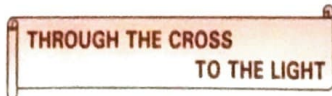


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28.12.2022 : CL / PRES/RN 158

**TO THE CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF RATNAPURA**

Dear Rev Fathers

Let me once again wish you all the Grace-filled complements of the current Festive Season.

1. As I have already announced in my Clergy Letter 157, dated 30.11.2022 we have fixed a meeting of the Presbyterium, after quite some time, on **Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023**, beginning at 8.30 a.m. The details of this meeting have been already intimated to you in the same CL. All priests serving or residing in the Diocese are kindly requested to attend it without fail.

2. We hope to have the Ordination of Bros. Nirmal and Benedict to the Diaconate on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 at 10.00 a.m. at St Joseph Vaz's Chapel. Bishop's House, Madola, followed by lunch. All priests are cordially invited.

3. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka (CBCSL) has organized a **Day of Prayer with Holy Mass followed by a Silent Protest in your Church premises on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. The CBCSL recommends that at least the main Parish Mass be celebrated that Sunday at 8.00 a.m., followed by the Silent Protest. I earnestly request all priests to cooperate with the CBCSL, organize this event which is meant to motivate our civil and political leaders to create a Just, corruption-free, anxiety-free and trouble-free environment for our people and justice to be done to the victims of Easter Bomb attack.

4. I request the priests of the Diocese to announce this event at the Holy **Masses on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 (New Year's Day)**, and to motivate our people to participate in it.

5. I invite the members of the **Episcopal Council / College of Consultants** for a meeting on **Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 at 8.30 a.m.** to discuss some vital issues. This meeting will be immediately followed by a meeting of the Diocesan Synodal Team. The day's programme will be ended with lunch at 1.30 p.m.

Repeating my greetings for the Season once again, and assurance of prayers,

Yours fraternally

† Cletus C. Perera osb

Bishop of Ratnapura