

St. Paul's Church Kandy

Established 1843

Newsletter March 2023

Sunday Services	6:45 am Holy Eucharist (English) 7:45 am Holy Eucharist (English) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (Sinhala)
Wednesday Service	9 am Holy Eucharist (English)
On first Wednesday of the month	9 am Anointing of the Sick followed by Prayer Time
Every 2nd Sunday	6:45 am Holy Eucharist (English) 7:45 am Holy Eucharist (Sinhala)

Contact Persons

Vicar - Ven George Melder The Parsonage, 58, Sangaraja Mawatha, Kandy 076 431 8892 / 0813836	Curate – Rev. Sanath Medagamgoda The Vicarage, 22, Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha, Kandy 074 150 7136 Curate – Rev. Rasika Abeysinghe 95/17A, Hewaheta Road, Kandy. 077 6908633
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Church Office

Mrs. Princy Fernando

Parish Coordinator,

Mr. Priyantha Jayasiri

Operations Coordinator,

10, Deva Veediya,

Kandy

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Trustees

Hon. Secretary – Mr. Rustom Praesoody - 0777331422

Hon. Treasurer – Mr. Lalantha Jayasinghe - 0777849311

Message from the Vicar

“Return to the Lord your God for he is gracious and merciful” – Joel 1;13

The church has given us another season of Lent to be with God. The season of Lent is the time where we experience inwardly and outwardly, our renewal and our spiritual revival in Christ. We are experiencing the truthfulness of our true faithfulness, as followers of Christ by imitating his way of life in the wilderness.

Friends, our heavenly father expect us to be truthful and honest in this regard. Therefore the church, through her catechism is giving us guidance, through Bible studies, prayer meetings, almsgivings and fasting.

Dear friends we should not think these practices are mere traditions, but our heavenly father, is challenging us to commit ourselves more in order to have proper connections with God.

In the New Testament, Gospel of Matthew chapter 6 clearly is directing the Christians to practically adjust ourselves to follow prayer, almsgiving and fasting, if we honestly dig into the deep, we can identify Matthew is inviting us to control ourselves specially in the aspects of our behavior and spirituality. That’s why I say that the season of Lent is a time of renewal.

It is also a time of revival, revival in our church, in our faith individually and collectively. Our practice of faith should not be mere traditions or rituals, but we are called to follow not only ritual but the life style of Jesus our savior. Jesus went to the wilderness soon after his Baptism where he was put to the test. Our wilderness with Christ at this season of Lent should be a time of testing, so that we may all renew our lives as new creations. As St. Paul says “in Christ we became new creations”, it is our duty to open our hearts and minds to God to test us and make ourselves more productive, honest and committed followers like his disciples.

May the season of Lent be a time you regain Jesus and true God. Amen!

Ven. George Melder

Vicar

Readings for March 2023

5th – Second Sunday in Lent			
Theme: The Call and Conversion - Abraham/Nicodemus			
Readings	OT	Genesis 12:1- 4a	Eventide Home
	Psalm	Psalm 121	
	NT	Romans 4:1 - 5, 13 - 17	
	Gospel	St. John 3:1-17	
Intercession	Eventide Home		
12th – Third Sunday in Lent – Celebration of Women’s Day			
Theme - Grace of the waters of Regeneration - Samaritan Woman			
Readings	OT	Exodus 17:1-17	Sunday School Teachers
	Psalm	Psalm 95	
	NT	Romans 5:1-11	
	Gospel	St. John 4:5-42	
Intercessions	Sunday School Teachers		
19th – Fourth Sunday in Lent – Mothering Sunday			
Theme: Perseverance in Faith and Love			
Readings	OT	Exodus 24:12-18	Mothers’ Union Sunday School Mothers’ Union
	Psalm	Psalm 2	
	NT	1 Peter 1:16 - 21	
	Gospel	St. Matthew 17:1 - 9	
Intercession	Sunday School		
26th - Fifth Sunday in Lent			
Theme: Sanctification: A New Life in Christ - Lazarus			
Readings	OT	Ezekiel 37:1-14	<i>Men’s Fellowship</i>
	Psalm	Psalm 51:1-17	
	NT	Romans 8:6-11	
	Gospel	St. John 11: 1-45	Clergy
Intercession	Men’s Fellowship		

Notices

1. The Journey Bible Study will be held on Zoom at 6:30pm every Saturday.
2. The Lenten Cottage Meetings will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays). If you would like to have a prayer meeting at your home please inform your Area Steward.
3. The Consecration of the seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Kurunegala, Revd. Nishantha Fernando, will be held on Sunday the 19th March, 2023, 2.30pm at the Cathedral Church of Christ the King, Kurunegala. Parishioners who are willing to participate please give your names to the office before the 15th of March, 2023.
4. The church has started a student scholarship scheme for needy children and details are on the notice board. If any clarification is required, please contact one of the clergy, any trustee or Ms. Sudharshani Hettige.
5. As the new washrooms have been completed outside please refrain from using the washroom allocated for the clergy.
6. **Youth Ekamuthuwa** will regularly meet at Church for fellowship and faith discussions every 2nd and 4th Sunday from 12-4 pm. All youth are encouraged to join.
7. **Donations and Offerings** – Use an envelope specifying the name and purpose of all offerings and donations and drop it in the pillar box or offer it during the Offertory and please do not hand over to individuals. An official receipt will be issued. Please collect your receipts from the box at the back of the church or from the office, returning the envelope to be reused.
8. **Monthly Financial Statement** - The Trustees have decided to share the financial statements monthly with the parishioners in order to maintain transparency and accountability. A brief financial statement for the month of February will be on the notice board. If you have any concerns or require a detailed statement, please discuss this with the Hon. Treasurer, Mr Lalantha Jayasinghe.