

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.

The meeting in December 2011 was led by the Bible Study Group—who had been mining leadership lessons from the book of Nehemiah over the past few months. Arising from the learning that we are leaders with the ability of intentional influence, the theme for the meeting was **“Praying for our Country and the Outreach work of our Church In the Area of Socio-economic Problems.”**

Prayer Requests in December 2011	How (and when) God Responded
Forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-22) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the ability to forgive those who have wronged us—be it governing bodies, or those in authority in the school, place of work, our church, and our families. 	
Light of the World (Deut 8:10-14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For our church and other Christians, that, in this new context which is war-free and affords many material comforts, we will shine as beacons of light for God, rather than forgetting Him. 	
Healing (Psalm 146:7-9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For those who are being tormented by poverty, vice, grief, and injustice in our society. For those who are working for a Sri Lanka that will be healed of these ills. 	
God with Us (Isaiah 7:10-14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the message of Christmas—God who dwells with us—will be taken far and wide in this country. 	



JANUARY 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*)

SPECIAL DATES IN JANUARY 2012

January 1 st	(Sunday)	Dedication and Naming of Jesus
January 6 th	(Friday)	Epiphany
January 8 th	(Sunday)	The Baptism of Jesus
January 18 th —25 th		Unity Week

FROM THE DESK OF REVD J S CHARLES

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I write this letter in the closing days of the year. At such a time, it is natural for our thoughts to turn backwards and forwards: backwards, over the old year; and forwards, to the new. And in whatever direction we look, there is much to make us conscious—and, as it may be the case, afraid!

The world upon which the New Year will dawn, is a world that is still harassed and distressed by problems—political, social, economic—so complex and difficult... and it is not only because of these that the hearts of men, women, and children may fail them for fear.

None can tell what the future will bring forth—and, as children who fear to go into the dark, the uncertainty makes us more afraid. And yet, over it all, as an encouragement to us in our perplexity and fear, there comes ringing in our ears the great message of assurance and hope...

Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, faintest not, neither is He weary? There is no search of His understanding. He gives power to the faint; and to them that have no might, He increases strength. Even the youth shall faint and be weary, and the young men utterly fall... but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings of eagles. They shall run, and not be weary. They shall walk, and not faint.

That message I would bid you to take to yourselves today. Look up! Lift up your eyes to worlds above, away from your own weaknesses and perplexity, to the Eternal God... and realize that in the midst of all that is changing and uncertain, there is One who is unchanged, whose purpose is sure. The Lord preserve your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore!

Wishing you all a bright and prosperous New Year!

Your friend and priest,
Joseph S Charles

INTERCESSORS AND OFFERTORY-BEARERS FOR JANUARY 2012

DATE	INTERCESSOR	OFFERTORY-BEARERS
JANUARY 1 ST	Wijith DeChickera	Dharshani de Silva and Mallika Dedigama
JANUARY 8 TH	Chandani Perera	Dhayamani and Ashok
JANUARY 15 TH	Grace Perera	Sughandi Daniel and Charmaine Perera
JANUARY 22 RD	Youth Fellowship	Sunday School
JANUARY 29 TH	Deepika Dassenaik	Ajit and Chandra De Silva

WARDENS AND SIDESPERSONS DUTY ROSTER FOR JANUARY 2012

DATE	WARDEN	SIDESPERSONS
1 ST SUNDAY January 1 st	Michael Tissera	Barbara Wijesinghe Amala Cumaraswamy
2 ND SUNDAY January 8 th	Lalith Dassenaik	Junita de Alwis Thomas Ponniah
3 RD SUNDAY January 15 th	Dyan Seneviratne	Mallika Dedigama Dorothy Philips
4 TH SUNDAY January 22 nd	Githa Algama	Dharshani de Silva Bihani Welikala
5 TH SUNDAY January 29 th	Dyan Seneviratne	Yvonne Weerasuriya Mishael Algama

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> MRS JENNIFER LATIFF	0112-584050
MR LALITH DASSENAIK	0777-845686	<i>Hony. Treasurer:</i> MRS NILANI SENEVIRATNE	0777-785167
MS GITHANJALI ALGAMA	0777-106946		

SCRIPTURE READERS FOR JANUARY 2012

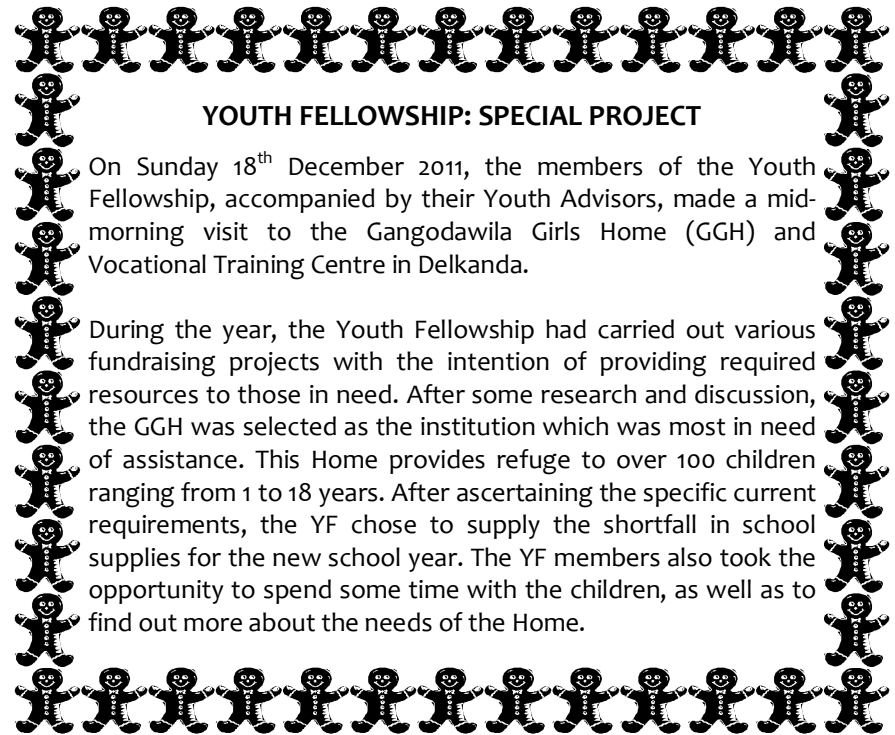
DATE	READING	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE	READER
JANUARY 1ST NEW YEAR'S DAY AND HOLY NAME OF JESUS	Lesson (S)	Numbers 6:22-27	Nirmala De Mel
	Epistle (T)	Revelation 21:1-6a	Ira Unamboowe
	Gospel (E)	Luke 2:15-21	Jennifer Latiff
JANUARY 8TH CHRISTMAS III AND BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Lesson	Genesis 1:1-5	Sughandi Daniel
	Epistle	Acts 19:1-7	Rochelle Hakel-Ranasinghe
	Gospel	Mark 1:4-11	Lalith Dassenaik
JANUARY 15TH CHRISTMAS IV AND EPIPHANY II	Lesson	1 Samuel 3:1-10	Junita De Alwis
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Githa Algama
	Gospel	John 1:43-51	Barbara Wijesinghe
JANUARY 22ND UNITY SUNDAY	Lesson	Malachi 4:5-6	Sunday School
	Epistle	Ephesians 2:14-20	Sunday School
	Gospel	John 20:19-23	Sunday School
JANUARY 29TH EPIPHANY IV AND PRESENTATION SUNDAY	Lesson [S]	Malachi 3:1-4	Minal Ranatunga
	Epistle [T]	Hebrews 2:14-18	[Tamil Congregation]
	Gospel [E]	Luke 2:22-40	Thomas Ponniah

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if, for whatever reason, you are unable to be present on the day assigned to you for the duties.



PLEASE PRAY FOR: This month, as we begin a new year, we can start to remember in our intercessions that God is the God of creation, new beginnings, and the redemption and renewal of the human race... to say nothing of the fallen and sinful universe. So you and I must focus on Him in our prayers, and ask for the help of the Holy Spirit to commence a new chapter in our lives that is oriented towards reflecting the person and work of the triune God, brining revival. The many areas of our family, church, and societal life that have fallen into neglect over the year or years gone by can be taken out in our intentions, dusted off, cleaned up, and rededicated to God!



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: SPECIAL PROJECT

On Sunday 18th December 2011, the members of the Youth Fellowship, accompanied by their Youth Advisors, made a mid-morning visit to the Gangodawila Girls Home (GGH) and Vocational Training Centre in Delkanda.

During the year, the Youth Fellowship had carried out various fundraising projects with the intention of providing required resources to those in need. After some research and discussion, the GGH was selected as the institution which was most in need of assistance. This Home provides refuge to over 100 children ranging from 1 to 18 years. After ascertaining the specific current requirements, the YF chose to supply the shortfall in school supplies for the new school year. The YF members also took the opportunity to spend some time with the children, as well as to find out more about the needs of the Home.

Lenten Bible Study: the Gospel of Mark

From Galilee to Jerusalem: A Discipleship Journey

A Bible Study that will dig deep into the Gospel of Mark and explore 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.

Commencing on Friday the 13th of January 2012

The Bible Study Group will meet every Friday
from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
in the Parish Hall
till Friday 30th March

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

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, Shanthy.



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 19 and 29 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.

A new study commences on 13th January. We will study the Gospel of Mark over 12 weeks. Our aim is to go through this book chapter by chapter weekly, devotionally, and to discover the 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...



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. This month the cottage meeting will be held on **Saturday, 21st January**, at the home of **Dharshani De Silva** (8, Sakviti Lane, Off Thimbingasyaya Road, Colombo 5; Tel: 0112-251450, 0718-581370).



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 Classes

Have you wished you could learn to speak in Tamil? Well, then, your wish has just been realized! Tamil-language classes will be conducted on Mondays from 5:30pm to 7:00pm.

Commencing on Monday 6th February 2012

Limited intake! Speak with Githa Algama