



THE CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

January / February 2026



THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIVING SAVIOUR
368, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR OF THE CATHEDRAL

Dear Friends,

Through all the changing scenes of life we have journeyed through another year and have stepped into a new year. We have all had various experiences in our lives. In trouble and in joy we've felt God's presence and affirm that God is good all the time

It is with this assurance that we have settled back into our routines for the year. What is it that we carry with us into the year 2026? Themes during Christmas and Epiphany help us to understand "Jesus as the light of the world". These themes call us to be lights in the world, making a difference in our communities despite the challenges and sacrifices involved.

And it is not easy as we go out into the community and mingle with different people. Very often we get caught up with them and get dragged into their directions and the ways of the world. Rather than be the light shining and making the difference and leading others, we prefer to go with the tide and become followers.

Over the years, our Cathedral community has shone brightly through initiatives like the Community Kitchen and English classes for underprivileged children. Two years ago, I shared with the worshipping community here at the Cathedral that we could provide drinking water to the people on the road - the road sweepers, those going to BMICH for various events, etc. We must continue to explore ways to expand this into a mission of the Cathedral not only to provide drinking water but by providing washroom facilities including a space to refresh themselves.

During the Christmas season we reflected and will continue to reflect till the 2nd of February (the presentation of Christ in the Temple) the last day of the Christmas season, on various portions of scripture that.

reveals Christ as the light to the whole world and the work he came to do and what we ought to do (1 Kings 17:8–16, Is 9:1–2, 42:1–9, 49:1–7; Lk 2:11, 32; John 1:5, 14).

Christmas is a time of celebration, but the true spirit of Christmas lies in joining hands with the light of the world to make a difference in the world. Very often rather than find ways to get involved in actions that can make a difference in people's lives, we would look at various reasons to avoid getting ourselves involved in such a mission.

Imagine if Jesus *"though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross"* refused to be the Messiah, what would be our plight? We are called to have the mind of Christ.

As we begin this year, we commit ourselves to God, acknowledging, *"I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal"*. These are not empty words, but it is a pledge we make to live for Him, ready to make a difference in our communities and beyond.

As a worshipping community let us be ready to make a difference to the people beyond the walls of the Cathedral, here and in our own communities, so that the world will know Jesus and see his light shine here and wherever you will be every day of your life.

As we plan our activities for 2026, I extend my gratitude to all who contribute to the life and mission of the Cathedral - the Ushers, the media team, the worship committee, the choir and organist, the altar servers, and all who make use of their talents to make our worship meaningful each week and the English class teachers and the Community Kitchen team who served faithfully till the end, and all who step in to give leadership to various activities of the Cathedral.

Rev. Madushani, served as the Assistant Curate from February 2025 at the Cathedral and has now moved to serve at SS. Mary and John Nugegoda, and at the Church of Christ the Saviour Maharagama. I am thankful to her for all what she has done at the Cathedral especially when I have had to be away on Sundays. I am also thankful to all of you for encouraging her and supporting her during her time here. We wish her well as she continues to serve the people in her new parish.

Rev. Miranga Peiris will serve at the Cathedral as the Assistant Curate as well as St. Paul's Church Kynsey Road. He will reside there, and will serve at the Cathedral during the week as well as when there are special services and activities. We welcome Rev. Miranga Peiris and his wife Sudharshi to our community.

The week of prayer for Christian unity begins on the 18th of January (The chair of ST. Peter) and ends on the 25th (the day of St. Paul). The resources each year are jointly published by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. The resources are prepared by ecumenical partners of a specific region and this year it is prepared an ecumenical group of Armenian Christians. The theme for the week is "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4). The unity week service will be held on Sunday the 25th January at 3.30pm at All Saints Church Borella. I encourage you to participate in this service.

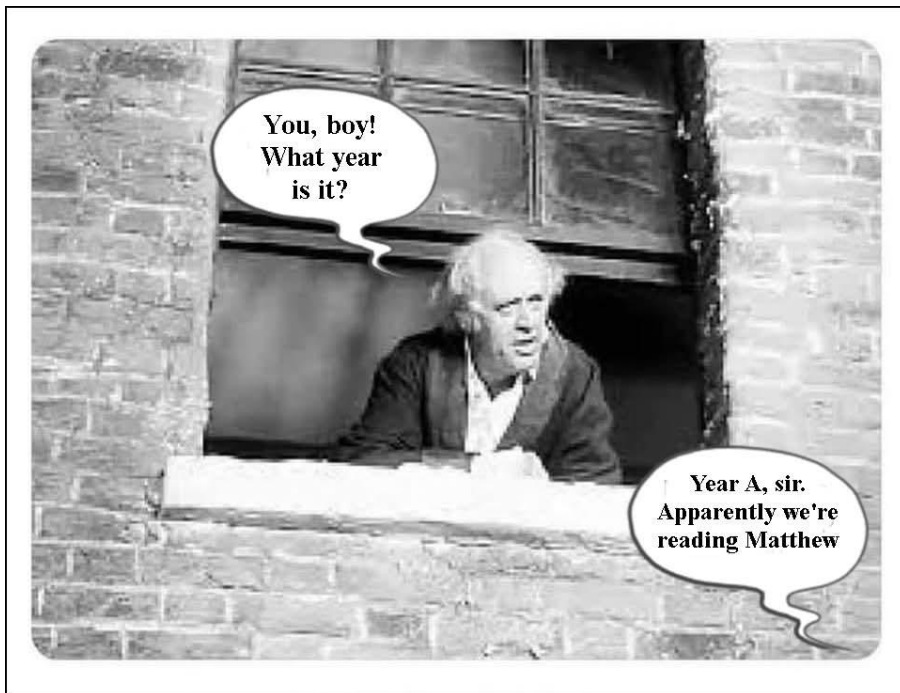
An Education Fund to support the children of the Cathedral staff has been started. This will be to give their children a good education in one of the Christian school. Your generous contributions will be greatly appreciated to make a change in the life of a child to have a good future. This fund will to be pay the school fees of the staff children each year. This year we have Diya, Solomon's daughter has been admitted to Methodist College and it is a commitment to journey with her to complete her education. You can make your contributions to the "Cathedral Staff children's Education Fund".

Retired clergy who live on the premises join us at our services on Sundays. We welcome Fr. Cyril Roche, his wife Nesam and their daughter Nilukshika and Fr. Sunil Ferdinando and his wife Aruni who have moved in from

January. Do welcome them and speak to them when they join us for worship on Sunday. I suggest members of the Cathedral Worshipping community visit the retired clergy regularly and be their friends.

May God bless you all as you live out your lives as lights shining in the world that is searching for love, care and brightness.

Fr. Lakshman



This year is known as Year A in the 3-year cycle of the lectionary. The emphasis is on the Gospel of Matthew. From Advent through Epiphany, readings focus on Christ's coming and manifestation. Lent continues with Matthew, with key passages from John, while Easter features John's discourses and Acts in the first readings. After Pentecost, Matthew is central. The season concludes with themes of Christ's reign and eschatology.

LECTIONARY - JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026

Date: 4th January 2026 – Christmas 2

Old Testament Lesson	Jeremiah 31 : 7 - 14
Psalm	147 : 13 - 21
Epistle	Ephesians 1 : 3 - 14
Gospel	St. John 1 : 10 - 18

Date 11th January 2026 – 1st Sunday after Epiphany / The Baptism of our Lord

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 42 : 1 - 9
Psalm	29
Epistle	Acts 10 : 34 - 43
Gospel	St. Mathew 3 : 13 - 17

Date 18th January 2026 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany / Unity Sunday

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 49 : 1 - 7
Psalm	40 : 1 - 11
Epistle	1 Corinthians 1 : 1 - 9
Gospel	St. John 1 : 29 – 42

Date 25th January 2026 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany / Salvation Army Sunday

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 9 : 1 - 4
Psalm	Psalm 27 : 1, 4 - 12
Epistle	1 Corinthians 1 : 10 - 18
Gospel	St. Mathew 4 : 12 - 23

Date 01st February 2026 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany (Diocese of Kurunagala Sunday)

Old Testament Lesson	1 Kings 17 : 8 - 16
Psalm	36 : 5 - 10
Epistle	1 Corinthians 1 : 18 - 31
Gospel	St. John 2 : 1 - 11

Date 08th February 2026 – the 2nd Sunday before Lent

Old Testament Lesson	Genesis 1.1 – 2.3
Psalm	136
Epistle	Romans 8.18–25
Gospel	Matthew 6.25–34

Date 15th February 2026 – Transfiguration Sunday / Sunday before Lent

Old Testament Lesson	Exodus 24.12–18
Psalm	2
Epistle	2 Peter 1.16–21
Gospel	Matthew 17.1–9



CATHEDRAL
of Christ the Living Saviour

Cathedral Pola

15th February 2026

09.30Am – 02.00Pm

The Cathedral of
Christ the Living Saviour

Spread the community Spirit with your support
How you can be involved:

DONATIONS

We would sincerely appreciate your monetary contribution at this year's annual fundraiser fair

For more details contact:

SHYAMA : 0777727835

DARSHI : 0775256456

ANAGI : 0777530503

PARTICIPATION

We actively seeking stall holders to participate in the fair, if you or anyone you know wish to run a stall please get in touch with us

Stall Size:

Tent 10x10ft.

Table 6x3ft.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribute and be a part of the Cathedral stall (contributions of sweet and savory food items to be sold at the Cathedral stall are welcomed)

VOLOUNTEERS

Be a part of the fair by assisting in the day's activities



The Anglican Cycle of Prayer – January 2026

January 2026

Thursday 1 January 2026

The Diocese of Seychelles –
The Church of the Province of the
Indian Ocean

Friday 2 January 2026

The Diocese of Sheffield –
The Church of England

Saturday 3 January 2026

The Diocese of Shinyanga –
The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Sunday 4 January 2026

2nd Sunday of Christmas
The Church of the Province of
Central Africa

Monday 5 January 2026

The Diocese of Upper Shire –
The Church of the Province of
Central Africa

Tuesday 6 January 2026

Epiphany
The Diocese of Shyira –
Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Wednesday 7 January 2026

The Diocese of Shyogwe –
Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Thursday 8 January 2026

The Diocese of Sialkot – The Church
of Pakistan (United)

Friday 9 January 2026

The Diocese of Singapore – Church of
the Province of South East Asia

Saturday 10 January 2026

The Diocese of Sittwe – The Church
of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)

Sunday 11 January 2026

1st Sunday of Epiphany
Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central
de America

Monday 12 January 2026

The Diocese of Sodor and Man –
The Church of England

Tuesday 13 January 2026

The Diocese of Sokoto – The Church
of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Wednesday 14 January 2026

The Diocese of Central Solomons –
The Anglican Church of Melanesia

Thursday 15 January 2026

The Diocese of Soroti – The Church
of the Province of Uganda

Friday 16 January 2026

The Diocese of Southwark –
The Church of England

Saturday 17 January 2026

The Diocese of Southwell and
Nottingham – The Church of England

Sunday 18 January 2026

2nd Sunday of Epiphany
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Province de L'Eglise Anglicane
Du Congo

Monday 19 January 2026

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
The Reformed Episcopal Church of
the Reformed Episcopal Church of
Spain – (Extra Provincial)

Tuesday 20 January 2026

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
The Diocese of Spokane –
The Episcopal Church

Wednesday 21 January 2026

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
The Diocese of Springfield –
The Episcopal Church

Thursday 22 January 2026

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
The Diocese of Port Sudan – Province
of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

Friday 23 January 2026

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
The Diocese of Sul Occidental –
Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

Saturday 24 January 2026

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
The Diocese of Sunyani – The Church
of the Province of West Africa

Sunday 25 January 2026

3rd Sunday of Epiphany
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

Monday 26 January 2026

The Diocese of Sur – Iglesia Anglicana
de Chile

Tuesday 27 January 2026

The Diocese of Del Sureste –
La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico

Wednesday 28 January 2026

The Diocese of Swansea and Brecon
– The Church in Wales

Thursday 29 January 2026

The Diocese of Sydney – The
Anglican Church of Australia

Friday 30 January 2026

The Diocese of Tabora – The Anglican
Church of Tanzania

Saturday 31 January 2026

Te Pihopatanga o Te Tai Tokerau –
The Anglican Church in Aotearoa,
New Zealand and Polynesia

February 2026

Sunday 1 February 2026

4th Sunday of Epiphany

Septuagesima

The Church of England

Monday 2 February 2026

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Te Pihopatanga o Te Tairāwhiti –

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa,
New Zealand and Polynesia

Tuesday 3 February 2026

The Diocese of Taita-Taveta –

The Anglican Church of Kenya

Wednesday 4 February 2026

The Diocese of Taiwan –

The Episcopal Church

Thursday 5 February 2026

The Diocese of Tamale – The Church
of the Province of West Africa

Friday 6 February 2026

The Diocese of Tanga – The Anglican
Church of Tanzania

Saturday 7 February 2026

The Diocese of Central Tanganyika –
The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Sunday 8 February 2026

2nd Sunday before Lent

Sexagesima

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Monday 9 February 2026

The Diocese of South West
Tanganyika – The Anglican Church
of Tanzania

Tuesday 10 February 2026

The Diocese of Western Tanganyika –
The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Wednesday 11 February 2026

The Diocese of Tarime – The Anglican
Church of Tanzania

Thursday 12 February 2026

The Diocese of Tasmania – The
Anglican Church of Australia

Friday 13 February 2026

The Diocese of Taungoo – The Church
of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)

Saturday 14 February 2026

The Diocese of Temotu – The
Anglican Church of Melanesia

Sunday 15 February 2026

Sunday next before Lent

Quinquagesima

The Church of the Province of the
Indian Ocean

Monday 16 February 2026

The Diocese of Tennessee –
The Episcopal Church

Tuesday 17 February 2026

The Diocese of East Tennessee –
The Episcopal Church

Wednesday 18 February 2026

Ash Wednesday

The Diocese of West Tennessee –
The Episcopal Church

Thursday 19 February 2026

The Diocese of Terekeka – Province
of the Episcopal Church of
South Sudan

Friday 20 February 2026

The Territory of the People –
The Anglican Church of Canada

Saturday 21 February 2026

The Missionary Diocese of Tete –
Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique
e Angola

Sunday 22 February 2026

1st Sunday of Lent

Quadragesima

The Church of Ireland

Monday 23 February 2026

The Diocese of Texas –
The Episcopal Church

Tuesday 24 February 2026

The Diocese of Northwest Texas –
The Episcopal Church

Wednesday 25 February 2026

The Diocese of West Texas –
The Episcopal Church

Thursday 26 February 2026

The Diocese of Thika – The Anglican
Church of Kenya

Friday 27 February 2026

The Diocese of Thoothukudi –
Nazareth – The Church of South
India (United)

Saturday 28 February 2026

The Diocese of Tirunelveli –
The Church of South India (United)

TIMES OF SERVICES

07.00am – Sinhala & Tamil

08.30am – English

- *All services will be held physically while the 8.30am service will also continue to be livestreamed. The link for the livestream will be shared weekly.*



Weekly Services at The Cathedral

Every morning, at 7.30 a.m, a short Holy Communion service is held at the tranquil little Chapel (the Chapel of St. Joseph the Worker) at the right side at the entrance of the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour.

If you are marking a special day in your life, a day you would like to remember with prayers and thanksgiving to God, this service provides the perfect opportunity to do so with a special blessing. Be it a birthday or wedding anniversary, a commemoration of the death of a loved one, even a day when you began a new chapter in your life and you want to spend a few moments in quiet reflection, come to this morning service. It is where you can pray and worship in the company of a few and have a special prayer said for you.

The morning service is also ideal for elders who may prefer a shorter worship service than the regular Sunday Eucharist. The quiet confines of the Chapel offer a place for peaceful reflection.

The following morning services are held every day (Monday to Saturday)

7.00 am Morning Prayer

7.30 am Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER IN PICTURES

English Class Christmas programme



The Cathedral Carol Service



Sunday school Christmas programme & Children's service



Know your hymns – “Guide me o thou great Jehovah”

“Guide me, O thou Great Jehovah” has been used for worship in congregations around the globe and across denominational lines. It was also incorporated in two of the most televised services of the last three decades, the funeral of Princess Diana of Wales (1997) and the royal wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton (2011).

The author William Williams (1717 – 1791) was born in Carmarthenshire, Wales to John and Dorothy Williams. According to Welsh hymn scholar Alan Luff, William grew up as an Independent and later a Calvinist, but had no aspirations to be a minister. In fact, he intended to be a doctor, attending school at the Dissenting Academy of Llwyn-llwyd, near Talgarth, Wales. It was near Talgarth that he first encountered the preaching of Howell Harris, which led to his conversion experience. Shortly after, he abandoned his Independent upbringing and desire to be a doctor to pursue ordination in the Established Church. In 1744, after being accused of several misdemeanors against the Church of England, Williams devoted himself to Methodism. The Welsh text was written soon after this in 1745.

Williams beautifully interweaves imagery from the Old Testament book of Exodus to evoke a sense of God’s guidance through strife. One of the reasons this hymn has influenced such a broad array of congregants is the universal subject of struggle. The hymn affirms the reality that God provides for us and redeems all wrong in the world. This God who provided for the Hebrew people wandering amidst “barren lands” with “Bread of Heaven” is still and ever will be a God of provisional grace.

The tune to which this hymn is sung today is known as Cwm Rhondda, a popular Welsh hymn tune written by John Hughes in 1907. The name is taken from the Welsh name for the Rhondda Valley.

- By *Thayalan Gnanapragasam*¹⁴

CONTACT DETAILS

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Chandrika Wijesinghe			info@cathedral.lk anglican.cathedral@yahoo.com

For pastoral visits, special services, communion to the sick and housebound please contact the Vicar.

To contribute flowers to decorate the sanctuary on Sundays, please write your name on the flower chart and the office will contact you.

When making online fund transfers, please mention your name and the purpose of the funds, as it will help the office to acknowledge the payment.

Website: www.cathedral.lk

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/CathedralCMB/>

