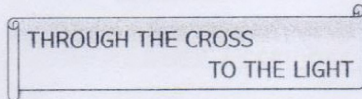


Bishop Cletus Chandrasiri Perera O.S.B.
Bishop of Ratnapura



Bishop's House,
Madola,
Avisawella 10700,
SRI LANKA.

Tel : 036 - 2232368

Direct : 036 - 2232370

Fax : 036 - 2232369

E-mail : bisratnapura@gmail.com

30th November 2017 : CL/PRES/RN 102

Dear Rev Fathers and Sisters

God's Blessings and Fraternal Greetings

Let me, first all, wish each one of you a Fruitful Season of Advent and a Holy and Joyous Celebration of the Solemnity of the Birth of Our Divine Saviour. May the Divine Infant fill your hearts with His Love, Joy and Peace, and may you have a Christ-filled, Grace-filled and love-filled Celebration of Christmas.

1. Let me congratulate on behalf of the Diocese and of myself, though it is a little late, the winners of the Bible and Drama Competitions, held recently.

Bible Quiz Competitions: Kegalle Parish, senior section, English medium, placed FIRST; Ratnapura, Belihul-Oya and Kegalle together, Senior section, Sinhala medium, placed FIRST; Kegalle Parish, Junior section, English medium, placed THIRD.

Bible Speech Competitions: Kegalle Parish, Senior section, Sinhala medium, placed FIRST; Ratnapura Parish, Junior section, Tamil medium, placed SECOND.

Youth Drama Competitions: The Dehiowita Parish came FIRST in the Kegalle Deanery and the Keerapathdenya Parish came FIRST in the Ratnapura Deanery in the youth Drama Competitions.

I thank all those priests and sisters and lay persons who trained these youth and children and led them to victory, bringing honour to the Diocese and their respective parishes.

2. **The Christmas Get-Together:** The Religious Sisters will have it on Monday the 11th December 2017 at 10.00 a.m. at the Bishop's House. All Rev Sisters are cordially invited. The priests, who wish to join them, are also welcome. They are kindly requested to inform the Procurator or the Bishop's House Office about their participation in advance for the convenience of preparing lunch for them.

The Priests, both diocesan and religious, will have their Christmas Get-Together on Tuesday the 12th December, beginning at 5.30 p.m. at Bulutota. All Priests are cordially invited.

Those, appointed, for organizing the two parties are: Rev Frs Reginald Nonis (Head), Sampath Wijeratne, Shane Wickramasinghe, Rev Srs Rositha Fernando (Franciscan Convent, Dehiowita, and Veronica (Good Shepherd, Convent, Yatiyantota).

3. The Pilgrimage to Goa has been fixed from the 15th to the 20th January 2018. Those who wish to join, are kindly requested to register their names with Rev Fr Emil Fernando (Tel. 0777734939) before the 15th of December 2017.

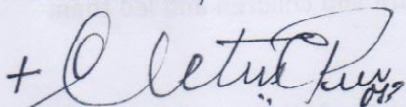
4. The next meeting of the Presbyterium will be held on Monday and Tuesday the 8th and 9th January 2018, beginning as usual at 4.30 p.m. on Monday. Please keep these dates free in your diary (Relevant to priests only)

5. The Rogationist Congregation will take over the management of St Anthony's Boys' Home, Hewadiwala from mid-December this year. Rev Fr Lixon Paul RJC is appointed as the priest in charge of it. Rev Fr Sergius Fernando, Parish Priest, is appointed as Coordinator between the Boys' Home and Civil Authorities. We pray that the Holy Spirit may guide them with his power in their responsibilities towards taking care of these marginalized children.

6. We obliged to pay a debt of gratitude to Mrs Olivia Bartholomusz and her husband. Mr Fred Bartholomeusz of Kathleen Keegel Childre's Home Trust (KKCHT). They took over St Anthony's Boys' Home when we were all in a critical situation, having no means to revive it. They took it up and have been running it over the past ten years. They have rendered an yeoman service to the Diocese of Ratnapura by taking over this very essential apostolate which had been abandoned for several years. They renovated the buildings at their own expense and re-opened the Boys' Home and ran it for ten years with their own funds without being a burden to the Diocese. We, as a Diocese, are deeply grateful to Bartolomeusz family and the KKCHT for their very dedicated and generous service to our marginalized children whom they took care of, lovingly and compassionately. Let us keep them in our prayers.

With much love and the assurance of prayers

Yours fraternally



+ Cletus C. Perera OSB

Bishop of Ratnapura

Bishop's Diary: December 2017

- December 2 : "Miniudhana" Christmas Celebration at Dehigahapitiya.
- December 3 : Celebration of the 160th Anniversary of the Presence of the Catholic Community at
The Gurugalla Parish.
- December 5 : Christmas Celebration at St Aloysius' College, Ratnapura.
- December 7 : Christmas Celebration at the Hewadiwala Maha Vidyalaya, Hewadiwala.
- December 8 : Farewell Mass to Fred and Olivia Bartholomeusz at Hewadiwala.
- December 9 : Christmas Programme of the Catechists at the Pastoral Centre.
- December 10: Chursh Feast at Seeduwa
- December 11: Christmas Get-Together of the Rev Sisters in the morning at the Bishop's House.
- December 11: Meeting of the Jubilee Committee / Task Force in the evening.
- December 12 : Christmas Celebration of the Clergy at Bulutota.
- December 13 : "Joy To The World" Christmas Service in Colombo.
- December 15 : Christmas Programme of the Youth and Holy Childhood Animators.
- December 16 : State Christmas Celebration in Trincomalee.
- December 18 : Sangheeka Dhanaya at the Bishop's House
- December 20 : Christmas Carrols at the Hospital, Eheliyagoda.
- December 21 : Christmas Programme at the Prison, Kuruwita and Ecumenical Christmas Carrols at
The Cathedral, Ratnapura
- December 22 : Children's Christmas Programme and Seminarians' Christmas Programme at the B.H.
- December 24 : Midnight Mass at Balangoda
- December 25 : Morning Mass at the Home for Elders, Balangoda
- December 28 : Clinique at the General Hospital, Kandy
- December 30 : Episcopal Installation of His Lordship Bishop Emmanuel Fernando, in Mannar.
- December 31 : New Year Mid-night Mass out of the Diocese.

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