

# PARISH NEWSLETTER



# MAY 2025

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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**

8:15 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)

### **TAMIL**

9:45 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)**

8:15 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 NIHAL FERNANDO**

Dearly beloved in Christ,

As we journey together in faith, we are reminded that renewal in Christ is not a one-time event but a daily call — a call to deepen our relationship with Him and to allow His life to flourish within us. True renewal comes when we are firmly rooted in the Word of God. It is through Scripture that we encounter Christ, hear His voice and are transformed by His truth.

Today, more than ever, Sri Lanka needs believers who are grounded in the Word and courageous in sharing it. Gospel poverty — the lack of access to the life-giving message of Jesus — is a reality we must urgently address. As disciples, we are called not only to know the Word but also to proclaim it boldly, nurturing faith where it is weak, and planting seeds of hope where hearts are barren.

Let us commit ourselves anew to Christ:

By immersing ourselves daily in Scripture

By living out the Gospel with authenticity and joy

By actively sharing the Good News with those around us

Together, may we be instruments of renewal, bringing the light of Christ into every corner of our beloved Sri Lanka.

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (Psalm 119: 105)

In Christ's love,

***Fr. Nihal Fernando***

VICAR

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2: 10

Vicar <b>REV NIHAL FERNANDO</b> 0112 585 889; 077 7461196 <a href="mailto:cogslk@sltnet.lk">cogslk@sltnet.lk</a> Asst Curate <b>REV S BALASUNDARAM</b> 0712262030	
Vicar's Warden <b>MRS NILANI SENEVIRATNE</b> <a href="mailto:nilani.seneviratne@gmail.com">nilani.seneviratne@gmail.com</a> 0777785167	Hony. Treasurer <b>MRS TAMANI DIAS</b> <a href="mailto:tamani.dias@sc.com">tamani.dias@sc.com</a> 0777288005
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<b>MRS ANGELA SENEVIRATNE</b> <a href="mailto:angieseneviratne@gmail.com">angieseneviratne@gmail.com</a> 0772516272	Assistant Treasurer <b>MS RUWANI JIRASINGHE</b> 0777560563

### Special Days in May 2025

- 1<sup>st</sup> May (Workers') Day, First Christian Workers Fellowship - 1890
- 4<sup>th</sup> Baptist Mission Sunday
- 15<sup>th</sup> International Family Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> World Displaced Persons Day
- 24<sup>th</sup> Aldersgate / Wesley Day
- 26<sup>th</sup> Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury, 605
- 27<sup>th</sup> Presbyterian Heritage Day – John Calvin 1564
- 29<sup>th</sup> Ascension Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### ***Bible Studies***

Bible studies will be held every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 MAY 2025

DATE	READING	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE	READER
MAY 4 <sup>TH</sup> 3 <sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER	Psalm	Psalm 30	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Acts 9: 1 - 6	Githa Algama
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Revelation 5: 11 - 14	Allen Chapman
	Gospel	John 21: 1 - 19	Ashan Algama
MAY 11 <sup>TH</sup> 4 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER	Psalm	Psalm 23	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Acts 9: 36 - 43	Amala Cumaraswamy
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Revelation 7: 9 - 17	Graeme Tissera
	Gospel	John 10: 22 - 30	Janaki Fernando
MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 5 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER	Psalm	Psalm 148	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Acts 11: 1 - 18	Nilani Seneviratne
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Revelation 21: 1 - 6	Pamela Silva
	Gospel	John 13: 31 - 35	Junita De Alwis
MAY 25 <sup>TH</sup> 6 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER	Psalm	Psalm 67	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson [T]	Acts 16: 9 - 15	Steffny Jeevan
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson [S]	Revelation 21: 10, 22 - 22: 5	Jacob Curtis
	Gospel [E]	John 14: 23 - 29	Aneeka De Silva

### **An opportunity to be a part of the church outreach activities**

Every month the church supports Dev Siri Sevana, Retired Clergy, Christ Church Hambantota, The Samaritan Pledge and Board of Social Responsibility of the Diocese among many other ministries work.

If you are moved to contribute towards these outreach ventures, you may do so by marking the specific donations in the collections.

## INTERCESSORS & OFFERTORY BEARERS FOR MAY 2025

DATE	INTERCESSOR	OFFERTORY BEARERS
MAY 4 <sup>TH</sup>	Anil Jayasinghe	Angela and Avanthi Seneviratne
MAY 11 <sup>TH</sup>	Chintha Fernando	Shelley and Graeme Tissera
MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup>	Michelle Ponniah	Indrani Wijesundera Githa Algama
MAY 25 <sup>TH</sup>	Manuja Jeyaraj [E] Nalini Jeyaraj [T]	Manjula and Aneeka De Silva

## WARDENS & SIDESPERSONS DUTY ROSTER FOR MAY 2025

DATE	WARDEN	PARISH STEWARDS
1 <sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY MAY 4 <sup>TH</sup>	Anil Jayasinghe (AM) Nilani Seneviratne (PM)	Amala Cumaraswamy (AM) Shelley Tissera (AM) Renuka Amarasekera (PM) Minal Ranatunga (PM)
2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY MAY 11 <sup>TH</sup>	Graeme Tissera (AM) Angela Seneviratne (PM)	Sunil De Alwis (AM) Aidan Tissera (AM) Diruni Chanmugam (PM) Renuka Amarasekera (PM)
3 <sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup>	Angela Seneviratne (AM) Anil Jayasinghe (PM)	Amala Cumaraswamy (AM) Michelle Ponniah (AM) Aidan Tissera (PM) Debika Pathirana (PM)
4 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY MAY 25 <sup>TH</sup>	Nilani Seneviratne (AM)	Lalith Dassenaik (AM) Dhayamani Ashok (AM)

### A prayer for finding strength in God

**Dear Lord, thank you for providing us with strength in every situation. Despite our efforts, we can do nothing on our own. Sometimes we let stress get the best of us and forget that you are in control. Fill us with your strength and guide us one day at a time through this season. In Jesus' name, Amen!!**

## BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES – MAY 2025

Week	Date	Birthdays	Anniversaries
1	1 <sup>st</sup> May	Ashan Algama	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> May		Aloma & Nalin Gunasekera
	4 <sup>th</sup> May		Delani & Anil Jayasinghe
	6 <sup>th</sup> May	Varunika De Silva	
	7 <sup>th</sup> May	Anjali Hapugoda	
	8 <sup>th</sup> May	Nelson Rajaratnam Pulle	
	9 <sup>th</sup> May		Debika & Ranil Pathirana
2	12 <sup>th</sup> May	Florence Navamani	
	13 <sup>th</sup> May	Githa Algama	
	14 <sup>th</sup> May	Indrani Wijesundera Anaath Jacob Debika Pathirana Norma Ariyasinghe	
	16 <sup>th</sup> May	Karunya Mather	
	17 <sup>th</sup> May	Jennifer Gnaniah	
3	18 <sup>th</sup> May	Chandra Rasanayagam Shevon Ponniah Athaiah Jacob	
	19 <sup>th</sup> May	Junita De Alwis	
	20 <sup>th</sup> May	Tatiana Armstrong	
4	25 <sup>th</sup> May	Shani Abdulhussein	
	26 <sup>th</sup> May	Avanthi Seneviratne	
	27 <sup>th</sup> May	Jacob Curtis	
	31 <sup>st</sup> May	Misha-el Algama	

**Flock Meeting**  
**Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 at 6.30 pm**  
**At the residence of Mrs Amala Cumaraswamy**