

St. Paul's Church Kandy

Established 1843

Newsletter September 2022

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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Trustees Hon. Secretary – Mr. Rustom Praesoody - 0777331422 Hon. Treasurer – Mr. Lalantha Jayasinghe - 0777849311	

Message from the Vicar

We have passed a few troublesome months and are entering into a time of uncertainty, where numerous changes have taken place in our country and among the people because of the current situation. Let us not forget that God our heavenly father is guiding us even through the worst of times if we continue with him faithfully. Remember the words that Jesus taught us “be still, I am your God, do not fear for I am your God. I have won the victory against evil and I will continue to be with you all”

At this time of chaos, uncertainty and hopelessness, God encourages us to maintain our faith and hope because he is the source of life. Friends, the Holy Spirit guides us to show compassion towards people who have no food, shelter, medicine or basic necessities as well as those in pain, anxiety and feeling insecure. Here God is inviting us to be followers of Christ.

We all understand the seriousness of the economic crisis and the fall of the social fabric of our country. After the “Aragalaya” the law enforcement is tracking down all those who raised their voices against injustice. It is very sad that the present government also does not want a system change, but is maintaining the same path as the previous leaders. We are informed daily in the media about the unending killings, bribery and corruption and various scandals as the reputation of our country plunges into a deep abyss.

Leaving behind all negative aspects and pictures of our society, we need to prayerfully reflect on how we should charter our journey with the Lord. Apostle Paul reminds us that we need to work continuously towards Gods kingdom until we see the results. Therefore, our involvements with the society, evangelistic work or any other activities as Christians should not stop. It is our faith that makes changes. Therefore, let us take the path of Jesus who always walked with the poor destitute, rejected and orphans. St. Mathew the author keeps reminding us that when things start going from bad to worse in our society and in the world, these are the signs towards new changes which may be hard to believe. So let us run with patience and a correct attitude so that we may understand the changes that may be hard to believe.

Friends, we just heard of the completion of the Lambeth Conference 2022. It was themed as “God' church for God's world” with more than 700 Bishops from across

the world came together for study, prayer and reflection for the next 10 years of our mission. It is deeply sad that some Anglican churches split due to various theological perspectives. Some conservative dioceses moved away from Anglican Church of Australia and began the new Diocese of Southern Cross. Also some churches did not kneel and receive Holy Communion together because of serious issues.

However, our own mission here in Kandy by the congregation of St. Paul's has regained its enthusiasm. The Youth, Mothers' Union, Men's' Fellowship, Choir and Altar Servers continue their wonderful work for God's kingdom and I am very blessed to see things are moving with the help of God. The R & R program is continuing with the help of many donors who like to see these spiritual ministries moving ahead. I would like to thank all the members of the committees and office bearers who are truly committed to uphold the church's ministry. The Sunday School Evelyn Nurseries and Eventide Home are also undergoing some changes to enhance their ministry I am also impressed by the excellent work done by the Bible study and prayer groups to strengthen spirituality among the congregation..

Please join the prayer or bible study groups which bring very many blessings to us. The Youth are distributing the food packs for the needy and the Mother's Union provides rice and other items. The Church began its listening ministry to assist those who need cooperation. Let us uphold Mr. Chrishan Fernando and the Team as they proceed very silently.

I am happy to inform you that repairs to our Vicarage Annex are almost completed and we are trying to implement a suitable ministry there. The parochial council will be meeting and it will design the tear work of the possibility. I would like to encourage all those who are willing to help our mission which is very important. We are also seeking donations to finalize renovations of the two washrooms and other ministries.

When looking at so many aspects of our mission it is evident that our God needs human help to continue his work. In the month of September we celebrate our Harvest Festival so please continue to help us cheerfully with good hearts. . As we are passing this season of Trinity and move to the season of Advent in a few months, let us strongly believe in Jesus and the Holy Spirit who always provides courage and strength during this difficult time in our country.

Readings for September 2022

4 th Sept – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity			
Theme: “Bring the full Tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house.”			
Readings	OT	Genesis 14:8-20	Sides Persons
	Psalm	Psalm 112	
	NT	Hebrews 7:1-7	
	Gospel	St. Luke 6:32-38	
Intercessions	Sides Persons		

14th August – Nineth Sunday after Trinity - The Blessed Virgin Mary			
Theme: His mercy is for them that fear him from generation to generation			
Readings	OT	Jeremiah 4:11 - 12, 22 - 28	Servers
	Psalm	Psalm 14	
	NT	1 Timothy 1:12 - 17	
	Gospel	St Luke 15:1-10	Clergy
Intercessions	Servers		

18 th Sept – Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity – Harvest Festival			
Theme: ‘Hospitality is the Word of God’			
Readings	1st Reading	Deuteronomy 16:13-17	Trustees
	Psalm	Psalm 65	
	NT	1 Timothy 6:25-33	
	Gospel	St. Matthew 6:25-34	
Intercession	Trustees		

25 th September - Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity			
Theme: “Justice for the Marginalized: Unity and Peace”			
Readings	OT	Jeremiah 32:1 - 3a, 6 - 15	Eventide Home
	Psalm	Psalm 91:1 - 6, 14 - 16	
	NT	1 Timothy 6:6 – 19	
	Gospel	St Luke 16:1 – 13	Clergy
Intercession	Eventide Home		

Notices

1. **Journey Bible Study** – will be held every Saturday at 6:30pm on Zoom
2. **Sunday School** - will be held after this service. From next week, the Sunday School will be held online on Sundays at 4pm. The link will be sent Sunday morning to the parents and children.
3. **Dry Rations for the Needy** – Please send your contributions to the church office by the first Friday of every month.
4. **Feeding the Hungry** – The next date of distribution of rice will be Wednesday 24th September, 2022, at 11.30 a.m from St. Paul's Church, Kandy. We look forward once again to your generous donations and support towards this project. This month our desire is to give an extra item of food together with 1kg rice. Any such item eg. A pkt. of Soya meat, 250gms dhal, 200gms Dried Sprats etc. Please enter your name and donation in the book which will be available in the church office.
5. **SoupBowl** - The Youth Fellowship, in partnership with the 'SoupBowl' team, will distribute lunch packets for people in need in the Kandy city starting at the church at 11.30am every Saturday. All are welcome to join and support this initiative.
6. The Harvest Festival will be held on 18th September. We request you to prepare your offerings to God to be presented that day.
7. The church washrooms are being restructured and renovated at the moment in order to add an extra washroom. Please bear the inconvenience until the washrooms are completed.
8. **Deposits and Receipts** – Please ensure to indicate your pledge number and purpose as reference when depositing to the bank in order to issue a receipt.
Eg: 999 pledge.
Please WhatsApp the deposit confirmation to +94 71 606 4050.

9. **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.

10. **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 June 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.