



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF GALLE



SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2026
VOL. 21 - NO. 05

News Letter



SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

FOR A VIBRANT CHURCH



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

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FOR CIRCULATION AMONG THE CLERGY
OF THE GALLE DIOCESE.

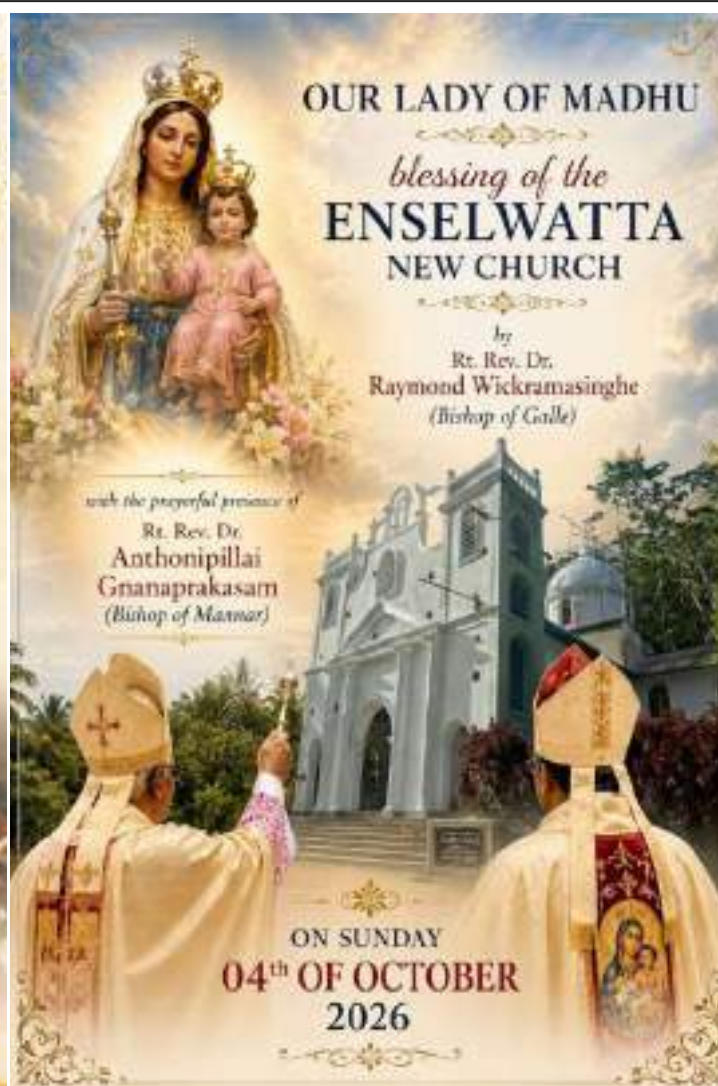
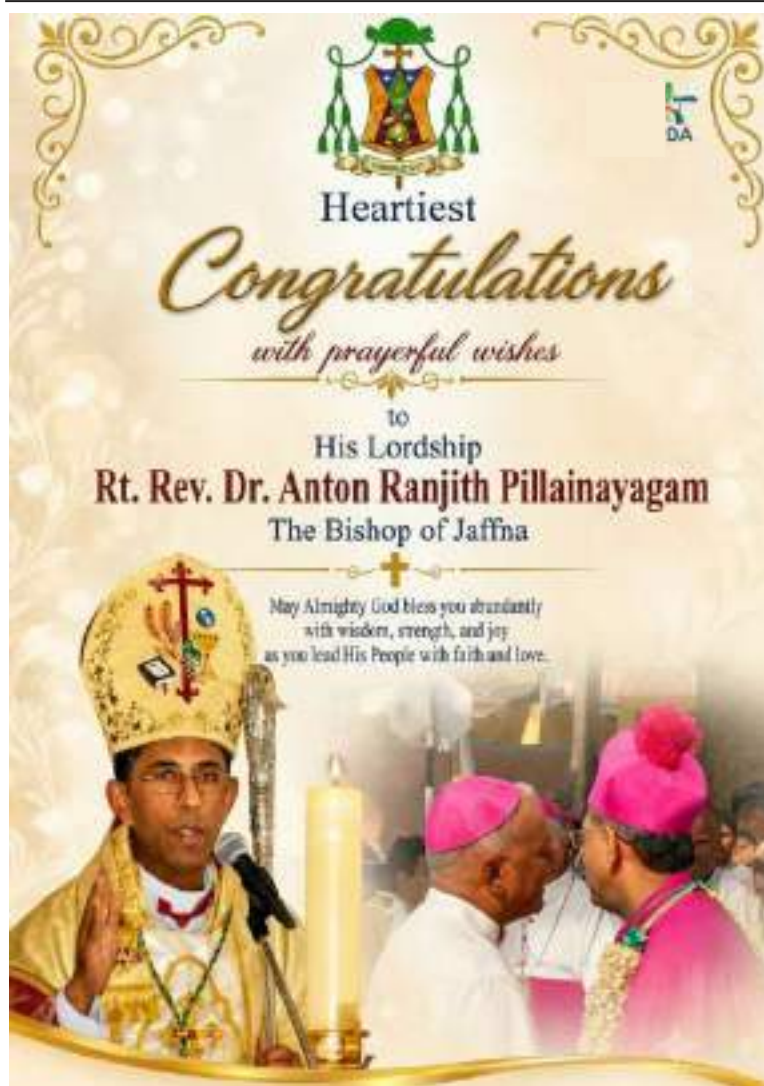
Dear Rev. Fathers & Sisters,
You are kindly requested to send your
information and news articles
to be published in the News Letter
before 20th of every month.

News Letter

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2026 VOL. 21 NO. 04

Contents

Bishop's Letter	03
Photo Gallery	04
Notices	05
Homily of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV	06
Church Feasts	08
Dates to be remembered	10
Photo Gallery	11





TOTALLY FOR CHRIST



My dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

In another few days time we celebrate the **Annual Feast of the Shrine of Our Lady of Matara**. It is indeed a significant event in the Annual Calendar of the Diocese of Galle. First we rejoice at the Birth of Our Blessed Mother and then thank the Lord for her role in the History of Salvation. She accompanies us to Jesus and encourages us to listen to Him. When we listen to Jesus, then our lives are transformed and there is a lot of peace within us. We welcome thousands of pilgrims to our dear Shrine, who come in search of love, forgiveness and compassion. The Administrator, Very Rev. Fr. Sampath Wilegoda and his Assistants Rev. Fr. Chrishan Hasalaka and Rev. Fr. Dasith Mihiran together with the Sisters of Charity and the Parish Council are prepared for the Celebration. This year we welcome, His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Don Wimal Siri Jayasuriya, the Bishop of Chilaw to preside over the Vespers and concelebrate with me at the Festive Holy Eucharist on Sunday. **May I invite all the Galle Diocesan Priests/Religious to participate in all the three events beginning from Friday, the 11th and witness to the many graces that flow in the Sacred Liturgies of the Tridium.** Please **encourage your faithful** to make this pilgrimage to pay homage to our dear mother who is so dear and near to us. If necessary those of you who are close to the Parish of Matara could celebrate an evening Mass to facilitate the people to participate at the Festive Mass (in the morning) in the Shrine. I thank you in anticipation for your generous support to make our Feast truly a grace filled one.

With deep gratitude and sorrow, we remember **Late Bishop Cletus Chandrasiri Perera, OSB**, who faithfully shepherded the Diocese of Ratnapura for 17 years. A son of the Sylvestro Benedictine Congregation, he first served with dedication in the Diocese of Kandy, guiding many parishes and later fulfilling the role of Vicar General. His pastoral zeal and gentle leadership were recognized by **Pope Benedict XVI**, who entrusted him with the Shepherding mission in Ratnapura. Bishop Cletus was a man of prayer, humility, and unwavering love for the people of God. His ministry was marked by a Benedictine spirit of simplicity and service, always attentive to the needs of the faithful, especially the poor and marginalized. He

carried the light of Christ into every community he touched, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, wisdom, and missionary fervor. As a Church, we mourn his passing, yet we are consoled by the hope that the Lord, whom he served so faithfully, will reward him abundantly. His motto of life—rooted in fidelity to Christ—remains an inspiration for clergy, religious, and laity alike. May his memory continue to guide us, and may his soul rest in eternal peace in the embrace of the Risen Lord.

We lift our hearts in praise and thanksgiving for the Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of **Rev. Fr. Theodore Lambert of the Diocese of Galle**, which falls on the 8th September this year. On this blessed occasion of his **Golden Jubilee**, we give thanks to God for the gift of his faithful ministry. Through decades of service in the Diocese of Galle and your missionary years in California, USA, he has touched countless lives with **compassion, wisdom, and unwavering dedication**—never making distinctions, but always embracing all as children of God. Even in retirement, he remains deeply loved by the people he shepherded. May the Lord grant him peace of mind, joy in the heart, and the gentle assurance of His presence, until He calls him to the fullness of His Kingdom.

Dear Friends, with a heart full of gratitude, I thank you sincerely for joining me in celebrating my **Birthday, Episcopal Ordination Anniversary, and Patronal Feast Day**. Your presence at the Holy Mass, your prayers, gifts, and kind wishes have deeply touched me. I am especially grateful to **Very Rev. Fr. Charles, Administrator of the National Shrine of Christ the Healer, Weligama**, together with our **Vicar General**, for organizing this celebration so meaningfully. To those who came from near and far, and to those who reached out through calls and messages, please know that your prayers strengthen me each day. I carry you all in my own prayers, asking the Lord to bless you with peace, joy, and His abiding love.

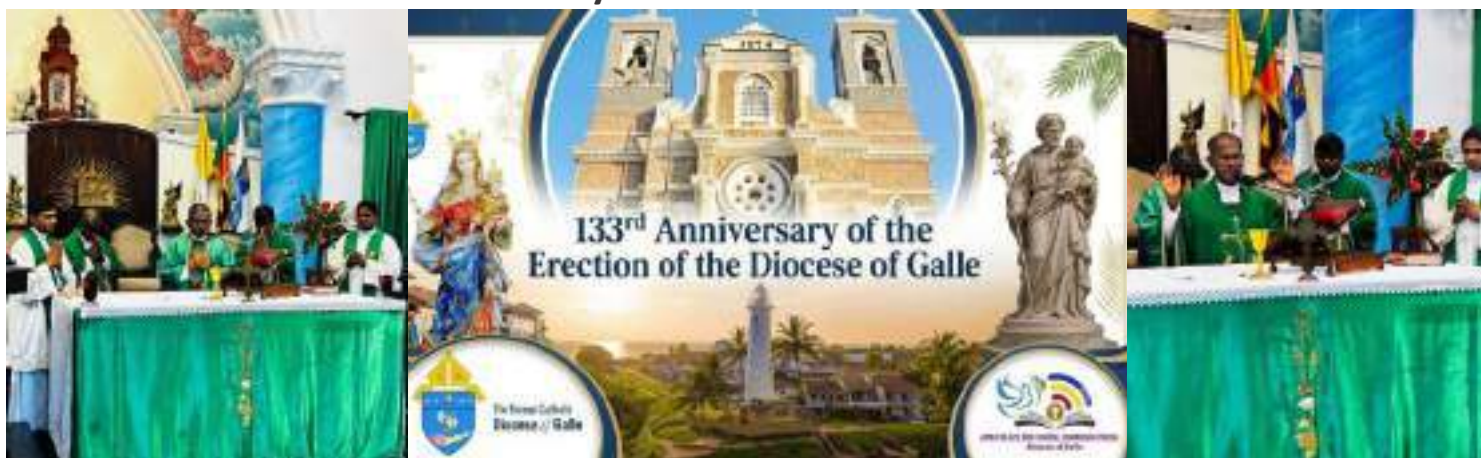
With heartfelt thanks and blessings,

+ Raymond Wickramasinghe
Bishop of Galle

| A residential camp for Daham Pasal children of Sacred Heart Church, Elpitiya.



| Occasion of the 133rd Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diocese of Galle

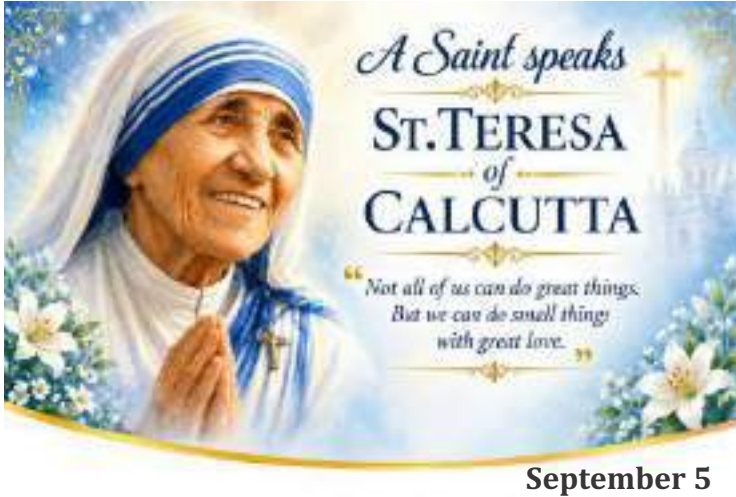


| Feast of St. Anne & Joachim - Grandparents Day - Senior Priests' Day of the diocese of Galle Celebrated at Nisansala Priests' Home, Kalegana



| Annual Feast of St. Teresa of Culcutta Church, Thalgaswala





HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

FOR THE MONTH OF

SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER

For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

For mental health ministry

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.



One Rosary, "One Million Children. One Prayer for Peace."

7th of October

Encourage your Holy Childhood Animators and Children to pray the Rosary



Presbyteral Meeting

Date:- 21 and 22 September

Venue:- DDN Halpatota



Rev. Fr. Manuel
Asirvatham sss
(Fourth Consultant)

Rev. Antony
Marcus sss
(Third Consultant)

Rev. Fr. Nilindra
Gunasekara sss
(First Consultant)

Very Rev. Fr.
Justin Chawkan sss
(The Provincial Superior)

Rev. Fr. Roger
Johnson Fernando sss
(Second Consultant)

Rev. Fr. Marcus
Codielly sss
(The Provincial Treasurer)

HOLY MASS FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

Garden of the Madonnina del Borgo Laudato Si', within the
Pontifical Gardens of Castel Gandolfo

Tuesday, 1 September 2026



Dear brothers and sisters,

On this World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, the readings chosen for today's liturgy offer us two invitations to contemplate the works of the Lord — a task that is certainly not difficult in the setting of these beautiful gardens.

The Book of Wisdom encourages us to contemplate the beauty and power of creation, in order to appreciate its Creator (cf. Wis 13:1–9). It would be superficial to marvel at fire, wind, rushing waters or the stars of heaven, without allowing our gaze to rise to the Creator of such wonders.

Psalm 18 urges us to lift our eyes to contemplate the heavens, which proclaim the glory of God, and the firmament, which declares the work of his hands. All creation speaks to us of the greatness of its Creator, if only our eyes and hearts remain open to such a great mystery.

Similarly, the Gospel passage from Matthew (cf. Mt 6:24–34) invites us to contemplate creation, while emphasizing the Lord's special love for the human person. As we look upon the birds of the air and the lilies of the field with wonder — so precious in the eyes of their Creator — we come to understand the greatness of God's love for us. If the Lord does not fail to bestow such splendid beauty upon plants and animals and provide for all their needs, how much more attentive will he be to the needs of his beloved sons and daughters!

This evening, as we accept the invitation to pause and reflect before the works of God, we begin the “Season of Creation” — a period of five weeks devoted to prayer and commitment to the care of our “common home.” On this Day, therefore, and in the weeks ahead, let us set aside a few moments to pause from the frenzy of our daily lives, in order to savor the profound harmony of which we ourselves are a part. Let us place in “silent mode” the many noises generated by human activity, so that we may hear the melodious voice of creation, through which God, the Author of all things, speaks to us.

This task of contemplation, which disposes us to an encounter with the Lord, is a first step towards an “authentic ecological conversion, where the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us” (Message for the Eleventh World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, 1 September 2026).

From contemplating creation and encountering its Creator, there arises an awareness of our particular place within God's wondrous plan, and of the responsibility that we bear both personally and collectively for preserving the original harmony. Thus, as we become conscious of our shortcomings and failures, we can renew our commitment to restoring the relationships among all creatures according to the will of their Creator.

PHOTO GALLERY

| Annual Feast of Our Lady of Undoer Knots Chapel - Halpathota



| Blessing and Opening of the new Chapel at the Our Lady of Undoer Knots Chapel - Halpathota



| Funeral Mass and the burial service of Late Bishop Emeritus Rt. Rev. Dr. Cletus C Perera



| Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences Plenary Assembly held in July 2026 in Jakarta



THE **119TH ANNUAL FEAST** OF THE
NATIONAL SHRINE OF
OUR LADY OF MATARA

THEME
*"Grant Peace to all Nations,
 Oh Our Lady of Matara!"*

FEAST PROGRAMME

- SEPTEMBER 2 - 4.00 PM
HOISTING OF THE FLAG STAFF
- SEPTEMBER 11 - 4.30 PM
CORPUS CHRISTI CELEBRATION
Presided over by Very Rev. Fr. Michael Rasmussen,
the Vicar General of the Diocese of Galle
- SEPTEMBER 12 - 4.31 PM
VESPERS
Presided over by His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Don Wimal Siri Jayawardeniya,
the Bishop of Colombo
- SEPTEMBER 13 - 8.00 A.M.
FESTIVE MASS
Presided over by His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Raymond Kariyakumbura,
the Bishop of Galle

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FEAST OF
OUR LADY OF SORROWS

OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH, HAMBANTHOTA
 PATRONESS

VESPERS
 26th OF SEPTEMBER

FEAST
 27th OF SEPTEMBER

The Annual Feast of
QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL

QUEEN OF HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL, CATHEDRAL, GALLE
 OUR LADY, QUEEN OF HOLY ROSARY

VESPERS
 October 10th

FEAST
 October 11th

ANNUAL FEAST OF **MADHU**
 OUR LADY OF MADHU, ENSELWATTA

Vespers: Saturday, October 03rd
 Feast Mass: Sunday, October 04th

ANNUAL FEAST OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH, TANGALLE
 PATRON

VESPERS
 17th October

FEAST
 18th October

| Annual Feast of St. Joseph's Church, Deniyaya



| Annual Feast of The National Shrine of Christ the Healer, Weligama



| Annual Feast of St. Anne's Church, Hiniduma



| 15th Annual Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola at Mount Calvary High School, Galle



DATES TO BE REMEMBERED

BIRTHDAYS

Rev.Fr. Nihal Nanayakkara
15th Of September

Rev.Fr.Bede Nihal De Silva
16th Of September

Rev.Fr.Antony Marcus SSS
16th Of October

Rev.Fr.Sebastian Fernando SDB
25th Of October

Rev. Sr. Grace Fernando (HA)
12th Of September

Rev. Sr. Virginia (HA)
Superior
15th Of September

Rev. Sr. Hashani Fernando (DOLSH)
22th Of September

Rev. Sr. Jesudasan Vinopriya (DM)
27th Of September

Rev. Sr. Thushari Peiris (CSCJM)
05th Of October

Rev. Sr. Juanita (HA)
07th Of October

Rev. Sr. Tharsheni (SCJM)
17th Of October

Rev. Sr. Anne Shayamali (DM)
18th Of October

Rev. Sr. Dileshika Wilegoda (SCJM)
22th Of October

Rev. Sr. Bernadine Amarasingha (SCJM)
24th Of October

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Rev.fr.Camillus Cooray
04th Of September

Rev.Fr.Theodore Lambert
(Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee)
08th Of September

Rev.Fr.W.K.Don Jude Sampath Wilegoda
04th Of October

Rev.Fr.Sudath Fernando SSS
13th Of October

Rev.Fr.M.K.A.D.S.Damian Arsakularatne
21th Of October

FEAST DAYS

Rev. Sr. Mary Nimosha
18th Of September

Rev. Sr. Damian Coora
26th Of September

Rev. Sr. Thanuja
29th Of September

Rev. Sr. Mary Angelita (Superior)
02nd Of October

Rev. Sr. Mary Felicia
05th Of October

Rev. Sr. Jacintha Mariya
28th Of October

PHOTO GALLERY

Our Shepherd Birthday, Patronal Feast and Episcopal Ordination Anniversary Celebration

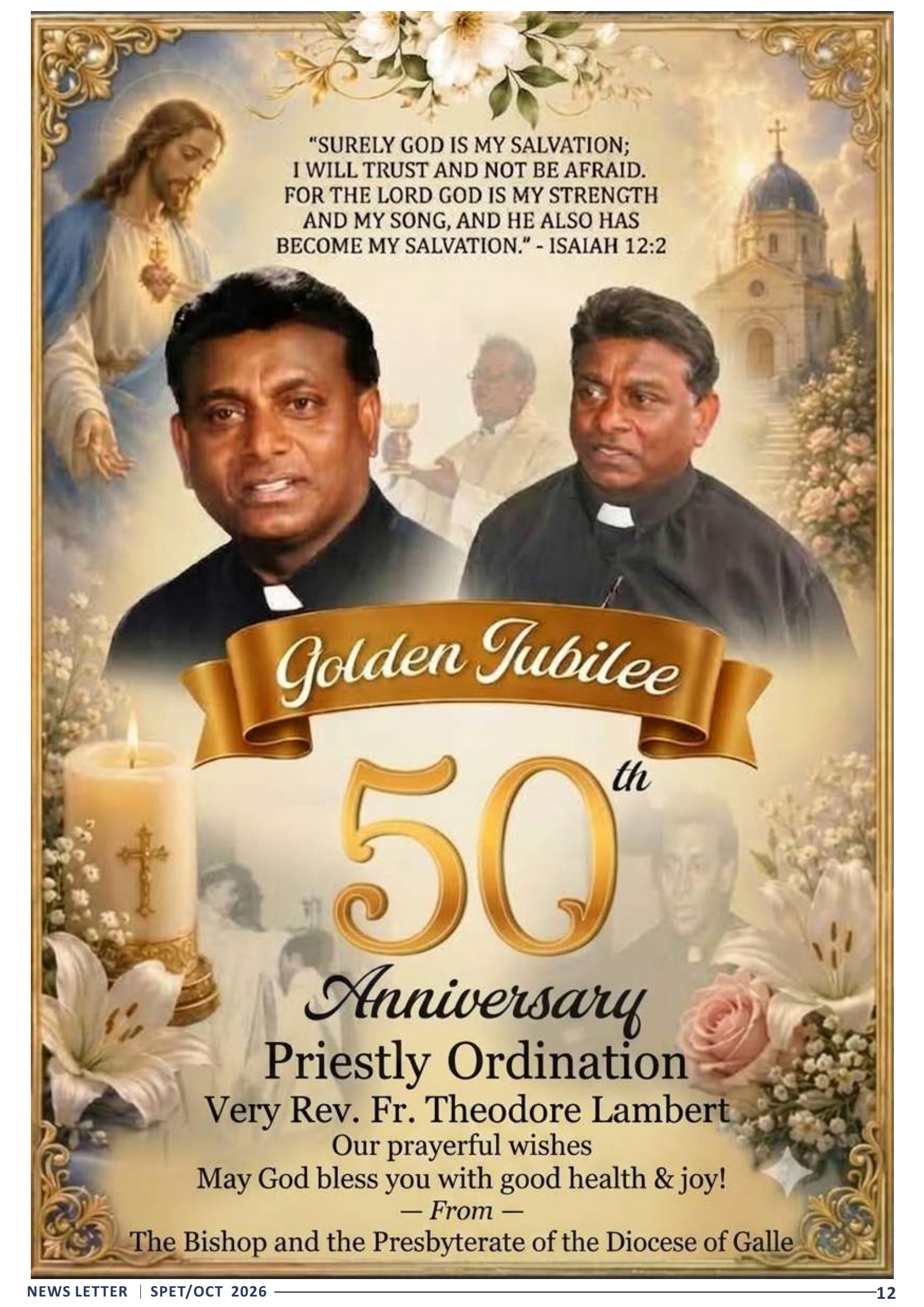


Blessing and Opening of the Community Activity Center at the National Shrine of Christ the Healer, Weligama



Conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation at Hambanthota Parish





"SURELY GOD IS MY SALVATION;
I WILL TRUST AND NOT BE AFRAID.
FOR THE LORD GOD IS MY STRENGTH
AND MY SONG, AND HE ALSO HAS
BECOME MY SALVATION." - ISAIAH 12:2

Golden Jubilee

50th

Anniversary
Priestly Ordination

Very Rev. Fr. Theodore Lambert

Our prayerful wishes

May God bless you with good health & joy!

— From —

The Bishop and the Presbyterate of the Diocese of Galle