

PARISH NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2023

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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

8:30 am Holy Eucharist with Sermon (Every 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sunday)
5:30 pm Holy Eucharist with Sermon (Except 4th Sunday)

TAMIL

10:00 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)

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 VEN JAYANTH JEYAVEERASINGAN - OUTGOING VICAR

Deuteronomy 33 : 27 “The eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms”.

My Dear People of the Church and the Jawatte Community, we as a family – Rajitha, Stephan, Louis and myself at this stage of departure, wish the Church and the Society around us all God’s richest blessings for the New Year 2023.

We as a Parish also welcome Fr. Nihal, Chinta and the twins and wish them all the very best for their new assignment at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Thimbirigasyaya. We are 100% sure that with the guidance of God and the new relationship at the Church of the Good Shepherd, they will do very well and that our Parish will flourish under the New Shepherd.

I also take this opportunity to thank Fr. Bala, Shanthini and the children for the support they gave me and the Parish. I also wish to thank both congregations, the present Board of Wardens and their families, Simone and family, Tamani and family, Curtis and family and each member of my flock who have become my friends and part of my family. This bond is a Sacrament to us Clergy wherever we go.

We wish the Congregation as they get Fr. Nihal as their Vicar and Fr. Bala to continue as Assistant – both of whom are very vibrant, I pray God will open the gates of heaven and bless you all.

In this coming New Year I handover the baton to Fr. Nihal, the New Shepherd. I quote Isaiah 40 : 29 – 31 “..... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength , they will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint”. This is my Prayer.

A blessed New Year and God’s protection to all.

Fr. Jayanth

Special Days in January 2023

6 th	The Epiphany of our Lord
8 th	The Baptism of our Lord
22 nd	Unity Sunday

FROM THE DESK OF REV NIHAL FERNANDO - INCOMING VICAR

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

At the very outset, let me wish you all a Spirit filled New Year!

As we usher in the New Year, let's be humble before our living God for being present in our lives. We are here also to ask our Loving God in heaven to take charge of our lives in the coming year.

I remind you that we need to hearken and be in the presence of God so that He can work through to fulfill His purpose created for us. We are on earth to fulfill the purpose that God made us for.

This coming year need to put us on course so that we can keep on serving using the gifts that the Lord has given us. We are all unique and God knows us by our names.

As I take over "The Church of the Good Shepherd" in 2023, let me thank you for accepting me and my family as your own, to serve the believing community at Thimbirigasyaya.

Let's be united in the faith irrespective of all our differences. We have more similarities than differences. Let's achieve "Unity in Diversity" to establish the kingdom of God within the parish.

I urge you to support me to build up the parish in true Christian faith. If we are together, have the right focus and approach, everything will be possible. Come on board, support the cause!

May God bless you and keep you in His loving care!

Fr. Nihal Fernando

Vicar

**A warm welcome to our new Vicar, Fr. Nihal
and his family – Chintha, Eraan & Nevaan**

Vicar

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Asst Curate

REV S BALASUNDARAM 0712262030

Vicar's Warden

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Parish Coordinator and
Assistant Treasurer

MRS SIMONE BOTEJUE

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**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 Sidespersons on duty (look out for the 'SIDESPERSON' badge), one of our Wardens (just ask for Minal, Upekha, Delani or Lalith), or our Vicar, the Rev. Nihal Fernando. Family Cards are available with our Sexton, Curtis.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

A Time of Church-Family Fellowship: After the 8:30am 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: 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 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

Elders' Fellowship: Commencing at 10:00 a.m.

The 'senior friends' of our parish meet once a month— every 4th Wednesday—for fun-filled fellowship!



PARISH ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAYS

Young Adults at 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. via Zoom

Keep in touch with Viranga on 0773891951



THURSDAYS

Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Online Bible Study conducted by Dhanan Senathirajah via Zoom. Please follow the church WhatsApp group or contact Lalith Dassenaik (0777845686) to receive the Zoom link. All are welcome.



SATURDAYS

Mothers' Union: Commencing at 4:30 p.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



SCRIPTURE READERS FOR JANUARY 2023

DATE	READING	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE	READER
JANUARY 1 ST NEW YEAR	Psalm	Psalm 8	
	OT Lesson	Numbers 6: 22 - 27	Rajitha Jeyaveerasingan
	NT Lesson	Galatians 4: 4 - 7	Geetha De Silva
	Gospel	Luke 2: 15 - 21	Kusum Wickramaratne
JANUARY 8 TH 2 ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	Psalm	Psalm 29	
	OT Lesson	Isaiah 42: 1 - 9	Aaron Premvarshan
	NT Lesson	Acts 10: 34 - 43	Joshua Jerald
	Gospel	Matthew 3: 13 - 17	Sahana Emmanuel
JANUARY 15 TH 3 RD SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	Psalm	Psalm 40: 1 - 11	
	OT Lesson	Isaiah 49: 1 - 7	Dharshani De Silva
	NT Lesson	1 Corinthians 1: 1 - 9	Rohini Rockwood
	Gospel	John 1: 29 - 42	Mallika Dedigama
JANUARY 22 ND 4 TH SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	Psalm	Psalm 42	
	OT Lesson [E]	Isaiah 1: 12 - 18	Jacob Curtis
	NT Lesson [S]	Ephesians 2: 13 - 22	Misha-el Algama
	Gospel [T]	Matthew 25: 31 - 40	Levon Sri Kanth
JANUARY 29 TH 5 TH SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	Psalm	Psalm 15	
	OT Lesson	Micah 6: 1 - 8	Anil Jayasinghe
	NT Lesson	1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 31	Michael Tissera
	Gospel	Matthew 5: 1 - 12	Dyan Seneviratne

INTERCESSORS & OFFERTORY BEARERS FOR JANUARY 2023

DATE	INTERCESSOR	OFFERTORY BEARERS
JANUARY 1 ST	Viranga Wickramaratne	Upekha & Viranga Wickramaratne
JANUARY 8 TH	Dhayamani Ashok	Sunday School
JANUARY 15 TH	Simone Botejue	Simone Botejue Nilani Seneviratne
JANUARY 22 ND	Githanjali Algama Ranjani Edward	Ranjani Edward Janet Curtis
JANUARY 29 TH	Lalith Dassenaik	Delani & Anil Jayasinghe

WARDENS, SIDESPERSONS & LAY ASSISTANTS DUTY ROSTER FOR JANUARY 2023

DATE	WARDEN	SIDESPERSIONS	LAY ASSISTANTS
1 ST SUNDAY	Upekha Wickramaratne (AM)	Geetha De Silva (AM) Amala Cumaraswamy (AM)	Upekha Wickramaratne (AM))
2 ND SUNDAY	Minal Ranatunga (AM) Upekha Wickramaratne (PM)	Dhayamani Ashok (AM) Geetha De Silva (AM) Chandra De Silva (PM)	Minal Ranatunga (AM) Upekha Wickramaratne (PM)
3 RD SUNDAY	Lalith Dassenaik (AM) Delani Jayasinghe (PM)	Mallika Dedigama (AM) Dhayamani Ashok (AM) Debika Pathirana (PM)	Lalith Dassenaik (AM) Delani Jayasinghe (PM)
4 TH SUNDAY	Upekha Wickramaratne (AM)	Dhayamani Ashok (AM) Michelle Ponniah (AM)	Upekha Wickramaratne (AM)
5 TH SUNDAY	Delani Jayasinghe (AM) Minal Ranatunga (PM)	Dhayamani Ashok (AM) Geetha De Silva (AM) Renuka Amarasekera (PM)	Delani Jayasinghe (AM) Minal Ranatunga (PM)

BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES – JANUARY 2023

Week	Date	Birthdays	Anniversaries
1	2nd Jan	Upekha Wickramaratne	
	4th Jan	Tania Sridharan	Radhika & Rohan Fernando
	6th Jan	Zorina de Alwis	
2	8 th Jan	Tehana De Silva	
	12 th Jan	Rhuani Rambukwella	
	13 th Jan	Daphne Dias Bandaranaike Roshini De Silva Dulan Gunawardena	
	14 th Jan	Sugandhi Daniel Anushka Lewke	
3	17th Jan		Amanda & Sean Lalith Silva
	18th Jan	Thomas Ponniah Tamani Weerakoon	
	20th Jan	John Paul Aruldas	Minal & Rajind Ranatunga
4	23rd Jan	Aidan Tissera	
	25th Jan	Ranjan Mather	
	28th Jan		Maheeka & Suresh Perera
	29th Jan		Mignon & Francis Anandage
	30th Jan	Lalinka De Silva	