



INTERNOS

UBI CARITAS ET AMOR IBI DEUS EST



DIOCESE OF TRINCOMALEE

DECEMBER 2023



For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
(Isiah 9:6)



Ad limina visit to Rome – 6th – 11th November 2023



Laying the foundation stone for a New Church, Nawalady, Ganghi, Mutur – 16.11.2023



Blessing and opening of the belfry at Iruthayapuram Parish – 19.11.2023



Administration of Sacrament of Confirmation, Divine Mercy – 19.11.2023



Bishop's Message



My dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

We are in Advent Season, preparing ourselves and our faithful for a meaningful Christmas. We are also busy with parish Christmas programmes. Month of December is full of activities. Let us make use of this occasion to promote goodwill among people.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary was on 8th December. Mother Mary plays a vital role in the salvation history. We hear and learn about her role these days during Mass readings. She received her call from Angel Gabriel with faith and goodwill. She acted immediately on the message given to her by going to meet Elizabeth her relative. These are signs of her openness to the will of God. Nativity of Our Lord Jesus is another important occasion where Mary gave birth to the child in an unusual situation. She was not keen in asking why this happens to her but she "treasured all these words and continually pondered over them" (Lk2:19). Let us follow her example and guide our flock.

This year we lost Rev. Fr. N.C. Arulvarathan, Rev. Fr. Retnakumar, father of Rev. Fr. Andrew Stephen, Sr, Stanislaus Mary AC, Sr. Cynthia AC, Mother of Sr. Nivedha AC, brother, two nephews and one grandnephew of St. Elizabeth AC and my mother. We remember them in our prayers.

Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph falls on Sunday the 31st. It is an occasion to innovatively organize Sunday Liturgy and programmes in our parishes to bring awareness among our faithful about the Christian family and its values. Parents play an important role in bringing up their children in Christian faith and charity. We have pre-Cana classes organized every other month to prepare youngsters for marriage

and family. They have to be open for new life. Children are gifts from God. Our local tradition and culture support young couples and families to be faithful to God's call and gospel teachings. Vocations come from good families. Let us encourage and support them during this season.

But unfortunately, we have LGBTQI+ as the talking point in our society. Western world concentrates on this issue in the name of freedom, human rights etc. Though Trincomalee is not affected by this new thinking let us be aware of these issues and guide our people promptly.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2024!

God bless you.

✠ **Rt. Rev. Dr. Noel Emmanuel**

Bishop of Trincomalee.

BISHOP'S COMMUNIQUE:

Rev. Fr. Eugene Paul Jonathan appointed Parish Priest of Christ the King Church, Kanniya, Trincomalee.

Rev. Fr. S. Jeyaratnam appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Trincomalee.

Rev. Fr. X. I. Rajeeva appointed Vicar Forane of Trincomalee Deanery.

We wish them all very best in their respective ministries.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.





Bishop's Diary

December 2023

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|-----------------------|---|
| 02nd Saturday | - PMS Programme at Kurunegala |
| 03rd Sunday | - Pre-School programme at China Bay. |
| 05 - 07 | - Catholic Bishops' Conference - Colombo. |
| 08th Friday | - Confirmation Mass - Linganagar. |
| 09th Saturday | - Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting Pastoral Centre, Uppuveli. |
| 10th Sunday | - Confirmation Mass - Guadalupe. |
| 12th Tuesday | - Carols - Trinco Campus. |
| 15th Friday | - Meetings in Jaffna. |
| 16th Saturday | - Carols - Catechists - Jubilee Hall |
| | - Carols - Aharam Organization. |
| | - Carols - Guadalupe Parish. |
| 17th Sunday | - Gathering Centre for Justice and Change Pastoral Centre, Uppuveli. |
| | - Carols - Nilaveli Parish |
| 19th Tuesday | - Christmas Gathering of Priests and Religious. |
| 20th Wednesday | - Carols - Our Lady of Lourdes School, Palaiyoothu. |
| 21st Thursday | - Carols - Sacred Heart Vidyalayam, Iruthayapuram. |
| | - Carols - Girls' Home, Trincomalee. |
| 22st Friday | - Carols - Girls' Home, Uppuveli. |
| 23rd Saturday | - Programme by HOPE Organization. |
| 25th Monday | - Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus |
| 11.40 pm | (Sunday) Midnight Mass. |
| 10.00 am | - Mass - Prison. |
| 26th Tuesday | - Carols - Orr's Hill Parish. |
| 30th Saturday | - Carols - Catholic Youth Federation. |

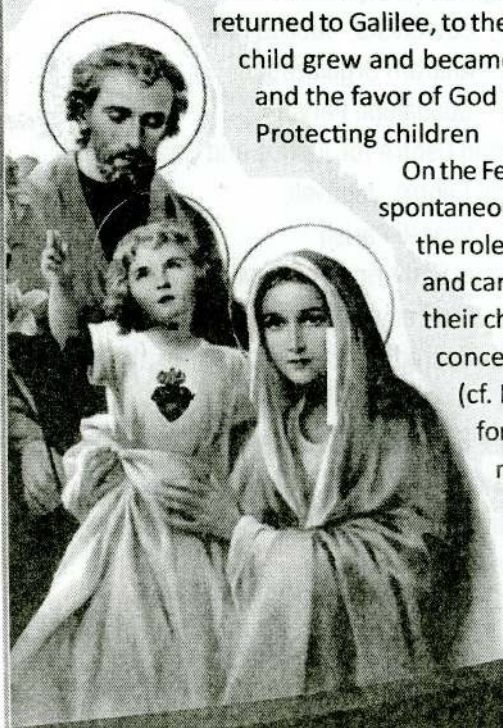
The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas. This feast developed at the beginning of the 19th century in Canada and then spread to the entire Church in 1920. At first, it was celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany. It is a Feast that seeks to portray the Holy Family of Nazareth as the “true model of life” (cf. Opening Prayer) from which our families can draw inspiration and know where to find help and comfort.

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord... When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. (Lk 2:22-40)

Protecting children

On the Feast of the Holy Family, it comes spontaneously to think of all families and the role of parents called to “cultivate and care for” (cf. Gn 2:15) the lives of their children from the time they are conceived in their mother’s womb (cf. Is. 49:1; Ps. 139:13-15 – “You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb”), helping them to grow and mature.



The mission of Jesus

The presentation of Jesus in the Temple and the words of Simeon and Anna to His parents reveal Jesus' mission, they break open the horizon. Simeon and Anna are elderly and have lived in expectation of this day. Simeon is profoundly religious, so attentive to the voice of the Spirit that the evangelist underlines it three times (Lk. 2:25, 26, 27): the Holy Spirit was upon Simeon (v. 25); The Holy Spirit had revealed to him... (v. 26); Moved by the Spirit, he came to the temple (v. 27).

Of Anna, instead, the text says that "she never left the temple" (v. 37). These are important features, because they describe the familiarity these two elderly people had with the Lord and demonstrate how much they awaited the Messiah prophesied by the prophets. It is this familiarity that made them "capable" of recognizing the Lord when He came. They knew how to read everything in the light of the Word on which they meditated day and night, and they knew how to go beyond evidence. It is truly the Spirit that guided Simeon and Anna to welcome and recognize Jesus. In this world they had their fill, they no longer had any expectations: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word..." (v. 29).

The Holy Spirit speaks to today's families

Today, the Holy Spirit still continues to guide "all peoples", "all couples", "all parents". But we need to listen to the Spirit who speaks in us. If the Son of God came to live with us as a child, and only the eyes of faith can perceive His presence, how important it is to remind ourselves that everyday things are never of little importance, that daily occurrences are never useless or purely coincidental. The eyes of faith are necessary to grasp the hidden and the beyond. Everything becomes a "place" to encounter or reject God's presence. Everything is a sign for those who believe.

The gospel of the family

To live the gospel of the family is not easy today. Those who want to defend life from the moment of conception are criticized or attacked. Yet in the Gospel we find the way to live a beautiful life on the personal and familial level, a way that is certainly challenging, but attractive and all-

embracing. It is a way that still deserves to be trusted and undertaken after the example and through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth itself. There are happy and sad, serene and difficult moments in every family. This is life. To live the “gospel of the family” does not exempt us from experiencing difficulties and tensions, of encountering moments of pleasant fortitude and painful weakness. Families who are wounded and marked by weakness, failure, difficulty...can rise again if they learn how to draw from the font of the Gospel. There, they can rediscover new possibilities of starting over.

Courtesy: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/liturgical-holidays/feast-of-the-holy-family-of-jesus--mary-and-joseph-.html>.

Remembering with

Gratitude

Birthdays:

| | | |
|------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 07.12.2023 | - | Rev. Sr. Francisca (HA) |
| 07.12.2023 | - | Rev. Sr. Roshanthini (SCJM) |
| 09.12.2023 | - | Most Rev. Dr. J. Kingsley Swampillai |
| 11.12.2023 | - | Rev. Fr. A. Arulanandam |
| 13.12.2023 | - | Rev. Fr. George Dissanayake |
| 22.12.2023 | - | Rev. Fr. Devaseelan (CMF) |
| 25.12.2023 | - | Most Rev. Dr. C. Noel Emmanuel |
| 28.12.2023 | - | Rev. Sr. Cecilia (HA) |



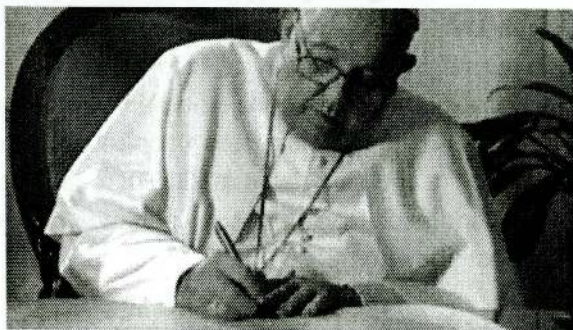
Ordination Anniversary:

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|------------|---|--------------------------------|------------|
| 12.12.2023 | - | Rev. Fr. S. Douglas James | - 18 Years |
| 13.12.2023 | - | Rev. Fr. A. Confucius | - 16 Years |
| 20.12.2023 | - | Most Rev. Dr. J. K. Swampillai | - 62 Years |

Feast Day:

| | | |
|------------|---|------------------------|
| 08.12.2023 | - | Rev. Sr. Joselina (MC) |
|------------|---|------------------------|

Global faith leaders sign joint statement calling for urgent action to address the climate crisis



Pope Francis' name is among the signatures on the Interfaith Statement for COP28 drafted at the Global Faith Leaders' Summit. The Holy Father signed the document at Casa Santa Marta. "In the spirit of unity, shared responsibility, and Human Fraternity" it calls for "transformative action" to address the global climate crisis. There are two key concerns: keeping the 1.5 degrees within reach and supporting the communities most heavily affected by climate change.

First, however, comes awareness. According to their statement, the representatives of diverse faith and Indigenous traditions recognize "the sorrow that many experience", and they highlight "the connections between climate change, migration, and conflict and the potential role for people of faith as 'environmental peacebuilders'". They also call for "urgent responses" that include "fast-tracking Energy Transitions" and "ensuring fairness and equity and what's morally right". Furthermore, they ask governments to transition from a linear growth paradigm to a circular model that allows for "a balanced and dignified life in harmony with nature".

Reiterating their appeal to governments and companies to "transition away from fossil fuels, embracing clean energy sources that nurture the Earth and safeguard its inhabitants unconditionally", the leaders stress that "no one must be left behind", especially people in the most "vulnerable communities".

To this end, “new financial mechanisms that address loss and damage” in an “interdisciplinary, effective and inclusive” way are essential.

The faith leaders express their own commitment to change their “consumption patterns, ensuring that [they] are mindful that [their] purchases and services reflect [their] ethical commitment to accelerate the energy transition and achieve net zero by 2050, as called for in the Paris Agreement”. They commit to raising their “voices for Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation” and to “uphold[ing] the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”. Looking to future generations, the document asks participants at COP28 to “act with urgency”, to act “collaboratively, and resolutely to heal our wounded world and preserve the splendor of our common home”.

Courtesy: <https://www.osservatoreromano.va/en/news/2023-12/ing-049/global-faith-leaders-sign-joint-statement-calling-for-urgent-act.html>.

UNITED IN PRAYERS

We have come across lots of deaths during these last two months.

- Rev. Fr. J. A. G. Retnakumar - Diocese of Batticaloa
- Mr. Jesuthasan David – Father of Rev. Fr. Andrew Stephen and Rev. Srs. Chamilda (AC), Florida (AC).
- Mrs. Mariyaamma – Mother of Rev. Sr. Nivedha (AC) Mutur Community
- Mr. Manuelpillai John Tharsius – Father of Mrs. Nishanthini (Bishop’s House Staff)
- Ms. Nirmala Rose – Younger Sister of Rev. Fr. Newman Muthuthamby (OMI).
- Mrs. Crysha – Sister-in-Law of the Bishop (Younger brother’s wife)

Let us pray for all our departed brothers and sisters and keep the bereaved families in our constant prayers.



Administration of Sacrament of Confirmation, Linganagar - 08.12.2023



Diocesan Pastoral Convention - 09.12.2023

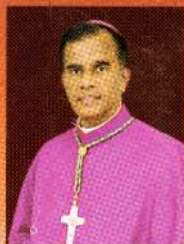


Administration of Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation, Guadalupe - 10.12.2023



Many more happy returns of the day

We, the Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful extend our warmest greetings and prayers to His Lordship the Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Christian Noel Emmanuel on his birthday – 25.12.2023. May God bless you with His choicest blessings! Happy Birthday!



We, the Bishop, Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful joyfully extend our fraternal greetings and prayers to Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Kingsley Swampillai, Bishop Emeritus, on his birthday (09.12.2023) and 62nd Sacerdotal Anniversary (20.12.2023). Ad Multos Annos Vivit!

Happy Birthday Papa Francisco – 87th Birthday of Pope Francis on 17.12.2023, uphold him in your prayers.



We, the Bishop, Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful joyfully extend our fraternal greetings and prayers to the Fathers of the Oblates of the Mary Immaculate and the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux who are celebrating their paternal feast days on 08.12.2023, 14 and 31.12.2023 respectively.

PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

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