of the village where she appeared?
548. Pilgrims visiting Lourdes for its healing powers bathe in pools filled with cold water piped from Bernadette's spring. How did the young girl discover the spring?
549. On what feast of Our Lady is the World Day of the Sick observed?
550. What, according to tradition, were the names of Our Lady's parents?

(contd next week.....)

ANSWERS

I. THE CHURCH AND CHURCH TEACHINGS

Mary

536. Four - Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous and Glorious.
537. The Crucifixion and death of Jesus.
538. The feast of the Holy Rosary was established on the anniversary of the naval victory won by the Christian fleet at Lepanto, October 7, 1571 by Saint Pius V.
539. October.
540. The Brown Scapular.
541. St. Simon Stock at Cambridge, England, on July 16, 1251.
542. St. Dominic.
543. Saint Catherine Laboure' following her reported vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1830.
544. "O Mary! conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!".
545. Twelve.
546. The stars around Mary's head represent the crown of the Woman of the Apocalypse (Revelation 12:1): "A great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." The woman is believed to symbolize the Blessed Mother. The stars in the crown may represent either Christ's twelve apostles or the twelve tribes of Israel.
547. Medjugorje.
548. The location of the spring was described to Bernadette Soubirous during an apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 25 1858.
549. On the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11.
550. Joachim and Anne.

Courtesy: Clare Ukken fsp

Hot News from Good News

First Sunday of Advent

Rom. 13:11-14

It is now the hour for you to wake up from your sleep, for our salvation is closer than before. Let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light....



Hot News....

A young girl met with a train accident. The reason: Her mother had

scolded her the previous night.

A young girl was admitted to the mental hospital. The reason: Her mother had forcibly taken away her daughter's mobile phone in order to make her study.

Hot from Good ----- God became Human.

Open your eyes and start your mission before somebody tells you.

Celebrate Christmas outside of the Crib with people and give Christ's light to those who have lost the sense of life.

Rev. Fr. S. Randil Fernando OMI
Nazareth - Wennappuwa

The future - a challenge ?



FROM THE VATICAN DOCUMENTS

Universal Right to Education

"Therefore children and young people must be helped, with the aid of the latest advances in psychology and the arts and science of teaching, to develop harmoni-

ously their physical, moral and intellectual endowments so that they may gradually acquire a mature sense of responsibility in striving endlessly to form their own lives properly and in pursuing true freedom as they surmount the vicissitudes of life with courage and constancy."

Gravissimum Educationis 1

Declaration on Christian Education

Pope Paul VI

October 28, 1965