

## KURUNEGALA DEANERY

***“Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible” (1 Corinthians 9:19)***

The parishioners of our deanery are also, struggling with ongoing Social, Political and Economic crises. Amid these difficulties, our clergy did take special efforts to look after them with much concern and care. We appreciate the work done by Rev. Mahesh Hemachandra who functioned as a Chapter Clerk for 3 years and transferred to the Kandy deanery. He was appointed as a parish priest, a lecturer at Theological College of Lanka Pilimathalawa and the president of the Board of Religious Education. We remember him and his ministry reverentially. Rev. Stanley Nissanka was appointed as a new Chapter Clerk in place of Rev. Mahesh and we place our record of joy and blessings on all the Lay Workers and Deacons who were ordained as Deacons and Priests and wish them, all the blessings to fulfill their ministry successful in His vineyard.

We thank God for His guidance and blessings, for us to begin the construction work of Kudagama Church also appreciate the support extended to us, by the local government to repair the Kurunagala Cathedral Church Road and do the needful interlock in front of the church.

We warmly welcome Rev. Anthony Fernando and his family members who came from the Diocese of Colombo to our deanery and Rev. Lalith Gunathilake who was transferred to Thalampitiya and also with God’s blessings for Rev. Stanley Premakumara for his appointment as a Director at Christodaya Farm and appreciate the mission and ministry of Devasevikaramaya and Meth Piyasa Sisters.

Last year we had 2 deanery meetings and we were able to discuss the matters of clergy concerns and the mission at the church and the proper ecclesiastical management. In a joint meeting with the Kandy deanery, our Lord Bishop shared some thoughts regarding the vision and mission of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. A senior lecturer at the University of Kelaniya Mr. Vijith Rohana educated our clergy on the present matters of the socio-political situation of the country. In a conclusion, let us pray, that God may guide us to protect and look after His people in our mission journey.

***Rev. Stanley Nissanka***  
**Chapter Clerk**

## KANDY DEANERY

Throughout the year under the leadership of our Area dean, Rev. Nishantha Fernando, we had meditation programs highlighting the current issues.

**The meditations were held under the current topics:**

- ❖ “Engage in mission with one soul and one mind” - *Rev. Suresh Kumar*
- ❖ “The great banquet” - *Rev. Nishantha Fernando*
- ❖ “Meditative thoughts on Franciscan Sect” - *Rev. Brothers Lionel Peiris and Michael Saminathan*
- ❖ “Practice what you preach, before sharing with others” - *Rev. John Peranathan*
- ❖ “To reflect the theological insights in a way which the country moves forward” - *Mr. Vijitha Rohan Fernando*
- ❖ Program on the life and ministry of late Most Rev. Desmond Tutu - *Archdeacon emeritus Ven. Dr. Rienzie Perera*

**The other important topics discussed at the meditation programs:**

- ❖ Church administration

- ❖ Systemization of Lay Workers transfers.
- ❖ The basic needs of the Lay Workers and the responsibilities of the Diocese.
- ❖ Clarity and understanding of the church and its respective Diocesan programs.
- ❖ Deanery meeting held to encourage and share fraternity with Rev. John Peranathan, during his illness and recovery.
- ❖ To remember the soul of late Rev. Neil Wimalaratne.

#### **Future Plans**

- Last year the deanery decided to have a program on “Vision of Companionship”, but due to the exacerbation of the Covid epidemic, it had to be postponed, but instead a new program based on “Strengthening the Mission with Togetherness” is to be organized in conjunction with the Kurunegala Deanery to engage in the exchange of languages and assets and to strengthen our mission.
- Creation of a spiritual congregation among the two deaneries.

**Rev. Dn. Jesmin Selvaratnam**

**Chapter Clerk**

### **ST. JOHN’S BOY’S HOME – KEGALLE**

This year too, the crisis that has affected the whole world and, first and foremost, Sri Lanka, and especially the Covid 19 epidemic, has affected our economy. We have 25 children in the orphanage receiving care, food and shelter, health facilities and physical and mental sports and education and spiritual the service was able to complete without a gap.

We respectfully remember that it was in 1943 that this home started with the good thoughts and guidance of the Rev. Bertram Wickramanayake. The age limit for admission to the orphanage is 5 years to 18 years, according to the Christian Church, the Department of Probation and Child Care, and Court Orders, all children, despite race or religion, are children of Jesus of the creation, so "do not forsake infants ..." It is an institution dedicated to children.

We were able to continue our development services and education despite any difficulties and challenges. Two of our children passed the G.C.E (Ordinary) Level Examination and started their Advanced Level education. I am pleased to announce that in the year 2022, our three (03) students are preparing for the G.C.E (Advanced Level) and G.C.E (Ordinary Level) examinations. They also take extra classes in Mathematics, Music, Computer and Technology and English. I would like to mention that the Rev. Mahesh Hemachandra has rendered an honorable service to the religious programs conducted by the Kurunegala Board of Religious Education through Zoom Technology. Our thanks to him. The Department of Probation and Child Care has done a lot of development work, providing agricultural training, workers training, "Be Happy" skills development for children, health and nutrition awareness, and counseling once a month.

I am pleased to announce that the children have participated in handicraft, drawing, pen pal, farming and flower cultivation competitions and have won first, second and third places in those competitions.

During the Covid epidemic, the joyous celebration of Christmas is honored according to the rules of health. The ceremony was graced by the participation of Mr. J. Jayasundara and Ven. Nimal Wickramaratne.

We are pleased to announce that the Governor of Sabaragamuwa Province Tikiri Kobbekaduwa has taken the lead in the Education, Farm and Performance Programs for Children's Homes in the Sabaragamuwa Province and received colorful gifts. We are proud.

We are pleased to announce that we have been able to move forward successfully amid many difficulties and challenges with the help and blessings of many, and we would like to thank all of you and briefly mention the services rendered by the children to those who helped us.

- ❖ Department of Probation and Child Care - Completion of the half-finished parapet wall.
- ❖ Making a cover for keeping children's clothes and drying clothes.
- ❖ Computers, photocopy machine and printer donated by Sinha Regiment and Kidz net.
- ❖ Mrs. Gemma Whawell Coordinator of St. Peter's Church, Toner England, Friends of the Church (Penpal) and Mrs. Nilu Subhashini Sivarathnam, Coordinator of Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The Serendipity Sweden Committee, including the Rev. Michael Bjerkhagen.
- ❖ Believers of St. Peter's Church, Australia (Guild)
- ❖ Mr. and Mrs. Yoshan Pieris and all members of the family residing in the United States.
- ❖ Mrs. Reginald and all members of the family residing in Canada.
- ❖ Rev. R. S. Fernando - Providing Samaposha food boxes.
- ❖ Mrs. Jeram Taniya – Kandy
- ❖ Mr. Anuruddha Marasinghe and all members of the family – Hewadiwela.
- ❖ Dr. Sandhya Ariyaratne and all members of the family.
- ❖ Late Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Ilandara – Memorial all family members.
- ❖ Mrs. Sirima Wijesinghe, Galewela.
- ❖ Mrs. Pushparani and all members of the family, Gampola.

#### **GRATITUDE**

- ✓ Rt. Rev. Keerthisiri Fernando, Bishop Diocese of Kurunagala.
- ✓ Ven. George Melder, Archdeacon Diocese of Kurunagala.
- ✓ Department of Probation and Childcare – Kegalle / Ratnapura.
- ✓ To all the others who helped in various ways

Glory and praise be to our Almighty God, the Father, who interceded in all these works.

***Rev. Eric Sugathadasa***

**Parish Priest and Manager**

#### **EVELYN NURSERIES - KANDY**

Evelyn Nurseries founded in 1928 by the late Ms. Lena Chapman continues its services of caring for girls of less privileged families providing them with shelter, food, security, education, other basic needs and recreational facilities for 94 years. There are 19 girls at present attending Hillwood College, Gothami Vidyalaya and Mowbray College for their education.

#### **Activities**

The year under review has been very challenging once again due to the setbacks in all areas of life with the covid-19 pandemic continuing to affect social life. Schools being closed for extended periods and rescheduling exams was a concern. However, we managed to provide the children with the necessary facilities to follow online lessons without interruption. To do so, we had to purchase a new mobile phone with available finances, and many institutions helped us by providing a few digital devices for the use of the children. Kidznet Sri Lanka gifted us a laptop, a monitor and a printer. Another computer, a monitor and a table were received from the Probation Dept. In addition, we were fortunate to receive 2 melodicas and a violin from the Probation Dept. and a guitar from Kidznet.

The children participated in extracurricular activities in their respective schools whenever possible. They also sang at a Children's Day program conducted by the Probation Department.

Y.M.C.A. Kandy organized an Essay competition in March 2022 and a Holy Week program in April. 5 of our girls participated in the Essay Competition which was eventually held in April and 3 girls participated in the Holy Week program.

Students of the TCL conducted a series of programs for our children on Saturdays which were concluded in April.

Rev. Sanath & Mrs. Ruth Medagamgoda along with some others conducted a 'Lama Pubuduwa' for the girls which were attended by children from St. Paul's Church Sunday School as well.

Rev. Sanath Medagamgoda holds Bible Studies for the girls on Thursdays whenever possible.

The Sinhala & Tamil New year celebrations, Christmas parties and concert which are regular events in our calendar could not be held for the second year running. However, The Probation Department provided some 'Rasa Kevili' for the children in April as they too were compelled to cancel their programs. We are most grateful to St. Paul's Church Sunday School for presenting book vouchers and Christmas hampers to our children.

The deteriorating economic situation in the country is a heavy burden on our financial situation. The escalating prices of basic essential items such as provisions, fuel, gas, etc., added to many of these being not available has been a serious concern in meeting the day-to-day requirements of the children.

### **Repairs / Renovations**

Only the most urgent minor repairs were attended to as and when required due to the financial limitations.

### **Day Care Centre**

Day Care Centre also experienced setbacks due to the situation in the country. The Manageress and the teachers do their best with patience and dedication. As a result, more children are attending the DCC after some time.

### **Future Plans**

It is very difficult to plan ahead for anything other than meeting the children's educational and basic needs under the country's uncertain economic situation and the escalating cost of living. Managing our available resources prudently is our highest priority at the moment.

### **Conclusion**

All Honour and Glory to Our Heavenly Father for providing for our needs and sustaining us through a very difficult year. Our sincere thanks to all those (Sri Lankan and foreign) who extended their support to us despite going through a difficult time themselves. Our thanks to the Clergy of St. Paul's Church, the Select Committee, for their guidance and the staff for their dedicated services.

**Mr. Prasanna Welgolle**  
**Honorary Secretary**

## **HOUSE OF JOY – TALAWA**

House of Joy is a home for orphans, abandoned, and helpless children founded in 1957 by the missionary Evelyn Carney; and presently administered by the Bishop of the Diocese of Kurunagala, and girls are admitted under the supervision of the Department of Probation and Child Protection Authority, North Central Province.

At present, a girl who has passed G E C (A/L) dedicated her life to the ministry of God and receiving training at Evelyn Home, Kandy. Also, two girls studying for GEC (O/L) examination and one girl studying for GEC (A/L) are attending classes via zoom technology while doing the other activities. The two girls who sat for the GEC (O/L) last year both got through the exam. The girls are also involved in gardening and landscaping activities.

October 2021 at the house of joy had a “Children’s Day” program with the participation of Probation officers, they commented, that it was a successful program.

We are happy to thank God who provides for and guides us in every way. Also, thank and pray for the blessing upon our Lord Bishop, Venerable Archdeacon, Wardens and the parishioners of Thalawa church, Wardens of the house, and those who contributed to us in many ways for the development of the House of Joy.

**Rev. Lishni Nandaweera**  
**Managing Priest-in-Charge**

## **BOARD OF WOMEN’S WORK**

***“How hard it is to find a capable wife! She is worth far more than jewels!” (Proverbs 31:10)***

With the restrictions implemented owing to the COVID pandemic situation, though we were unable to implement the annual plan 2021 as scheduled, we had the divine blessing of empowering the oppressed through the word of God by visiting them. The connectivity of the members was continued through phones. We appreciate the efforts made to preserve, care and develop God’s creation through zoom technology. We thank God and ask abundant blessings upon Miss Rajitha Gunawardena of our Diocese who took the initiative to execute the technological support.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 under the patronage of Rt. Revd. Keerthisiri Fernando through zoom conference facility. The first committee meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at the Cathedral of Christ the King Kurunegala and the annual programme was planned.

Church Women’s Society organized the Sunday service on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022, in commemoration of International Women’s Day.

The year aimed to uplift the education standard of children in shelter care. Accordingly, we are happy to inform you that the first visit was conducted in the House of Joy Thalawa and donations were made with goods and stationery items.

### **Future Plan:**

- Visit Evelyn Nursery and support the education
- To conduct a tree planting programme at Church and Homes on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in commemoration of “Environment Day” under the theme “To protect, develop and enjoy the benefits of the beautiful creation of God”
- To conduct the semi-annual general meeting in July
- Improving education levels of children in cultivation estates
- To conduct a counseling programme and a workshop on self-employment for members
- To conduct a fair at the church level during the year-end with the use of activities conducted during the year

**Appreciation:**

We would like to thank the Almighty Father for the guidance and blessings, to Lord Bishop, Venerable Archdeacon and the Clergy for the support extended for all activities.

***Ms. Kusum de Mel***  
**President**

**CHURCH OF CEYLON YOUTH MOVEMENT – DIOCESE OF KURUNAGALA**

The Church of Ceylon Diocese of Kurunegala Youth Movement has entered its year 48<sup>th</sup> with the presence of God and we are a pleasure to express our thankfulness to Almighty God, Bishop, Archdeacon, Priests, Sisters, and Brothers for their blessings and the guidance through this wonderful journey.

We have been organized a few events for the year 2021 such as Night Vigil worships, Annual Youth Conference, Shramadhana campaigns, Cricket Tournament and Debate Matches. But unexpectedly we were unable to organize well the scheduled events mostly due to the Covid -19 pandemic and driven by many other obstacles such as the challenge of mobilizing youths in each parish. But as an energetic youth movement, we have decided to go for spiritual activities while we were all in a time of giving up hope. So, we have planned to do worship online by joining all parish youths in this process. We have conducted around 5 online worships and the initial worship has done by the committee of the Church of Ceylon Youth Movement and for rest of the worship has been conducted by the invited priests, Brothers, and the youths representing our Diocese of Kurunagala. These online worships brought us a new experience and it was a great chance to gather us all together at a time of distance. Many youths have participated in these worship programmes inspired. Also, we had a chance to do a combined online session with the Church of Ceylon Diocese of Colombo Youth Movement and it was a great experience for our youth members to engage with the members of the Diocese of Colombo.

Church of Ceylon Diocese of Kurunegala Youth Movement always attempts to implement various programs for the betterment of our Diocese; there are difficulties in implementing them due to the adverse conditions, and challenges prevailing in the country. But we attempt to improve our youth movement and bring youths to spiritually and physically successful lives. Considering the situation our discussion is going through the following programs that we will implement in the future.

- Annual General Meeting
- Night Vigil Worship
- Annual Youth Conference
- “Shramadhana Campaigns”
- Cricket Tournament
- Debate Matches

**Our heartfelt gratitude**

We confer our sincere gratitude for all the guidance we receive from the Lord, and we thank the Bishop, Archdeacon, Priests, Sisters, Brothers, Youths, and Laity who have encouraged us in the growth and well-being of our Youth Movement.

***Ms. Melani Williams***  
**Honorary Secretary**

## MADOLKELLE SOCIAL SERVICE PROJECT

The Madulkelle Social Service Centre and Pre-School are 39 years old, having been started by Rt. Rev. Lakshman Wickramasinghe, the second Bishop of our Diocese. 41 children are studying in all three languages. The new curriculum is being taught under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and the Panvila Divisional Secretariat.

The pre-school commenced with the New Year with 41 children on 04<sup>th</sup> January 2021 along with 2020 children. Due to the onset of the Covid-19 epidemic, the preschool was closed from last April to November 2021. World Children's Day was celebrated via WhatsApp technology which allowed the children to present their talents on this day.

This year Pre-school re-opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022. The Thai Pongal festival was celebrated on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 with the participation of children. New students were welcomed on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022. National Independence Day celebration was held on 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 with the children's procession. The Ministry of Education has extended the enrolment of the new students until March 2022 and the year 2021 end children's festival was held on 02<sup>nd</sup> March 2022. New Year traditions and rituals were taught to the children which coincide with the sports festival on 07<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

02 Project Committee meetings were held on 5<sup>th</sup> January and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022. At these meetings, we shared thoughts and concerns about the Archdeacon's miserable accident and expressed condolences to the late Mr. John Victor who served on the previous Committee.

Mrs. Wasantha Mary was recruited as the new teacher for the preschool in November 2021, as Ms. Krishnakumari left us. The preschool building and furniture were painted according to the modern pattern during the year 2022.

As a future plan, we are planning to conduct a workshop on "Learning methods of Pre-school children" by using modern electronic devices in connotation with the Panvila Divisional Secretariat.

May God's grace and guidance be with this project to continue to work for His glory!

**Rev. Dn. Matilda Williams**  
**Secretary**

## BISHOP LAKSHMAN WICKREMESINGHE CENTRE

The work of the Centre is undertaken by an Executive Committee appointed by a special constitution, to fulfill the vision of the late Bishop Lakshman Wickremesinghe.

The Centre faced its most difficult period in the Centre's three decades of history during the past two years. The income earned by utilizing the building and resources of the Centre is used to maintain the building and support the work of the Diocese of Kurunagala. An annual community service project has been undertaken by the Centre, whenever possible, each year, to commemorate Bishop Lakshman on his death anniversary in October. That was not possible last year due to the prevailing situation of the country due to the COVID pandemic. Although the Centre had planned to upgrade its facilities during the past year, this was not possible as income levels had declined drastically due to the dire country situation.

Although it was possible to continue the English Language and Computer Knowledge Development courses conducted by the Centre for Clergy and Lay Workers as planned in the previous year, the final examination and certification process could not be carried out due to the adverse Covid conditions prevailing in the country. Although it was planned to start an English class at the Centre with support from the late Bishop Lakshman's family, this was also not possible for the same reason.

During the period, the Executive Committee could not hold meetings at the Centre, as scheduled. Instead, meetings had to be held virtually, using online technology, when necessary. The Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held in June last year had to be postponed to December 29, due to COVID-related health restrictions on holding public meetings in the country. Despite these difficult times, a service was conducted at the Cathedral Church of Christ the King with the participation of a limited number of people to commemorate late Bishop Lakshman's death anniversary in October.

Although Centre income declined, the Centre was able to operate and continue to pay for staff salaries, utilities and building maintenance with the assistance of late Bishop Lakshman's family. We thank God for the blessings.

We appreciate the guidance of Bishop Keerthisiri Fernando during a very difficult period, the support of late Bishop Lakshman's family, the strong commitment of the Executive Committee and the dedication of the staff. We also gratefully acknowledge the services of Mr. Sisira Dharmasiri, who had served on the Executive Committee for many years and provided technical advice, until he moved to live in Colombo last year, and Mr. Shantha de Silva who had rendered the service as an Honorary Treasurer in the past years.

We record with great sadness, the sudden demise of Miss Geni Joseph, who for many years served as Honorary Secretary with great dedication, handling every problematic situation, with unquestionable commitment. May her soul rest in the Lord and rise in glory!

Mr. Shamara de Silva was appointed as the new Honorary Treasurer and Mr. Lashantha Perera as the acting Honorary Secretary.

#### **Executive Committee**

### **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **Introduction**

The Diocese of Kurunagala Environment Committee conducts programmes and activities to educate the Christian community on the importance of environmental conservation and protection of fauna and flora under the purview of the Bishop of Kurunagala.

#### **Activities / Progress during the year under review**

The main focus of activities was on the finalization and approval of the Environment Policy document. The document translated into all three languages was presented at the deanery meetings held on the 9th of March 2021 at the Cathedral Church of Kurunagala and on the 18th of April 2021 at Anuradhapura. The Kandy Deanery meeting was scheduled for 15th May 2021 after the 175th Anniversary Celebrations on 15th May 2021. However due to the lockdown in May 2021, it was postponed and therefore, the policy document was e-mailed to all clergy, and feedback was requested. Thereafter the Standing committee approval was obtained and the document was presented to the 65<sup>th</sup>



Diocesan Council on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. The approved document has been corrected and is ready for printing.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021, Rt. Rev. Bishops of Colombo and Kurunagala and the CEMET group from Colombo conducted a zoom meeting along with the participation of members from our Environment Committee (EC). At this meeting, plans for the 175th Anniversary to include the planting of 175 trees on parish premises were recommended for each Diocese. The EC of the DoK has been involved in tree planting on Environment Day in various parishes over the years and it was decided by the committee instead to plant 175 coconut trees at Christodaya premises as a productive project. Rev. Nuwan was assigned to prepare the land for the planting of the trees. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2021, 100 coconut trees were planted presided by the Bishop of Kurunagala. Unfortunately, Rev. Melder was unable to attend due to injuries. All trees were from donations of parishioners with St. Paul's donating 225 trees. The rest of the trees are due to be planted at the onset of the monsoon in April 2022.

To make the EC more effective, each Parish was requested to form its own EC such that more activities could be performed. The Archdeacon has informed the parish priests to form these committees at the 2022 AGM of each parish.

### **Future Plans**

We need to continue collecting donations for the Christodaya Project. Organize visits to the Christodaya farm and conduct awareness programmes to ensure parishes are involved with the project. Propose that each parish donates 10 trees. Once parish committees are set up this task will be assigned to the committee.

It was identified that Thalawa has an extent of land that could be gainfully cultivated. Once the parish Environment groups are formed, this activity could be launched with their assistance.

### **Conclusion**

The policy document will be an important guide for the development of sustainable environmental activities. The establishment of Environment groups in each Parish will ensure that the upkeep of each parish will be in an environment-friendly manner.

**Prof. Nedra Karunaratne**  
**Honorary Secretary**

## **THE BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The Board of Religious Education of the Diocese of Kurunagala, this year too, worked most enthusiastically to awaken the spiritual life of our children. In the year 2020, in March, unexpectedly, we had to face the Covid plague, but even in the midst of this, we were able to continue the ministry of caring and sharing with our children who were confined to their individual homes. We are indeed grateful to God for all His blessings. The first quarter of the year 2021, was a challenging period for all of us. The fact is that despite these challenges, we were able to gather all the necessary information and share it with the children online. We are also happy we were able to collect information about our churches and share it with them on WhatsApp and also conduct our "Zoom Sunday School". We divided the Diocese into three areas, viz., Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, and Kandy, and conducted these Sunday schools in the Sinhala and Tamil mediums and as a result, bring our children closer to God Almighty. It is a great achievement that in the new world we were able to work with the advances of such technology. The board thanks all those who initiated this new path for education.

❖ It is a great pleasure that we were able to work in conjunction with the Diocese of Colombo and to use their videos to guild our children every Sunday.

- ❖ We were able to gather all the information/activities and share it with our children who had no online facilities.
- ❖ Conducted the G. E. C (Ordinary and Advance Level) Christianity classes also via zoom to cover up the curriculum.
- ❖ We were able to conduct a vacation Bible study together with all our Sunday schools.
- ❖ Conducted a teacher training program for Colombo and Kurunagala Dioceses.
- ❖ Organized programs based on “Environment Day” via zoom and get involved in activities such as planting, gardening, landscaping, photography, drawing and poetry etc..
- ❖ To expand the work of the Tamil medium, Rev. Dn. Isaac Dunstan was appointed as coordinator.
- ❖ Carry out a census of children and teachers and include it into a network system.
- ❖ Providing an opportunity to celebrate ‘World Children’s Day via online
- ❖ It was a pleasure and noteworthy that we had both our Lord Bishop participate and represented from “World Vision” and present on this occasion to distribute a set of books to our children.
- ❖ Once again, we divided the Diocese into 3 deaneries and organized the Christmas programs also online, and on 26<sup>th</sup> December in the presence of our Lord Bishop and all the Sunday school children.
- ❖ In February 2022, we were once again able to revert to normal activities instead of using online technology.
- ❖ On February 12th we organized a teacher training program for the Kandy and Kurunegala deaneries and on February 19th for the Thalawa mission which was very successful.

We thank God for His guidance and Blessings which enabled us to complete all our tasks successfully this year and extend our appreciation and sincere gratitude to everyone who supported us in their presence and in every possible way.

**Rev. Renuka Karunaratne**  
Secretary

### **CHRISTHODAYA FARM**

***“He makes grass grow for the Cattle, and plants for man to cultivate – bringing forth food from the earth.” (Psalm. 104:04)***

Christhodaya farm situated 1.5 km away from Kurunagala town and its surrounding is a very valuable and important resource for the Church of Ceylon, Diocese of Kurunagala. The 06 acres (known as Hillwood building), 15 acres (around Bubula well), undivided paddy field, 01 acres of “Wadula” paddy cultivation, 17 acres land 2 acres of paddy land (presently given to Wayaba Technical College), and 17 perches of land built Christhodaya farm shop(opposite Negambo Road) is the grate treasures which belongs to the Diocese of Kurunagala, based on vision and mission of late Bishop Lakshman Wickramasinghe. Christhodaya’s vision is to rehabilitate the rural and estate youths who are suffering from various physical and mental illnesses and direct them to the economic and social processes of our country. I immensely, value the 50 years of history in society. (There are ups and downs from time to time)

From 2019 - 2020 Christhodaya farm had been given a lease for 7 outside parties under various tax basis, and now except for two, all the other agreements are already been released. At present two court cases on paddy fields and the land acquired by some people by force. The documentary information confirmed that the Christhodaya Farm(land) had been declared as a “Charitable Institution” Act No. 4 of 1963, section 16 as amended by Act No. 6 of 1969 under the land revenue Act. We thank God for the vision that was given to the late Bishop Lakshman Wickramasinghe for the establishment of the Reign of God. We anticipate presenting the gazette notification to the court soon and asserting our rights.

### **Present (current) information**

- ❖ The coconut plants were planted on about 8 acres with the assistance of the Church of Ceylon Environment Committee and with other donors (we extend sincere thanks to the Environment Committee for their valuable commitment (we pray and remember the life and ministry of late Dr. Lakmini Illangasinghe and may soul rest in peace and rise in glory).
- ❖ We express sincere gratitude to our Lord Bishop and Mrs. Arlene Fernando for intercropping and horticulture in Christhodaya's bare land.
- ❖ Paddy cultivation was done as usual.
- ❖ The piggery farm was also continued.
- ❖ For the convenience of the Christhodaya farm and other activities, we were able to purchase a Tractor (TAFE).
- ❖ The Treasurer Mr. Shamara Dunusinghe already finalized accounts and it's ready to forward audited accounts for the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.
- ❖ The Rev. Stanly Premakumara has been appointed as the new Director, by the Bishop of Kurunagala in February 2022.

We earnestly, thank and are grateful to our Lord Bishop, Venerable Archdeacon, and the Board members for their support and commitment were given to us.

**Rev. Nuwan Seneviratne**  
**Secretary**

### **MISSIONARY AREAS**

***"I'm not looking for the offer. I'm looking for the reward for overcharging your account."  
(Philippians 4:17)***

We would like to thank Mrs. Mihiri Fernando, who on several occasions assisted in the distribution of dry rations to the people affected by the Covid-19 epidemic, the Diocesan Office including the Venerable Archdeacon, the Mother's Union of St. Paul's Church and the entire family including Dr. Ms. Shyama Senaratne.

Since the walls of the Thambagalla Church are cracked and it is not possible to perform the Holy Eucharist, it is held every Sunday in the homes of the parishioners and the church is in the process of purchasing land for the area and building the Church. He was also able to carry out a project to provide chicks to parishioners in the area. We would like to thank all those who sponsored this project.

Nagollagama Home Church also has a very small number of parishioners and we appreciate the support given by the Venerable Archdeacon for the elderly and the sick in the area. Churches in Rambe, Ma-Eliya, Kimbulwana Oya and Madahapola celebrate one Holy Eucharist service per month, followed by a Prayer Service led by Brother Mark and Mrs. Minsha in the weeks. We appreciate the commitment of the Rev. Nuwan Seneviratne and Sevika Kusum.

The five brothers and sisters were sent to our missionary areas for field education from the Theological College and spent about ten days with us as a pre-training for their ministry. Rev. Dn. Ashoka Wickramage and Mrs. Anastasia appreciate their dedication to the missionary areas and thank the Venerable Archdeacon for his assistance in repairing the electrical wiring system of the Ganewatta Mission House. It should be noted that it is very important to work to fill the vacancies of clergy to perform a successful ministry in these areas.

**Rev. Stanley Nissanka**  
**Priest-in-Charge**

## **BOARD OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Mother Teresa once said, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." We as a diocese followed this philosophy in our work and tried to uplift the lives around and near to us. The Board of Social Responsibility (BSR) continued its work for another year with the support and leadership of the Bishop and the Archdeacon.

As we all are aware, last year too we went through many challenges as a country. Due to various challenges, this year too we could not have our regular meetings. Amidst all these encounters and difficulties, we as BSR gave support to the Diocese and fellow brothers and sisters.

### **Contributions during the Post Pandemic conditions**

- ❖ BSR with the help of the Diocese and clergy distributed dry Rations to the needy in our parishes and localities.
- ❖ When required we were able to help a few persons to uplift their finances.

Since last year was a challenging time, some of the programmes were coordinated by the diocesan office. A few selected underprivileged families were given financial support to build their houses.

### **Theological Reflection**

We are saved by grace through faith alone, but God never intended that faith should stand alone. As a Church or part of the body of Christ, our responsibility and duty are to uplift the spirituality of people. But to bring that expected, true, and sustainable transformation in society, the living conditions have to be developed individually and collectively. Jimmy Carter said, "We know that a peaceful world cannot long exist, one-third rich and two-thirds hungry." Therefore, as God expects, it is our calling to express our faith through love and sharing of our lives with the needy.

### **Thank you**

We would like to thank the Bishop, Archdeacon, BSR of Colombo, World Vision, all the other funding organizations, members of our committee, and those who actively participate and support us in our endeavours. We thank and praise our heavenly Father for the guidance, blessings, and protection during this hard time.

**Revd. Sanath Medagamgoda**  
**Secretary**

## **BISHOP ANDREW KUMARAGE MEMORIAL CENTRE**

As we planned work commenced in 2021 at the Bishop Andrew Kumarage Memorial Center has been functioning well for the programs organize for 2021, but in recent times we also had to face Covid – 19 epidemics that the world faced as a catastrophe. Therefore, some programs which were planned for 2020 / 2021 were conducted to comply with Covid – 19 health guidelines.

It is with great pleasure that we all hold the inaugural Annual General Meeting with the new Constitution and a formal Executive Committee under the guidance of the Bishop, with several Executive Committee meetings being conducted through the online media.

We currently run an English school with 10 children on Saturdays and look forward to commencing a computer class.

First of all, let us thank God for the guidance that He has given us amid difficult times. Also, we are most grateful for the countless support given to us by our Lord Bishop, Venerable Archdeacon and the Executive Committee members. In all of this, we seek an abundance of blessings of God in all future work of Bishop Andrew Kumarage Memorial Centre.

**Rev. Lishni Nandaweera**  
**Managing in Charge**

## BISHOP LAKDASA DE MEL CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Annual General Meeting of this foundation held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 appointed me as the new Secretary and I thank our Lord Bishop who recommended me for this post and Fr. Ranjana Karunaratne and the outgoing committee for their dedicated commitment towards this Foundation.

We have planned our future activities based on the mission of the Diocese of Kurunegala and the theme and vision of “Indigenization” and rural culture.

- In concurrence with the foundation and the Church of Ceylon Youth Moment will create an oriental dance troupe and compose folk songs to offer praises to God.
- Organize, drama and song competitions to promulgate the activities of the foundation.

We have planned the above programs for this year, and our basic need and priority is to find the necessary musical instrument to be achieved our efforts. If we do have essential instruments with us we will do our programs successfully.

**Rev. Stanley Premakumara**  
**Secretary**

## DAY SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

***“Keep my commandments and live. In my opinion, protect your beautiful image”. (Proverbs 7:2)***

Our board also faced similar challenges that the country and the world faced in the recent past. As a result, it was not possible to have the programs we planned, but teachers continued education ministry via zoom or WhatsApp technology. Seminars for Christianity were conducted for GEC (O/L) students. For this, we appreciate the support extended by the following teachers, Mrs. Beulah Rose, Mrs. Nilanthi de Silva, Mrs. Shiromala Pushmakumari and Rev. Renuka Karunaratne appreciate and respect the assistance given to G.C.E (A/L) students by Fr. Mahesh Hamachandra.

We respectfully remembered the mediation given by Lord Bishop regarding the issue of admitting Christian children into government schools. Lakdasa de Mel school is preparing to commemorate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we are happy that the Venerable Archdeacon and Area Deans’ intervention on behalf of the school and the Diocese.

We have been trying several times to recruit a teacher to teach Christianity at Srimath John Kothalawala school, but it was a failure due to many obstacles. We appreciate the challenge taken by Rev. Stanly Premakumara to do justice to this matter. We respectfully appreciate the ministry of Rev. Samantha Senavirathne representing the National Christian Council in the Education Department; also, we value the contribution of getting a government appointment for the teachers who passed out from the Faculty of Science and preparing a new syllabus for Christianity. From the past up to today, the issue of getting admission for Christian children into popular urban schools persists.

We also need to find out alternative ways to improve the educational status of our children; therefore, achieving this target needs the support of all concerned. The information and data of Christian teachers are elaborate below. The Church of Ceylon should take the responsibility of sending the clergy, to the college of education for training in the education field.

| <b>Information on the number of teachers who are teaching in government schools in 2022</b> |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| District  | No. of government-appointed teachers or Graduate teachers | Teachers who are not teaching Christianity but are officially appointed to teach Christian subjects |
| Kurunegala  | 14  | 5   |
| Kegalle   | 14  | 1   |
| Kandy   | 2   | -   |
| Matale  | 10  | -   |
| Anuradhapura  | 7   | -   |
| Polonnaruwa   | 1   | -   |

| <b>Information on Christian teachers appointed by the Diocese</b> |   |
|---|---|
| Deanery   | Number of teachers who teach Christianity |
| Kurunegala  | 7   |
| Kandy   | 1   |

| <b>Information on Christian teachers who are at private schools</b> |   |
|---|---|
| Deanery   | Number of teachers who teach Christianity |
| Kurunegala  | 2   |
| Kandy   | 6   |

**Revd. Stanley Nissanka**  
**Director**

### **DEVASARANARAMAYA**

***“You see that a man is to be declared righteous by works and not by faith alone” (St. James. 2: 24)***

As we follow in the footsteps of our former Bishops and Rev. Yohan Devanandan work together for spiritual and social justice through nonviolence in the present context of the country. It is indeed a pleasure and immensely gratifying to see youths actively working together to resolve human issues in social mobilization and non – partially involved. The time has dawned when the oppressed will be exalted in the concept of human love. The society which is based on the teachings of Jesus and essential facts on the conflation of the core of precepts in modern global religious teachings (නව්‍ය ලෝක භූමි) forms the core belief of religious concepts that emerges emanate in the Devasaranaramaya ministry.

The effect of the Covid-19 epidemic wrought havoc in our society and country and as a result, all our planned programs regarding worship and social ministry were compelled to be reduced to a slow process. But despite this setback, we were able to conduct a few Masses during a month. We are grateful to the Diocese for the donation to one of our parishioners to renovate his house and also to install a drinking water system. Coconut crops at Devasaranaramaya had been increased and it was now essential to fertilize the plants once again.

We appreciate the prayers and the support of the sisters of Meth Piyasa and Devasevikaramaya on behalf of our monastery. We are pleased to announce that Bro. Asoka Wickramage has been made a Deacon by the Bishop of Kurunagala. The court case with Devasarana Center continues and a court injunction has been issued against them. We appreciate the services of our caretaker Mr. Wilson

Wijerathne and honor and respect the courage and support given to us by our first worker in this monastery Venerable George Melder, the Archdeacon of Kurunagala.

A modification of our church is on the boards, but due to the current situation of the country, it was postponed for a future date. Despite the progress made, there are unwanted thrust challenges upon us, but under the guidance of our Bishop, we have overcome many of them and are moving forward.

### **Committee of Devasaranaramaya**

## **METH PIYASA**

***“Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that the any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common.” (Acts 4:32)***

Meth Piyasa community basically dedicated themselves to conveying the meaning of common life, hence dedicated to proclaiming the value of the spiritual common life with people as it's called by God. This is not restricted to the people who struggle to live with difficulties. This is a spiritual journey for healing and in common life as an ordained community and with the people. Attempts are made to achieve common and personal liberation in the spirit of togetherness, love, care, common understanding, and humility.

Commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commencement of the Meth Piyasa thanksgiving of combined worship held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022 with the participation of Rt. Rev. Keerthisiri Fernando, monastic moments of Diocese of Kurunagala, Clergy, and Christian – Buddhist faith community.

### **Meth Piyasa ministry and contributions**

- Provide an opportunity for those who have come to study the Meth Piyasa.
- As Buddhist Christian communities work in common understanding in social and spiritual matters.
- Provides counseling and practical assistance to desperate, widowed women, children, and youths in society.
- Help to improve the economic status by giving support to start self-employment for desperate and widowed women and providing parcels of dry rations to financially difficult families. Repaired the dilapidated roof of the family where father and mother are sick.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude and blessings to the individuals and groups who faithfully supported us to do this social work. Amid the present context, as life is challenged in every path, and therefore we pray and dedicate ourselves to experiencing the theology of struggle in faith, hope, and love.

### **Sisters of Meth Piyasa**

## **THE THIRD ORDER OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. FRANCISCAN**

***“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace” – St. Francis of Assisi***

The First Order of the Society of St Francis was planted in Sri Lanka in the year 2008 and the Third Order in 2014. Both Orders established in the two Dioceses of The Anglican Church are now ministering to the spiritual and social needs of people within and outside the Church. While we thank God Almighty who has led us through many challenges, we look forward to serving in the days ahead with the hope that His presence will go before us.

## **Mission programs are undertaken jointly by the First and Third Orders**

### **Spiritual Ministry**

- ❖ Bible Studies and guidance in the formation of the Franciscan spirituality of members have been conducted using Zoom technology and seminars.
- ❖ Participating in prayers in the morning and night as a Franciscan family.
- ❖ Arranging retreats annually.
- ❖ Two of the Novices to the Franciscan Family have been raised to the Professional level. Three brothers in the stage of Enquirers are being followed up and guided in Franciscan spirituality.
- ❖ On Thaipongal day, upholding the lifestyle of St Francis, we entered into a time of worship of thanksgiving for the gift of nature, at the Franciscan Children's Home, and the Midland Church in Matale.

### **Social Ministry**

- ❖ Dry ration packs were distributed among villages and estates where hardly any relief had reached during the pandemic or thereafter.
- ❖ Mowbray College scholarship scheme is continued for students living in distant plantations.
- ❖ Essential life-support machines and drugs were gifted to 13 hospitals.
- ❖ Many houses damaged by natural disasters were reconstructed.
- ❖ Tree planting programs were arranged in churches and around houses.
- ❖ Promoting relationships among people of different religions is continued. Activities such as explaining the basic Christian beliefs in Islamic Madaras were unique activities.
- ❖ A Christmas celebration was held at the backward Dawatagala plantation. Educational materials were gifted to students.

### **Plan for the year ahead**

- Absorb 4 more students into the Mowbray Scholarship program.
- Open a Franciscan Library.
- Conduct Medical Camps with the help of Sri Lankan and other medical personnel.

### **Thank you**

The Franciscans express their special gratitude to:

Bishop Keerthisiri Fernando, Bishop Dushantha Rodrigo and Archdeacon Venerable George Melder for their unreserved support.

The Provincial Minister of the First Order Ven Donald Campbell, the Regional Minister of the Third Order Bishop Godfrey Fryer, Provincial Minister Rev. Mandy Wheatley.

The Clergy and others for helping us in many ways.

***Mrs. Saroja Namadevan***

**Leader – Third Order in Sri Lanka**