

# PARISH NEWSLETTER



# DECEMBER 2017

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### *Our Vision*

**A growing family of Spirit-filled followers of Jesus Christ,  
inspiring all Sri Lankans to find their life-purpose in God.**

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# DECEMBER 2017

17 <sup>th</sup>	(Sunday)	6:00pm	Carol Service and Parish Dinner
24 <sup>th</sup>	(Sunday)	11:00pm	Christmas Eve Service
25 <sup>th</sup>	(Monday)	8:00am	Christmas Day Service
31 <sup>st</sup>	(Sunday)	11:00pm	New Year's Eve Service
1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	(Monday)	8:00am	New Year's Day Service

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### *Our Mission*

**To reach out to all Sri Lankans for Jesus,  
confirm their faith in the Trinity,  
and nurture them to achieve Christ-like maturity.**

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*My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,*

We now come to the end of the year and are in the season of Advent preparing for Christ's Second Coming while preparing to celebrate His First Coming.

John the Baptist, quoting the prophet Isaiah, said: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, and make His paths straight. Let every valley of poverty and suffering be lifted up, may every mountain and hill of accumulated wealth and affluence be made low; and, all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' Through his message, John made a strong plea for the mending of human relationships.

We recall that seven centuries before Jesus' birth, Isaiah used an image of light and shadow to foretell the coming of a Saviour for Israel: 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light had shone. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.' Yes, when we experience Christ's presence, our darkness is turned into light.

Christmas invites us to step out of the shadow of darkness and to allow the light of Christ to shine in our hearts. This Christmas, the Lord calls us to share the Good News of Christ's birth with the poor, the marginalized, the lonely, and the homeless. May God help us during this season to examine our ways and to come closer in human fellowship that all may enjoy the salvation of God equally.

Dear friends, we also now come to the end of our ministry here at the Church of the Good Shepherd. We have enjoyed pasturing the 'Good Shepherd family' for the past four years, during which the crowning of my ministry was the celebrating of my fortieth anniversary to the priesthood last December



. . . *continued from page 2*

and also the joy of celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Good Shepherd Church in May this year. Together with Daphne, I take this opportunity to thank each one of you for making us feel a part of you during the past four years. I also ask you to forgive us for all our shortcomings and failings. I want to specially thank the Boards of Wardens who served with me during the past years and also thanks to our Sexton, Arul Das, and his family, who have become a part of our family while we were here. From the beginning of next year, I hope, God willing, to exercise my ministry under the direction of the Archdeacon of Colombo, while residing in our own home in Castle Street, Colombo 8.

May we wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a new year filled with peace, joy, and happiness.

*With peace, prayers, and blessings*  
*Your shepherd and friend*  
**Fr Suresh**

## **THANKSGIVING SERVICE and COMMUNITY SALE**

Sincere thanks to all those who prayerfully participated in our church's annual Thanksgiving Service and gave thank offerings.

Thank you, also, to all the stall-holders and other well-wishers, for the energy and enthusiasm with which they approached the task of setting up and executing the Community Sale which followed the Thanksgiving Service. The Rs 450,720 raised (up to date) will be, God willing, meaningfully utilized for outreach projects under our mission and ministry pillars.

**SCRIPTURE READERS FOR DECEMBER 2017 and 1st JANUARY 2018**

<b>DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> ADVENT SUNDAY</b>	Psalm	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-18	
	OT Lesson	Isaiah 64:1-9	Tatiana Benedict
	NT Lesson	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Romayne Benedict
	Gospel	Mark 13:24-37	Evelyn de Zoysa
<b>DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> ADVENT 2</b>	Psalm	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	
	OT Lesson	Isaiah 40:1-11	Nejan Gunewardene
	NT Lesson	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Graeme Tissera
	Gospel	Mark 1:1-8	Romany Parakrama
<b>DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> ADVENT 3</b>	Psalm	Psalm 126	
	OT Lesson	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Angela Seneviratne
	NT Lesson	1 Thess. 5:16-24	Dharshani de Silva
	Gospel	John 1:6-8, 19-28	Dorothy Philips
<b>DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> ADVENT 4</b>	Psalm	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	
	OT Lesson (S)	2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16	Shanthi Aruldas
	NT Lesson (T)	Romans 16:25-27	Princy John
	Gospel (E)	Luke 1:26-38	Surinder Kumar Ashok
<b>DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	Psalm	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	
	OT Lesson	2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16	Lalith Dassenaik
	NT Lesson	Romans 16:25-27	Ajit de Silva
	Gospel	Luke 1:26-38	Thomas Ponniah
<b>DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	Psalm	Psalm 98	
	OT Lesson	Isaiah 52:7-10	Susheela Gunaratnam
	NT Lesson	Hebrews 1:1-12	Kusum Wickremaratne
	Gospel	John 1:1-14	Nalinie Wanigasekara

***‘Let’s approach Christmas with an expectant hush,  
rather than a last-minute rush.’***

*~ Anonymous*

**SCRIPTURE READERS FOR DECEMBER 2017 and 1st JANUARY 2018  
(continued)**

<b>DECEMBER</b> <b>31<sup>ST</sup></b> CHRISTMAS 1	Psalm	Psalm 8	
	OT Lesson S	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Daphne D-Bandaranaike
	NT Lesson T	Revelation 21:1-6a	Malar Daniel
	Gospel E	Matthew 25:31-46	Romany Parakrama
<b>DECEMBER</b> <b>31<sup>ST</sup></b> NEW YEAR'S EVE	Psalm	Psalm 8	
	OT Lesson	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Sunil de Alwis
	NT Lesson	Revelation 21:1-6a	Dyan Seneviratne
	Gospel	Matthew 25:31-46	Michael Tissera
<b>JANUARY</b> <b>1<sup>ST</sup></b> NEW YEAR'S DAY	Psalm	Psalm 16	
	OT Lesson	Isaiah 6:22-27	Dorothy Philips
	NT Lesson	Galatians 4:4-7	Githanjali Algama
	Gospel	Luke 2:15-21	Dharshani de Silva

***‘The Son of God became a man  
to enable men to become sons of God.’***

*~ C S Lewis*

<b>PRIEST-IN-CHARGE</b>			
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**INTERCESSORS AND OFFERTORY-BEARERS  
FOR DECEMBER 2017 and 1st JANUARY 2018**

DATE	INTERCESSOR	OFFERTORY-BEARERS
DECEMBER 3 <sup>RD</sup>	Githanjali Algama	Angela and Avanti Seneviratne
DECEMBER 10 <sup>TH</sup>	Rochelle Gunawardene	Nilani and Dyan Seneviratne
DECEMBER 17 <sup>TH</sup>	Dhayamani Ashok	Nalinie Wanigasekara Charmaine Perera
DECEMBER 24 <sup>TH</sup> MORNING	Lalith Dassenaikae	Princy John and Brito Daniel
DECEMBER 24 <sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS EVE	Wijith DeChickera	Anil and Delani Jayasinghe
DECEMBER 25 <sup>TH</sup>	Viranga Wickremaratne	Chanies and Gishantha Ratnayake
DECEMBER 31 <sup>ST</sup> MORNING	Thomas Ponniah	Shanthi Joseph Sironmani Selvakumar
DECEMBER 31 <sup>ST</sup> NEW YEAR'S EVE	Dilranjan Jacob	Chandra and Ajit de Silva
JANUARY 1 <sup>ST</sup>	Varunica de Silva	Pam Silva Zorina de Alwis



**Sunday School Nativity Play**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 (Sunday)**  
**5:30pm**



**Christmas Carol Service &  
Parish Community Dinner**  
**17<sup>th</sup> December 2017 (Sunday)**  
**6:00pm**



**WARDENS AND SIDESPERSONS DUTY ROSTER  
FOR DECEMBER 2017 and 1st JANUARY 2018**

DATE	WARDENS	SIDESPERSONS
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY</b> December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thomas Ponniah (am) Lalith Dassenaik (pm)	Amala Cumaraswamy (am) Surinder Kumar Ashok (am) Dharshani de Silva (pm) Susheela Gunaratnam (pm)
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY</b> December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Nalinie Wanigasekera (am) Thomas Ponniah (pm)	Dorothy Philips (am) Dallas Wijeyesinghe (am) Jennifer Latiff (pm)
<b>3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY</b> December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Wijith DeChickera (am) Nalinie Wanigasekera (pm)	Mallika Dedigama (am) Dharshani de Silva (am) Susheela Gunaratnam (pm), Dharshani de Silva (pm), and 6 others (pm) (Carol Service)
<b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY</b> December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Lalith Dassenaik (am)	Surinder Kumar Ashok (am) Mallika Dedigama (am)
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Wijith DeChickera (pm)	Amala Cumaraswamy, Minal Ranatunga, Mallika Dedigama, Dorothy Philips
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Wijith DeChickera (am)	Dharshani de Silva (am) Susheela Gunaratnam (am)
<b>5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY</b> December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Lalith Dassenaik (am)	Dharshani de Silva (am) Dallas Wijeyesinghe (am)
<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Thomas Ponniah (pm)	Susheela Gunaratnam, Nalin Gunasekera, Dorothy Philips
<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Nalinie Wanigasekera (am)	Dallas Wijeyesinghe (am) Dorothy Philips (am)


  
**Mothers' Union**  
**“CHRISTMAS FIESTA”**  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 (after the English Service)**

Week	Date	Birthdays	Anniversaries
1	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Chandar Kantha Ashok	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Precious Kanu Ajith Hapugoda Anil Wickremesinghe Ernest Daniels Chitra Simithraaratchy	
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Gehan Dedigama	
	4 <sup>th</sup> Dec		Romany and Nilane De Mel
	5 <sup>th</sup> Dec		Simone and Varuna Botejue
	6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Anoushka Tissera Tivanka de Silva	
2	10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Felicia Obeyesekere	
	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Rupa Simithraaratchy	Tania and Allen Direckze
	12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Daphne Charles	
	15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Ranil Algama Uma Yoganathan	
3	21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Nikiel Daniel	Charnies and Gishantha Ratnayake Rochelle and Graeme Tissera Manique and Susantha Ratnayake
	22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Dorothy Philips Prashan de Silva	
	23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Surinder Kumar Ashok	
4	26 <sup>th</sup> Dec		Dalrene and Suresh Thavarajah Manori and Chanaka Perera
	27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Sheila Wijesinghe	
	28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Elizabeth Devikarane Chinnakone	
	29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Marjorie Joseph	
January 1	2nd Jan	Upekha Wickramaratne	
	4th Jan	Tania Sridharan	Radhika and Rohan Fernando
	6th Jan	Zorina de Alwis	