

# PARISH NEWSLETTER



# SEPTEMBER 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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#### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

##### **ENGLISH**

- 6:30 am: Holy Eucharist with Sermon  
8:00 am: Holy Eucharist with Sermon (Every 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)  
5:30 pm: Holy Eucharist with Sermon (Except 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)  
7:00 am: Mid-Week Holy Eucharist (Every Wednesday)

##### **TAMIL**

- 10:00 am: Holy Eucharist with Sermon (Every 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

##### **ENGLISH and TAMIL (COMBINED SERVICE)**

- 8:00 am: Holy Eucharist with Sermon (Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

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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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FROM THE DESK OF REV SURESH DIAS BANDARANAIKE

*My dear friends,*

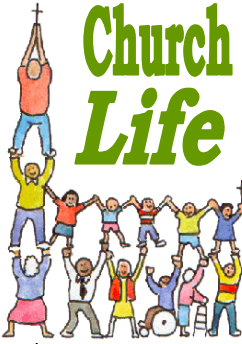
The other day, my wife and I were reflecting on the 14th chapter of the book of the Prophet Jeremiah, for our morning devotions. Verses 1-9 speak of the great drought they were experiencing at the time. The Lord was speaking to Jeremiah regarding Judah, and was saying to him: “The nobles send their servants for water but they find no water. They return with their jars unfilled. The ground is cracked because there is no rain in the land. The people cry and say, ‘Although our sins testify against us, O Lord, do something for the sake of your name, for we have sinned against you.’”

I believe this same message speaks to us in our day; for we, too, are responsible for such a drought, because we have been doing things that we ought not to have done—such as clearing jungles and forests, and causing environmental damage and destruction that are adding to the cause of this drought. Our mountains and the surrounding terrain are being destroyed by people for illegal activities, and even the air we breathe is being polluted through carbon emissions. Hence, all of us, in some way or another, are responsible for what we are experiencing now.

My dear people of God, let us collectively seek God’s pardon for our negligence. We need to take a critical look and take responsibility for not having taken care of God’s creation and the Earth entrusted to us, and pray God would have mercy on us and send us the rain we long for, in His good time.

May we listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and repent of our sins, and be transformed from darkness to light and truth.

*Your loving pastor and friend*  
**Fr Suresh**



## Ember Week

The calendar week following September 14<sup>th</sup> (Holy Cross Day) is observed as a week of prayer and fasting for seed-sowing and/or harvest, stewardship of creation, and for vocations to Christian ministries.

~ Ecumenical Lectionary 2015-2017

*Pray* for friends and family to come to know Jesus

### Christ as their Saviour:

- ⇒ Ask God to open their spiritual eyes (2 Cor 4:4)
- ⇒ Ask God to give them ears to hear (Matt 13:15)
- ⇒ Ask God to give them faith to believe (Acts 20:21)
- ⇒ Ask God to give them the will to respond to Jesus (Rom 10:9)
- ⇒ Ask God to send people into their lives to witness to them (Matt 9:38)
- ⇒ Ask God for ways to build caring relationships with them (1 Cor 9:22)
- ⇒ Ask God for opportunities to witness to them (Col 4:3)
- ⇒ Ask God for boldness to witness to them (Acts 4:29)
- ⇒ Ask God for an opportunity to invite them to accept Christ as their Saviour (Lk 14:23)
- ⇒ Ask God to set them free from spiritual captivity (2 Tim 2:25-26)

~ <https://www.evangelismcoach.org>



3 <sup>rd</sup>	(Sunday)	Christian Home Sunday
10 <sup>th</sup>	(Sunday)	Holy Cross Sunday
14 <sup>th</sup>	(Thursday)	Holy Cross Day
24 <sup>th</sup>	(Sunday)	Church of South India (CSI) Day

**SEP**

# Parish Activities

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## SUNDAYS

### ***A Time of Church-Family Fellowship: After the 8:00 am service***

A cup of tea is served in the Parish Hall, every Sunday. On 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, the Mothers' Union hosts a 'Combined Congregations Breakfast'. On other Sundays, you may buy your own breakfast—usually, tasty home-cooked food prepared by Shanthy, our Sexton W J Arul Das' wife. Even if you aren't hungry for grub, come and savour the taste of fellowship, which is truly great when all of us live in unity!



### ***Sunday School: 10:00 am to 11:30 am***

Our children are taught God's Word and ways—in a fun, meaningful, and innovative manner—by a group of dedicated teachers.



### ***Youth and Teens Meeting: 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm***

The Teens and Youth of the parish meet for a joint programme every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.



### ***Fellowship Evening: 7:00 pm***

A fellowship evening is held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the 5:30pm worship service. All are welcome!



## TUESDAYS

### ***Medical Clinic: 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm***

A free Medical Clinic is conducted by our Mothers' Union, in the Parish Hall. Pass the good news about this ministry around your home and neighbourhood. Also, come by and lend a helping hand!



### ***Elders' Fellowship: Commencing at 10:00 am***

The 'senior friends' of our parish meet twice a month—every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday—for fun-filled fellowship!



# Parish Activities

## **THURSDAYS**

**BIBLE STUDY: life after Alpha: 6-8 pm — “Come and See!”**

We started the Alpha Programme after a hiatus of ten years, with two objectives in mind... a) To **strengthen our church** in our spirituality; and b) Begin to **reach out to the world** to bring others into the Good Shepherd sheepfold and the arms of Jesus the Great Sheep-herder and Saviour. We continue with our mission this month, meeting every Thursday **in the church—as on Alpha**—to build better biblical understanding how our *stewardship* can bless others.



## **SATURDAYS**

**Mothers' Union: Commencing at 4:30 pm**

Meetings of our very active Mothers' Union (MU) are held once a month—every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday. Keep in touch with a member of the MU for updates on their plans and programmes, and join them in their many projects!



**Cottage Prayer Meetings: Commencing at 5:30 pm**

This is an opportunity for us to pray together in each others' homes. A cottage prayer meeting will be held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 5.30pm at the home of a parishioner. If you would like to open up your home for this meeting, please contact the Worship Team Coordinator Dorothy Phillips (on 0775579967).



## **SPECIAL EUCHARISTIC SERVICES**

If you wish to have a dedicated celebration of Holy Communion on your birthday, or any other anniversary that is special to you and yours, your Vicar is able and willing to arrange a special service—*provided that sufficient notice is given.*

***A Very Warm Welcome and a Heartfelt Greeting,  
in the Glorious Name of Jesus, to all our Visitors!***

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR PARISH FAMILY, please fill in a *Family Card* and hand it over to any of our Sidespersons on duty (look out for the 'USHER' badge), one of our Wardens (just ask for Thomas, Nalinie, Lalith, Wijith), or our Priest-in-Charge, Rev Suresh Dias Bandaranaike. Family Cards are available with our Sexton, W J Arul Das—the gentleman in white, on duty at the back of the church, after service.

### SCRIPTURE READERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

DATE	READING	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE	READER
<b>SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> PROPER 17</b>	Psalm	Psalm 26:1-8	
	OT Lesson	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Nejan Goonewardene
	NT Lesson	Romans 12:9-21	Romany de Silva
	Gospel	Matthew 16:21-28	Wijith DeChickera
<b>SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> PROPER 18</b>	Psalm	Psalm 149	
	OT Lesson	Ezekiel 33:7-11	Sunday School
	NT Lesson	Romans 13:8-14	Sunday School
	Gospel	Matthew 18:15-20	Sunday School
<b>SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> PROPER 19</b>	Psalm	Psalm 114	
	OT Lesson	Genesis 50:15-21	Pamela Silva
	NT Lesson	Romans 14:1-12	Githanjali Algama
	Gospel	Matthew 18:21-35	Nilani Seneviratne
<b>SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> PROPER 20</b>	Psalm	Psalm 145:1-8	
	OT Lesson [S]	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Daphne Dias Bandaranaike
	NT Lesson [T]	Philippians 1:21-30	Ridesh Devakumar
	Gospel [E]	Matthew 20:1-16	Varunika de Silva

*Please inform one of the wardens well in time if you are unable to be present to fulfil the duties assigned to you on this and the facing page...*

<b>COTTAGE PRAYER MEETING: Saturday @ 6:00pm</b>		
Date	At the home of . . .	Address and Phone No.
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Suresh and Daphne Dias Bandaranaike	The Vicarage 011 2 585 889

## INTERCESSORS AND OFFERTORY-BEARERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

DATE	INTERCESSOR	OFFERTORY-BEARERS
<b>SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup></b>	Rochelle Goonewardene	Angela and Avanthi Seneviratne
<b>SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup></b>	Sunday School	Sunday School
<b>SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup></b>	Dhayamani Ashok	Daphne Dias Bandaranaike and Manique Ratnayake
<b>SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	Dyan Seneviratne	Shanthi Joseph Malar Daniel

## WARDENS AND SIDESPERSONS DUTY ROSTER FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

DATE	WARDEN	SIDESPERSIONS
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY</b> September 3rd	Thomas Ponniah	Amala Cumaraswamy Surinder Kumar Ashok
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY</b> September 10th	Nalinie Wanigasekera	Dorothy Philips Dallas Wijeyesinghe
<b>3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY</b> September 17th	Wijith DeChickera	Mallika Dedigama Susheela Gunaratnam
<b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY</b> September 24th	Lalith Dassenaiké	Dharshani de Silva Nalin Gunasekera

<b>PRIEST-IN-CHARGE</b>			
<b>REV SURESH DIAS BANDARANAIKE</b>	0112 585 889, 0774 319 531	cogslk@sltnet.lk	
<i>Vicar's Warden</i>		<i>Hony. Secretary</i>	
<b>MR THOMAS PONNIAH</b>	0777 530 839	<b>MS SHYAMA THANGIAH</b>	0718 995 221
	thomasp@lankaorix.com		shalomshyama@gmail.com
<i>People's Wardens</i>		<i>Hony. Treasurer</i>	
<b>MRS NALINIE WANIGASEKERA</b>	0773 410 279	<b>MS BIHANI WELIKALA</b>	076 321 0938
	padna183@sltnet.lk		been_welikala111@hotmail.com
<b>MR LALITH DASSENAIKE</b>	0777 845 686	<i>Hony. Assistant Treasurer</i>	
	lalithdassenaiké@gmail.com	<b>MS TAMANI WEERAKOON</b>	077 728 8005
<b>MR WIJITH DeCHICKERA</b>	0773 502 922		tamani.dias@sc.com
	wijithdc@sltnet.lk		



Week	Date	Birthdays	Anniversaries
1	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	Nashali Goonetilleke	
	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Dhayamani Ashok	Githanjali and Ranil Algama
	9 <sup>th</sup> Sep		Vimala and 'Ganesh' Ganeshanathan
2	11 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Wijith DeChickera	
	13 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Angela Seneviratne	
	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Pamela Silva Shania Dedigama	
	15 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Florence Ratnam Tashia Wijesundera	
	16 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Blessing Kanu	
3	18 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Suresh Thavarajah Pradeepa De Silva	
	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	Mirantha Perera	
	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	James Kennedy Aruldas	Sharmila and Mirantha Perera
4	25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Amani Tissera	Daphne and Suresh Dias Bandaranaike
	28 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Anusha Goonetilleke	
	29 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Michelle Ponniah Vishan De Silva	
	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Linda Anandage Melissa Sridharan	