

PARISH NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2026

118 Jawatte Road, Colombo 5
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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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lenten Renewal and Easter Transformation

The holy season of Lent invites us into a journey of renewal. It is a grace-filled time given to us by the Church to pause, reflect, repent, and return to God with sincere hearts. Lent is not simply about giving something up, but about taking something up — a deeper prayer life, a more compassionate heart, and a renewed commitment to live the Gospel.

Through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity, we are gently led into a process of inner renewal. God desires not just a change in our habits, but a transformation of our hearts. This renewal calls us to examine our lives honestly: our relationships, our attitudes, our priorities, and our faithfulness to Christ in daily life.

Lent prepares us for Easter. The journey of self-denial and repentance leads us to the joy of the Resurrection. When we walk through Lent sincerely, Easter becomes more than a celebration on the calendar — it becomes the celebration of a people who have been renewed by God's grace.

As we move from Lent into Easter, we are called to emerge as transformed people of God. Transformed in our way of thinking, speaking, forgiving, serving, and loving. Transformed in our commitment to build homes, communities, and a society rooted in justice, peace, and compassion.

Let this Lenten journey renew our parish community. May it heal broken relationships, rekindle our faith, and awaken in us a deeper love for God and our neighbour. May the joy of Easter find us not unchanged, but renewed, restored, and ready to live as true witnesses of the Risen Lord.

With prayers and blessings

Fr. Nihal Fernando

VICAR

Vicar

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Wardens

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Parish Coordinator

MRS SHRIENI SAMARASENA
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Special Days in March 2026

- 2nd The Death Anniversary of John Wesley (1791)
- 6th World Women's Day of Prayer
- 15th Mothering / Parenting Sunday
- 22nd Passiontide begins
- 25th Annunciation of the Lord
- 28th World Earth Hour (8 – 9 pm)
- 29th Passion / Palm 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.



English 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 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Keep in touch with Viranga on 0773891951 for more details.



THURSDAYS

Bible Studies

Will take a short break for Lent and will recommence on 09th April 2026. 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 Ashan, Nilani, Rohini or Lalith), or our Vicar, the Rev. Nihal Fernando. Family Cards are available with our Sexton, Tony Curtis.

SCRIPTURE READERS FOR MARCH 2026

DATE	READING	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE	READER
MARCH 1ST 5TH SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER	Psalm	Psalm 121	
	OT Lesson	Genesis 12: 1 - 4	Nalinie Wanigasekera
	NT Lesson	Romans 4: 1 - 5, 13 - 17	Ruwani Jirasinghe
	Gospel	John 3: 1 - 17	Dyan Seneviratne
MARCH 8TH 4TH SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER	Psalm	Psalm 95	
	OT Lesson	Exodus 17: 1 - 17	Nevaan Fernando
	NT Lesson	Romans 5: 1 - 11	Eraan Fernando
	Gospel	John 4: 5 - 42	Dirk Jayaratne
MARCH 15TH 3RD SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER	Psalm	Psalm 23	
	OT Lesson	1 Samuel 16: 1 - 13	Mothers' Union
	NT Lesson	Ephesians 5: 8 - 14	Mothers' Union
	Gospel	John 9: 1 - 41	Mothers' Union
MARCH 22ND 2ND SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER	Psalm	Psalm 130	
	OT Lesson [T]	Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14	Jebaseely Srivathanan
	NT Lesson [S]	Romans 8: 6 - 11	Chintha Fernando
	Gospel [E]	John 11: 1 - 45	Emma De Rose
MARCH 29TH PALM SUNDAY	Psalm	Psalm 31: 9 - 16	
	OT Lesson	Isaiah 50: 4 - 9	Amar Gunatilleke
	NT Lesson	Philippians 2: 5 - 11	Thomas Ponniah
	Gospel	Matthew 26: 14 - 27: 66	Fr. Nihal

A PRAYER FOR LENTEN SEASON

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given the human race Jesus Christ our savior as a model of humility.

He fulfilled your will by becoming man and giving His life on the cross.

Help us to bear witness to you by following His example of suffering

And make us worthy to share in His resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, your son.

AMEN!!

INTERCESSORS & OFFERTORY BEARERS FOR MARCH 2026

DATE	INTERCESSOR	OFFERTORY BEARERS
MARCH 1 ST	Michelle Ponniah	Ruwani Jirasinghe Nuala Samarasinhe
MARCH 8 TH	Redhesh Thevakumar	Rohini and Neville Jayaratne
MARCH 15 TH	Mothers' Union	Mothers' Union
MARCH 22 ND	Anesta Niroshini [T] Fleminia Srikanth [E]	Sunday School
MARCH 29 TH	Maasiri Dias	Michael Tissera Allan Chapman

WARDENS & SIDESPERSONS DUTY ROSTER FOR MARCH 2026

DATE	WARDEN	PARISH STEWARDS
1 ST SUNDAY MARCH 1 ST	Nilani Seneviratne (AM) Ashan Algama (PM)	Michelle Ponniah (AM) Dirk Jayaratne (AM) Renuka Amarasekera (PM) Minal Ranatunga (PM)
2 ND SUNDAY MARCH 8 TH	Lalith Dassenaik (AM) Ashan Algama (PM)	Christina Paul (AM) Dirk Jayaratne (AM) Diruni Chanmugam (PM) Renuka Amarasekera (PM)
3 RD SUNDAY MARCH 15 TH	Rohini Jayaratne (AM) Lalith Dassenaik (PM)	Shelley Tissera (AM) Dhayamani Ashok (AM) Aidan Tissera (PM) Debika Pathirana (PM)
4 TH SUNDAY MARCH 22 ND	Nilani Seneviratne (AM)	Dhayamani Ashok (AM) Michelle Ponniah (AM)
5 TH SUNDAY MARCH 29 TH	Lalith Dassenaik (AM) Ashan Algama (PM)	Dirk Jayaratne (AM) Christina Paul (AM) Renuka Amarasekera (PM) Minal Ranatunga (PM)

LENTEN MEDITATIONS

**Fridays at 6.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall
(during the Season of Lent)**

BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES – MARCH 2026

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	14 th Mar	Nanditha De Silva	
3	18 th Mar	Anaya Hidramani	
	19 th Mar	Ruwani Jirasinghe	
	21 st Mar	Zanushka Goonetilleke	
4	22 nd Mar	Charmaine Perera	
	23 rd Mar	Michael Tissera	



Palm Sunday Service
29th March, 8.15 a.m.



Maundy Thursday Service
2nd April, 6.00 p.m.



Good Friday – 3 Hours Devotion
3rd April, 9.00 a.m. – 12 noon



Easter Sunday Service
5th April, 8.15 a.m.