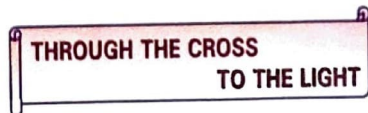


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6th March 2023. CL/PRES/RN 159

TO THE CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF RATNAPURA

Dear Rev Fathers and Deacons

May I, first of all, wish you a Holy and Sanctifying *Season of Lent*. *Let us try our best to spend this Sacred Season as fruitfully as we can, and urge our parishioners to do the same. It is a time of intensive prayer, penance, mortification, and contemplation of the Passion, Death and the Experience of the Resurrection of Christ, which should finally lead to our personal conversion.*

As an act of cooperation with the Lenten Spirit and suffering Christ let us reduce any recreational and merry making activities to the minimum.

Some Important Information

1. The Year of 2023 is a Blessed Year for the Diocese of Ratnapura. The reason is, for the first time, ever since the Diocese was carved out of the Diocese of Galle, we have five Deacons to be ordained to the SACRED PRIESTHOOD on the same day. It is a bumper harvest and great gift from God for Diocese.

2. Their Priestly Ordination will take place on SATURDAY THE 29TH APRIL 2023 AT 9.30 A.M. AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, GRAND STREET, NEGOMBO. I very cordially invite all our PRIESTS, SERVING IN OUR DIOCESE AND OUR MAJOR SEMINARIANS TO BE PRESENT ON THIS GOD-GIVEN OCCASION OF THE DIOCESE

3. The names of The five deacons to be ordained are as follows.

I. Rev Deacon Anacitus Sanshana

II. Rev Deacon Nirmal Kavindu

III. Rev Deacon G.K. Bastian Koduthor

IV. Rev Deacon P. Benedict Fernando

V. Rev Deacon Dileepa Nuwan Madusanga

Once ordained to the PRIESTHOOD hopefully, we fraternally welcome them into our PRESBYTERAL FAMILY. Their appointments will be made known to them a few days after their Ordination.

4. Rev Fr Srilal Fernando will be leaving for mission to serve the Sri Lankan Catholics in the Diocese of Palma, Italy, in the near future. Rev Fr Sidath Wilegodha has been appointed by me as the Acting Parish Priest of Yatiyantota, and as the Diocesan Coordinator for the Legion of Mary with immediate effect. Rev Fr Jude Wilson OSB who has returned to our Diocese, is appointed as Assistant Parish Priest at the Yatiyantota Parish with immediate effect.

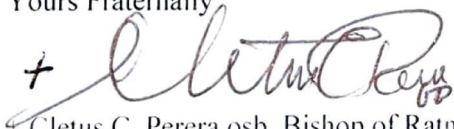
5. We are very grateful to Rev Fr Rohan Perera CSsR who has been serving at Hewadiwala as Parish Priest for over two years. We wish him God's guidance in his future endeavors. At the same time we are happy to welcome Rev Fr Maurice Xaviour CSsR who is appointed as Parish Priest of the Holy Rosary Church to replace Fr Rohan. I wish him a happy Priestly ministry in our Diocese.

6. The Mass of the HOLY CHRISM will be celebrated on Monday the 3rd April at 10,00 a.m. at St Joseph Vaz's Chapel, Bishop's House, Madola. The Mass of the Holy Chrism is obligatory for all priests serving in the Diocese. Hence All priests, both Diocesan and Religious, are cordially invited. Lunch will be served after Mass. Please bring your own vessels to take your HOLY OILS.

7. Since there is very little time before HOLY WEEK, and the likelihood of another increase of the fuel cost, we shall have no common day of Lenten Recollection for the entire Presbyterium together during this LENTEN Season. However I earnestly request the Deans to organize Deanery level Lenten Recollection in their own respective Deaneries with Confessions before HOLY WEEK.

8. Those priests who wish, may have their usual holidays / rest days at Bulutota after Easter.
Once again wishing you all a Fruitful Lent and JOYOUS EASTER.

Yours Fraternally



+ Cletus C. Perera OSB, Bishop of Ratnapura



Some of my assignments in March and April 2023

MARCH 07, Closing Estate Youth Project at Bulutota

March 13, Deanery Meeting with Some Lantern Reflections at the Balangoda Deanery.

March 19, Feast of St Joseph at St Joseph's Convent, Kegalle.

March 31, Meeting with the Sisters of St Joseph

April 3, Chrism Mass at the Bishop's House Chapel

April 6 to 8, Holy Week Services at Hewadiwala.

April 9, Easter Sunday Mass at Elders' Home, Ranwala, Kegalle.

April 25 to 27, C.B.C.S.L. at the National Seminary, Ampitiya.

April 29, Priestly Ordination of Rev Deacons Anacitus Sanchana, Nirmal Kavindu, Bastian Coduthor, Benedict Fernando and Dileepa Nuwan.