

newsbuzz

The newsletter of St. Michael and All Angels, Polwatte



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Who's Who

Vicar

Reverend Niroshan de Mel

Curates

Reverend Chintha Polgampola

Reverend Asokaraja Narasingam

Vicar's Wardens

Leana Pieris, *English*

Ainsley Ratnayake, *Sinhala*

Malar Ramachandran, *Tamil*

Peoples' Wardens

Ranjithkumar Devarajan, *English*

Kumudini Fernando, *English*

Shanthi Alles, *English*

Rohana Delvita, *Sinhala*

Ranjankumar Yogaratnam, *Tamil*

Warden's Secretaries

Shivani Rajahmoney, *English*

Danushi Weinman, *Sinhala*

Jason Samuel, *Tamil*

Treasurers

Manoj Devaraj, *English*

Russel De Zilwa, *English*

George Fernando, *Sinhala*

Geetha Nicholas, *Tamil*

Parish Secretary

Malathi Fernando

Choir Directors

Denham Pereira, *English*

Vincent Kanagarajah, *Tamil*

Mothers' Union Presidents

Malkanthi Perera, *English*
Udayangani Delvita, *Sinhala*
Malar Thangathurai, *Tamil*

Adult Fellowship

Sharon Rajamani, *Coordinator*

Sunday School

Samanthi Ratnayaka, *Coordinator*

Ceylon Youth Fellowship Coordinators (CYF)

John Samuel, *English*
Niruni de Mel, *Sinhala*
Vinodani Sebagnanam, *Tamil*

Helping Hands Secretary

Enoka Fernando

Social Worker For Helping Hands

Irangani Gamage

Helping Hands Cook

Doreen Bates

Help in Need

Ruwanthi Gunawardana, *Coordinator*

Maintenance Manager

Hemal Silva

Sextons

James Samaraweera
S. V. Wimalasiri
Samuel Joseph

The Parish Office

Opening times:

Monday – Friday
9am – 5pm

Contact

112 343 471
secretary@stmichaelspolwatte.lk

Vicar's Message

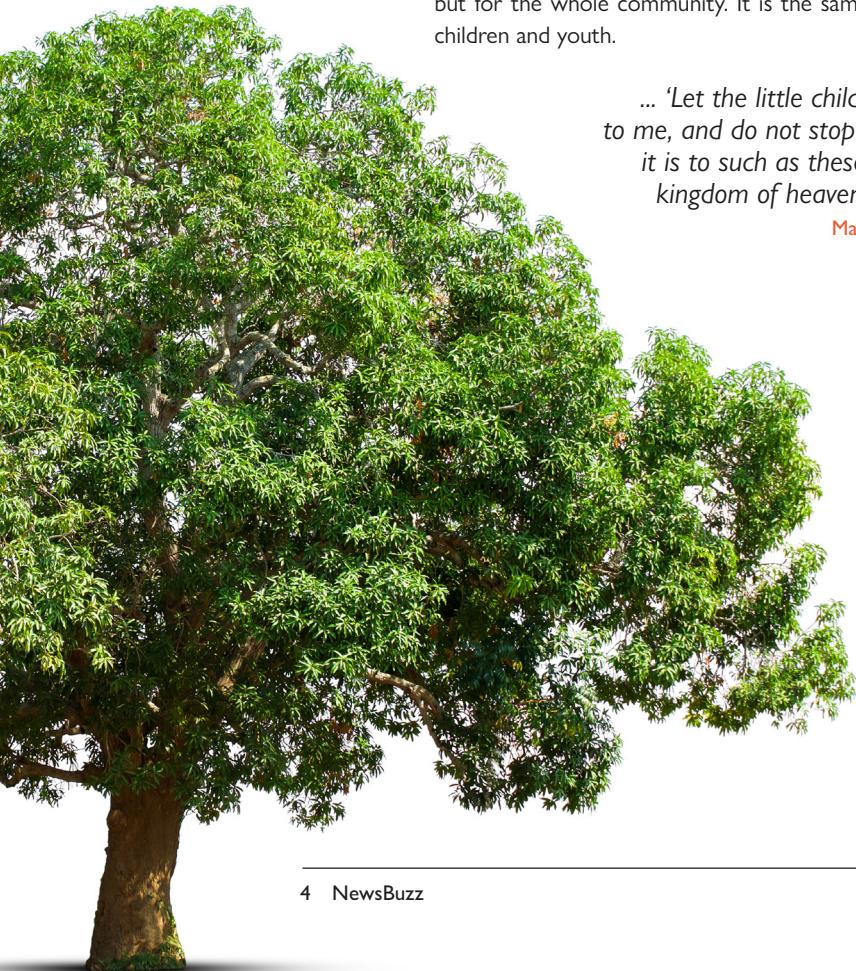
Dear friends in Christ,

T is the season of creation. We experience God's creative intervention, amidst thoughts of hopelessness in our reality.

It was just the other day that we witnessed fourteen young lives committed to God, being filled with the Holy Spirit at Confirmation. Now it is the responsibility of the congregation to find space for them to grow and bear fruit within our parish. The illustration of the Mango tree used by Bishop Duleep at the confirmation service reminds us that it only requires a space to spread its branches and grow, thereafter, it bears fruit not for self but for the whole community. It is the same with our children and youth.

... 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'

Matthew 19:14



vicar's message

When they come, let them see Christ in our life and witness, know Christ through the word, experience Christ in our Ministries and rituals.

'Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.'

Proverbs 22.6

This is the challenge that I leave you with, as I conclude my ministry at St. Michael's. It is not the end of God's ministry but completion of what God entrusted to me and handing over to the next, who would Shepherd the flock.

May God bless you and equip you as a congregation, to consciously create that space for the children and youth in this parish.

In Christ's service,

Niroshan (Fr.)

Past Vicars of St. Michael

- 1886** Walter Edmond Mathew
Archdeacon of Colombo
- 1889** Charles Twining Boyd
Archdeacon of Colombo
- 1901** William Henly
- 1914** Clement Mallory Ricketts
- 1923** George Wells Forster
- 1933** John Edward Hardy
- 1945** Arthur Clifford Wilson
- 1950** Harry George Withey
- 1955** William Edgar Beale
- 1959** Reginald Steuart de Sarem
- 1961** Swithin Winston Fernando
Archdeacon of Colombo
- 1977** James Richard Ratnanayagam
- 1983** Baldwin Daniel
- 1984** Ven. Jabez Gnanapragasam
- 1988** Ven. Godwin Weerasuriya
- 1990** Duleep de Chickera
- 1995** Bennett Balasingh
- 2003** Chrisantha Mendis
- 2004** Godwin Weerasuriya
- 2006** Dushantha Rodrigo
- 2011** Perry Brohier
- 2014** Ven. Chrisantha Mendis

Curate's Message

මම මට ප්‍රේම කරන්නා නම් ඔබ මාගේ ආඥා පිලිපදින්නාය (ඉ. යොහාන් 14:15)
අප මෙම ආඥාවන් හොඳින් දන්නාය. සමහරුන් මෙම ආඥාවන් කටපාඩම් කර ඇත. යේසුස්වහන්සේ පවසන පරිදි මෙයින් සැහීමකට පත්විය නොහැක. අප මෙම දේවල් අපගේ ජීවිතයෙන් අන් අයට ආදර්ශයක් වන ලෙස පිලිපදිය යුතුය. අප මෙම ආඥාවන් වලට කිකරු වී ඒවා පිලිපදින්නේ නම් අප උන්වහන්සේට ප්‍රේම කරන්නාය. දේව දරුවන් ලෙස අප උන්වහන්සේට ප්‍රේම කරන බව දැන්විය හැකි එකම මාර්ගය වන්නේ මෙම ආඥාවන් වලට කිකරු වීමෙන් සහ ඒවා පිලිපදීමෙන්ය.

පැරණි ගිවිසුමෙහි මෝසේගේ ව්‍යවස්ථාවට අනුව ඔබ අනෙක් පුද්ගලයාට සැලකිය යුතු වන්නේ ඔහු හෝ ඇය ඔබගේ සලකන ආකාරයටයි. **අසට අස දුටු දුත (හින්මයාම 21:23-25)** මෙවැනි හිතී පද්ධතියක් සකස් කර තිබුණේ සමාජයේ වෙසෙන්නාවූ ජනතාව යම්කිසි පාලනයකට යටත් කර ගැනීමටයි අප මෙම ක්‍රියාව තුළ යම්කිසි ප්‍රේමයක් අත් දකිනවාද? නැත. එම හේතුව නිසාම යේසුස්වහන්සේ නව ආඥාවක් දෙමින් පැරණි ගිවිසුමෙහි සඳහන් එම හිතී සම්පූර්ණ කළ සේක. "එහෙත් මම ඔබට කියමි. ඔබේ සතුරන්ට ප්‍රේම කරන්න. ඔබට පීඩා කරන්නන් උදෙසා යාවිඤා කරන්න." උන්වහන්සේ අපට මෙසේ කිරීමට පවසන්නේ අප දෙවියන්වහන්සේගේ දරුවන් වන නිසාය. කෙසේවෙතත් සතුරන්ට ප්‍රේම කිරීමට ඉතාමත් අසීරු කරුණක් බවට ඔබ මා සමඟ එකඟ වනවා ඇත. අපගේ සතුරන්ට අපට ප්‍රේම කළ හැකිද? අපට පීඩා කරන්නන් උදෙසා යාවිඤා කළ හැකිද? අප දන්නා පරිදි මේ දෙය සිදු කිරීමට අපගේ දැනීම, නිපුණත්වය සහ ශක්තිය ප්‍රමාණවත් නැත. අපගේ මෙම දුර්වලතාවය උන්වහන්සේ දන්නා බැවින් උන්වහන්සේ අප වෙත සැනසිලිදායකයාණන් මෙන්ම සහනදායකයාණන් වූ ශුද්ධාත්මයාණන්වහන්සේව එවනු ලැබුවා. යම් පුද්ගලයෙකු උන්වහන්සේගේ ආඥා පිලිපදිය නම් එම පුද්ගලයා තුළ ශුද්ධාත්මයාණන්වහන්සේ ක්‍රියා කරන බව අපට මෙයින් වටහා ගත හැක. එය එසේ වන්නේ ඇයි දැයි ඔබ දන්නවාද? ශුද්ධාත්මයාණන්වහන්සේ අපට නව ජීවිතය සහ නව හුස්ම දෙනවා මෙන්ම දෙවියන්වහන්සේ ඉදිරියෙහි අපව බලසතු කරන හෙයිනි. ක්‍රියා දෙවන පරිච්ඡේදයේ දක්වා ඇති පරිදි ශුද්ධාත්මයාණන් වහන්සේ අපෝස්තුළුවරුන් වෙත පතිත වූ අතර ඒවායේ සංකේතයන් වන්නේ සුළඟ (නව ජීවිතයකට නව හුස්ම) සහ ගින්දරයි (යේසුස්වහන්සේගේ පෙනී සිටීම). මුල් සභාවෙහි සිටියාවූ කාන්තාවන් සහ පුරුෂයන් මෙම නව හුස්ම තුලින් යේසුස්වහන්සේ තමන් අභිමුඛව පෙනී සිටීම තුලින් තමන්ගේ ජීවිත යන මගට ගෙන ගිය ආකාරය ක්‍රියා පොතෙහි සඳහන් කර ඇත. මෙයට හොඳම නිදසුන වන්නේ මරණ මොහොතේදී ස්තේපන්ගේ යාවිඤාවයි. ඔහු දණින් වැටී "සම්ආණන්වහන්සේ මෙම පාපය ඔවුන් පිට නොතැබුව මැනව" යි මහත් හඬින් මාරු ගසා කිය. මෙසේ කියා ඔහු සැතපුණේය. (ක්‍රියා 7:60)

මා ප්‍රිය මිතුරුවරුනි, කිතුනුවන්ගේ මාර්ගය වනුයේ ආදරය, කමා වන්නාවූ ආකාරය සහ සාම මාර්ගයයි. අප ජීවත් වූයේ කොරෝනා වෛරසය හේතුවෙන් දස දහස් ගනණකගේ ජීවිත බිලි ගත් සන්දර්භයක් තුළය. මෙම කොරෝනා වෛරසය කවුරුන් විසින් කුමන ආකාරයට ලෝකය වෙතට රැගෙන ආවේද යන්න ගැන නවමත් කිසිවකු දන්නේ නැත. එහෙත් අප දන්නාවූ කරුණක් නම් දෙවියන්වහන්සේගේ මැවීමට විරුද්ධව යම් කිසිවකු ක්‍රියා කරයිද එහි බලපෑම තම ප්‍රජාව වෙත එල්ල වන බවයි. තමා යම්කිසි දෙයක් වපුරන්නේද එහි ඵල තමා විසින්ම නෙලා ගන්නා බවයි.

“இயேசுவின் மாட்டுத்தொழுவமும், லயின் காம்பிராவும்”

மரியாளும் யோசேப்பும் மிகுந்த மனவேதனையோடும் உடல்வலியோடும் தங்குவதற்கு ஓர் இடத்தை தேடிக்கொண்டிருந்தனர். மரியாள் பிரசவ வலியால் துடித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார், தனது மனைவிக்கு குழந்தையைப் பிரசவிக்கச் சரியான ஓர் இடத்தை என்னால் ஏற்பாடு செய்ய செய்ய முடியவில்லையே! என மனவேதனையோடு யோசேப்பு ஓர் இடத்தை தேடிக்கொண்டே இருந்தார்.

இடமும் கிடைத்தது

ஆனால் அவ்விடம் குழந்தை பிரசவிக்க தகுதியான ஓர் இடம் அல்ல, ஓர் மாட்டுத்தொழுவத்தில் இயேசு பிறந்தார்.

“அவர் தம் தலைமகனைப் பெற்றெடுத்தார். விடுதியில் அவர்களுக்கு இடம் கிடைக்கவில்லை. எனவே பிள்ளையைத் துணிகளில் பொதிந்து தீவனத் தொட்டியில் கிடத்தினார்.” லூக்கா 2:7

நான் சிறுவனாக இருக்கும் போது மாட்டுத்தொழுவத்தை மாட்டுப்பட்டியை குறித்தான முதல் அனுபவம் எனக்குக் கிடைத்தது. சிறுவனாக எமது உறவினர்கள் வீட்டிற்குச் செல்லும் போது மாட்டிலிருந்து அவர்கள் பால் எடுக்கும் போது, மாட்டிக்கு ஆட்டிக்கு புல், புண்ணாக்கு கொடுக்கும் போது, அதை மேய்ச்சலுக்குக் கொண்டு போகும் போது, அவற்றோடு கொஞ்சி விளையாடும் போது வியப்போடு அதைப் பார்த்துக்கொண்டு இருப்பேன். மாடுகளை மேய்ச்சலுக்கு விட்ட பிறகு மாட்டுப்பட்டியைச் சுத்தம் செய்வார்கள். மாட்டுச்சாணம், சிறுநீர், சிந்திய புல், புண்ணாக்கு எல்லாவற்றையும் சுத்தம் செய்து பட்டியைத் துப்பரவாக வைத்துக்கொள்வார்கள்.

இயேசுவும் இவ்வாறான ஓர் இடத்திலே பிறக்கிறார், மாட்டுச்சாணம், சிறுநீர் வாடை, ஈக்கள், கொசுக்கள், மிருகங்கள் நிறைந்த இடத்திலேயே இயேசு பிறக்கிறார். இன்று விழாக்கோலமாக நாம் மின்விளக்குகளால் நிறைந்த “மாட்டுத்தொழுவத்தை” செய்தாலும் இயேசு உண்மையாகவே பிறந்தது, அசுத்தமான மாட்டுத்தொழுவத்தில் ஆகும். இப்பிறப்பின் மூலம், அடிப்படை வசதிகளற்று, ஓரங்கட்டப்பட்ட நிலையில் வாழும் மக்களோடு இயேசு தன்னை அடையாளப்படுத்துகிறார். கடவுளின் மகன் அடிப்படை வசதிகளற்று இடத்திலேயே கால்பதிக்கிறார்.

இயேசுவின் மாட்டுத்தொழுவத்தையும், நான் பார்த்த மாட்டுப்பட்டியையும் சிந்திக்கின்ற பொழுது எனது மனதை வேதனைப்படுத்தியது நம் கண்முன் இருக்கும் லயின் காம்பிராக்கள்.

லயத்துச் சிறைகள் என்று அழைக்கப்பட்ட லயின் காம்பிராக்கள். ஆரம்பக்கால கோப்பி பயிர்செய்கையின் போது கட்டப்பட்டது. தொடக்கத்தில் தோட்டத் தொழிலாளிகள் களிமண் வீடுகளிலேயே வாழ்ந்து வந்தனர், காலத்திற்குக் காலம் இக்களிமண் வீடுகளை மீளமைப்பு செய்யவேண்டி ஏற்பட்டதால், அதிகப் பணம் செலவாகுவதை உணர்த்த வெள்ளையர்கள் இத்தொழிலாளிகளை எப்படியாவது இங்கே தங்கவைக்க இவ்வலைன் காம்பிராக்களை கட்டினர். மீண்டும் மீண்டும் மீளமைப்பு செய்ய வேண்டியதில்லை என்ற நோக்கில் நீண்ட நேர கோட்டில் 12 முதல் 16 அறைகள் கொண்ட, தரை முதல் கூரைவரை சுவர் கட்டி 10 ஓ 12

அளவில் அறைகள் கொண்ட கட்டிடத்தைக் கட்டினர். 1850களில் இவ்வயின் என நீண்ட வரிசை கூடுகள் கட்டப்பட்டன. இவ் நீண்ட கட்டிடத்திற்கு பொதுவாக ஒருமுனையிலிருந்து மறுமுனை வரை பிரிக்கப்படாத நீண்ட வராந்தா காணப்பட்டது. இந்த நீண்ட வராந்தாவிற்கு முன்னால், வாசற்கதவிற்கு முன்னாலே எப்போதுமே சாக்கடை ஓடக்கொண்டே இருக்கும். இதனால் அதிகமான நோயிகளுக்கு காலப்போக்கில் இவர்கள் ஆளானார்கள்.

200 ஆண்டுகளாக “மலைகளை குடைந்து, தமது உழைப்பின்மூலம் தேயிலை பயிர்செய்கையில் உலகம் போற்ற முன் நின்று உழைக்கும் மலையக மக்களுக்கு இன்னும் சரியான வீட்டு வசதிகள் இல்லை. மீள் கட்டுமானம் செய்ய வேண்டியது இல்லை எனக் கட்டப்பட்ட லயின் காம்பிராக்களில் இன்னும் நூற்றாண்டுகளாக வாழ்ந்து வருகின்றனர். பொதுவான அடிப்படை வசதிகள் அற்ற இவ்விடங்கள் இன்றும் உலகிற்கு இயேசு பிறப்பின் தொழுவத்தை அறிமுகப்படுத்திக்கொண்டு இருக்கிறது. மலையகத்தில் மாற்றங்கள் ஏற்படுவது உண்மை ஆனாலும் இன்னும் பின்தங்கிய உள்ளூர் தோட்டங்கள் மிக மோசமான நிலைமைகளில் தன் இருக்கிறது. “பாதர் புது வீடு கட்டியாச்சு, புது வீட்டுக்குப் போக போறோம் பாதர் வந்து எங்களுக்காக ஜெபிக்கவேணும் என்றான் ஒரு அம்மா, கிடைத்த அழைப்பின் பெயரில் அந்த தோட்டத்திற்குச் சென்றேன். கிடைக்கப்பெற்ற இடத்தில் அவர்களுக்கு ஏதுவான முறையில் முழுமையை முடிக்கப்படாவிட்டாலும் வாழ்வதற்கான தகுதி நிலையிலிருந்து வீட்டிற்கு ஜெபிக்க சந்தோஷமாக ஒன்றுகூடினோம். அவ்வேளையில் லயின் காம்பிராக்களில் இருந்து எட்டிப் பார்க்கும் குழந்தையின் கண்கள் “நாங்க எப்ப இந்த மாதிரி தனி வீட்டுக்குப் போக போறம்” என்ற ஏக்கத்தோடு என்னைப் பார்ப்பதை நான் உணர்ந்தேன்.

லயின் காம்பிராக்களில் வாழ்வது சவால் மிக்கது முழுக்குடும்பமே ஒரே நீண்ட அறையில் “அம்மா, அப்பா, குழந்தைகள், வாலிப பிள்ளைகள், வயோதிபர்கள்” எல்லாரும் ஒரே அறையில் தங்கும் அவல நிலை இங்கேயே காணப்படுகிறது. இவ்வாறு ஒரே அறையில் அனைவரும் உறங்குவதால் பலவிதமான பிரச்சனைகளும், அசௌரியங்களும் குடும்பத்தினர் ஆளாகின்றனர். வாலிப்பிள்ளைகள் சொல்ல முடியாத துன்பங்களுக்கு நாளுக்கு நாள் ஆளாகின்றனர்.

மழையில் ஓழுகும் லயின் காம்பிராக்களே இங்கு அதிகம் ஆசிரியர் பா. செல்லதுரை சொல்லுவது போல “சதுரங்க போட்டியில் நகர்த்தப்படும் காய்களைப் போல மழைக்காலத்தில் பாத்திரங்கள் இங்கு நகர்த்தப்பட்டு கொண்டு தான் இருக்கிறது”.

லயின் காம்பிராக்கள் சிறியதாகவும், மழைக்கு ஓழுகும் நிலையிலிருந்தாலும் இம்மக்களின் மனங்கள் எப்போதும் பெரியதாகவே இருக்கும். இருப்பதைப் பகிர்ந்து கொண்டு வீட்டிற்கு, வருபவர்களைப் போஷித்து அன்போடு நடத்தும் குணம் போற்றத்தக்கது. இம்மக்களின் விருந்தோம்பல் பண்பு எப்போதும் எம்மை மெய்சிலிர்த்த வைக்கும்.

இவ்இருநூறு வருட வரலாற்றில் லயின் காம்பிராக்கள் 150 வருடத்தைத் தாண்டி எம்மத்தியில் உடைந்து போன நிலையில் உழைப்பாளர்களைப் பார்த்துச் சிரித்துக்கொண்டு இருக்கிறது ஆனாலும் அதில் வாழும் மக்களின் நிலை கண்ணீராய் கரைபுரண்டு ஓடுகிறது. இவ்வயின் அறைகளில் படிக்கும் பாடசாலை மாணவர்கள் நாளுக்கு நாள் பலவிதமான சவால்களைத் தாண்டியே தமது கல்வியைத் தொடருகிறார்கள். லயின் அறைகள் ஒன்றோடு ஒன்று ஓட்டியிருப்பதால், ஒரு அறையில் படிக்க முயற்சிக்கும் பிள்ளைக்கு பல்வேறு தடைகள் அவனது கவனத்தைச்

Article

சிதைத்துக்கொண்டே இருக்கும், வீட்டாரின் உரையாடல்கள். பக்கத்துக்கு விட்டு சண்டைகள், பக்கத்துக்கு லயின் வீட்டின் வானொலி, தொலைக்காட்சி தொல்லைகள், எல்லாமே அவனது மன அமைதியைப் பாதிக்கும். இதையெல்லாம் சகித்து கொண்டே இன்று அதிகமானோர் வெற்றியை நோக்கி ஓடிக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றனர். குழந்தைகள், வாலிபர்கள், புதுமண தம்பதிகள், வயோதிபர்கள் ஆண்டாண்டு காலமாய் இவ்லயின் காம்பிராக்களில் பட்ட துன்பங்களையும், கண்ணீரையும் இவ்வலன் சுவர்களே சொல்லும்.

Tea plantation line houses in Sri Lanka



Photo: Dimuthu Attanayake

இன்றும் இவ் இருநூறுவருட காலத்தைச் சிலர் கொண்டாட்டமாக கொண்டாடினாலும், அடிப்படைத் தேவையான மலசல வசதி கூட இல்லாத தோட்டங்கள் எவ்வளவோ எம் கண்முன் காணப்படுகிறது. இன்றும் மற்றவர் வீட்டிலோ, மறைவான காட்டிலோ, ஒதுக்குப்புறத்திலோ தமது அடிப்படை வேலைகளைச் செய்யும் உறவுகள் எத்தனையோ!

வியர்வை சிந்தி நாட்டுக்காக உழைக்கும் மக்களுக்குச் சரியான அடிப்படை வீட்டுவசதிகள் செய்து கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டும். அவர்களது உரிமைக் குரலுக்குத் தோட்ட நிர்வாகமும், பிரதிநிதிகளும், அரசு தலைவர்கள் செவிகொடுக்க வேண்டும். இவர்களின் வாழ்வுரிமையை மேம்படுத்த பல திட்டங்கள் வகுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது, அதை நடைமுறைப்படுத்துவதிலும் மக்களின் வாழ்வை வளப்படுத்தவும் பொறுப்பானவர்கள் முயற்சிக்கவேண்டும். வாழ்வில் கஷ்டங்கள், கவலைகள், கரடுமுரடான பாதைகளை ஒவ்வொரு நாளும் இவர்கள் சந்தித்தாலும் தமது உழைப்பையும், முயற்சியையும் இவர்களை கைவிடுவதேயில்லை. இம்மக்களின் வாழ்வில் உள்ள தாகம் ஓர் பெரிய கல்வி சமூகத்தை உருவாக்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது. இந்த நிலை மாறவேண்டும், அடிப்படை வசதிகள் இன்றி 2000 வருடத்திற்கு முன் பிறந்த இயேசுவும், 200 ஆண்டுகளாக லயின் காம்பிராவில் வாழும் உறவுகளும் ஒரே குடும்பத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களாக நான் பார்க்கிறேன்.

இவ்உழைக்கும் மக்களின் வாழ்வு சிறக்கவேண்டும், தொழிலாயின் மகனான இயேசு இவர்களுடன் வாழ்கிறார்.

-- அருட்பணி ஷரூபன் பிரதீப்



HELP IN NEED

Community Project

A community effort to overcome hardships faced by families due to the rising cost of living

How can you help?

purchase one of the following items on your weekly shopping round and drop it off at Church when you visit:

Pulses

- 1 kg flour
- 1 kg Rice flour
- 1 kg Rice (Nadu or Red Raw Rice)
- 500g Dhal
- 500g Green gram
- 500g Chickpeas
- 500g Samaposa
- 400g Noodles
- Soya packets of any flavour

Condiments

- 100g Chilli powder
- 100g Chilli pieces
- 100g Curry powder
- 500ml Oil

Personal Care

- Lifebuoy face soap

Laundry Detergents

- Washing soap

General Pantry Items

- 200g Tea Leaves
- 400g Milk powder
- 1 kg Sugar
- Tinned mackerel
- Cream Cracker Biscuits

Support us further

online donations:

Hatton National Bank
City Office
St. Michael's Church Help in Need
0020-1057-2030
Swift Code: HBLILKLX

cheques drawn in favour of:

St. Michael's Church Help in Need



Photo: The Choirs of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Kollupetiya, and Bishop's College, Colombo with their directors: Asanka Perera, Harin Amirthanathan and Denham Pereira. Photography by Senesh de Mel

RSCM Music Sunday

an evening of music and readings celebrating the role of Church music in worship

MUSIC has always played an important role in the life and worship at St. Michael's. From sung weekly Eucharist Services to playing host to various special services during Remembrantide, Christmas, Epiphany, and Passiontide and Holy Week as well as to regular Choral Evensong.

This year St. Michael's hosted the RSCM's Music Sunday celebrations on the 25th of June 2023. An event we hope would become an annual feature in the church's liturgical calendar. A large congregation gathered to enjoy an evening of carefully crafted music, readings and organ music to celebrate this important day which gives thanks to God for the role of music in worship and the dedicated musicians who lead it.

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) began in the year 1927 when the organist of Westminster Abbey, Sir Sydney Nicholson, formed a school for the training of church musicians who committed themselves to attaining high standards.

Article

The school was originally named 'The School of English Church music' and in 1945 was changed to 'Royal School of Church Music' by command of King George VI after the number of affiliated churches rose to over 1300 worldwide.

Canterbury Cathedral allowed the school to function within the precincts of the cathedral, and the College re-opened there in January 1946. By 1952 over 3000 churches were affiliated.

The RSCM has now become the heart and home of church music. It promotes the best use of music in worship, church life, and the wider community.

For this year's Music Sunday the over-100 voiced choir consisted of entirely school children. The choristers of Bishop's College, Colombo, S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, and S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Kollupitiya were all carefully guided and prepared with the day's music over a period of three months by their directors, Mr. Denham Pereira, Mr. Asanka Perera, and Mr. Harin Amirthanathan, respectively.

The evening's music was conducted by Mr. Harin Amirthanathan and the organ was played by Mr. Denham Pereira. The hymns for the congregation included 'Angel voices ever singing'; 'Love Divine all loves excelling' sung to the Welsh tune 'Blaenwern'; Ken Naylor's rousing 'How



The RSCM also publishes music and training resources and organises courses, short workshops, and other activities.

shall I sing that majesty'; the timeless 'Praise my soul, the King of heaven'; and Timothy Dudley-Smith's much loved 'Lord for the years'.

Article

The Anthems for the evening consisted of John Rutter's 'I will sing with the Spirit'; Alan Bullard's 'Hail the day that sees him rise'; Charles Wood's 'O thou the central orb'; Malcolm Archer's 'Brother James' air' and Psalm 150 to a chant by Robert Goodenough. Among the organ music played during the celebrations was the 'Allegro Marziale by Frank Bridge; Bach's 'In dir ist freude' (*In thee is gladness*); William Harris' 'Flourish for an occasion' and Samuel S. Wesley's Air and Gavotte.

St. Michael's and all the affiliated schools that took part in this year's Music Sunday celebration would like to thank the RSCM for their contribution towards church music and especially for the initiation and guidance given towards 'Music Sunday' which has enabled us to start a much needed Music Fund at St. Michael's.

You can help support the future of the music at St. Michael's by contributing towards this Fund using the details below.

-
Denham Pereira
Organist and Director of Music

Music Fund

Maintaining our much loved church music is expensive. All those who appreciate good church music can choose to give a monthly, annually or a one time donation to sustain St Michael's wonderful music for choir and organ for generations to come.

To donate online:

HNB - City Office

St. Michael's Church FWO Fund

002010004888

Please mention "Music Fund" in the references

Cheques to be written in favour of

St. Michael's Church FWO Fund

Please mention "Music Fund" at the back of the cheque

October

1st – Education Sunday (Children’s Sunday)

Philippians 4: 8–9

Matthew 7: 24–29

8th – Disable Persons’ Sunday

1 Timothy 2: 1–7

Luke 17: 11–19

15th – The Feast of Luke the Evangelist

Romans 12: 9–21

Luke 6: 43–45

22nd – Harvest Festival

2 Corinthians 9: 6–15

Luke 12: 16–30

29th – Last Sunday after Trinity

1 Thessalonians 2: 1–8

Matthew 22: 34–46

November

5th – All Saints Sunday

1 John 3. 1–3

Matthew 5. 1–12

12th – Remembrance Sunday

1 Thessalonians 4. 13–18

Matthew 25. 1–13

19th – Second Sunday before Advent

1 Thessalonians 5. 1–11

Matthew 25. 14–30

26th – Christ the King

Ephesians 1. 15–23

Matthew 25. 31–46

Hymn Meditation



*The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.*

*Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.*

*Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.*

*In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.*

*Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!*

*And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.*

Words: Henry Williams Baker
Tune: Dominus Regit Me

PSALM 23 is the most famous psalm, the most said or sung, the most comforting. It is thoroughly human, yet it points inwards to the divine within us. For in this hymn we sing to ourselves, to Christ indwelling by the Holy Spirit. The Lord is my shepherd, he makes me to lie down in green pastures. Usually, in church we sing about God or to God. And yet there is that second person in the middle: for you are with me, 'your rod and staff comfort me'. And that is the key: for here God is internalized, we are recognizing and addressing the God who dwells in each of us, who by his Spirit comforts and leads us through the darkest times, yea even through the valley of death.

Psalm 23, as set by Henry Williams Baker, is about Jesus, who is not only the good shepherd but the King of love. Jesus is the shepherd who leads from the front, showing the way to heavenly pastures and the many dwelling places reserved for those who follow him as the way, the truth and the life (John 14.1–6).

Henry Baker spent most of his ministerial life as vicar of Monkland in Herefordshire, and the Moor Brook there could even have inspired him. In any event it was said by the hymnologist John Julian (1839–1913) that as Baker died in his vicarage on 12 February 1877

hymn meditation

the last words he uttered were the third stanza of this simple, profound, reassuring hymn:

*Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.*

Such a poignant ending befitted the man who became a hereditary baronet in 1859 but whose celibate calling was always primarily to Christ's church and to the burgeoning world of hymnody.

For many, Dominus regit me is essential, a classic English hymn tune by Dykes that was written for this hymn at Baker's personal request. This is no accidental pairing but was crafted for it, and the hymn was sung to it at Dykes's own funeral.

More recently, Psalm 23 in its various forms has sustained many through the dark valleys of the coronavirus, as many of us – too many – have walked the valley of death, and yet have been sustained in the centre of being by this comforting psalm about divine love.

For wherever we walk, we never walk alone, and God is with us. The King of love restores our soul from within. The Good Shepherd leads us, and his love and provision for us overflow with goodness and mercy. Singing the psalm in this Christian version not only reminds us of this, it helps bring it about. For this is not only about dwelling in the house of the Lord, it is also about making our own bodies and souls the house of the Lord, so that Christ may dwell in us all the days of our life.

Gordon Giles
RSCM

Obituaries

B. Paramanathan
1.1.2023

Rohini Jayawardena
10.1.2023

Dr. Selvie Perera
15.2.2023

Sulochana Navaratnam
28.2.2023

Shirani Pereira
26.3.2023

Susil Fernando
30.5.2023

Jehan Algama
23.6.2023

Dr. Philine Peiris
7.7.2023

Ajith Ratwatte
12.7.2023

○ Lamb of God and shepherd of our souls, hear our prayers for all who walk through the valley of death. By the saving grace of your cross and resurrection, be their comfort and sustain all for whom the journey is hard. Guide and lead us all through sorrow to the greater joy of knowing that you walk beside us as Lord of life and King of love. Amen.

Introducing our New Visual Identity

To commemorate the 135th Anniversary of our church it was suggested that a new visual identity was needed to appear on all our publications and visual merchandise. The new visual identity has been developed in careful consultation with our vicar. This new identity, with a modern twist, very much reflects the forward facing approach of St Michael's church, yet retains a sense of St. Michael's Church's character and history. Clean and contemporary, elegant and timeless, with local elements, this identity better reflects St. Michael's position in modern society—primarily as a place of Christian worship — but also for education, and the arts.

Inspiration for our new identity was drawn from the research of elements that represent the saint, Michael. Among the standard representations of swords, and shields, and wings, one element really stood out: 'The Michaelmas Daisy' (Fig. 1). They are popularly known as such because of their typical blooming period: The month of September.



Fig. 1

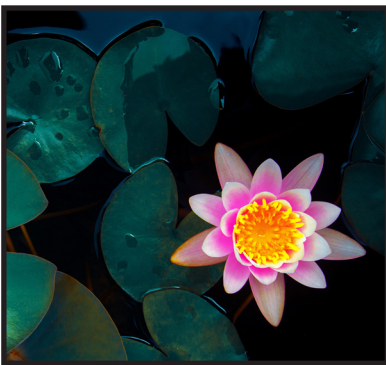


Fig. 2

After many revisions and redesigns it was decided to use our national flower, the "Nil Manel" (Fig 2), to recreate the "Michaelmas Daisy" for not only would this emphasise Sri Lankan culture in our identity but also for the fact that the Nil Manel can be very symbolic to us Christians. Like the Nil Manel which begins its life rooted in mud (world) but navigates its way through it all, washed with the water (baptism), to blossom

into a beautiful flower above the surface, drawing people to it to view its purity and beauty, we too are called to navigate through the world's impurities to grow, blossom and rise above it whereby we draw others to Christ through our purity in this saintly life we are expected to live and to adding beauty to God's creation.



Saint Michael & All Angels

Introduction to our logo

This is our logo. It consists of two primary elements — the 'Mark', which is derived by using our national flower 'The Nil Manel' to recreate the 'Michaelmas Daisy' which in turn is used to represent our patron saint guarding the kingdom of heaven. The 'Logotype', which has been specially created using a smart traditional serif font maintaining the beauty and elegance of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels.

Not just a logo

Our visual identity is not just the 'logo', it is the fusion of several essential elements including colour, typeface and imagery as well as tone of voice. Using these elements in a consistent way will help build an identity which is instantly recognisable, which, in turn will foster trust and loyalty which will enhance our reputation. It will also create focus and help pull everyone together as a team.

Our new visual identity will begin rolling out from the 29th of September 2023 (The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels) and thereafter the existing logo will not be printed on any new St Michael's Church external or internal communications.

Events Diary

OCTOBER

Sunday 1st October

Children's Day

8.00 am Sung Eucharist - Trilingual
10.00 am Children's Eucharist
at Nuga Sewana
Noon Said Eucharist - English

Sunday 8th October

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

6.00pm - Choral Evensong
The Choir of Bishop's College

Sunday 22nd October

Harvest Festival and Sale

8.00 am Sung Eucharist - Trilingual
Noon Said Eucharist - English

NOVEMBER

Thursday 2nd November

All Souls' Day

7.00 am Said Eucharist - Trilingual
6.00 pm 'Knowing God's Love'
A service of readings and
music to commemorate
the lives of the dear
departed.
All are welcome

Saturday 18th November

6.00 pm Memorial Service for the
life and work of
Dr. Philine Peiris

DECEMBER

Friday 1st December

6.00 pm Bishop's College Carol Service

Saturday 9th December

6.00 pm Tamil Carol Service

Thursday 14th December

7.00 pm "A Celebration of Christmas"
Much loved carols for all to
sing along with readings and
prayers and music to
celebrate the festive season.
Music sung by: Voice of Praise,
Chamber Choir

Saturday 17th December

6.00 pm Sinhala Parish Carol Service
and Dinner

Wednesday 20th December

7.00 pm An Evening of
Christmas Music with
Peshali Yapa and her Choirs
'The Piccolinis' and
'Coro CantAmici'

Sunday 24th December

6.00 pm English Carol Service

JANUARY

Sunday 21st January

6.00 pm Epiphany Carol Service
Celebrate the visit of the Magi to the
infant Christ, the Baptism of Christ and
his first miracle at Cana in a service rich
with atmosphere and symbolism.
Voice of Praise, Chamber Choir

special services and events at st michael



'Knowing God's Love'

A service of music and readings commemorating the lives of the dear departed

The Bishop's College Carol Service



A Celebration of Christmas

A programme of much loved carols, readings and poetry to celebrate the festive season.



A Testimony

by SHANAKA CANAGASABEY

WISH to begin with a Bible quote; “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart, yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” - [Ecclesiastes 3:11](#);

We must believe, no matter what happens in our lives that God is in control and he will take everything that happens and make it work out for our good. When you let God arise in your thoughts you make him bigger than your problems, bigger than any sickness. The bigger you make God, the smaller your problems become and the more faith will rise in your heart. Instead of worrying, thinking about all the things that are wrong and what might not workout, turn all that worry time into worship time. That’s what allows the most powerful force in the universe to go to work on your behalf.

I’m Shanaka Canagasabey, 33 years old, and a pilot for Sri Lankan Airlines by profession. In 2018, at age 29, I was first diagnosed with a rare form of cancerous tumour in my left eye. The tumour develops on the eye muscle and pushes the eye out, eventually severing the optic nerve and leading to permanent blindness. Additionally, since it’s a malignant form of cancer, it can spread all over the body. When I first heard of it, my immediate concern was the term “CANCER” and its association with death.

Statistically speaking I wasn’t wrong, because 24 million people are diagnosed out of which, about 10 million deaths occur annually, on a global scale. I lost all hope and was in the mindset of giving up since there was no use in trying. I had further frustration when the doctors I met gave me no good news. Luckily I had a good support system; A strong family foundation, trustworthy friends and a supportive and understanding workplace. I was guided to be in faith and prayer. I was then referred to a fantastic eye surgeon in Chennai. I did an operation which took the tumour out, saving my eye and more importantly, leaving my vision intact. Normally when you do cancer treatment, a surgery is usually followed by either chemo or radiation therapy. But that totally depends on the type cancer. A misdiagnosis on the type of cancer is crucial.

My diagnosis was wrong!

They prepared to do radiation and chemo, but through divine intervention which in turn led to the intervention of people very close to me, I did not go ahead with the wrong treatment and sought out another opinion. While waiting for the opinion, I remember some people at church talking to me and telling me, “Now you’re cured Shanaka, you don’t need further treatment, the Lord will make sure that this is it for you and your doctor’s opinion will be to not do anything further.”

a testimony

I wasn't too keen to believe that, because my faith was not strong at the time. I was relying on science and medicine and facts and figures. But when I met the Doctor, he told me that in fact the cancer I had was called "Leiomyosarcoma" which doesn't need radiation or chemo since it doesn't react to these treatments. Only surgery, which was already done. So all I had to do was rest and recover, do close observational follow-ups with scans and blood tests to make sure it's not coming back. The next step was to get back to work and flying. Since it concerns my eye and vision, which is very important for flying, it was a very difficult subject to address. But somehow after 2 years, in 2020, I managed to achieve the impossible and get certified to fly again. Thereafter, while doing my medical checks regularly, life went on as normal. I even got a promotion and was preparing for my next promotion to "Captain". Life was good for 1.5 years and then suddenly it all shattered in August 2022. The tumour recurred!

The follow-up scan in April didn't show anything at all. But by July it had grown to the original size it was back in 2018. I could not believe I had to deal with this all over again. But because I had the experience, I thought I could weather the storm and come out of it as I did before. I once again repeated the surgery and thereafter started a course of local Ayurvedic treatment, since as before there was no further Western treatment to consider. My recovery was progressing well and at my first check-up after 3 months, on Christmas Eve, it was revealed that the surgery has not been successful for complete removal and there was a significant piece of the tumour left behind. I was devastated!

I thought I needed to find answers elsewhere. I went about seeking more opinions. I ended up consulting 25 specialists in the field and the consensus solution was to completely remove the eye. A big sacrifice was needed today for a better tomorrow. I would obviously have to give up my job - permanently, and more over learn how to live the rest of my life with one eye. I felt letdown by my doctors and very depressed about the whole situation.

At this point, I questioned God. To be very honest, I wondered if there is a God and if so, how could he let this happen to me, since he is my creator and this is all his plan. I remember it was a Sunday when I heard the news. I did not want to go to church anymore. I wanted to give up on everything. My parents were overwhelmed. But I only let this happen for a matter of hours. The more I thought about it, the more I realized how I didn't want to head down this path. I wanted to return to the light and walk with God.

"The Lord will vindicate me, your love Lord, endures forever. Do not abandon the works of your hands".

Psalm 138:8

Sometimes we're frustrated because we're trying to control things that only God can control. We're trying to figure out something that there is no answer to right now. The good news is God doesn't ask us to figure everything out. Our job is to believe, to thank God and to walk in obedience.... The creator of the universe is working out his plan for your life, his job is to open doors we can't open. God will get me to where I'm supposed to be. God knows the end from the beginning, but he doesn't give us the details.

a testimony

If you knew how everything was going to workout it wouldn't take faith. If you release control of what is troubling you, you can enjoy your life while you're waiting for things to change.

And that is what I did, I believed. I spoke to priests that I personally know and restored my faith. I embraced many religious practices and good lifestyle changes. I now believed that God will work things out for me and everything will fall into place, at the right time. While I was praying for answers, my surgeon in Chennai reached out to a specialist in the States and they concurred that NO medical intervention should take place. Only close observation for stability. In short, I got to keep my eye! I continued to stay in faith and followed my Ayurvedic medication and check-ups. Shortly after, I flew a flight simulator with an examiner to assess my ability to fly..... I had Zero restrictions. I was able to perform all my duties. My treating doctors encouraged me to attempt to get recertified to fly. I was confident enough to take up this daunting task. I had no opposition at all. Surprisingly, the process was very streamlined and I am now recertified and fit to fly. As of today, I'm scheduled to resume training and I will be back to active flying status shortly after.

I leave you with a final Bible quote;

"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"

Jeremiah 29:11;

Prayers for healing

Christ, our Lord,
long ago in Galilee
many who were sick
and suffering needed friends
to bring them to your side.
Confident of your goodness,
we now bring to you those
who need your healing touch.

We remember before you
those who are ill in body;
whose illness is long,
or painful,
or difficult to cure;
who suffer restless days
and sleepless nights.

We remember before you
those who are troubled
in mind, distressed by the past
or dreading the future;
those who are trapped and
cast down by fear.

We remember before you
those for whom light
has been turned to darkness:
by the death of a loved one;
the breaking of a friendship;
the fading of hope.

Watch now, dear Lord,
with those who wake,
or watch, or weep tonight,
and give your angels charge
over those who sleep.
Tend your sick ones, O Lord,
rest your weary ones,
bless your dying ones,
soothe your suffering ones,
pity your afflicted ones,
shield your joyous ones;
and all for your love's sake
Amen.

Support our Mission

and help us support the community

Make a Donation

Scholarship Fund

Your donation will help pay towards 80% of a child's school fees. Please mention "Scholarship Fund" when making your donations.

BANK DETAILS Bank: HNB
Branch: City Office
Account Name: St. Michael's Church Offertory Account
Account Number: 0020 - 1000 - 4909

Helping Hands

Feeding the Hungry

You may donate a meal in memory of a loved one either by selecting a menu or by a financial contribution.

Healing the Community

A Medical Clinic run with volunteer doctors operates once a month. Your donation helps us to purchase all the necessary medication needed to run this medial clinic.

BANK DETAILS Bank: HNB
Branch: Kollupetiya
Account Name: St. Michael's Church Helping Hands
Account Number: 1150 - 1014 - 3808

Community Kitchen

Your donation helps towards feeding 250 families in the vicinity with a meal provided by members of the Colombo Municipal Council and friends. Please mention "Community Kitchen" when making your donation

BANK DETAILS Bank: HNB
Branch: City Office
Account Name: St. Michael's Church FWO Fund
Account Number: 0020 - 1000 - 4888

Girls' Friendly Society

THE Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) is an Anglican Ministry for girls and women that works in over 30 countries. It was founded in 1875 in the United Kingdom by Mrs. Elizabeth Townsend with the support of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

It was established in Sri Lanka in 1904 by the then Bishop of Colombo and was the first women's organization in the country's Anglican Church. Soon branches were opened in parishes around the island. In 1918, the GFS purchased land at Green Path, Colombo 3 and in 1923, Mr. Charles Peiris gifted the beautiful GFS headquarters and hall to the Society because he saw the value of the ongoing work and wanted to support it.

The main social service project of the GFS is its Hostel for working girls from regional areas employed in Colombo. The Hostel which was started in 1957, offers subsidized facilities to girls from all parts of the island, irrespective of race and religion. The Hostel is in the process of being renovated.

The GFS now has one main branch in Colombo and 19 branches in Anglican parishes in the regions. A variety of programmes are conducted, ranging from education, the environment and health to personality development and community service. Membership consists of youth (Pink Pearls), children (Star Sapphires) and adult groups. You are invited to join the GFS, use your talents and serve God and the community.



The 24th GFS World Council was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from August 3 - 11, 2023 and was attended by a delegation from Sri Lanka. Ms. Jeanne Withanage, *Immediate Past President of the Sri Lanka GFS*, was commissioned as the new GFS World President by Rt. Rev. Dr. Vicentia Kgabe, Bishop of Lesotho at the Anglican Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin, Johannesburg. The Presiding Bishop was the Rt. Rev. Dr. Steve Moreo, Bishop of Johannesburg.

community news

Rev. Niroshan de Mel was commissioned as the GFS World Chaplain.

The World President presented the following from the Sri Lanka GFS who were also commissioned : Ms. Devini Tissaarachy - World Secretary, Ms. Nimalee Gajasinghe - World Treasurer and Ms. Rohini Ratnam - Project Coordinator.

The 25th GFS World Council will be held in Sri Lanka in 2026 and the GFS looks forward to the support of the Anglican community to make it a success.

To get in touch with the Girls' Friendly Society please use the following contact details:

Girls' Friendly Society
58, Ananda Coomaraswamy
Mawatha, Colombo 3.

Tel: 112 573 223
112 573 215

E: gfsfslanka@gmail.com



Pilgrimage to commemorate the 200 years of the arrival of Malayaga Makkal



Helping Hands Christmas Party



Youth Christmas Party



Parish Hall decorated for the Clergy Christmas Party



The Children's Choir at a rehearsal for the 135th Anniversary



Colombo Philharmonic Choir's performance of Karl Jenkin's 'The Armed Man'

church activities

Sunday School Field Trip



Confirmation Candidates learning about other denominations and liturgies



New Year Festival with the Sunday school



A field trip to a plantation community



church activities



The Help in Need Community



The Medical Clinic



Church Decorated to Host the Service of Induction of the NCC President



Helping hands meals



The Helping Hands community enjoying their new television set

How you can help

There are numerous ways in which you can support St. Michael's and the work we do. However you donate and whatever the size of the gift, we are extremely grateful for your support.

Supporting us financially

ENGLISH CONGREGATION
HNB - City Office
St. Michael's Church FWO Fund
002010004888

SINHALA CONGREGATION
HNB - City Office
St. Michael's Church Sinhala
Congregation
002010004921

TAMIL CONGREGATION
HNB - City Office
St. Michael's Church Tamil
Congregation
002010004935'

Helping Hands

You can donate a meal in memory of a loved one through our 'Helping Hands' organization that provides lunch to the poor Monday to Friday.

Joining our Organizations

St. Michael's has numerous organizations that provide support to the life of the Church:
The Youth Fellowship
The Sunday School
The Choir
The Altar Servers' Guild
Helping Hands
The Mothers' Union
The Adult Fellowship

Want to get more involved?

If you are new to St. Michael's and would like to join us and get more involved in its community life, please contact the Parish Secretary, Malathi, who will be pleased to receive requests and help you fill in the family membership card.

Telephone: 112 343 471
Email: secretary@stmichaelspolwatte.lk

St. Michael and All Angels
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