

AD MULTOS ANNOS

14th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

of our Shepherd
Rt. Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickramasinghe



PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY
05th August

BIRTHDAY & PATRONAL FEAST
31st August

MAY THE LORD BE WITH YOU ALWAYS !

Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Diocese



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF GALLE



JULY - AUGUST 2025
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News Letter



JUBILEE YEAR - 2025



“PILGRIMS OF HOPE”

SACERDOTAL GOLDEN JUBILEE of His Eminence *Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith*

AD MULTOS ANNOS VIVAT!

Prayerful Wishes from the Bishop, Priests, Religious
and the Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Galle

Congratulations

Most Rev. Dr. Shamindra Jayawardena O.S.B.
Newly Elected Abbot General
Sylvestro Benedictine Congregation

May the Holy Spirit be your constant guide and strength
as you shepherd the Sylvestro Benedictine Congregation!

Prayerful Wishes from the Bishop, Priests, Religious
and the Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Galle

Congratulations!



REV. FR. LASANTHA SANJEEWA FONSEKA

Newly Appointed National Director of the Catholic
National Commission for Migrants,
Health, Tourism and Prisons.

Wish you God's Choicest Blessings
for a Fruitful Ministry!

New Appoinments



Rev. Fr. Lasantha Fonseka
Parish Priest - Udugama
Effects from 22nd June 2025



Rev. Fr. Chrishan Hasalaka
Assistant Parish Priest - Matara
Teaching Ministry - St. Thomas' College
Effects from 07th May 2025



Rev. Fr. Anselm Rodrigo
Parish Priest - Hulandawa
Effects from 22nd June 2025



Rev. Fr. Sajith Chrishan
Assistant Parish Priest - Deniyaya
Effects from 15th June 2025



Rev. Fr. Dilshan Fernando
Assistant Parish Priest - Matara
Effects from 15th June 2025

101st Annual Feast - St. Joseph's Chapel, Galle Fort



Annual Feast - St. Joseph's Church, Deniyaya



Annual Feast - St. Anthony's Church, Ganegama



Annual Feast of St. Aloysius College



DATES TO BE REMEMBERED

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

Rev. Fr. Michael Rajendram
08th July

Rev. Fr. Rajitha Was SJ
11th July

Rev. Fr. Asiri De Silva
25th July

Rev. Fr. Royestan Peiris CMF
30th July

Rev. Sr. Vineetha SCJM
3rd July

Rev. Sr. Concepta Coonghe SCJM
18th July

Rev. Sr. Malkanthi SCJM
31st July

AUGUST

Rev. Fr. S. Jesuthasan CMF
08th of August

Rev. Fr. Prasad Ruwan
19th of August

Rev. Fr. Lasantha Fonseka
26th of August

His Lordship
Rt. Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickramasinghe
31st of August

Rev. Sr. Marcilla Wass SCJM
6th August

Rev. Sr. Milred Liyanage SCJM
9th August

Rev. Sr. Premila Gamage SCJM
19th August

Rev. Sr. Mihiri Perera SCJM
22nd August

Rev. Sr. Felicitas Fernando SCJM
23rd August

ORDINATION
ANNIVERSARY

JULY

Rev. Fr. Sebastian Fernando SDB
13th July

Rev. Fr. Bede Nihal de Silva
17th July

AUGUST

Rev. Fr. Anthony Fernando SDB
1st of August

Rev. Fr. Michael Rajendram
04th of August

His Lordship
Rt. Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickramasinghe
05th of August

Rev. Fr. Charles Hewawasam
06th of August

Rev. Fr. Lalith Fernando
06th of August

Rev. Fr. Hermon Fernando
13th of August

Rev. Fr. Shelton Fernando
19th of August

Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination
His Lordship
Rt. Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickramasinghe
31st of August

FEAST DAY

JULY

Rev. Sr. Grace Fernando HA
5th July

Rev. Sr. M. Nirova MC
6th July

Rev. Sr. Henrietta HA
13th July

Rev. Sr. Mary Rangika AC
13th July

Rev. Sr. Benita HA
15th July

Rev. Sr. Iroshani HA
23rd July

Rev. Sr. Grace (Great Carmel)
23rd July

Rev. Sr. Anne Marie HA
26th July

AUGUST

Rev. Sr. Mary Leka HA
15th August

Rev. Sr. Juanita HA
21st August

BISHOP’S LETTER



TOTALLY FOR CHRIST



My dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

We have a meaningful hymn in the Christian tradition, "**the world stands in need of liberation My Lord, it still has to learn to love...**". I am reflecting about it these days, as we hear more and more of the man-made disasters and the remote repercussions of the same – natural disasters all over the world. Most of us have the experience of WAR and together we denounce the same. Life is precious and we need to protect it. Due to lack of respect, love, care and concern about my neighbor, has created a sad vacuum in our existence itself. Some of us just survive – without much meaning to this precious gift of life – even our vocation. So, I plead with all of you, to open your eyes to see the beauty of creation – open your ears to hear the sound of the cries of my neighbour.

We have just concluded a historic visit by His Eminence Mario Cardinal Grech, the Secretary General of the Synod on Synodality. He was invited by His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, for a Pastoral Convention in the Archdiocese of Colombo, and was very kind to share his presence and experience with my other groups including the Seminarians, Priests/Religious and the Laity. His Eminence Cardinal Grech, reiterated the need to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and to walk a journey with all the people of God. He also reminded the different assemblies about the menace of "Clericalism" (Men and Women), which has already harmed the journey and life of the Church itself. Servant leadership he mentioned is the way to share the "Joy of the Gospel". I am also grateful to Very Rev. Fr. Michael Rajendram, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Galle, for having accompanied some of our priests, for a worthy dialogue with His Eminence in Kandy. I always hope for the best. But, first let us try to be faithful to our vocation and be with Jesus, always and everywhere.

The Annual Feast of the National Shrine of Christ the Healer in Weligama, is another experience for the faithful in the Southern Province – as it is also placed in the midst of very kind Moslem Community. It is noteworthy, the relation of the Shrine to Inter-Religious Clergy, their faithful, political leadership and their participation not only in the Feast but also in the general life of the Parish throughout the whole year. I am grateful to the Parish Priest/Administrator Very Rev. Fr. Charles Hewawasam and the Dominican Sisters who serve this distantly placed community and the many pilgrims with much respect and love. This is indeed a Synodal Journey par excellence.

I returned to Sri Lanka after a hectic schedule in the Archdiocese of Boston, where through the Pontifical

Mission Societies, we share our life and mission and make an appeal too. Rev. Fr. Gerald (Jerry), the Archdiocesan Director, PMS, and Mrs. Maureen Heil, the Program Director of the PMS Boston, did help me to accomplish my mission and get back home safe. I wish to place on record a 'thanksgiving' for their welcome and hospitality, especially also in the Parishes that I was able to visit. I also wish to thank **Rev. Fr. Shantha Patrick, who helped us in an appeal in the Archdiocese of Toronto and the Diocese of Hamilton (both in Canada),** as a gesture – in a way a 'sacrifice', to help the diocese of Galle.

We are happy to celebrate the life and mission of our respected "Retired Priests" in the Diocese of Galle. We gather at "Nisansala", the Retired Priests' Home in Kalegana on the 28th July and have decided to celebrate a thanksgiving Holy Eucharist and share a dinner with them. May I encourage my beloved Priests in the active ministry to please be present without fail to show your love, appreciate and gratitude to these amazing priests who have served our diocese with much love and dedication.

I have already begun a visitation to Parishes and at some point, I will certainly meet you in the coming weeks. I am consoled that you are engaged in renewing the communities, and being very faithful to the liturgical life of the entrusted community. As we celebrate the "Indigenous Clergy/Religious Sunday:", I humbly request you to educate our faithful about fostering and supporting vocations to priesthood/religious (men and women) life.

Two Major Seminarians (Bro. Dasith Mihiran and Bro. Ramesh Lakshan) have completed their Theological Studies at the Major Seminary, Kandy. They will be in the Diocese engaging in various pastoral exposures, before, we decide on their Diaconate in view of the Priesthood. As you meet them, please welcome them with open arms and allow them to feel already the beauty of the presbyteral family. They may not be perfect in their life, precisely therefore, be a mentor to them – guide and correct them when necessary – above all please "LOVE" them and pray for them.

Finally I thank God for His mercies to me with which I have completed 36 years in my Priesthood, 14 years as the "Bishop of Galle" and be a part of your life's journey. I am so humbled to receive your (priests and religious and the lay faithful) love, not to exclude my family and friends. I truly thank God for you. Please bless me so that I may be a worthy servant in the Lord's Vineyard!!! Let me bless the Lord always and everywhere!

+ Raymond Wickramasinghe
Bishop of Galle



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

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2025 VOL. 20 NO. 04

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PHOTO GALLERY

Ordination to the Priesthood - Rev. Fr. Dilshan Fernando



Centenary Celebration - Sacred Heart Church, Elpitiya



THE ANNUL FEAST OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE CHRIST THE HEALER WELIGAMA - 2025



20 th of July Sunday 8.00 a.m.	Hoisting of the Flagstaff
21 th of July to 25 th July 4.30 p.m.	Holy Rosary, Novena and Holy Mass
26 th of July Saturday 5.00 p.m.	Vespers
Celebrant Very Rev. Fr. Michael Rajendram Vicar General of the Diocese	
27 th of July Sunday 8.00 a.m.	Festive High Mass
Celebrant Most Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickramasighe, the Bishop of Galle	

St. Anne's Church - Hiniduma



Vespers

9th Saturday, August 2025

At 5.30pm

Feast

10th Sunday, August 2025

At 8.30am

Our Lady, Undoer of Knots Chapel - Halpathota



Vespers

23rd Saturday, August 2025

At 5.00pm

Feast

24th Sunday, August 2025

At 8.30am



Retired Priests' Day

On - 28th July 2025

At - 6.00 p.m.

Venue - Nisansala Priest Home



**132th Anniversary
of
the Erection of the Diocese of Galle
1893 - 2025**

25th of August

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

FOR THE MONTH OF

JULY



AUGUST

For formation in discernment

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

For mutual coexistence

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

10th Anniversary of the Catholic Students Society of the University of Ruhuna



Begining of Roof Renovations- The National Shrine of Our Lady of Matara



Battle of Dreams - St. Aloysius Collage, Galle Vs Holy Cross Collage, Kalutara





Galle Diocesan Catholic Youth Retreat 2025



Training session on Christian Leadership for the Galle Diocesan Parish Pastoral Council Members (Sinhala) at Caritas SED Galle



Training Session on Christian Leadership for the Galle Diocesan Parish Pastoral Council Members (Tamil) at CoDeSeP Hall, Deniyaya



Blessing of the renovated St. Sebastian's Church, Udugama

