

Environment Programme – 2018

This year being the 175th Anniversary year of St. Paul's Church, the environment team focused on the four Sundays in June for special activities.

Theme – The World longs for your Kindness – Be gentle

3rd June 2018

The Environment Sunday worship was held at 7.45 am focusing on the environmental issues where people have forgotten of the glories of creation, the generosity of God and kindness towards his creation. It was emphasized in the message where people have been careless, leading to the destruction, climate change and fragility of the existing world. A special worship was held with a meaningful confession, Lord's Prayer and an act of commitment.

The Children and adults were given 4 topics to write, draw and do hand work on this 4 topics

- a. Our precious Earth
- b. Will Sri Lanka be a desert in the future
- c. Plastic Pollution of our mother earth
- d. Nurturing and protecting the existing planet

37 children of the congregation participated and everyone were appreciated by a certificate while the 1st three places were given prizes according to their age groups.

Handwork was well done with plastic bottles etc and all those were displayed during the month of June.

9th June 2018

A programme to Rejoice with Creation was organized to the Public and congregations of all churches in Kandy at St. Paul's Church at 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm with the Gospel Singer Brother Anton Charles Thomas and his music team. Brother Charles is a world famous preacher in song. It was a Joyful, lively worship where many hearts were touched and everyone was inspired with his God given Talent his beautiful voice, heart warming inspirational songs of his own sung accompanied by orchestral music. Most of the public who participated and witnessed were non Christians.

His Theme in Sinhala was – Mihitalayama sumudu karamu senehasin api

10th June 2018

Brother Charles Thomas joined Fr Shelton in the morning worship service where all the hymns were sung by him and his team along with the congregation.

An inspiring worship service with a powerful message by him to a full church with many non Christians participating indeed was a great witness we could offer for our celebration of 175 years.

17th June 2018

The Holy Communion Service was celebrated by Fr Shelton Daniel with a powerful message to the congregation. He touched on the importance of preserving our mother earth and the importance of worship among the congregation.

100 pepper plants and other plants were distributed free to the congregation in order to promote people to grow their own food, to eat fresh and healthy as well as earn an income to sustain the family with these crops. Many welcomed the idea and took home the plants so that they could bring the harvest to church on the day of Harvest Festival.

24th June 2018

The Holy Eucharist focused on the theme God, The environment and Man, where the sermon highlighted the importance of changing our destructive actions towards God's Creation.

An environmental friendly bag was designed and made by the committee was given to the congregation to do their shopping instead of plastic and polythene bags.

27th June 2018

The Environment team organized a nature Excursion where 113 people joined to Corbett's gap and mini worlds end in Deanston Estate. The trip started at 5.30 am to Thangappu reached on time where 95% of our parishioners walked to the Corbett's gap through the forest. Young and old everyone enjoyed the great walk seeing God's nature, the scenery, the streams of pure water, various kinds of trees, plants, butterflies and birds. The walk was 5 km but was not felt by anyone as a difficulty.

The Corbett's gap was a lifetime experience of a wind channel. The wind, was about 120 km speed and it was so difficult to stand and feel the cool fresh breeze. Everyone enjoyed thoroughly and may never forget God's amazing wonders of the peaks of Knuckles, The Gombaniya, Lakegala, etc.

From Corbett's gap 3 busses took everyone through scenic but difficult gravel road via Hunnasgiriya to Deanston Estate.

The Forest Officer explained at the exhibition centre about the nature, the animals in the knuckles range, the poisonous snakes, the mountains and waterfalls to everyone and he took us on the trail path to the mini worlds end.

The mini worlds end height drop was 500 meters and it was such a beauty and amazing to enjoy the scenic Dumbara valley up to Mahiyangana Sorobora wewa. To highlight the beauty there was a beautiful rainbow appearing across the valley after the drizzle which was breath taking lifetime scenery visualized by everyone.

Praise God for his mighty Creation as we remember our Stewardship at the end of our great excursion as St. Paul's Family.

Finally all the children enjoyed pure fresh water bath in a shallow stream nearby which made them remember this trip for a longest time. They experienced very much what was nature, what God has given free of charge to the world so pure and so amazing, to nurture and protect for the next generation.

Pictures:







