

PARISH NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2025

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www.cogslk.org

Our Vision

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

WORSHIP SERVICES ENGLISH

8:15 am Holy Eucharist with Sermon (Every 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sunday)
5:30 pm Holy Eucharist with Sermon (Except 4th Sunday)

TAMIL

9:45 am Holy Eucharist with Sermon (Every 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sunday)

ENGLISH and TAMIL (COMBINED SERVICE)

8:15 am Holy Eucharist with Sermon (Every 4th Sunday)

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.**

FROM THE DESK OF REV NIHAL FERNANDO

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Lent: A Season of Repentance, Renewal and Restoration

As we prepare to enter the sacred season of Lent, we begin our journey with the Ash Wednesday service, marking a time of reflection, repentance and spiritual renewal.

Lent calls us to reconcile with God and with one another, embracing the grace of transformation in our lives.

Through prayer, fasting and acts of compassion, we draw closer to Christ, remembering His sacrifice and preparing our hearts for the joyous celebration of Easter. May this season be a time of deep renewal and restoration for our parish community.

Let us walk together in faith, seeking God's mercy and love as we journey toward the Resurrection.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Nihal Fernando

VICAR

**“One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek Him in his temple.
For in the day of trouble
He will keep me safe in His dwelling;
He will hide me in the shelter of His sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.”**

Psalm 27: 4 - 5

Vicar

REV NIHAL FERNANDO 0112 585 889; 077 7461196
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Asst Curate

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Vicar's Warden

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People's Wardens

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Assistant Treasurer

MRS RUWANI JIRASINGHE
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Special Days in March 2025

- 2nd Transfiguration Sunday / The Death Anniversary of John Wesley, 1791
- 5th Ash Wednesday
- 7th World Women's Day of Prayer
- 9th - 15th Week of Prayer in preparation for Easter
- 25th Annunciation of the Lord
- 29th World Earth Hour (8.00 pm – 9.00 pm)
- 30th Mothering / Parenting Sunday

PARISH ACTIVITIES

A Time of Church-Family Fellowship: After the 8:15am service. A cup of tea is served in the Parish Hall, every Sunday. You may buy your own breakfast. Even if you aren't hungry for a meal, come and savour the taste of fellowship.



A Listening Ear: 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Some parishioners have volunteered their time to lend an ear and to pray with those who are facing challenges in life. While you may contact them to set up a mutually convenient time and place to talk/meet, they will also be available on Sundays in the Parish Hall (Meeting Room), from 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Please contact Angela Seneviratne, Mobile 077 2516272 for more details.



Sunday School: 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Our children are taught God's Word and ways—in a fun, meaningful, and innovative manner—by a group of dedicated teachers. Their parents are, also, most welcome to worship with the rest of our church-family and become more involved in parish activities!



Fellowship Evening: 7:00 p.m.

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



WEDNESDAYS

The Young At Heart Group: Commencing at 9:30 a.m.

The Young At Heart Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 9.30 a.m. in the Parish Hall for fun filled activities and fellowship. All over 60's are welcome; bring along a friend (non-parishioner) to join in the fun too!!



WEDNESDAYS

Young Adults at 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. via Zoom

Keep in touch with Viranga on 0773891951



THURSDAYS

Lenten Reflections

During the season of Lent, Lenten Reflections led by Fr Nihal and Fr Bala will be held every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in the church.

All are welcome and remember to bring a friend.

More details will be shared in the Church WhatsApp group.



SATURDAYS

Mothers' Union: Commencing at 10:00 a.m.

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



SATURDAYS

Youth Ministry: Every Saturday 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m

The youth (16+ years) of the parish meet regularly for worship, study, and a whole host of other fun-filled activities geared towards spiritual growth and maturity. We ask for your prayers as church leaders who guide and mentor these young people in our parish heed God's voice over this next generation of ours.

Keep in touch with Shakyna 0777158847 or Nikhil on 0721806971



**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 Parish Stewards on duty (look out for the 'PARISH STEWARD' badge), one of our Wardens (just ask for Nilani, Anil, Graeme or Angela), or our Vicar, the Rev. Nihal Fernando.

Family Cards are available with our Sexton,
Tony Curtis.

SCRIPTURE READERS FOR MARCH 2025

DATE	READING	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE	READER
MARCH 2 ND TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY	Psalm	Psalm 99	
	OT Lesson	Exodus 34: 29 - 35	Githa Algama
	NT Lesson	2 Corinthians 3: 12 - 4: 2	Dharshani De Silva
	Gospel	Luke 9: 28 - 36	Michael Tissera
MARCH 5 TH ASH WEDNESDAY	Psalm	Psalm 51: 1 - 17	
	OT Lesson [T]	Isaiah 58: 1 - 12	J. Thevakumar
	NT Lesson [S]	2 Corinthians 5: 20 - 6: 10	Mangalika Hettiarachchi
	Gospel [E]	Matthew 6: 1 - 6, 16 - 21	Aneeka De Silva
MARCH 9 TH 6 TH SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER	Psalm	Psalm 91: 1 - 2, 9 - 16	
	OT Lesson	Deuteronomy 26: 1 - 11	Amar Gunatilleke
	NT Lesson	Romans 10: 8 - 13	Tony Curtis
	Gospel	Luke 4: 1 - 13	Tabitha Curtis
MARCH 16 TH 5 TH SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER	Psalm	Psalm 27	
	OT Lesson	Genesis 15: 1 - 12, 17 - 18	Jacob Curtis
	NT Lesson	Philippians 3: 17 - 4: 1	Hemal Pieris
	Gospel	Luke 13: 31 - 35	Dyan Seneviratne
MARCH 23 RD 4 TH SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER	Psalm	Psalm 63: 1 - 8	
	OT Lesson [T]	Isaiah 55: 1 - 9	Lagirthika Lenni
	NT Lesson [S]	1 Corinthians 10: 1 - 13	Christina Paul
	Gospel [E]	Luke 13: 1 - 9	Aaron Premvarshan
MARCH 30 TH 3 RD SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER	Psalm	Psalm 127: 1 - 4	
	OT Lesson	1 Samuel 1: 20 - 28	Kusum Wickramaratne
	NT Lesson	Colossians 3: 12 - 17	Tamani Dias
	Gospel	John 19: 25 - 27	Lalith Dassenaik

INTERCESSORS & OFFERTORY BEARERS FOR MARCH 2025

DATE	INTERCESSOR	OFFERTORY BEARERS
MARCH 2 ND	Dhayamani Ashok	Nalinie Wanigasekera Harshini Canagasabey
MARCH 5 TH ASH WEDNESDAY	Alex Joseph [T] Rithmisha Thevakumar [E]	Aloma and Nalin Gunasekera
MARCH 9 TH	Jacob Curtis	Janet and Tabitha Curtis
MARCH 16 TH	Maasiri Dias	Ruwani Jirasinghe Nuala Samarasinhe
MARCH 23 RD	Sunday School [T] & [E]	Sahana and family
MARCH 30 TH	Angela Seneviratne	Charmaine Perera Chanies Ratnayake

WARDENS & SIDESPERSONS DUTY ROSTER FOR MARCH 2025

DATE	WARDEN	PARISH STEWARDS
1 ST SUNDAY MARCH 2 ND	Angela Seneviratne (AM) Nilani Seneviratne (PM)	Dhayamani Ashok (AM) Shelley Tissera (AM) Renuka Amarasekera (PM) Minal Ranatunga (PM)
ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5 TH	Nilani Seneviratne (PM)	Michelle Ponniah (PM) Delani Jayasinghe (PM)
2 ND SUNDAY MARCH 9 TH	Anil Jayasinghe (AM) Angela Seneviratne (PM)	Aidan Tissera (AM) Delani Jayasinghe (AM) Diruni Chanmugam (PM) Renuka Amarasekera (PM)
3 RD SUNDAY MARCH 16 TH	Nilani Seneviratne (AM) Anil Jayasinghe (PM)	Dhayamani Ashok (AM) Sunil De Alwis (AM) Aidan Tissera (PM) Debika Pathirana (PM)
4 TH SUNDAY MARCH 23 RD	Angela Seneviratne (AM)	Lalith Dassenaik (AM) Michelle Ponniah (AM)
5 TH SUNDAY MARCH 30 TH	Anil Jayasinghe (AM) Nilani Seneviratne (PM)	Delani Jayasinghe (AM) Michelle Ponniah (AM) Renuka Amarasekera (PM) Diruni Chanmugam (PM)

BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES – MARCH 2025

Week	Date	Birthdays	Anniversaries
1	2 nd Mar	Milinda Seneviratne	
	3 rd Mar	Nalinie Wanigasekera Aleesha Thavarajah	
	4 th Mar	Jayanthi Hapugoda Dhanushka Welihinda	
	5 th Mar	Ernest Chinnakone Mukesh Hidramani	
	6 th Mar	Kyasha Botejue	
2	12 th Mar	Nalin Gunasekera	
	14 th Mar	Nanditha De Silva	
3	18 th Mar	Anaya Hidramani	
	19 th Mar	Ruwani Jirasinghe	
	21 st Mar	Zanushka Goonetilleke	
	22 nd Mar	Charmaine Perera	
4	23 rd Mar	Michael Tissera	

A Prayer for Lenten Season

Heavenly Father,
 As we enter another season of Lent, guide us to the path that leads to you. Fill our hearts with gratitude, patience, strength and peace as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves. Let us hear your voice in the deepest reach of our hearts. Give us rest in you.
 Help us to accept others, showing them your great love instead of casting judgment. Stay with us through the busy days of this holy season and remind us that when we need comfort, solitude, wisdom or guidance, we can always turn to you.

Amen!!