

Our Parish Prayer Log

EVERY POYA DAY, we come together as a family to present our needs as well as those of our families, friends, and nation to God. This **Parish Prayer Log** is to help us remember to uphold special prayer needs in our personal times of prayer—as well as to serve as a journal of God’s faithfulness in answering our prayers.

During 2011, the Parish met on 9 Poya days to uphold the needs of our church, our families, and our nation. The “journal” below shows some of the prayers that have already been (visibly) answered.

Let us give praise to God our loving Father, who hears and answers every request we make of Him; and to Jesus, because of whom we can approach the throne of grace; and to the Holy Spirit who teaches us how to pray!

Prayer Requests made in 2011	How God Responded
That our church would reach out to parishioners “shut in” and those who are unable to be a part of regular parish life (September/October)	A parishioner volunteered to coordinate a Caring Group—which has visited several of those in need of company and care.
For church organizations to take on leading our prayer meetings (September/October)	Commencing October 2011, the Mothers Union, the Youth Fellowship, and the Bible Study Group led the Poya Day Prayer Meetings—and participation has been growing.
To reach out to our Link Parishes (September/October)	Relationships have been re-established with the church in Hambantota, and a visit has been scheduled for 25 th -26 th February.
For ever-growing unity in our parish family (November)	Resumption of cottage meetings from November 2011
For the youth of the parish to be more involved in YF projects	The YF carried out a special project with a Children’s Home in December 2011; and have been meeting regularly.



FEBRUARY 2012

PARISH NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP SERVICES

ENGLISH

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

TAMIL

- 9:30 am: Holy Eucharist with Sermon (Every 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sunday)

ENGLISH AND TAMIL (COMBINED SERVICE)

- 8:00 am: Holy Eucharist with Sermon (Every 4th Sunday)

ASH WEDNESDAY (COMBINED SERVICE)

- 6:00pm: Holy Eucharist with Sermon

SPECIAL DATES IN FEBRUARY 2012

February 2 nd	(Thursday)	Presentation of the Lord (End of the 40-day Christmas Cycle)
February 4 th	(Saturday)	National Day
February 19 th	(Sunday)	Transfiguration of the Lord
February 22 nd	(Wednesday)	Ash Wednesday

FROM THE DESK OF REVD J S CHARLES

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the matchless name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

On the 22nd we start the Lenten Season with Ash Wednesday. The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a 40-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season, converts to the faith were prepared for baptism. It was also a time when persons who had been separated from the community were reconciled by forgiveness and restored to participate in the life of the Church. In this way, the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lenten season by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting and self-denial, by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word, and as Matthew records in chapter 6, paying heed to what our Lord says in the Sermon on the Mount by giving importance to almsgiving or helping the needy, spending personal time with the Lord, and fasting.

Let us also prepare spiritually during this season of Lent!

God Bless!

Your friend and priest

Joseph S Charles

INTERCESSORS AND OFFERTORY-BEARERS FOR FEBRUARY 2012

DATE	INTERCESSOR	OFFERTORY-BEARERS
FEBRUARY 5 TH	Lalith Dassenaik	Niren and Romany De Mel
FEBRUARY 12 TH	Youth Fellowship	Sunday School
FEBRUARY 19 TH	Junita De Alwis	Kusum Wickramaratne and Barbara Wijesinghe
FEBRUARY 22 ND	Rev J S Charles	Wijth DeChickera and Rochelle Hakel-Ranasinghe
FEBRUARY 26 TH	Vimala Ganeshanathan	[Tamil Congregation]

WARDENS AND SIDESPERSONS DUTY ROSTER FOR FEBRUARY 2012

DATE	WARDEN	SIDESPERSONS
1 ST SUNDAY February 5 th	Michael Tissera	Junita de Alwis Amala Cumaraswamy
2 ND SUNDAY February 12 th	Githa Algama	Barbara Wijesinghe Thomas Ponniah
3 RD SUNDAY February 19 th	Dyan Seneviratne	Mallika Dedigama Dorothy Philips
ASH WEDNESDAY February 22 nd	Dyan Seneviratne	Yvonne Weerasuriya Mishael Algama
4 TH SUNDAY February 26 th	Lalith Dassenaik	Dharshani de Silva Bihani Welikala

IMPORTANT: Please inform one of the Wardens, *well in time...* if, for whatever reason, you are unable to be present on the day assigned to you for the duties.

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE			
REVD J S Charles	0112-585889		
<i>Vicar's Warden:</i>			
MR DYAN SENEVIRATNE	0777-790147		
<i>People's Wardens:</i>			
MR MICHAEL TISSERA	0779-485782	<i>Hony. Secretary:</i>	
MR LALITH DASSENAIKE	0777-845686	MRS JENNIFER LATIFF	0112-584050
MS GITHANJALI ALGAMA	0777-106946	<i>Hony. Treasurer:</i>	
		MRS NILANI SENEVIRATNE	0777-785167

SCRIPTURE READERS FOR FEBRUARY 2012

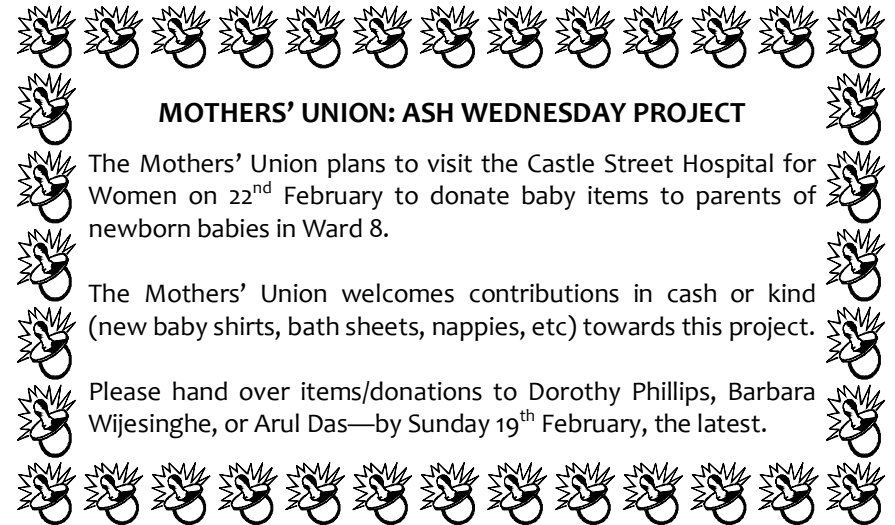
DATE	READING	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE	READER
FEBRUARY 5TH EPIPHANY V	Lesson	Isaiah 40:21-31	Roshini De Silva
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Ira Unamboowe
	Gospel	Mark 1:29-39	Dyan Seneviratne
FEBRUARY 12TH EPIPHANY VI	Lesson	2 Kings 5:1-14	Sunday School
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 9:24-27	Sunday School
	Gospel	Mark 1:40-45	Sunday School
FEBRUARY 19TH TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY	Lesson	2 Kings 2:1-12	Dharshini De Silva
	Epistle	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Susheela Gunaratnam
	Gospel	Mark 9:2-9	Muriel De Silva
FEBRUARY 22ND ASH WEDNESDAY	Lesson [S]	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Nilani Seneviratne
	Epistle [T]	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	[Tamil Congregation]
	Gospel [E]	Matthew 1:1-6, 16-21	Majintha Perera
FEBRUARY 26TH LENT I	Lesson [S]	Genesis 9:8-17	Michelle Ponniah
	Epistle [T]	1 Peter 3:18-22	[Tamil Congregation]
	Gospel [E]	Mark 1:9-15	Savitri Jayawardena

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Visit to Christ Church Hambantota

On the invitation of the Vicar of Christ Church Hambantota, Rev Chandrika Mayurawathi, we will be making a goodwill visit at the end of this month. We will leave for Hambantota on Saturday the 25th and return after celebrating the Holy Eucharist with the parishioners of Christ Church on Sunday the 26th. If you are interested in being a part of this visit to our link parish, please give in your names to Lalith, Dyan or Nilani and make full payments by Sunday 5th February, the latest. For further details speak to above-named.



MOTHERS' UNION: ASH WEDNESDAY PROJECT

The Mothers' Union plans to visit the Castle Street Hospital for Women on 22nd February to donate baby items to parents of newborn babies in Ward 8.

The Mothers' Union welcomes contributions in cash or kind (new baby shirts, bath sheets, nappies, etc) towards this project.

Please hand over items/donations to Dorothy Phillips, Barbara Wijesinghe, or Arul Das—by Sunday 19th February, the latest.

Lenten Bible Study: the Gospel of Mark

From Galilee to Jerusalem: A Discipleship Journey

A Bible Study that digs deep into the Gospel of Mark and explores issues such as: What does it take to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? What kind of commitment and sacrifice does God require? How does a disciple of Jesus deal with problems, pain, and persistently difficult circumstances? How does a disciple of Jesus handle wealth? The study will be conducted by Wijith DeChickera.

Every Friday (till 30th March)

6:00pm to 8:00pm

in the Parish Hall

A Lenten journey of discovery and re-dedication to discipleship.

Our all-new website is just a click away!

www.cogslk.org

Once you have browsed through the site, do click on the 'VISITORS COMMENTS' tab and share your comments and suggestions.

Parish Activities

SUNDAYS

After-Service Fellowship: After the 8:00am service

A cup of tea is served in the Parish Hall, every Sunday. On 4th Sundays, the Mothers' Union hosts a Combined Breakfast. On other Sundays, you may buy your own breakfast—usually home-cooked treats prepared by Arul Das' wife, Shanthi.



Sunday School: 9:30am to 11:00am

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



Youth Fellowship: 9:45am to 10:45am

The Youth of the English congregation meet to discover what God's Word has to say about issues that concern young Christians, and to pray, discuss, and have fellowship and fun. Those between the ages of 16 and 25 are warmly welcome!



TUESDAYS

Medical Clinic: 4:30 p.m. to 5:30pm

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



WEDNESDAYS

Elders' Fellowship: Commencing at 10:00am

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



Mothers Union: Commencing at 4:30pm

Meetings of our very active Mothers' Union are held once a month—usually on the first Wednesday of the month. Keep in touch with a member of the MU for updates on their plans and programmes, and join them in one of their many projects...



FRIDAYS

Bible Study: 6.00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

We are studying the Gospel of Mark over 12 weeks. Our aim is to go through this book weekly, while devotionally meditating on selected passages, to discover facets of discipleship. The study is conducted by Wijith DeChickera, in the Parish Hall. You are all encouraged to make this study a part of your weekly schedule...



POYA DAYS

Prayer Meeting: 9.00a.m. to 10:00a.m.

This unique Sri Lankan holiday gives us the opportunity to take time out of our busy schedules to meet as a parish family and bring the needs of our times before our Father. This month, the Poya Day Prayer Meeting will be on **Tuesday the 7th**.



Cottage Meetings

5:30pm to 7:00pm

A wonderful opportunity to spend time together worshipping our God, sharing how His goodness has worked in our lives, and getting to know each other better in an informal setting, in the home of a parishioner.



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, your Vicar is able and willing to arrange a special service—*provided that sufficient notice is given*.

A Warm Welcome and a Heartfelt Greeting, in the 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 (they are usually the ones taking the Collection), one of our Wardens (ask for Dyan, Michael, Lalith, or Githa), or our Priest-in-Charge: Revd. J. S. Charles. Family Cards are available with our Sexton, W. Arul Das—the smart gentleman in white on duty at the back of the church after service...

Tamil-language classes will be conducted on Mondays

from 5:30pm to 7:00pm, commencing 20th February.

Limited intake! Speak with Githa Algama for details.