

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
PRESBYTERIUM OF KANDY

AMONG

April 2024 VOL 81
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OURSELVES





A day of prayer and follow up programme held for a group of newly baptized Christians at Supuwath Arana.
-Lay Apostolate-



Society of St Vincent de Paul Nuwara Eliya Deanery council organized way of the Cross at Mattakelle for its members and A Lenten spiritual programme was held for the Central council members of Society of St Vincent de Paul at Getambe.

Chrism Mass
At St. Anthony's Cathedral, Kandy
25th March, 2024

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AMONG OURSELVES

Vol. 81, April, 2024

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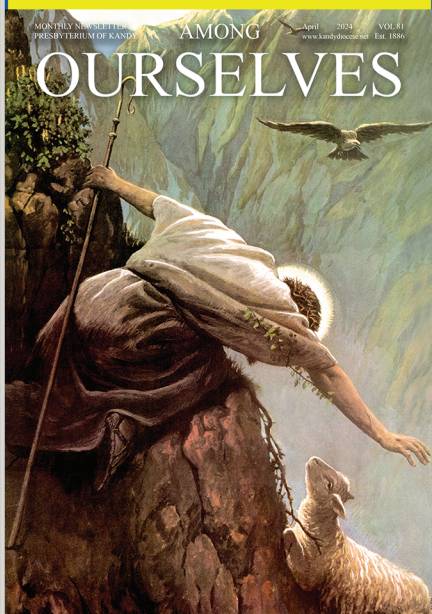
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Cover Story

The Lost Sheep by Alford Usher Soord

Alford Usher Soord (1868-1915) was a British painter whose most famous work is a painting of The Parable Of The Lost Sheep, depicting a sheep stranded halfway down a steep cliff and the shepherd hanging perilously over the edge, risking his own life to save it.

A number of Soord's works were shown in the Royal Academy of Arts, including "Falls on the Conway" (1893), "The Golden Hour (1894), "Irish Fish-Girl" (1894), "Madame De X" (1897), "Portrait of a Lady (1898), "Wastwater, Cumberland" (1898), and "Portrait of Edward Wilson" (1910).

Soord's most famous picture "The Lost Sheep" was also exhibited in 1898 in the Royal Academy. By 1916, over 300,000 reproductions of it had been sold in England and America; the work continues to be extremely popular more than a century after its creation.



From the Bishop



My dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

“He is not here; he has been raised (Mk. 16/6). We step into the month celebrating the Easter Octave. May the Joy of the Resurrection fill your hearts to radiate that joy and happiness to all our people through the Priestly and Religious Commitment we have made in the Lord.

The Sinhala and Tamil New Year will be celebrated during this month. There are various traditional cultural and sports activities in our villages in which our people participate without religious differences. It is an opportune occasion to integrate with the people of our nation. As the country celebrates the New Year, we should urge our people to pray for our motherland so that democracy and justice would prevail and enormous hardships faced by the people would be overcome.

The festival of Easter brings to mind the terror attack of 21st April 2019. Five years have lapsed and the core issue still remains untouched. Let us remember all those who have lost their lives in this disaster and those who have been affected seriously with injuries both physical and psychological. Let us unite ourselves in prayer so that justice will be meted out to the victims and those involved directly or indirectly in this barbarian act be brought before the law.

Our prayerful best wishes are with Mon. Wyman Croos who have been appointed the Bishop of Ratnapura. We will be united with him in prayer as Mon. Wyman will be preparing for the Episcopal Ordination which will be held on 01st June, 2024.

I wish to thank the Religious, Priests, Sisters and Brothers for their participation at the Lenten Recollection conducted for the Religious last month. A special word of appreciation to Fr. Soosainathan OSB, the Religious Coordinator in the Diocese, Sr. Jewani RGS, the Community Leader, Sr. Sudarika Fernando RGS, the Principal of the Good Shepherd Convent, Kandy for the support given regarding the logistics.

The Chrism Mass was celebrated last month which was followed by the monthly recollection of the Presbyterium. I take this opportunity to thank you for the participation at the Chrism Mass. It is a unique occasion which manifests the unity and communion of the Local Church which is so fundamental towards its missionary endeavor. I also appreciate the presence of the Religious on this occasion.

We had Confirmation Service last month at Panwila Parish. I am thankful to Fr. Harshan Miranda for preparing the candidates. I wish to remind you dear fathers, of the importance of preparing the children with proper Catechesis as well as providing them with some life Education programmes which I have reiterated.

A new building was blessed opened at St. Anthony’s College, Kandy last month. It was done with the generous contribution and good will of the parents and the benefactors. I am thankful to Fr. Henry Wijeratne, the Principal and all those who helped in accomplishing this project.

The Good Shepherd Sunday will fall on the 21st of this month. The proceeds of this day will be directed to the National Seminary in Ampitiya, to St. Francis Xavier Seminary in Jaffna and the Intermediate Seminary in Kalutara. Kindly ask the faithful to be generous with their contributions. You are expected to handover the collections to the Procurator General without much delay.



New Missionary Change

Rev. Fr. Ranga Chalitha Perera – Parish Priest, Mattakelle

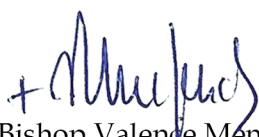
The transfers will take effect as announced. Please note that,

- The New Parish Priests and the New Directors in-charge of Diocesan Apostolates, kindly make an appointment to meet me before you take up new assignment.
- Kindly hand over the inventory and the final accounts to the successor in the presence of the Vicar General and Procurator General.


The goodwill and the cooperation extended by the Reverend Fathers with regard to the transfers is very much appreciated.

Wish you all a blessed season of Easter!

Asking the Lord to Bless you,
Yours Devotedly in Christ,




Bishop Valence Mendis,
Bishop of Kandy



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.



Pope Francis: "If we don't respect women, our society will not progress"

In The Pope Video for April, Pope Francis lifts up his prayer "that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world."

"Let us respect women. Let us respect their dignity, their basic rights. And if we don't, our society will not progress," the Pope affirms in the message he addresses to us through the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.

In his monthly intention, Pope Francis asks that governments be committed "to eliminate discriminatory laws everywhere and to work toward guaranteeing women's human rights."

(Vatican City, 2 April 2024) – Pope Francis once again dedicates his monthly prayer intention to women. In The Pope Video for April, which he has entrusted to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, the Holy Father insists on the steps today's society needs to take, and asks Christians to join him in prayer "that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world."

Prayer for this year

Almighty Father in heaven, /

May the faith that flows from Jesus, Our Lord/
and charity enkindled by the Holy Spirit/
reawaken in us the blessed hope/ for the
coming of Your Kingdom/

May Your grace make us cultivators of the
seeds of the Gospel/ so that, those seeds may
lead the humanity/ and all creation/ to the
sure expectation of a new heaven and new
earth/ where there will be no evil but your
glory/

May the grace of this Jubilee/ make us yearn
for the treasures of heaven/ which will bring
about joy and peace of our Redeemer in the
world/ To You our God, eternally blessed, / be
glory and praise for ever/

Amen.

விண்ணகத்திலுள்ள எல்லாம் வல்ல தந்தையே, /

எமது ஆண்டவராகிய இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவிடமிருந்து
வரும் நம்பிக்கையும்/ தூய ஆவியாரால்
தூண்டப்படும் அன்பும்/ எமக்குள் உம் இறையரசின்
வருகைக்கான தூய எதிர்ப்பார்ப்பை தட்டி
எழுப்புவனவாக/

நற்செய்தியின் விதைகளை பயிரிட்டு
வளர்ப்பவர்களாக/ உமது அருட்கொடை எம்மை
உருவாக்குவதாக/ அவ்விதைகள் எவ்வித தீமையும்
அற்ற, / உமது மாட்சியால் நிறைந்த, / புதிய
விண்ணகத்தையும் புதிய மண்ணகத்தையும் நோக்கிய
எதிர்ப்பார்ப்பில்/ முழு மனித குலத்தையும் எல்லா
படைப்புக்களையும் வழிநடத்துவதாக/

இந்த யூபிலி வருடத்தின் அருளானது, /
மகிழ்ச்சியையும் எமது மீட்பரின் அமைதியையும்
உலகத்துக்கு கொண்டு வரும்/ விண்ணகச் செல்வங்கள்
மீதான நாட்டத்தை எமக்குள் தூண்டுவதாக/ புகழும்
மாட்சியும் என்றென்றும் எக்காலத்திலும்/
இறைவனாகிய உமக்கே உரித்தாக/

ஆமென்.

சாவிநூலி வசர இறைவேண்டலின் ஆண்டு Year of Prayer 2024



தேவ விவசய ஸத ஸரூப வுல தேவீதன் துநத்கி
இறைவார்த்தை மற்றும் இறைவேண்டல் ஊடாக கடவுளை அனுபவிப்போம்
Experience of God through the Word and Prayer

சீபீர்டீயே வரவ சிபீன சீபீர வுலடார் சிசாஸனி, /

ஈசலே சீவாமின் வன சீசுசு கிசுசு வனசே வுலின்
நிவ்வென சீவ்வாசயன்/ ஓடீவாநீவாஸான் வனசே
சீசின் துல்வன லு துசாவே தி சிவ்வன் மதின்/
ஓவ்வனசேலே தேவ ராசய சரீசேவா யன/
நாஸவன் ஈசேநீவா ஈச னுலவன் வுல சிவீதேவா/

ஓவ்வனசேலே வரவசாடய, / சூவ ஈசனே நீச
வசுரன்னை வுல ஈச சனீகரன சேவ்வா/ நவ துல
நீச/ மூஸனவச சன சமசீவ சீவ்வச ஈசசநின்
வார/ ஓவ்வனசேலே மிவ்வாவசே சசீர வ
ஈசசன் சன வவ சாவலவன் வென சாவு கரன/
சீபீர ஈசேநீவாவன் வுல சனீகரன சேவ்வா/

மேல சூவீல வசரே வரவசாடய, / ஈசலே
கலவூலீகரவாஸனே சூவீய, சலாடய லாவ
தென வன/ சீபீரீய சமீசன் கெரெநி ஈசாவ ஈச
வுல சூவூ கரவ்வா/ தேவீ மனேநீவ்வாஸான் வ
ஓவ்வனசேலே சூவ்வாவன்/ மிவ்வசன் சூவ்வாவசன்
சூவ்வாவசம திவீ வீவா/

ஈலென்



MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS

POPE FRANCIS

FOR THE 61ST WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS
[21 APRIL 2024]



CALLED TO SOW SEEDS OF HOPE AND TO BUILD PEACE

Dear brothers and sisters!

Each year, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations invites us to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord's call to each of us, as members of his faithful pilgrim people, to participate in his loving plan and to embody the beauty of the Gospel in different states of life. Hearing that divine call, which is far from being an imposed duty – even in the name of a religious ideal – is the surest way for us to fulfil our deepest desire for happiness. Our life finds fulfilment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace, wherever we find ourselves.

This Day, then, is always a good occasion to recall with gratitude to the Lord the faithful, persevering and frequently hidden efforts of all those who have responded to a call that embraces their entire existence. I think of mothers and fathers who do not think first of themselves or follow fleeting fads of the moment, but shape their lives through relationships marked by love and graciousness, openness to the gift of life and commitment to their children and their growth in maturity. I think of all those who carry out their work in a spirit of cooperation with others, and those who strive in various ways to build a more just world, a more solidary economy, a more equitable social policy and a more humane society. In a word, of all those men and women of good will who devote their lives to working for the common good. I think too of all those consecrated men and women who offer their lives to the Lord in the silence of prayer and in apostolic activity, sometimes on the fringes of society, tirelessly and creatively exercising their charisma by serving those around them. And I think of all those who have accepted God's call to the ordained priesthood, devoting themselves to the preaching of the Gospel, breaking open their own lives, together with the bread of the Eucharist, for their brothers and sisters, sowing seeds of hope and revealing to all the beauty of God's kingdom.

To young people, and especially those who feel distant or uncertain about the Church, I want to say this: Let Jesus draw you to himself; bring him your important questions by reading the Gospels; let him challenge you by his presence, which always provokes in us a healthy crisis. More than anyone else, Jesus respects our freedom. He does not impose, but proposes. Make room for him and you will find the way to happiness by following him. And, should he ask it of you, by giving yourself completely to him.

A PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

The polyphony of diverse charisms and vocations that the Christian community recognizes and accompanies helps us to appreciate more fully what it means to be Christians. As God's people in this world, guided by his Holy Spirit, and as living stones in the Body of Christ, we come to realize that we are members of a great family, children of the Father and brothers and sisters of one another. We are not self-enclosed islands but parts of a greater whole. In this sense, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations has a synodal character: amid the variety of our charisms, we are called to listen to one another and to journey together in order to acknowledge them and to discern where the Spirit is leading us for the benefit of all.

At this point in time, then, our common journey is bringing us to the Jubilee Year of 2025. Let us travel as pilgrims of hope towards the Holy Year, for by discovering our own vocation and its place amid the different gifts bestowed by the Spirit, we can become for our world messengers and witnesses of Jesus' dream of a single human family, united in God's love and in the bond of charity, cooperation and fraternity.

This Day is dedicated in a particular way to imploring from the Father the gift of holy vocations for the building up of his Kingdom: "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (Lk 10:2). Prayer – as we all know – is more about listening to God than about talking to him. The Lord speaks to our heart, and he wants to find it open, sincere and generous. His Word became flesh in Jesus Christ, who reveals to us the entire will of the Father. In this present year, devoted to prayer and preparation for the Jubilee, all of us are called to rediscover the inestimable blessing of our ability to enter into heartfelt dialogue with the Lord and thus become pilgrims of hope. For "prayer is the first strength of hope. You pray and hope grows, it moves forward. I would say that prayer opens the door to hope. Hope is there, but by my prayer I open the door" (Catechesis, 20 May 2020).

PILGRIMS OF HOPE AND BUILDERS OF PEACE

Yet what does it mean to be pilgrims? Those who go on pilgrimage seek above all to keep their eyes fixed on the goal, to keep it always in their mind and heart. To achieve that goal, however, they need to concentrate on every step, which means travelling light, getting rid of what weighs them down, carrying only the essentials and striving daily to set aside all weariness, fear, uncertainty and hesitation. Being a pilgrim means setting out each day, beginning ever anew, rediscovering the enthusiasm and strength needed to pursue the various stages of a journey that, however tiring and difficult, always opens before our eyes new horizons and previously unknown vistas.

This is the ultimate meaning of our Christian pilgrimage: we set out on a journey to discover the love of God and at the same time to discover ourselves, thanks to an interior journey nourished by our relationships with others. We are pilgrims because we have been called: called to love God and to love one another. Our pilgrimage on this earth is far from a pointless journey or aimless wandering; on the contrary, each day, by responding to God's call, we try to take every step needed to advance towards a new world where people can live in peace, justice and love. We are pilgrims of hope because we are pressing forward towards a better future, committed at every step to bringing it about.

This is, in the end, the goal of every vocation: to become men and women of hope. As individuals and as communities, amid the variety of charisms and ministries, all of us are called to embody and communicate the Gospel message of hope in a world marked by epochal challenges. These include the baneful spectre of a third world war fought piecemeal; the flood of migrants fleeing their homelands in search of a better future; the burgeoning numbers of the poor; the threat of irreversibly compromising the health of our planet. To say nothing of all the difficulties we encounter each day, which at times risk plunging us into resignation or defeatism.

In our day, then, it is decisive that we Christians cultivate a gaze full of hope and work fruitfully in response to the vocation we have received, in service to God's kingdom of love, justice and peace. This hope - Saint Paul tells us - "does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5), since it is born of the Lord's promise that he will remain always with us and include us in the work of redemption that he wants to accomplish in the heart of each individual and in the "heart" of all creation. This hope finds its propulsive force in Christ's resurrection, which "contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force. Often it seems that God does not exist: all around us, we see persistent injustice, evil, indifference and cruelty. But it is also true that in the midst of darkness something new always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit" (Evangeliium Gaudium, 276). Again, the Apostle Paul tells us that, "in hope we were saved" (Rom 8:24). The redemption accomplished in the paschal mystery is a source of hope, a sure and trustworthy hope, thanks to which we can face the challenges of the present.

To be pilgrims of hope and builders of peace, then, means to base our lives on the rock of Christ's resurrection, knowing that every effort made in the vocation that we have embraced and seek to live out, will never be in vain. Failures and obstacles may arise along the way, but the seeds of goodness we sow are quietly growing and nothing can separate us from the final goal: our encounter with Christ and the joy of living for eternity in fraternal love. This ultimate calling is one that we must anticipate daily: even now our loving relationship with God and our brothers and sisters is beginning to bring about God's dream of unity, peace and fraternity. May no one feel excluded from this calling! Each of us in our own small way, in our particular state of life, can, with the help of the Spirit, be a sower of seeds of hope and peace.

THE COURAGE TO COMMIT

In this light, I would say once more, as I did at World Youth Day in Lisbon: "Rise up!" Let us awaken from sleep, let us leave indifference behind, let us open the doors of the prison in which we so often enclose ourselves, so that each of us can discover his or her proper vocation in the Church and in the world, and become a pilgrim of hope and a builder of peace! Let us be passionate about life, and commit ourselves to caring lovingly for those around us, in every place where we live. Let me say it again: "Have the courage to commit!" Father Oreste Benzi, a tireless apostle of charity, ever on the side of the poor and the defenseless, used to say that no one is so poor as to have nothing to give, and no one is so rich as not to need something to receive.

Let us rise up, then, and set out as pilgrims of hope, so that, as Mary was for Elizabeth, we too can be messengers of joy, sources of new life and artisans of fraternity and peace.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 21 April 2024, Fourth Sunday of Easter.

FRANCIS

07- SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

CCC 448, 641-646: appearances of the risen Christ
CCC 1084-1089: sanctifying presence of the risen Christ in the liturgy
CCC 2177-2178, 1342: the Sunday Eucharist
CCC 654-655, 1988: our new birth in the Resurrection of Christ
CCC 976-983, 1441-1442: "I believe in the forgiveness of sins"
CCC 949-953, 1329, 1342, 2624, 2790: communion in spiritual goods

14- THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

CCC 1346-1347: the Eucharist and the experience of the disciples at Emmaus
CCC 642-644, 857, 995-996: the apostles and disciples as witnesses of the Resurrection
CCC 102, 601, 426-429, 2763: Christ the key to interpreting all Scripture
CCC 519, 662, 1137: Christ, our Advocate in heaven

21- FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

CCC 754, 764, 2665: Christ the Shepherd and Gate
CCC 553, 857, 861, 881, 896, 1558, 1561, 1568, 1574: Pope and bishops as shepherds
CCC 874, 1120, 1465, 1536, 1548-1551, 1564, 2179, 2686: priests as shepherds
CCC 756: Christ the cornerstone
CCC 1, 104, 239, 1692, 1709, 2009, 2736: we are God's children now

28- FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

CCC 2746-2751: Christ's prayer at the Last Supper
CCC 736, 737, 755, 787, 1108, 1988, 2074: Christ is the vine, we are the branches
CCC 953, 1822-1829: charity

THE DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL

"He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us". (Romans 8:34)

Quotations

- What is dignity without honesty? (Cicero)
- Men are born equal but they are also born different.
- Perhaps the true dignity of man is his capacity to despise himself.
- You can't expect a man to see eye to eye with you when you are looking down on him.
- Even one ear of corn is not exactly like another. Man is more interesting than men. God made him and not them in his image. Each one is more precious than all.
- A whole bushel of wheat is made up of single grains.
- Let not a man guard his dignity, but let his dignity guard him.

***The easiest way to dignity is humility.
Not all horses enjoy the same thing.***

Fr. Bala Rajendram

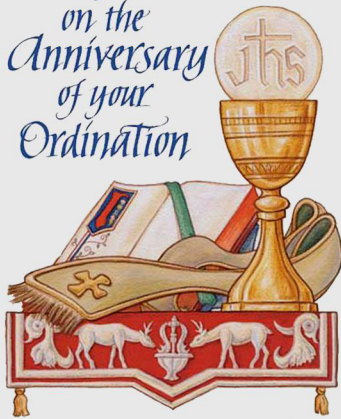
DAYS TO REMEMBER

Birthdays

- 01 - Rev. Fr. Harshana Miranda
- 02 - Rev. Fr. Leslie Perera
- 06 - Rev. Fr. Dominic Sandanam
- 08 - Rev. Fr. Shermal Rasika
- 09 - Rev. Fr. Jayanath Perera
- 22 - Rev. Fr. Clement Jesudasan
- 24 - Rev. Fr. Ranga Chalitha

Ordination Anniversaries

BLESSINGS
on the
Anniversary
of your
Ordination



- 02 - Rt. Rev. Dr. Valence Mendis

Episcopal Ordination

- 07 - Rev. Fr. Rasika Lakmal Perera
- 22 - Rev. Fr. A. Mathew
 - Rev. Fr. Dosminraj
- 25 - Rev. Fr. John Stephen
- 26 - Rev. Fr. Xavier Douglas
 - Rev. Fr. Tharindu Devshan
 - Rev. Fr. Shehan Thulakshana

Deaths



- 03 - Rev. Fr. Justus Perera
- 11 - Rev. D. J. Philippupulle
- 15 - Rev. Fr. B. J. Fernandez
- 17 - Rev. Fr. Mellitus Perera, OSB



Lenten Retreat For Religious
Held at Good Shepherd Convent Hall
08th March, 2024



Confirmation Service
Held at St. Mary's Church,
Madulkelle - Panwila

Episcopal Consecration of
His Lordship Most Revd Dr Wimal Siri
Jayasuriya

Photo Credit - Diocese of Chilaw

