

THROUGH THE CROSS  
TO THE LIGHT

25<sup>th</sup> May 2017. CL/PRES/RN 98

TO THE CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF RATNAPURA

Dear Rev Fathers

God's Blessings and Fraternal Greetings

Let me wish you all a Joyous Solemnity of Pentecost. I pray that we all may be touched, empowered and rejuvenated by a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all of us, just as He descended on the Apostles and brought about a radical transformation in them. The Apostles fearlessly and relentlessly proclaimed the Good News of Salvation, brought about by Jesus Christ by his Passion, Death and Resurrection. No human forces could stop them. They considered this mission as their only agenda, after receiving the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. We too cannot effectively proclaim the Good News of Salvation by Jesus Christ, unless we are first filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

St Anthony of Padua whose feast we celebrate on June 13, says in one of his sermons: "Actions speak louder than Words". Let us try to proclaim Christ, more by action than by word. It is our actions which show forth our personal character and the validity of our priestly ministry. The character of a priest should necessarily reflect the character of Jesus Christ and His Mission, among the people.

1. We are thankful to our priests for their contributions, to the two major seminaries on the Good Shepherd Sunday / Vocations' Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter this year. There are few more parishes which have not yet sent their collections to the Procurator General. I would gently remind them to do so at their earliest convenience.

2. The next meeting of the Presbyterium will be held on Monday and Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, as usual beginning at 4.30 p.m. on Monday. It is compulsory for all priests, unless they are justifiably prevented by compelling reasons which have to be personally communicated to me. Indifference to Diocesan activities can be rightly interpreted as indifference to the growth of the Diocese. Therefore, let us be enthusiastic. We shall continue our evaluation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, identifying our successes and failures at our Presbyteral gatherings. I would appreciate your kind cooperation a great deal in this important task.



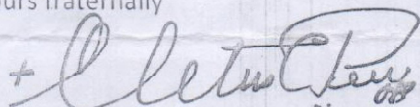
3. Rev Fr Noel Rowel, Parish Priest, Utuwankande, will enter the hospital on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May for a bypass heart surgery. He will be warded at Central Hospital (Private Ltd), Colombo, at his own request. Please keep him in your prayers.

4. I will be leaving for Amman, Jordan, at the invitation of the Vicar Apostolic and the Sri Lankan community there, to officiate at the Celebration of the Marian Feast of the Month of May. I will be out of the country from May 28 to June 3. I have appointed **Rev Fr Milton Wickramasinghe**, Chancellor, as the Administrator of the Diocese during my absence.

5. Rev Fr Lesley Fernando OMI, Parish Priest, Embilipitiya, is appointed as the Diocesan Coordinator of the La. Kri. Vi. Apostolate.

With much love and the assurance of prayers

Yours fraternally



+ Cletus C. Perera OSB

Bishop of Ratnapura

#### BISHOP'S DIARY: JUNE 2017

May 28 to June 3: Marian Feast in Amman, Jordan

June 4: Confirmation Service in the Chilaw Diocese

June 10 and 11: Madhu

June 12 and 13 : Presbyteral Meetings at the Bishop's House

June 18: Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Dehiowita Parish

June 20: Meeting of the National Commission for Inter-religious and Ecumenical Dialogue in Kurunegala

June 22: Clinique Day at the General Hospital, Kandy

June 23: Feast of the Sacred Heart Convent School, Galle

June 26 : Feast of the Minor Seminary, Kegalle