

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 **Poya Day Prayer Log** could help remind us to uphold special prayer needs in our personal times of prayer—as well as serve as a journal of how God answers our prayers, so that we can rejoice in His goodness to us... and, also, not neglect to thank Him!

Prayer Requests: August 2011 (repeat)	How (and when) God Responded
For Youth in our Parish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To keep them faithful to God For wisdom and for guidance For mentors to come forward For involvement in future projects To reach out to other young folks 	
For the Mothers' Union: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For younger mothers to be urged in love to join by older mothers To go the extra mile for 'shut-ins' For unity, humility, compassion 	
For the Wardens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For God's guidance and wisdom For effective administration For a role in mentoring our youth To reach out to our Link Parishes To actively seek out opportunities for national reconciliation efforts 	
For the Church in Sri Lanka: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Bishop Dhilo and his team to bring about unity in the church For him as a 'good shepherd' of the flock to be a godly guiding light 	
For our own Church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reach out to parishioners unable to attend parish activities For church organizations to take on leading our prayer meetings 	



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OCTOBER 2011

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)

8:30 am: Holy Eucharist with Sermon (Every 4th Sunday)

SPECIAL DAYS IN OCTOBER 2011

FLASHBACK #1

4th October 1543

The first missionaries arrive in Sri Lanka from the order of St. Francis in Europe. This mission, during the time of the Portuguese colonization, is the first Western mission per se to Sri Lanka.

FLASHBACK #2

6th October 1642

'Christian Reformed Church Sunday'
The Dutch Reformed Church in Sri Lanka (now, the Christian Reformed Church, is set up.

FROM THE DESK OF REVD J S CHARLES

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

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

As we look forward to our Thanksgiving Service and Sale on October 30th, I would like to focus your attention on the subject of thanksgiving.

Two men were walking through a field one day, when they spotted an enraged bull. Instantly, they darted towards the nearest fence. The storming bull chased them and drew dangerously close. Terrified, one of the men shouted to the other: "John, say a prayer—quickly! The bull is far too near to us!" John answered: "I can't! I've never said a public prayer in all my life..." But his friend insisted: "No, you must! The bull is catching up to us right now!" "All right!" panted John: "I'll say the only prayer I have known, the one my father used to repeat at the table: 'O Lord, for what we are about to receive, make us truly thankful!'"

This humorous illustration reminds us of several important points:

1. We have to thank God for our protection (1 Thess. 5:18). *"In everything, give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*
2. We have to thank God for companionship. We are not alone. God has given us each a personal family. And He has also given us a broader family in the church and in our friends.
3. We have to thank God for our health (Prov. 3:5-10).

Remember: your strength, your energy, your wellness and, indeed, everything in your life comes from the Lord. Remembering these, let us come before His presence with thanksgiving...

God bless!
Your friend and priest,
Joseph S Charles

INTERCESSORS AND OFFERTORY-BEARERS FOR OCTOBER 2011

DATE	INTERCESSOR	OFFERTORY-BEARERS
OCTOBER 2ND	Chandani Perera	Rochelle and Wijith DeChickera
OCTOBER 9TH	Youth Fellowship	Sunday School
OCTOBER 16TH	Bhanu Fernando	Dorothy Philips Grace Perera
OCTOBER 23RD	Dhayamani Ashok	Anusha and Chanaka Gunatilleke
OCTOBER 30TH	Deepika Dassenaiké	Nilani and Dyan Seneviratne

WARDENS AND SIDESPERSONS DUTY ROSTER FOR OCTOBER 2011

DATE	WARDEN	SIDESPERSONS
1ST SUNDAY October 2nd	Michael Tissera	Junita de Alwis Amala Cumaraswamy
2ND SUNDAY October 9th	Githa Algama	Barbara Wijesinghe Thomas Ponniah
3RD SUNDAY October 16th	Dyan Seneviratne	Mallika Dedigama Dorothy Phillips
4TH SUNDAY October 23rd	Lalith Dassenaiké	Dharshani de Silva Bihani Welikala
5TH SUNDAY October 30th	Dyan Seneviratne	Yvonne Weerasuriya Mishaél Algama

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

Vicar's Warden:

MR DYAN SENEVIRATNE 0777-790147

People's Wardens:

MR MICHAEL TISSERA 0779-485782

MR LALITH DASSENAIKE 0777-845686

MS GITHANJALI ALGAMA 0112-598860

Hony. Secretary:

MRS JENNIFER LATIFF 011-2584050

Hony. Treasurer:

MRS NILANI SENEVIRATNE 0777-785167

READERS FOR OCTOBER 2011

DATE	READING	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE	READER
OCTOBER 2ND 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Lesson	Isaiah 5:1-7	Michelle Ponniah
	Epistle	Philippians 3:4-14	Angela Seneviratne
	Gospel	Matthew 21:33-46	Michael Tissera
OCTOBER 9TH 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Lesson	Isaiah 25:1-9	Sunday School
	Epistle	Philippians 4:1-19	Sunday School
	Gospel	Matthew 22:1-14	Sunday School
OCTOBER 16TH HEALTHCARE SUNDAY	Lesson	Isaiah 45:1-7	Barbara Wijesinghe
	Epistle	I Thess. 1:1-10	Githa Algama
	Gospel	Matthew 22:15-22	Vimala Ganeshanathan
OCTOBER 23RD 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Lesson (S)	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Mallika Dedigama
	Epistle (T)	I Thess. 2:1-8	Avanthi Seneviratne
	Gospel (E)	Matthew 22:31-46	Dharshani de Silva
OCTOBER 30TH THANKSGIVING SERVICE	Lesson (S)	Deuteronomy 8:7-18	Minal Ranatunga
	Epistle (T)	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Tamil Congregation
	Gospel (E)	Luke 17:11-19	Ajit De Silva

IMPORTANT: Please inform Fr. Charles or 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 above in this month only...



PLEASE PRAY FOR: In your intercessions this month, you could remember the mentally and emotionally challenged persons in our midst, as well as those who love them and care for them on a personal or a professional basis. Many of these people need not only our prayers, but also our genuine concern and active involvement in making the quality of their lives more healthy and meaningful. In addition, please also uphold in your prayers the lonely, the elderly, and the shut-ins: those who have no way out of the physical and sometimes psychological environments in which they feel trapped. Last but by no means least, do keep in mind probably the most vulnerable segment of Sri Lanka's population today: the next generation; yes, our precious children.



Cottage Meetings



Cottage Meetings give us, as a parish family, 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. This is a special feature of the Christian life—we see it taking place from the earliest days of the Church (Acts 2:46-47). Although we revived the practice of meeting in one of our homes, on a monthly basis, in 2010, we have sadly neglected this aspect of our parish life, this year.

Now, as we agreed at our AGM on the 19th of June, it is a matter of urgency and importance that that we restart this important activity of a dynamic church!

So, If you are willing to open your home so that your fellow parishioners could meet, do contact Wijith DeChickera *today!* You may even want to ask your extended family members, as well as friends or neighbours, to come along! The more the merrier!! 😊

Special note... Hosting a Cottage Meeting does NOT mean you have to provide any food or drink. Please!

Thank you in advance to those who will respond to this appeal to build and strengthen our parish community! May God bless you and your home as you make this commitment for the sake of your 'family'...



Parish Activities



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 man in white on duty at the back of the church after service...

After-Service Fellowship: A cup of tea is served in the Parish Hall, every Sunday, after the 8.00 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist in English. In addition, the Mothers' Union hosts a Combined Breakfast after service on the 4th Sunday of every month. On other Sundays, you may buy your own breakfast—usually home-cooked treats prepared by Arul Das's wife, Shanthi. Come and taste, and see that the Lord is good... because it's especially good when His family enjoys fellowship together with each other!



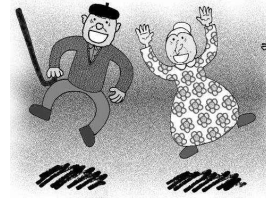
Meet for Breakfast



Birthdays and Other Anniversaries: 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.

Bible Study: Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This month, we continue our study on 'Leadership Lessons for Daily Life in Nehemiah'. Our aim will be to go through this book chapter by chapter devotionally, and mine it for wisdom for our daily lives. The study will be conducted by Wijith DeChickera, in the Parish Hall. Everyone of us is encouraged to make this study a part of our weekly schedule...



Elders' Fellowship: Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, commencing at 10 a.m.

This month, the meetings of the 'senior friends' of our parish will be on 13th and 27th.

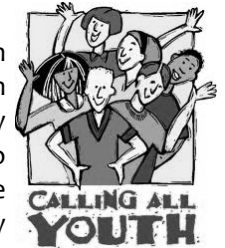
Medical Clinic: Tuesdays, at 4:30 p.m.

This 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! They need you...



Mothers' Union: The monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, the 5th of October, at 4.30 p.m. *Please do check the day/time/place with an office-bearer of the Mothers' Union.*

Youth Fellowship: The Youth of the English congregation meet after the 8:00 am service on Sundays 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! Election of office-bearers is on the 2nd.



Sunday School is Fun! Sunday School: Sundays, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Bring along your children to our Sunday School, where they will be taught God's Word by committed teachers—in fun, meaningful, and innovative ways!



Poya Day Prayer: The next Poya Day falls on Tuesday, October 11th. This month, our regular time of prayer will be conducted by members of the Mother's Union. Please be present and join your prayers with theirs. Time TBC via 'Notices'...



Prayer, It Works!