

September 2025
VOL. 09



NEWSLETTER

CHURCH OF SS. MARY & JOHN

03, Stanley Tilakaratne Mawatha, Nugegoda.
Tel : 011 285 4067

WELCOME!

We warmly welcome all newcomers to the Church of SS. Mary and John, Nugegoda. We are delighted that you are a part of the worship community of this parish. All those who wish to enrol as members are kindly requested to fill in a membership form which can be obtained from the Vicar or one of our Wardens.



SERVICE TIMES FOR THIS MONTH

01st, 02nd and 04th Sundays

07.30am English

09.15am Sinhala

10.45am Tamil

05.30pm English

03rd Sundays

08.00am Trilingual Service *One service for the day. No evening service*

OUR CLERGY

Vicar : Rev. Sam Ponniah

Tel : 011 281 1072, 077 741 6681

Email : samueljponniah@gmail.com

Curate: Rev. Gamini Perera

Tel : 077 770 0712

Home: 011 285 2243

Curate: Rev. Ramesh Schaffter

Tel : 077 730 7544

Email : ramesh.schaffter@gmail.com

VISITORS!

We are glad to have you!

Ask for assistance from our ushers as you enter our Church and they will welcome you with warmth and kindness and usher you to your seats.

Web: www.ssmaryandjohn.com

Email: ssmaryandjohnnugegoda@gmail.com



PARISH DIRECTORY

BOARD OF WARDENS

Ms. Rukmal Fernando (Vicar's Warden)	Tel. 0777720823
Mr. Hiran De Mel (People's Warden)	Tel. 0767732506
Mr. Niren Wikkramatilleke (People's Warden)	Tel. 0771712251
Mr. Chumley Ranatunge (People's Warden)	Tel. 0773476579
Mr. Julian Manuel (Hon. Treasurer)	Tel. 0717441745
Ms. Niluka Wickremesinghe (Hon. Secretary)	Tel. 0774679256

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mrs. Ramani Jayasundera (Hon. Secretary)	Tel. 0777792962
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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE SENIOR FRIENDS' HOME

CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROJECT

Mrs. Ramani Jayasundera (Hon. Directress)	Tel. 0777792962
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PRE SCHOOL

Mrs. Shiromie Dharmadasa	Tel: 0773317501
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PARISH OFFICE

Parish Administrator Ms. Ranmalie Seneviratne - 0112854067/0724266366
Accountant Mr. Basil Perumal - 0112854067
Property Secretary/Fabric Supervisor
Mr. Ravi Peeris - 0777531675

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent	Ms. Romela De Mel	Tel. 0773583351
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COMMUNITY CENTRE

Manager	Ms. Kethaki Piyasena	Tel. 0112821097
		Tel. 0729544644
Caretaker		Tel. 0766299344

SENIOR FRIENDS' HOME

Matron - Ms. Debbie Coggins	Tel. 0724544544
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HEAD SERVER

Jenitha Jacob	Tel. 0716276187
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Your Priest's thoughts ...

Let us be a light to creation within creation

We are all living in the first month of the third quarter of 2025. Unbeknownst to us, eight months of the year have already passed, but we are entering a month that calls for reflection on our storehouses in God's creation.

According to the Christian calendar, September is the month set aside for the Creation. This, known as nature, did not come about by itself, but rather through a process of divine intervention. God, through His word and action, completed the creation of the universe in a wonderful way. When six days had passed, this process took place in a state of flux. The separation of light and darkness (Genesis 1 :5), the waters above and below (Genesis 1: 6-8), the dry land under the firmament (Genesis 1:9-11), the stars (Genesis 1: 14-16), water and flying creatures (Genesis 1:20-21), animals and man (Genesis 1: 24-27).

The creation is said to be good at the end of creation, and it shows God's goodness. Humans seem good to us because the Creator created only humans in His own image, unlike anything else He created in the universe. And according to Genesis 2: 7, man was not created by word, but by God forming man from the dust of the ground and breathing into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

I would like to draw your attention to two main areas of activity that took place in our parish this month and ask you to be aware of them so that you may receive God's examination and blessings.

1. It is a harvest festival

The biblical Israelites' economy was based on agriculture. Therefore, the harvest season was very important. The book of Leviticus set forth important laws regarding the harvest (Lev 23:10, 25:5). The Israelites were able to focus on God during the cultivation and harvest. Sacrifices were brought during the current harvest season (Exodus 22:29). The Lord's statement focused on the harvest . When the Sabbath occurred during the harvest, The Sabbath must be kept (Exodus 34 : 21-22). They rejoiced because of the harvest. (Isaiah 9:3). All harvests come from God. It is God who gives life to the seed and fertility to the earth (Genesis 1:11). God gives man the fruit of the ground (Genesis 1:29, 9:3).

Many churches hold annual harvest festivals and the proceeds from them are used for various purposes. As you all know, our church will also be holding the harvest festival on the 21st Sunday of this month . I am very happy that it will take a different form than other years One of the main things is that the proceeds from the harvest festival are not used for payment and are a great help to churches that have financial difficulties and economic difficulties.



I am grateful to the Vicar Father Samuel Ponniah, who informed the congregation about this and provided biblical guidance for that good work. The feast that is scheduled to begin this month dedicated to creation will be a meaningful process that will be seen through this event of remembering and giving thanks for what God has given us.

1. We-Care Kitchen

In this process, it is special that the conversion is taking place on this first Saturday. Our thanks to Ms. Sonali Figurado and her team, who have continued to work with dedication and challenge to this day, through the efforts they made to feed families during the Covid pandemic.

Instead of receiving parcels from this month, everyone will have the opportunity to learn about food together at the table. One common theme that all four Gospels mention comes to mind. Matthew 14:20, Mark 6:42, Luke 17:1, John 6:12. Everyone ate and was satisfied. Many doors of incarnation will open through this new step. I thank you, Father, for your good help in understanding this.

Looking at Genesis 1:1-3, we see a deserted, empty place. At a time when there was darkness on the earth, light arose through the word of God. He did not drive away the darkness that existed at the time of creation, but rather created light within it.

Today, you and I have been entrusted with the responsibility of bringing light to the dark, desolate, and empty outer world that has been waiting for light from the darkness. Matthew 5:14 Jesus tells us that We are the Light of the world.

As a church, we have a four-storey Community Center dedicated to working for the community, located in a prominent city in Sri Lanka "I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD, SAYING; WHOM SHALL I SEND, AND WHO WILL GO FOR US? THEN I SAID, HERE AM I! SEND ME (Isaiah 6:8). May you all be able to hear that voice, and be able to respond in the same way!

Father Gamini Perera
Curate of the Parish

WE ARE ONE IN CHRIST

We are many,
God's great diversity,
yet we are one in Christ.

Different faces,
different races,
yet we are one in Christ.

Butchers, bakers,
website makers,
bankers, tailors,
teachers, sailors,
yet we are one in Christ.

Fathers, mothers,
sisters, brothers,
single, married,
broken, carried,
yet we are one in Christ.

The happy, the clappy,
the barely out of nappies,
the ancient, the modern,
the famous, the forgotten,
yet we are one in Christ.

Some hopeful, some hopeless,
some cope well, some cope less.
Some sure and some doubt,
some whisper, some shout,
yet we are one in Christ.

Those with abundance,
those with need,
those who are generous
or wrestle with greed,
yet we are one in Christ.

Elbows, tummies, knees and noses,
kidneys, femurs, teeth and toeses.
Some unmentionable, some protected,
some accepted, some rejected,
yet we are one in Christ.

A broken body,
torn apart,
mars God's image,
breaks God's heart.

And yet our Father knows how the end will be,
when all his kids will sing in harmony,
the bride will dazzle, her branches bloom,
so add your voice to hymn the tune
that we are one in Christ.



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Get ready for fun! 🍁 We invite all children to join us for the Harvest Festival on **21st September 2025**. There will be lots of exciting games, activities, and surprises waiting just for you. Don't miss it—it's going to be a day full of laughter and joy



A special buffet-style lunch will be served at the Harvest Festival, reminding us of the joy of fellowship and the importance of being one church family. We warmly encourage everyone to share in this meal and spend time together in unity and friendship

!Announcements



Harvest Festival will be held on
21st September 2025,
(3rd Sunday) soon after the 8.00am Family service.



A Young Adults meeting will be held on
31st October 2025,
(Friday)
For more information please contact Ms. Niluka Wickremesinghe on 0774679256

VACANCIES

Senior Friends Home

Assistant Caterer cum Cook

Please contact
Ranmalie at
Parish Office

175th Anniversary Preparations

Historical records show our first Church building was consecrated on 06th November 1851, making our 175th anniversary in 2026 (Friday 06th November). The Bishop will join us for a Thanksgiving service on Saturday 07th November 2026. Let us pray together, seeking God's guidance as we prepare to celebrate this milestone with gratitude and reflection on our parish's mission

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

The Bishop has scheduled our Confirmation service for **16th November.**

Confirmation Classes begins this Sunday 07th September 25th at 09.00am and will continue every Sunday at the same time.

Sunday school will reopen for the third term on 07th September 2025

Direct Bank Deposits for Tithes & Offerings

Parishioners can now make direct bank deposits for their tithes and offerings using the following details. Please email a copy of the receipt or a screenshot of your deposit, along with your name and address, to ssmaryandjohnnugegoda@gmail.com for record-keeping and receipt issuance. Kindly mention your name and the purpose of your tithe in the reference section.

Bank Details:

Account Name : SS. Mary and John Nugegoda
Bank Name: Hatton National Bank
Swift Code: HBLILKLX

Account Number: 027010001201
Bank Code: 7083
Branch Code: 027
Branch: Nugegoda



For further inquiries, please contact the church office.

Church Doors will be open



Please note that the church will be **open daily from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** We warmly encourage you to stop by and offer a prayer whenever you are passing by. May this sacred space be a place of peace, reflection, and connection with God throughout your day.

THEME & THE BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

07.09.2025 - Proper 18 Colour - Green Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33	28.09.2025 - Proper 21 Colour - Green Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31
14.09.2025 - Proper 19 Colour - Green Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10	We thank you, heavenly Father, for the witness of your apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Gospel of your Son our Savior; and we pray that, after his example, we may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Lord to follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
21.09.2025 - Proper 20 Colour - Green Deuteronomy 26.1–11 Psalm 100 Philippians 4.4–9 Revelation 14.14–18 John 6.25–35	

The Bishop of Colombo of the Church of Ceylon has announced with profound sadness the death of a former Bishop, The Right Reverend Kenneth Fernando. Bishop Kenneth died peacefully at home on the 3rd of September in the presence of his dear wife Chitra and other family members.

People may remember Bishop Kenneth in numerous ways and give thanks for his life and ministry.

On Sunday, 7th September, Bishop Kenneth's body will be received into the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour at 10.30 a.m. and an opportunity for people to pay their respects in the Unity Chapel.

On Monday, the 8th of September (Feast of Mary, the Mother of our Lord), a Requiem will be held at 2.30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour and cremation will follow at the General Cemetery Borella soon after.

As a Diocesan family and on behalf of the Church of Ceylon, I wish to convey my deepest sympathy to his wife Chitra, Sons Premendra and Shani and his siblings Quinta and Colin.

PRE SCHOOL OF THE Church of SS. Mary and John, Nugegoda



At our Community Centre Pre School learning is hands on, interactive and fun. The Programme is strategically designed carefully planned and effectively delivered to ensure our kids experience the joys of learning.....here is just a glimpse of some of our activities.
Let the pictures speak...



Our preschool is more than a place of education—it is a place of discovery. Here, little children are not only taught lessons but are given opportunities to learn through experiences that shape their hearts and minds. For many, this exposure is something they may never otherwise receive, making these early moments all the more precious.



At Water world Kelaniya where the day was all about Water and the creatures that live in it.