

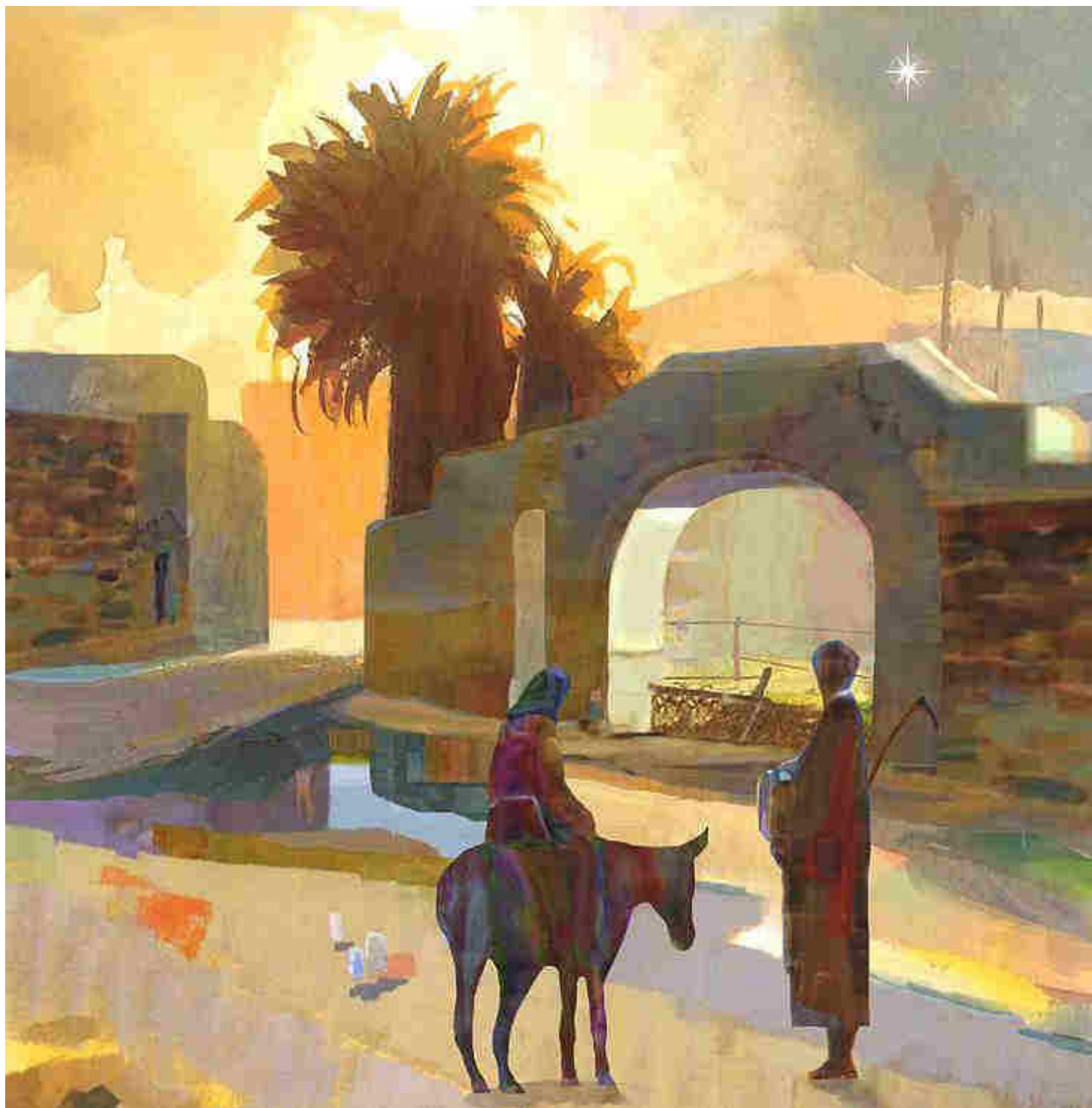


THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF GALLE



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025
VOL. 20 - NO. 06

News Letter



JUBILEE YEAR - 2025



“PILGRIMS OF HOPE”



Bishop of the Diocese
Rt. Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickramasinghe

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Designed by
S. Reginold - Diocesan Media Unit

FOR CIRCULATION AMONG THE CLERGY
OF THE GALLE DIOCESE.

Dear Rev. Fathers & Sisters,
You are kindly requested to send your
information and news articles
to be published in the News Letter
before 20th of every month.

News Letter

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2025 VOL. 20 NO. 06

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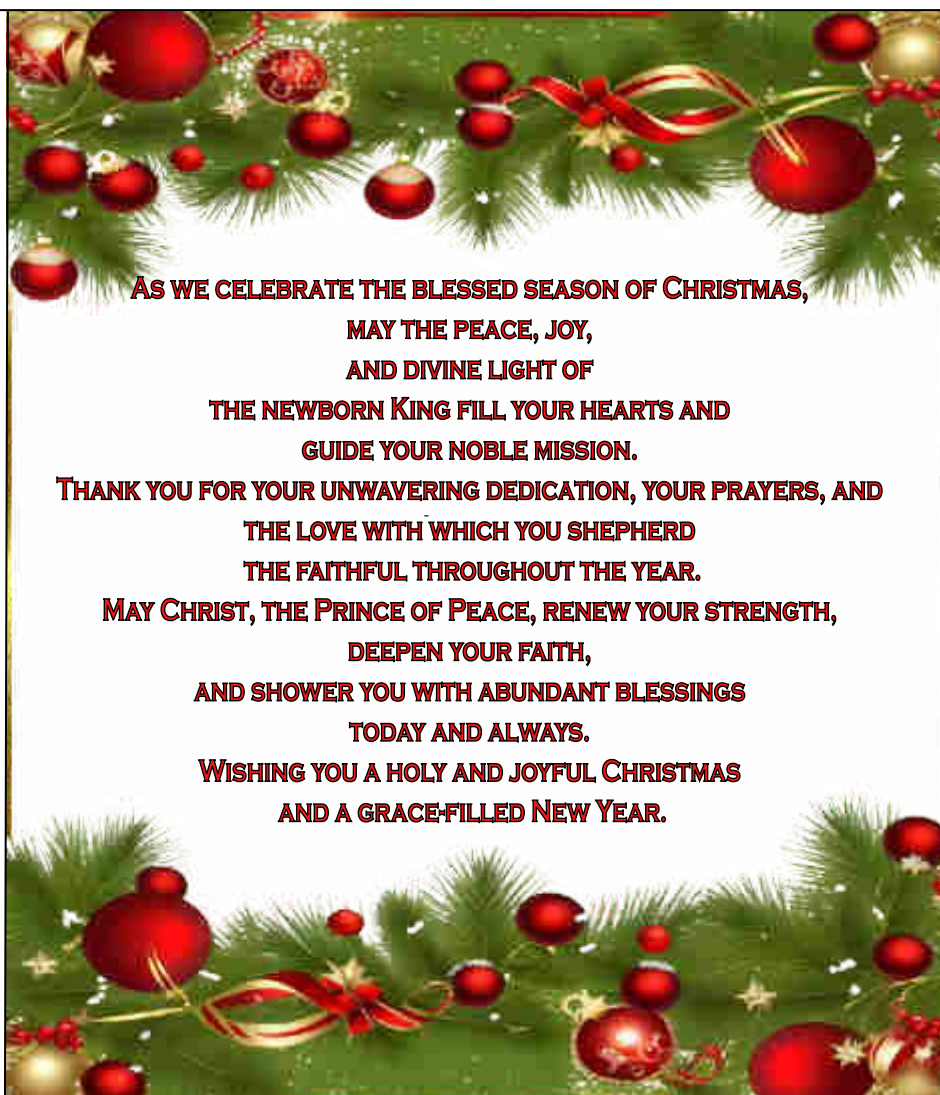
Congratulation! New Appointments



Rev. Fr. Ravindra Seneviratne
Chaplain for the Sri Lankan Community
in Israel



Rev. Fr. Naveen Jude De Silva
Parish Priest
Sacred Heart Church - Elpitiya



AS WE CELEBRATE THE BLESSED SEASON OF CHRISTMAS,
MAY THE PEACE, JOY,
AND DIVINE LIGHT OF
THE NEWBORN KING FILL YOUR HEARTS AND
GUIDE YOUR NOBLE MISSION.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNWAVERING DEDICATION, YOUR PRAYERS, AND
THE LOVE WITH WHICH YOU SHEPHERD
THE FAITHFUL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
MAY CHRIST, THE PRINCE OF PEACE, RENEW YOUR STRENGTH,
DEEPEN YOUR FAITH,
AND SHOWER YOU WITH ABUNDANT BLESSINGS
TODAY AND ALWAYS.
WISHING YOU A HOLY AND JOYFUL CHRISTMAS
AND A GRACE-FILLED NEW YEAR.



TOTALLY FOR CHRIST

My dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

The month of November is a month in the Church that we remember our beloved dead. People who have been an important part of our lives for many years are no longer with us. We begin the month with “All Saints Day,” believing many of our loved ones are with God in heaven in the Communion of the Saints. Then on the second day of November we remembered and prayed for all souls who have died (All Souls Day). We know that most (if not all) do not die on earth in a perfect state of grace. It is often said that “those in heaven don't need our prayers and those in hell our prayers don't help.” We offer prayers and masses, do penance and acts of charity for those who have died. Let us continue our good tradition to spend days of recollection on the mystery of death and the life and resurrection in Jesus. It is because of this great hope that Christ will come again that the last Sunday in the liturgical calendar is “Christ the King” (always toward the end of November). When Christ comes again, all creation will be renewed and reconciled with one another and with God and Christ the King will reign over all with justice, peace and love.

I also wish to invite you – **if you are able**, to participate at a Eucharistic Celebration at **the Priests' Cemetery** (behind Galle Cathedral) **on 28th November at 11.00 a.m.** followed by lunch. It is an expression of our deep love for those lived, served and shared their life in the ministry in the diocese of Galle. Most of the time, we just continue their good work and therefore, during the Memorial Mass we will thank God for their lives and wish Eternal Rest. If you wish to be present, please inform Rev. Fr. Nimesh Sameera or Rev. Fr. Prasad Ruwan to facilitate arrangements.

Galle Diocese is once again blessed with Two Deacons. Rev. Bro. Ramesh Lakshan and Rev. Bro. Dasith Mihiran, already incardinated to the Diocese of Galle at an honored celebration at our Minor Seminary in Kalegana, will now begin their diaconal ministry at St. James' Parish, Gurunagar and at St. Anthony's Church, Pasaiyoor in Jaffna. This is an effort to give the Deacons an opportunity to learn Tamil Language, as it is necessary to serve among the Plantation Communities in the Diocese of Galle. While we welcome both of them to the Presbyteral Family, let us bless their journey and encourage them to be faithful to the Lord and do justice to the given



pastoral ministry.

Our Annual Retreat will begin from 17 – 21st November at Lewella Retreat House in Kandy. Very Rev. Fr. Clarence Devadass will guide the Retreat. He is a diocesan priest of the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He holds a doctorate in Moral Theology from the Alphonsian Academy in Rome, Italy. Currently, he serves as the Executive Secretary of the Commission for Synodality under the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC). Fr. Clarence actively participated in both sessions of the Synod on Synodality (together with me), held at the Vatican in 2023 and 2024, where he was elected to the final document drafting team on both occasions. As a prominent Asian theologian, he has contributed to and presented at numerous regional and international platforms, offering valuable insights into the evolving landscape of the Church in Asia. Please uphold the Retreatants in your humble prayers. Before his departure, **he will also address the Major Seminarians in Kandy and the Women Religious in the Diocese of Galle.**

May I also remind you that the Church has laid out a “Pathways” for the implementation Phase of the Synod on Synodality 2025 -2028. As you have already learnt, the Synod is not a novelty; it has existed from the earliest days of the Church Rooted in the apostolic tradition, it reflects the communal discernment and shared journey of faith that shaped the Christian community from the beginning. What we are experiencing today is not invention but rediscovery: a renewed awareness of walking together, listening deeply, and discerning the Spirit's movement among us. This path is not a temporary experiment; but a return to our foundational way of being Church. The Synodal journey is here to stay. There is no turning back, only moving forward in communion, participation, and mission.

I also invite you to pray for the communities that will celebrate Annual Feasts – St. Francis Xavier's Minor Seminary, Kalegana, St. Francis Xavier's Church, Kalegana and Immaculate Conception Church, Balapitiya. May I also invite you to participate in their celebrations and be of support and strength to the Pastors/Rectors, who hold present responsibilities on our behalf. The Kingdom of God is among us, and therefore let us rejoice and be glad. In a very special way, I invite you to help and bless the efforts of the Rector and

the Staff of the Minor Seminary – our *Alma Mater*.

We are fast approaching the Advent and Christmas. A time of preparation to remind ourselves, the joyful mystery of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Prophet Isaiah referring to the same says; *"the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in a land of darkness; on them has light shone."* This in short tells us the purpose of His coming. He came to save sinners, rich and poor alike. Let us commit ourselves to changing all that is not in keeping with God's holy will in our midst by becoming agents of peace, harmony and reconciliation. As we give thanks to God for the beautiful gift of Jesus, let us pray that all of us be renewed by the Spirit to be

living witnesses of the Lord Jesus, especially to bring about lasting peace to the world that we live. **During this Christmas, please reach out to the poor/the needy and most vulnerable. Be compassionate and loving. You will be the light to illumine/expel the darkness that has generated a lot of pain and tears among us. Thank you for being YOU – a Chosen One.**

Please convey my love and greetings to your flock, when you especially meet them during Christmas. Please bless me and pray for me. Much love to all of you as always!

+ Raymond Wickramasinghe
Bishop of Galle

Asian Bishops' Seminar on Synodality held in Thailand



Presbyteral Meeting - September 2025



Congratulations!

Our warmest congratulations to the newly elected President of CMRS, Very Rev. Fr. Justin Chawkan SSS, and to the newly appointed council members.

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you in your mission to nurture and uplift the Catholic faith in our Motherland!

- Fr. Justin Chawkan SSS -President
- Sr. Mary Nilanthi AC- Vice President.
- Fr. Roshan Wasantha TOR - General Secretary
- Bro. Christy Croos FSC - Treasurer
- Sr. Chandani Jayasuriya HF - Exco 1. Holding the portfolio of Education
- Fr. Joseph Jayaseelan CMF - Exco 2. Holding the portfolio of JPIC
- Sr. Matilda Anthony FMM - Exco 3, Holding the portfolio of RRU.



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

FOR THE MONTH OF

NOVEMBER



For the prevention of suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

DECEMBER

World Food Day Celebration at Caritas SED Galle



Centenary Celebration - St. Teresa Balika Vidyalaya, Elpitiya





“Dilexi Te” (I Have Loved You)

In his first writing as Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV has offered the Church a profound meditation on the love of Christ for the poor. The Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te* (“I Have Loved You”) continues a reflection that began under Pope Francis, completed and deepened by Pope Leo with his own pastoral heart and voice.

A Work Born of Continuity and Compassion

When Pope Francis began preparing this exhortation before his passing, his intent was to renew the Church's understanding of God's particular love for the poor and suffering. Pope Leo XIV, honoring that intention, took up the work and brought it to completion, weaving in his own spiritual vision of faith, hope, and love in a time of division and violence.

At its core, *Dilexi Te* reminds us that Christ's love is not abstract. It is expressed in solidarity in His identification with “the least of these” (Mt25:40) and in His summons that we, too, learn to love as He loves.

“Love for the Lord, then, is one with love for the poor. The same Jesus who tells us, ‘The poor you will always have with you’ (Mt 26:11), also promises the disciples: ‘I am with you always’ (Mt 28:20). We likewise think of his saying: ‘Just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me’ (Mt 25:40). This is not a matter of mere human kindness but a revelation: contact with those who are lowly and powerless is a fundamental way of encountering the Lord of history. In the poor, he continues to speak to us.”

The Heart of *Dilexi Te*

Pope Leo's apostolic exhortation calls all Christians to rediscover the inseparable bond between love for God and love for the poor. Across five chapters, the Holy Father leads us through Scripture, tradition, and Church history to show that compassion for the poor and suffering has always been at the heart of Christian holiness.

Some key themes include:

- The Cry of the Poor: God hears the suffering of His people and sends His followers as instruments of mercy and liberation (Ex 3:7–10).
- God's Preferential Love: From Israel to the life of Christ, God reveals a “preferential option” for the poor, not as exclusion, but as a revelation of divine love.
- A Church for the Poor: Pope Leo calls the Church to be “poor and for the poor,” echoing Saint Lawrence's words: “These are the treasures of the Church.”
- Witnesses of Charity: From Saint Francis of Assisi to Saint Teresa of Calcutta, the document recalls how saints have lived the Gospel through concrete acts of love.
- A Constant Challenge: The Holy Father warns against indifference, urging believers to “see Christ in the faces of those who suffer” and to act with generosity and justice.

A GOSPEL VISION FOR OUR TIME

In *Dilexi Te*, Pope Leo XIV continues the evangelical mission championed by Pope Francis — one that embraces the poor, heals division, and restores dignity to every person. This exhortation is not merely a social document; it is a spiritual invitation to conversion. Each of us is called to hear the cry of the poor in our own communities, to respond with compassion, and to encounter Christ anew through mercy.

“Love for the poor is an essential element of the history of God's dealings with us; it rises up from the heart of the Church as a constant appeal to the hearts of the faithful, both individually and in our communities.” — Pope Leo XIV, *Dilexi Te*

A Call to Read and Reflect

Pope Leo's first writing, *Dilexi Te*, offers a blueprint for a Church renewed in tenderness and truth. It invites us to enter deeply into Christ's love, a love that bends low, heals wounds, and restores hope.

We encourage you to read the full text of this moving Apostolic Exhortation on the Vatican website and make it part of your own spiritual reading and prayer.

PHOTO GALLERY

|Part of the Mission in the Diocese of Galle



|Remembering the Dear Departed in the Month of November



St. Francis Xavier's Minor Seminary - Kalgana



Feast

6th Saturday, December 2025
At 10.00am

St. Francis Xavier's Church - Kalgana



Vespers

06th Saturday, December 2025
At 5.00pm

Feast

07th Sunday, December 2025
At 8.30am

Church of Immaculate Conception of Mary - Balapitya



Vespers

13th Saturday, December 2025
At 5.00pm

Feast

14th Sunday, December 2025
At 8.30am



Annual Priests' Retreat - 2025

17th November to 21st November 2025
At Lewalla Retreat House - Kandy

**Annual Christmas Gathering
of
Priests & Religious - 2025**

**Date - 15th December
Time - 9.00am
Venue - Carits SED Galle**



PHOTO GALLERY

“Come and See program” at St. Francis Xavier’s Minor Seminary - Kalegana



Sri Lanka Council of Religions for Peace - A forum of Inter- Religious Harmony



Residential Camp for Daham Pasal Students at Hiniduma Parish



Inauguration of the New Academic Year 2025-2026 at Don Bosco Chinthanaloka Institute of Philosophy and Humanities, Ahungalla



Family Retreat at DDN Halpathota



DATES TO BE REMEMBERED

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

Rev. Fr. Charels Hewawasam

04th November

Rev. Fr. Joseph Shelton Fernando

13th November

Rev. Fr. Chrishan Hasalaka

17th November

Rev. Fr. Anthony Fernando SDB

23th November

Rev. Fr.. Ravindra Seneviratne

27th November

Rev. Sr. G. K. Iresha SCJM

02th November

Rev. Sr. Rita (Great Carmel)

03th November

Rev. Sr. Manori Fernando SCJM

11th November

Rev. Sr. Anushala Fernando

13th November

Rev. Sr. Sherine Fernando

16th November

Rev. Sr. Theresita Fernando SCJM

20th November

Rev. Sr. Shanika HA

20th November

Rev. Sr. Juliet Jayamanne OP

24th November

Rev. Sr. Eustace ThilakaratnaSCJM

28th November

DECEMBER

Rev. Fr. Xavier Ravikanth CMF

03rd December

Rev. Fr. Sajith Chrishan Gunasekara

12th December

Rev. Fr. Jerad Nihal Anselm Rodrigo

13th December

Rev. Fr. Krishnan Sebastian Nagaraja

21th December

Rev. Fr. Anthony Jesuthasan OMI

31th December

Rev. Sr. Priyani Perera SCJM

3rd December

Rev. Sr. Surani Perera SCJM

4th December

Rev. Sr. Udayani HA

16th December

Rev. Sr. Pricilla Berchmans SCJM

28th December

Rev. Sr. Doneta HA

31st December

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

NOVEMBER

Rev. Fr. Bernard Milton Jayasinghe SJ

19th November

DECEMBER

Rev. Fr.. Ravindra Seneviratne

03th December

Rev Fr. Harold Leo Merrill Peiris

03th December

Rev. Fr. W. Rajitha Sudarshana Waas SJ

03th December

Rev. Fr. Stanely Philip SJ

05th December

Rev. Fr. Felix Malwarachchi SDB

19th December

Rev. Fr. S. Bernard Anthony Fernando

20th December

FEAST DAYS

NOVEMBER

Rev. Sr. Margret Sharlet

4th November

Rev. Sr. M. Sabeth MC

9th November

Rev. Sr. Marie Gertrude of Jesus

16th November

Rev. Sr. Sherine Fernando

16th November

DECEMBER

Rev. Sr. M. Xaviera MC

3rd December

Rev. Sr. Maria

8th December

Rev. Sr. Edna Marie MC

8th December

Rev. Sr. Roshini Thalawatta DM

8th December

Rev. Sr. Udayani HA

13th December

Rev. Sr. Noel HA

25th December

Rev. Sr. Ivanna Fernando HA

27th December

Rev. Sr. Doneta HA

31st December

Holy Childhood Rally 2025



Annual Feast - Queen of the Holy Rosary Cathedral, Galle



Annual Feast - Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Hambantota



Celebrating the Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Rev. Fr. Damian Arsakularatne



Ordination to the Diaconate 2025 – Diocese of Galle

