NEWSLETTER

Province of Sri Lanka / Pakistan

December 2025 -Volume 39

"I leave the Institute in your hands,
You sustain it."

St. Mary Euphrasia

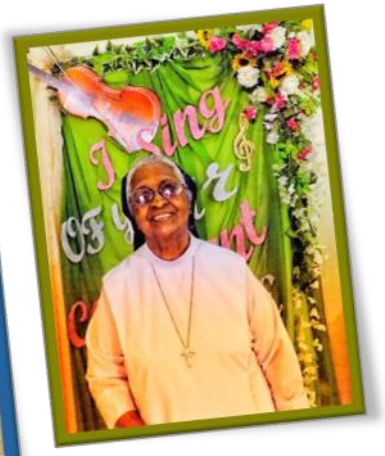


Congratulations...!

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Welcome to Good Shepherd Family

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Becoming a Living Manger for Christ

As we enter the sacred season of Christmas, we are invited once more into the profound mystery of the Incarnation, God choosing to dwell in our fragility with infinite tenderness and humility. The Eternal Word comes among us not in splendor, but in the vulnerability of a Child. In this divine descent, we glimpse the fullness of God's love, echoing St. Paul's words: *"He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant"* Philippians 2:7.

Christmas reveals a God who comes close; closer than our breath, closer than our sorrow, closer than our fears. Pope Francis helps us name this mystery: "Christmas is the feast of God's tenderness... a light that gently comes into the world and into our hearts." This light is not loud; it is not triumphant. It is the quiet radiance of a God who bends low to lift us up.

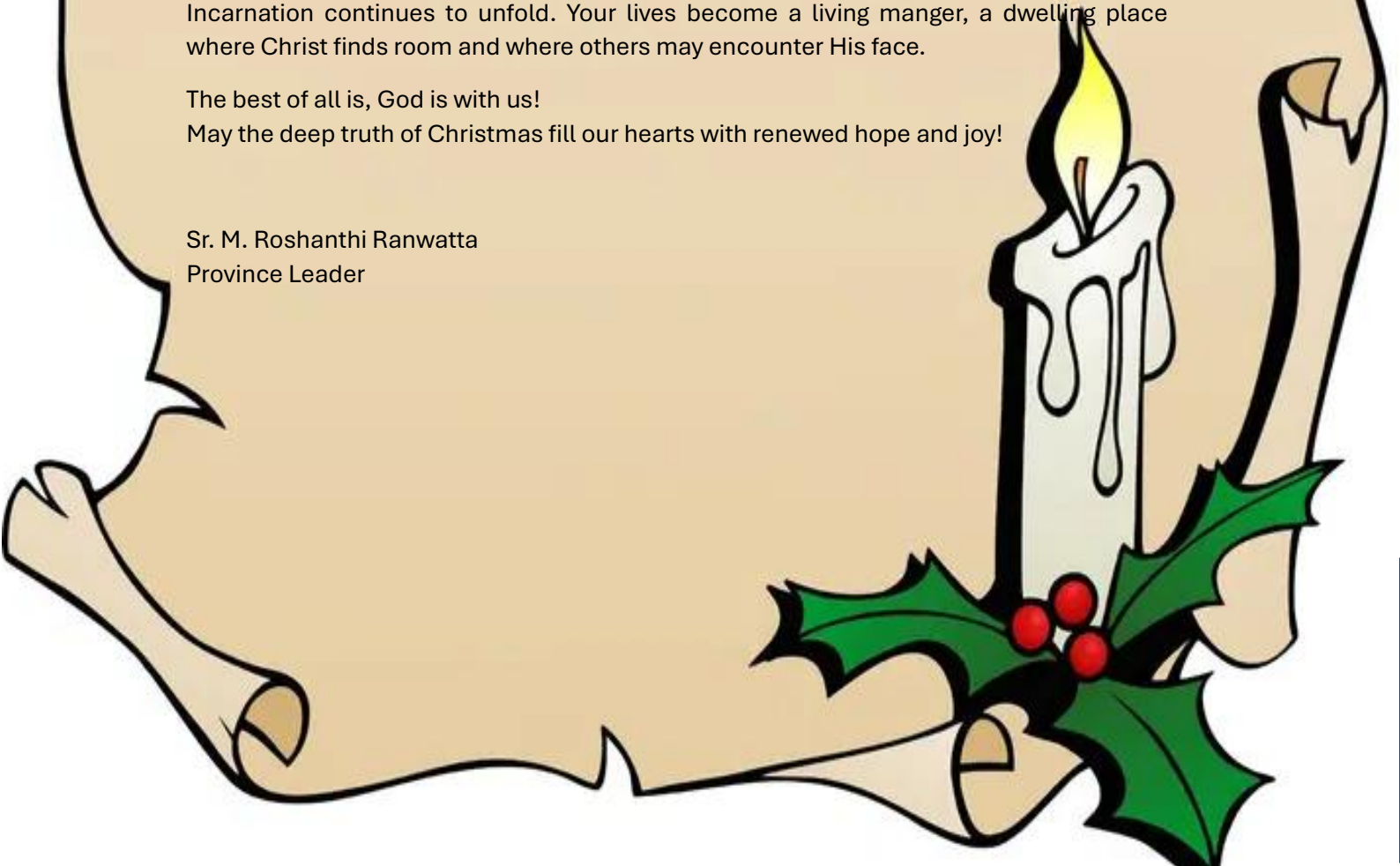
With this same contemplative gaze, we hold in prayer our sisters and brothers who are suffering from recent floods and heavy rains, families displaced, communities grieving, lives disrupted. Their pain reveals again how Emmanuel, *God with us*, walks in the muddy waters of human struggle. He is present in the resilience of those who rebuild, in the compassion of those who offer help, in the courage of those who carry on. Here, too, Christ is being born.

If God's radical love in Christ is the heart of our faith, then what we long for is already present among us, though not yet fully realized, and Christ now depends on our hands and hearts to make His presence visible. When we turn from this love, we lose the true meaning of Christmas and drift into a world shaped by emptiness and self-absorption. Yet God patiently calls us back, reminding us that we belong to one another and to the vast web of life held, sustained, and evolving within the divine love that pulses at the heart of all creation.

We are grateful to our sisters, partners-in-mission, benefactors for the quiet, faithful ways you live out the Good Shepherd Mission every day. Your presence among the most vulnerable, your prayer that sustains the weary, your courage to stand at the margins, your willingness to love without counting the cost, these are sacred places where the Incarnation continues to unfold. Your lives become a living manger, a dwelling place where Christ finds room and where others may encounter His face.

The best of all is, God is with us!
May the deep truth of Christmas fill our hearts with renewed hope and joy!

Sr. M. Roshanthi Ranwatta
Province Leader



Homily for the Concluding Mass of the 20th Province Chapter of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Sri Lanka

Theme: "Drawn by Love, Passionate for Justice"

Dear Reverend Sisters, and my dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is with profound gratitude and joy that we offer this Holy Eucharist to God, for His **unfathomable love and grace**, which He has poured upon us, especially during these last ten days of your 20th Province Chapter.

This has been a **time of grace**, a time of prayer, a time of spiritual discernment and envisioning; a time of healing and renewal, where we have sought to **refashion within ourselves what may have been lost**. It has also been a time of joy.

Your Chapter theme, *"Drawn by Love, Passionate for Justice,"* set the tone for all the proceedings, inspiring reflection, dialogue, and a deeper commitment to your mission. As you come to the end of this chapter in the ongoing manuscript of your Province's history in Sri Lanka, let us turn once more to the **Word of God**, to hear His voice at this sacred moment of closure.

The Word of God and our Mission:

The readings from **Isaiah 61:1–9** and **Matthew 20:25–28** encapsulate both our mission and the kind of leadership that can truly bring that mission to life.

The prophet Isaiah proclaims:

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to captives, and release to the prisoners..."

This is the mission of the Church. This is also your mission as Good Shepherd Sisters. And this mission, **to proclaim the good news and to set the downtrodden free**, should be achieved only through **servant leadership**. Not a leadership that is powerful or domineering, nor harsh or authoritative, but rather one that is **humble, compassionate, and caring**—a leadership that **feeds, protects, and guides** like a Good Shepherd. This is how Christ accomplished His mission here on earth.

In the book of Prophet Isaiah, Prophet speaks of the mission of the **servant of God**. Who is this servant? Is he the one who cries out loudly, who breaks the bruised reed or quenches the dimly burning wick? No. He is the one who **silently endures pain and suffering**, bearing witness to love through his life.

A Call to Pastoral Leadership:

Today, what we need is not leadership of domination, but **pastoral leadership**. And this kind of leadership is not possible without a deep **witness to the Cross**. That is why Mother Euphrasia once said: *"Our congregation is founded under the foot of the Cross... We are like burnt offerings, being offered every day for the sake of Christ's mission."* In the same passion she also said: *"Martyrdom is love that immolates itself."*

In the Gospel, we hear how Matthew's community was struggling with expectations of **honour and prestige**, perhaps influenced by Jewish and Greco-Roman models of leadership. But Jesus **denounces that model**, and instead presents a radical alternative: **a servant leadership that is countercultural**.

"Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant... just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve." (Mt 20:26–28)

This leadership is not glamorous; it is **costly and self-sacrificing**. To follow Christ is not merely to accept His teachings—it is to enter into the very **life He lived**, a life of **suffering and self-giving**.

This is what we are also called to live in our vocation. That is why Mother Euphrasia said: *"Putting on the mind, the heart, and the attitude of Jesus the Good Shepherd. In your life of labour, dear daughters, you are Jesus on the Cross."* (Chapter 20)

Ecclesial Discernment and Synodality:

As the Church calls us today to walk a **synodal journey**, all forms of leadership are called to promote **ecclesial discernment**. This is not an organizational technique, but a **spiritual practice grounded in living faith**. It invites every person to speak from conscience, and through that sincere sharing, to discern **"what the Spirit is saying to the Churches."**

This model of discernment must be promoted within our communities and Provinces, to build communities and societies where human dignity is respected, and where communion is nurtured.

Mother Euphrasia said: *"It is not enough to love; they must feel that they are loved."* Let this begin in your communities. It is not enough to say, *"I listen to you"*- our sisters must **feel that they are listened to**. It is not enough to say, "I love you" – our children, wounded ones and our elders should feel that they are loved by us. It is not enough to say that we are good shepherd – our sheep should feel the warmth of our merciful heart. It is easy to say but very challenging to testify to it through our witnessing.

Love is not unilateral; it is reciprocal. In the same spirit, members must also learn to collaborate with their leaders. The word **obedience** comes from the Latin *ob-audire*, meaning **to listen attentively**. Today, we might redefine obedience as **a call to mutual collaboration**. In one of his homilies Pope Francis spoke about four forms of closeness to us priests and religious – Be close to God, be close to your Leader (Provincial Leader or General Leader), Be close to your sisters in the Congregation and be close to your people to whom you are sent.

Where mutual collaboration is absent, authentic unity is impossible. Pope Francis reminds us that: *"Unity is reconciled diversity."* It is time, dear sisters, to strengthen your bonds—as daughters of **St. John Eudes** and **St. Mary Euphrasia through one spiritual DNA of Eudist and Euphrasian Spirituality.**

The Spiritual wealth of your Congregation:

Dear sisters, you carry a rich **spiritual inheritance**, the legacy of your Holy Foundress, Saint Mary Euphrasia. **Live it, protect it, and pass it on** to the generations that follow, not as an abstract ideal but as their birthright. A treasure not to be traded for worldly philosophies or the pleasures of this world.

Let yourselves be **captivated by God's love**, just as Mother was. That is why she said: *"The essence of our vocation is love."* As she explains the depth, height, and breadth of your mission is **Charity**. Let charity be the foundation and the goal of all your discernment—as a family shaped by this saintly Mother who often echoed the words of St. Paul: *"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."*

Let her motto be your own—not merely as a phrase, but as the reality of your life: **"The glory of God and the salvation of souls."** Mother said: *"This is my life."* So, the glory of God is the visible embodiment of this divine life that we experienced through the love of the Father- the Son and the Spirit. When we are convinced of

this **unfathomable love**, we will naturally share it with others.

For Mother Euphrasia, **salvation meant turning hearts to God in love**, in **continuous conversion**. Love means continuous forgiveness for her - just as God has forgiven us. And this is the very heart of the Good Shepherd mission: **to bring forgiveness to the socially and spiritually degraded**, to those who live without hope or love.

For Mother, following Christ and saving souls was not two separate calls—but **one covenant with the Lord of her life**. She was **drawn by love, ignited by a passion for justice**. For her, saving souls was not simply an option or a response to the needs of her time, it was an **obligation of justice**. To her, justice meant working to **fulfill God's plan of love in us, and in others**.

Three Cenacles and the Flame of Love:

Her philosophy was shaped by **compassionate care**, a deep spirituality of the **Holy Eucharist**, and a tender devotion to **Our Blessed Mother**. She spoke of three cenacles that nourished her life: **the Church, Holy Communion, and her Vocation**.

Dear sisters, **rekindle this Euphrasian spirituality** in your own lives, in your communities, and in your Province. Many of today's spiritual "poverties" can be resolved through the wealth your Foundress left behind. **Live that spirituality. Preserve it. Promote it through your living witness. I conclude with these words of your Holy Foundress:**

Saint Mary Euphrasia said:

"Love is everything.
Faith is love that believes;
Hope is love that waits;
Charity is love that sacrifices itself;
Adoration is love that worships;
Prayer is love that asks;
Mercy is love that forgives;
Mortification, martyrdom,
is love that immolates itself."
(*Chapter 5, p. 52*)

She defined her entire life in three words:
"I only loved."

Dear sisters, go and do the same.
You will lack nothing.

Prepared by Rev. Fr. Sagara Jayamanne SSS

A Sacred Journey

Experience of the 20th Province Chapter

The journey began when Sr. Maryanne Perera, the Province Leader, shared the news that sisters from the Pakistan Sector had selected Sr. Sobia James and Sr.Samina Mukhtar as Chapter Delegates. This being for them their first participation, they experienced mixed emotions—excitement, nervousness, and gratitude.

The 20th Province Chapter of Sri Lanka–Pakistan was held from 3rd to 13th September 2025 in Sri Lanka. It was a time of grace, reflection, and renewal. The chapter provided an opportunity for delegates to evaluate the progress of the past six years and to discern the future direction of the mission in the light of the Congregation's vision and spirit.

The **opening ceremony** featured a powerful symbolic act, pouring water into a boat representing the call to **revitalize the mission** and set sail towards new horizons. This moment was deeply meaningful, marking the chapter as a **time of God's visitation**.

A quote shared by **Sr. Joan Lopez** (Congregational leader) from St. Mary Euphrasia became a guiding light throughout the Chapter:

"Let your love be stronger than your weakness or your difficulties."

This message reminded participants that true shepherding means continually reaching out to the lost, the fallen, and the weak with unwavering compassion.

The chapter commenced with a **three-day retreat facilitated by Sr. Inigo**, which set a deeply spiritual tone. Drawing from the Word of God, Sr.Inigo reflected on the **Shepherding Spirit of Jesus, the Good Shepherd**, as revealed in both the Old and New Testaments. This retreat prepared the delegates to enter into the depth and meaning of the chapter process.

The sessions began with the sharing and listening of the Province's progress report over the past six years. This comprehensive presentation invited reflection on personal and collective contributions toward the growth of the Good Shepherd Mission, especially in the Pakistan Sector.

Throughout the Chapter days, participants experienced a mix of **joy, challenge, renewal, and reconciliation**. The process encouraged open dialogue, deep listening, and communal discernment. The facilitators, **Srs. Anya and Rebecca** guided the discussions with skill and calmness, ensuring that the spirit of respect and collaboration was maintained. These human resources from our own Congregation has boosted our energy within us and have encouraged us gradually.

The presence of the **Congregational Leadership Team (CLT)** added significant value to the process. Their availability and guidance supported the delegates at every stage. The cooperation between the **Provincial Leadership Team (PLT)** and the CLT was evident, reflecting a shared commitment and visionary leadership inspired by the Good Shepherd spirit.

We have experienced a visionary spirit in our Congregational Leadership Team. We are grateful to God for such leaders filled with the shepherding spirit.

The **time of election** was characterized by honesty, peace, and unity. Delegates expressed both their struggles and their hopes for the future. During the deliberations, the Pakistan Sector proposed joining a **Region**, a step believed to enhance mission effectiveness and collaboration.

Bidding farewell to the **Province of Sri Lanka** was an emotional yet grace-filled moment. It was accompanied by gratitude for shared years of growth and mission, and hope for new beginnings.

The Chapter experience was a time of mutual learning and spiritual enrichment. Delegates shared openly, learned from one another, and deepened their understanding of the mission. The entire process reinforced the call to be **women of contemplation, creativity, and courage**.

A reflection that left a lasting impression was:

"What if the darkness is not of the tomb, but the darkness of the womb?"

This symbolized hope, new birth, and transformation emerging even through times of uncertainty.

Conclusion

The 20th Province Chapter was a sacred journey of faith, reflection, and renewal. It provided space to **learn from the past, embrace the present, and envision the future** with courage and clarity.

Both delegates expressed deep gratitude to God and to all the sisters who entrusted them with this responsibility. The experience strengthened their sense of belonging and renewed their commitment to live the Good Shepherd mission with greater zeal and vision.

The Chapter will remain a milestone of grace—an invitation to grow, to serve, and to move forward as one body, guided by the Shepherding Spirit of Christ.

By: Sr. Sobia James & Sr. Samina Mukhtar

"Drawn by Love, Passionate for Justice, United in Hope"

20th Province Chapter | Province of Sri Lanka–Pakistan

With hearts filled with gratitude and purpose, the 20th Province Chapter of the Province of Sri Lanka–Pakistan commenced in an atmosphere of sacred unity and communal discernment. Guided with insight and grace by Srs. Anya Borbon and Rebecca Kay, our orientation sessions opened us to the deep call of the Spirit—to enter this journey together, as one body, grounded in mission and trust.

Sr. Maryanne Perera, our Province Leader, formally opened the Chapter, inviting us to step into a sacred space of listening, reflection, and renewal. Her words reminded us that this was not just an event, but a moment of deep transformation—an opportunity to realign our hearts with the Gospel, our charism, and one another.

Looking Back with Thankfulness

The Province Report, presented by Sr. Maryanne and her team, offered us a moment of profound gratitude. As we reviewed our journey thus far, we gave thanks for the challenges that shaped us, the graces that sustained us, and the faith that brought us together. With hearts open to growth and learning, we looked to the future with renewed hope and commitment.

During our retreat, under the theme "Called to Communion", Sr. Inigo Joachim led us into days of silence, prayer, and deep interior reflection. These sacred days allowed us to reconnect with the spirit of our Founders—women and men who responded to the needs of the time with courage, creativity, and unwavering love. Their legacy challenged us to reawaken that same zeal in ourselves and in our communities today.

As we named the contemporary struggles we face—materialism, individualism, indifference — we recognized the urgent call to return to the heart of our mission. We were invited to rediscover simplicity, rekindle our passion for justice, and embrace the radical Gospel love at the core of our vocation.

A Time to Heal and Recommit

In a sacred moment of healing and reconciliation, Srs. Joan Lopez and Josita Corera gently led us into a collective experience of grace. Through honest sharing, prayer, and

symbolic gestures of peace, we allowed space for forgiveness, gratitude, and inner transformation.

This healing process did not seek to erase the past, but to honor it—offering light where there had been shadow, and recommitting ourselves to move forward with integrity, unity, and hope.

Our reflections on the PLT Reports further stirred our hearts, inviting us to listen to God's voice anew. These moments encouraged us to open ourselves to new possibilities—fresh perspectives for leadership, ministry, and community life.

Charting Our Future Together

Out of the depth of prayer, listening, and dialogue, we began the sacred work of discerning the path ahead. Anchored in our charism and attuned to the signs of the times, we identified key priorities to guide the future direction of our Province.

Our conversations were honest and hope-filled, shaped by the desire to respond meaningfully to the cries of the world and the needs of those we serve. These emerging priorities will serve as a living roadmap for renewal—in our communities, ministries, and shared life.

Blessing Our Mission Partners

A poignant moment during our Chapter was the symbolic sending forth of our lay mission partners. Each was gifted with a seed—a powerful sign of the mission they now carry forward into the world. With a heartfelt blessing from Sr. Maryanne, they were released with our deep appreciation, trust, and love.

This moment reminded us that the mission of the Good Shepherd is not ours alone to carry, but one shared with lay collaborators, rooted in the same spirit of compassion and commitment.

A New Chapter of Leadership

With joy and deep trust in God's providence, we celebrated the election of our new Province Leader, Sr. Roshanthi Ranwatta. We accompany her with our prayers as she steps into this sacred responsibility with courage, compassion, and a heart centered in the Good Shepherd.

Province Leadership Team:

Apostolic Councilors:

Sr. Francine Muthugala, Sr. Madonna Wimaladasa, Sr. Renuka Silva, Sr. Jessy Nicholapillai

Contemplative Councilor:

Sr. Srimathi Peiris,

Appointed Councilors:

Sr. Rosary Perera (Apostolic), Sr. Rosemary Hewapattu (Contemplative)

As our Foundress, St. Mary Euphrasia, once said,

"Zeal must consume us; it must be universal."

May our new leadership team be strengthened by this same spirit of zeal and guided by the wisdom and love of the One who calls them.

Honouring Our Heritage Through Celebration

On the evening of the 12th, we gathered for a Cultural Night at St. Bridget's Primary School Hall, a celebration of heritage, creativity, and joy. The event featured heartfelt performances from:

* St. Bridget's Primary and Collegiate Schools
* Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena
* St. Lawrence's Convent, Wellawatte
* The Academy of Rajini Selvanayagam

The evening was filled with colour, song, dance, and laughter, as the talented children brought our hearts to life with their vibrant expressions. Their presence reminded us of the importance of joy in our mission and the beauty of generational continuity in our story.

Marking a Sacred Transition

On September 13th, we gathered at Nayakakanda for the Eucharistic Celebration of Installation for Sr. Roshanthi Ranwatta. This liturgy marked a sacred transition—a moment of consecration for the new leadership of our Province.

The Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Sagara, with Rev. Fr. Sameera Nikxon, Assistant Parish Priest of Nayakakanda, concelebrating.

In his touching homily, Fr. Sagara called our attention to the enduring words of our Mother Foundress, St. Mary Euphrasia:

“I only loved.”

These words, filled with profound simplicity, resonated deeply—echoing the very theme that opened and closed our Province Chapter retreat. They served as a divine thread woven throughout our journey—a reminder that “love” is not only the foundation of our mission, but also the destination and the path.

This Eucharistic celebration, full of blessing and symbolic richness, did more than install a leader—it sealed our Chapter journey in the very spirit of love that first called us into communion and now sends us forth renewed.

With Grateful Hearts, We Journey On

As we bring our Chapter journey to a close, we lift our hearts in thanksgiving to God for His unfailing guidance and abundant grace. To every sister, lay mission partner, and all who supported this sacred time through prayer, presence, and contribution “thank you”

Let us move forward, not as individuals, but as one Province “Drawn by Love, Passionate for Justice, and United in Hope”.

May the flame of our charism continue to burn brightly in each of us as we step boldly into the future, guided by the Shepherd’s voice and held together in the unbreakable bond of love.

Sr. Jennifer Fernando
St. Lawrances’ Mission Center

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Through 200 Years

The day dawned as usual. The air
fresh with a message.
Fresh air carrying a message anew,
Announcing that something great
was about to begin.
Four young women appeared,
aflame with love and zeal—
“Let us be sisters,” they pleaded,
“We don’t want to be Mothers—just
Sisters.”

St. Mary Euphrasia heard another
voice,
A voice of discouragement:
“If you have no cross but wish for
one, then begin the Magdalens.”
The children cry out for bread—
How can I refuse?

God came to her aid, making her
superior.
“Since you have been made me the
superior,” she said,
“we will begin the Magdalens.”

So, four sisters she birthed,
And through two centuries, the call
echoed—
“Come, follow Me—you are Mine.”
Mary Magdalene, the brave woman,
Faithful lover, set the example,
And the beloved followed.
So she gave birth to our first four
sisters.

“There’s hope for saints and
sinners”—a message for all.
Throughout the years, chosen souls
were added,

Traveling across the world—
praying, interceding, building
'Bethanies'—welcoming the
mourning, the hopeless,
Reconciliation-seekers.

From our corner of the world, in Sri Lanka,
We heard the call: "Come, be a Good Shepherd"—
Not in a sea fold, but remain with Me.

Hands joined in prayer, hearts beating as one,
Reaching out to the whole world.
St. Mary Euphrasia says, "Be like fishermen who go to sea each day…
The chosen ones will follow you."
And we have followed,
Lit a candle in gratitude—
You in your corner, I in mine—
Illuminating the world in thanksgiving
For 200 years of God's grace and protection.

Sr. Patricia Perera
From Contemplative Community.

Bicentenary Celebration of the Contemplative Sisters of the Good Shepherd

What is proper to the ***'Spirituality'*** of a saint **is a special emphasis, a certain enlightenment, pointing to a unique way of touching these realities and expressing them in daily life.** In the light of this, quoted from the preface of the book "***The Spirituality of St. Mary Euphrasia"*** we reflect how St. Mary Euphrasia took bold and daring steps responding to the requests, of her time. She is commonly known as the foundress of the Congregation of the **Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd,** since 1835. She is the foundress of the Contemplative Sisters.

Background and History

Born on the 31st of July 1796, Rose Virgine Pelletier, joined the Congregation of **Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge of Tours,** at the age of 18. Her first years of religious life at Tours were years of consolation as well as years of training in the art of re-education of the 'penitents'. Thanks to her novice mistress, Sr. Mary of Victories, an intelligent and a broad-minded woman, who had sown the plan of creating the 'Magdalens'. She encouraged Rose Virgine to immerse herself in prayer and meditation, the Word of God, the lives of the saints, the tradition of Our Lady of Charity and the writings of St. John Eudes. One of the favorite authors of Rose Virgine was St. Teresa of Avila who wrote about the Carmelite Spirituality. On September 9th 1817, **Sr. Mary Euphrasia,** (Rose Virgine) pronounced her first vows and was replaced Sr. Mary of Victories who was also the first mistress of the penitents.

Sr. Mary Euphrasia in her young age guided the penitents in a tactful manner with the help of the Lord. Her exemplary life helped some of the penitents to think in a deeper manner. Out of them four penitents expressed their future if they have the opportunity to live a life pleasing to the Lord.

Angenean Marie (31), Jaconet Margoerte (28), Lestoret Rose (26) and Bodin Elizebth (16). Responding to their request Sr. Mary Euphrasia encouraged them to pray fervently. Similarly, in Paris, at the Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge, some of the penitents had made the requested. The Paris convent had once tried to found the **'Magdalens'** but with very little success and thereby became a failure due to lack of audacity and far sightedness.

Until 1825, Sr. M. Hyppolite was the superior of Tours for two terms. During the period of 1820-1825 many girls had entered different communities to live in the Cloisters such as the as Trappistines (Cistercians) or other Congregations. Twelve had professed but some returned to the refuge since they could not get accustomed-because most of the girls were already adopted to the formation given by the sisters in the Refuge. It was in this juncture that four girls asked ***"Why can't we be sisters among ourselves here, those of us who want to be?"… "You will not let us be sisters here? We do not ask to be with the Mothers. Just let us be".*** These questions were asked from Sr. Mary Euphrasia who was very sensitive to others and began to think how she could help these girls. She asked advice from a priest whom she knew. Meanwhile she was elected as superior of Tours on 25th of May 1825, just only when she was 29 years old. Addressing the sisters with a ray of hope, she said ***"You have elected me as your Superior, I am not worthy of it. But since you have made me Superior, we are going to establish the Magdalens"***. Pointing to a unique way of touching these realities, Sr. Mary Euphrasia prayed fervently for the blossoming forth of the ***'Magdalens'*** someday. Making a reality on what is proper to the 'spirituality' of a saint, a special emphasis, a certain enlightenment and pointing to a unique way of touching these realities and expressing them in daily life, Sr. Mary Euphrasia took bold steps with the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit and the encouragement of Sr. Mary Victories, to found the Magdalens.

November 11, 1825 was a memorable day as the Founding of the Magdalen Community in Tours. The 4 girls who had been eagerly waiting, began their novitiate to be formed as Magdalen Sisters; Sr. Mary Euphrasia established the sisters of St Magdalen giving them a brown habit and adapted the Carmelite Rule. She gave them a way of life that was truly religious. They would take the three vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience; also observe strict enclosure and dedicated their lives to penance, mortification and prayer for the conversion of sinners especially the penitent. They received the names as follows:

Sr. Magdalen of the Passion, nee Angenean Marie

Sr. Magdalen of the Cross, nee Jaconet Marguerte

Sr, Magdalen of Calvary nee Lestoret Rose

Sr. Magdalen of the Five Wounds, nee Bodin Elizebth, all four of them made their profession on the 11th November 1827. Special permission was given to Elizebth because she was very young. She died ten months later.

In 1831, the 21st of June, in a letter, the Archbishop of Tours gave permission for three Madgalen Sisters to be transferred from Tours to Angers. This was the result of the request made by Sr. Mary Euphrasia. The three Sisters were: Sr. Magdalen of the Good Shepherd Chenon, Sr. Magdalen of the Heart of Mary Cognard, and a Novice, Magdalen of the Angels Bout. There were two girls who were already waiting as Postulants in Angers. So, on the 28th of August 1831 with these two Postulants our First Community in Angers was formed. The first clothing ceremony took place on the 25th of October.

The first foundation of Tours is very important to remember because it was there Sr. Mary Euphrasia received the first inspiration to begin our first community. In Tours she experienced the "birth pain". Since the Refuge community in Tours did not accept the Generalate, we do not know what took place after Sr. Mary Euphrasia left Tours. One thing is sure: the first four Sisters Magdalens persevered until death in their Holy Vocation and gradually the Magdalens grew in number.

In 1950 April 22nd Mother Mary of St.Ursula Jung, Superior General confirmed that: the Sisters of St Mary Magdalen are truly reparatory religious, and as such are in included as a especial branch into the Congregation. Therefore, added to the three vows, the vow of **Zeal** committing them to pray for the salvation of persons was confided. Zeal which enhances inner transformation and conversion is, 'Love in Action': lived out in hidden ways doing small acts with great love even in a sick bed.

Change of Name and Dress

For Sr. Mary Euphrasia Magdalen was a sign of hope; a person who had great love for Jesus; the woman who persevered even at the foot of the Cross. Sr. Mary Euphrasia wished that her daughters would persevere in their new vocation and be great lovers of Jesus.

Though the maiden name was the **Magdalen,** as time passed by not only the penitents, but also those who wished to live a life of prayer, silence and solitude joined. We realize that **'Magdalen'** was not for only **repentance** but also, for her **perseverance.** The Sisters of St. Magdalen adopted the name of **"the Sisters of the Cross of the Good Shepherd", in 1964.**

From 1825 the sisters wore a brown habit, black veil and silver Cross. **In 1969** at the General Chapter in Angers, the Sisters of the Cross were invited to wear the **same habit** as the Apostolic Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

In 1984 December, the first Assembly was held. Articles specific to the contemplative constitutions were discussed. Thus, the name "**Contemplative Sisters of the Good Shepherd"** was adopted.

Expansion – Presence in Sri Lanka

The purpose of founding the Generalate of the Apostolic Sisters of the Good Shepherd by Sr. Mary Euphrasia was to embrace the whole world. Making this a reality, missionary sisters arrived in Ceylon, in 1869 on the 15th of April, invited by Archbishop Hillarian Sillani, OSB. With the appointment of the third Provincial Sr. Mary Good Counsel Mills many changes took place in the province of Sri Lanka. One of them a prominent matter is the establishment of the Magdalens.

"Mother tell us about the Sisters Magdalen in Angers!" requested Sr.Bernadette, (Hilda Rodrigo) one of the 10 Auxiliary Sisters at our St. Euphrasia's Home. **"Why can't we have the Sisters Magdalen in Ceylon?"** Queried the gentle and had working Sr. Dolorosa (Charlotte Fernando) **"Better pray harder, Sr. Dolo, and may be some day you will".** Just as the 4 penitents requested Sr. Mary Euphrasia, these 2 Auxiliary Sisters requested Sr. Holy Rosary, having listened to the life story of St. Mary Euphrasia. Giving emphasis to these requested Mother Good Counsel sent Hilda Rodrigo to Bangalore, India to enter the Novitiate of the Sisters Magdalen on the 17th April 1958. At her clothing she received the name Sr. Magdalen of the Holy Redeemer. She made her 1st profession on 22nd July 1961. On the 5th of June 1963 the 1st community was

established at Good Shepherd Convent Bolawalana, Negombo. Gradually the number increased by the grace of God. On 12th October 1975, The Sisters of the Cross Community was transferred to the quietness of a coconut and rubber estate at Halgashana, Hanwella. Due to unavoidable circumstances the 30th August 1989, the sisters were transferred to Nayakakanda. By this time 17 Finally professed and one junior sister. Since the number was quite good enough to have two houses, on the 25th of November 1992, the second community was opened in Niripola Hanwella. Reading the signs of the time a contemplative community was opened in the village of Kalamulla, Kalutara, in 2006, 20th of April.

As the Jubilee bells chime in all the continents for the joy of the Bicentenary celebration of the establishment of the Contemplative Sisters of the Good Shepherd, we strive to live out the **Essential Elements.** Thus, we witness to the Primacy of God.

We thank and praise the Lord for His marvelous deeds in abundance during the past 200 years in and through all of us and we pray, hope and trust in the Lord of miracles that He may bestow His graces and blessings to journey ahead as we grow in number embracing the whole world.

In Jubilation – Rome / Sri Lanka

About 30 Contemplative sisters from around the world gathered to celebrate the **Bicentennial** Jubilee Year in Rome. A 15-day program was organized from 1st -18th November 2025 at the Generalate, to focus on the experience of coming together, connect with each other, engage in formation sessions and to participate in the retreat. The pilgrimage enabled to enter into a deeper discernment and reflection on the meaning of this Bicentenary Celebration of the Contemplatives and the Jubilee Year of the Church within the environment of the Holy City.

The Eucharistic celebration which marked the closing of the Bicentenary year was in Rome on 11th November 2025 at 12:00 noon at Casa Domus Pastor, Via Aurelia, Rome. Parallelly, in Sri Lanka, the Eucharistic celebration was held in Nayakakanda, Wattala, in the presence of the Contemplative and Apostolic Sisters and Partners in Mission. The chief celebrant Rev.Fr. Herald Thamel, SSS, Superior of the Blessed Sacrament Community, St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah, enlightened us with a meaning homily. He was assisted by Rev.Fr. Jeewantha Peiris, the Parish Priest of Maliboda, Avissawella.

We are very grateful to God Almighty His Divine Assistance received throughout the past 200 years and for the bountiful graces and blessings in abundance amidst challenges, difficulties and trails. We also take this opportunity to thank all those who have journeyed with us; supporting us and for assisting us in many ways. We assure you of our fervent prayers to all and we humbly request to join us in spirit for the continuation and the existence of the Contemplative Sisters all over the world.

Sr. Mary Jenita Johnson
Sr. Marie Iolanthi Nicholas

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බෙතනි පැවිදි හවුල.

A Call to Transformation and Love

Jesus deeply loved His disciples. He chose them with great care and called them His friends. They became true witnesses to His words and actions. Jesus invited them to be "another Christ" to the world. He gave them the power to heal, preach, and share His love with others.

This power came through receiving His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. The disciples were filled with strength and grace to live out Jesus' mission. However, while all received the same Body and Blood, Judas used this divine energy to fulfill his own will, not God's, but the will of Satan.

St. Thomas Aquinas once said, *"The proper effect of the Eucharist is the transformation of man into God."* But if we are not ready for this transformation, if we live just for the sake of living, without purpose or awareness, we may miss the blessings that God wants to give us.

We are called to be true to our conscience. But where does our conscience live — in the brain or in the heart? It can be confusing. Still, one thing is certain: we often try to quiet this inner voice. Yet Jesus is inviting us to be still… to be silent… so we can hear Him. His voice speaks within each of us through our conscience.

St. Mary Euphrasia reminds us, *"Think each time you go to pray that the Lord invites you."* She also said, *"Let us hide ourselves in the face of God. Let us be healed of our wounds under God's light in the Eucharist."*

Let the energy we receive from the Eucharistic Lord renew our spiritual life. May we open our hearts to inner change so that we can share the real love of Jesus with others...

Sr. Mary Nilushika Fernando
Marawila Mission Center

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC RALLY - 2025

A PRAYERFUL GATHERING AT ST. ANTHONY' S CATHEDRAL, KANDY

The National Eucharistic Rally 2025, organized by the National Commission for Liturgy and Culture in collaboration with the Diocese of Kandy, was held on Saturday, 6th September 2025, at St. Anthony's Cathedral, Kandy. The solemn Holy Mass was celebrated by His Eminence Arthur Cardinal Roche, accompanied by His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith - Archbishop of Colombo, Bishop Emmanuel Fernando, and Bishop Valence Mendis.



INSPIRING WORSHIP - THE CONTRIBUTION OF GOOD SHEPHERD CONVENT CHOIR

The Senior Choir of Good Shepherd Convent Kandy enriched the Mass with their harmonious and prayerful singing. Under the careful direction of Choir Leader Ivana Comester Perera, assisted by Johanna John and Rumali Mulleriyawa, the melodious voices of the choir brought a serene and uplifting spirit to the liturgy.

Meticulously trained by Choir Master Mr. Neson George and supported by the teachers-in-charge, who guided and encouraged the students throughout their preparations, the choir beautifully incorporated cultural rhythms in the Sinhala and Tamil hymns, adding a gentle yet meaningful layer to the celebration.

LEADING WITH GRACE: THE WESTERN BAND IN THE EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

Following the Mass, the Western Band of Good Shepherd Convent Kandy, led by Band Leader Sneha Silva and trained under the guidance of Band Master Mr. Madduma Bandara, gracefully led the Eucharistic procession. With the support from the teachers-in-charge, whose encouragement and guidance were essential in



preparing the students, their music provided a heartfelt and joyful accompaniment, bringing everyone together in prayerful celebration.

Johanna John, Ivana Perera &
Ruma Mulleriyawe
(Choir Leaders)
Good Shepherd Convent Kandy





No One is Perfect

A man and his girlfriend were married. It was a large celebration. All of their friends and family came to see the lovely ceremony and to partake of the festivities and celebrations. Everyone had a wonderful time.

The bride was gorgeous in her white wedding gown and the groom was dashing in his black tuxedo. Everyone could tell the love they had for each other was true.

A few months later; the wife comes to her husband with a proposal. “I read in a magazine a while ago of how we can strengthen our marriage.” Each of us will write a list of the things that we find a bit annoying with the other person. Then we can talk about how we can fix then together and make our lives happier together. The husband agreed. So each of them went to separate room in the house and thought of the things that annoyed them about the other. They thought about this question for the rest of the day and wrote down what they came up with.

The next morning at breakfast table, they decided to go over their bits. I’ll start offered his wife. She took out her list. It had many items enough to fill 3 pages. As she started reading the list of annoyances, she noticed that tears were starting to appear on her husband’s eyes. “What’s wrong” she asked, “Nothing” the husband replied “Keep reading your list.” The wife continued to read until she had finished 3 pages to her husband. She neatly placed the list on the table and folded her hands over the top of it.

"Now you read your list and we'll talk about the things in both our lists" She said happily. Quietly the husband stated, "I don't have anything on my list. I think you are perfect the way you are. I don't want you to change anything for me. You are lovely and wonderful and I wouldn't want to try and change anything about you."

The wife, touched by his honesty and the depth of his love for her and his acceptance of her, turned her head and wept.

IN LIFE there are times when we are disappointed, depressed and annoyed, we don't really have to go looking for them.

We have a wonderful world that is full of beauty, light and promise. Why waste time in this world looking for the bad disappointing and annoying things, when we can look around us, and see the wondrous things before us.

I believe that **WE ARE HAPPIEST** when we see and praise the good, and try our best to forgo the mistakes of our spouse. Nobody is perfect, but we can find perfection in them, to change the way we see them. It is necessary to understand the difficulties and be a helping hand to each other… **THAT BRIGHTENS THE RELATIONSHIP**. "We forget that forgiveness is greater than revenge." People make mistakes but the actions we take while in a rage will haunt us forever.

Pause and ponder/ Think before you act/ Be patient/ Forgive and Forgive. Love one and all. If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

St. Mother Teresa said: "Never take someone for granted. Hold every person close to your heart, because you might wake up one day and realize that you have lost a diamond while you were busy collecting stones." Remember this always in life.

This article is applicable to our life in community too. Let's make a list of the positives we see in each sister and share it with her on her feast-day or at Christmas as GIFT.

Sr. Winifreda Perera
Kandana Community

COSMETICS FOR RELIGIOUS

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness,
For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.
For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry
For beautiful hair, let the child run his/her
fingers through it once a day.
For poise, walk with the knowledge
that you Never Walk alone
People, even more than things, have to be
Restored, renewed, received, reclaimed
And redeemed, never throw out anyone.
Remember if you ever need a helping hand,
You will find one at the end of each of your arms
As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands,
One for helping yourself and
the other for helping others.

A Shepherd's Outreach of Love

On the joyful occasion of Children's Day, the Interact Club of St. Bridget's Convent stepped forward with hearts full of grace and purpose, reaching out to the children of Sashthraloka Vidyalaya, Dikkovita. In the spirit of the Good Shepherd—who seeks, uplifts, and walks alongside every child—the students of St. Bridget's became bearers of light and learning, building bridges of solidarity and hope.

This was no ordinary visit. It was a pilgrimage of compassion. The students of St. Bridget's not only journeyed to Dikkovita but also lovingly prepared and guided the children there through a series of joyful competitions and shared experiences. For the young hearts of Sashthraloka Vidyalaya, this day became a radiant memory—etched with laughter, encouragement, and the warmth of new friendships.

St. Bridget's Convent, a beacon of excellence in education, chose to extend its blessings beyond its own walls. In doing so, it modeled a profound truth: that privilege finds its highest purpose in service. Their outreach was not merely an act of generosity—it was a sacred gesture of equality, affirming that every child, regardless of circumstance, deserves the chance to grow, to shine, and to be celebrated.

The students of Dikkovita, embraced with dignity and joy, found themselves inspired and uplifted. Their confidence blossomed, their dreams expanded, and their spirits were nourished by the kindness they received. Such encounters do more than educate—they heal, they empower, and they awaken the divine spark within.

This Children's Day program stands as a living parable of the Good Shepherd's call: to seek out the lost, to strengthen the weak, and to rejoice in the flourishing of every soul. It is a testament to what is possible when institutions walk humbly with love, sharing not only knowledge but presence, not only resources but relationship.

May this initiative continue to echo in the hearts of all who participated, reminding us that true education is not confined to classrooms—it is found in every act of compassion, every hand extended, and every child uplifted.

Also The Interact Club is preparing to host a series of focused seminars for the O/L students of Sashthraloka Vidyalaya school, concentrating on key subjects essential for their success. These sessions will offer targeted guidance, motivation, and practical strategies in the most important areas of study—empowering students to approach their exams with confidence and clarity.

Interact Club - St. Bridget's Convent

125 years of Excellence

St. Lawrence's Convent marked its 125th year of excellence on August 16th, 2025, with a grand celebration in the School Main Hall. The highlight was a special Jubilee Mass celebrated by His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith.

An enchanting entertainment segment followed, showcasing the talents of our young Lawrentians. A new hymn to St. Lawrence, composed specially for this celebration, was performed by past pupil Ms. Jacqueline



Hettiarachchi with fellow alumni, while the school choirs and bands captivated the audience. To mark this historic occasion, the Postal Department issued a special stamp and first-day cover.

This magnificent day was masterfully organized under the thoughtful guidance of Rev. Sr. Mary Dilrukshi, our Principal, together with the dedicated efforts of Mrs. Umadanthie Jayamanne, our Vice Principal. Their leadership, combined with the invaluable support of Rev. Sr. Jennifer Fernando and the tireless commitment of the Sectional Heads, gave the celebration a sense of grace, precision, and unity. The dedication of the tutorial staff was equally remarkable, most notably that of Ms. Deepa Dissanayake, Prefect of Games and a proud past pupil, whose contribution played a key role. The Past Pupils' Association and the Parent-Teacher Association worked tirelessly, offering their time, resources, and creativity to enrich the festivities. Behind the scenes, the commitment of the minor staff ensured that every detail was handled with care and efficiency. These combined efforts ensured that the occasion was executed flawlessly from start to finish.

This Jubilee is not the end of a chapter, but the beginning of a greater story. One that every Lawrentian, past, present, and yet to come, is destined to write. As history was made within these walls, the legacy of St. Lawrence's was carved deeper into time: eternal, unshakable, and forever ours.











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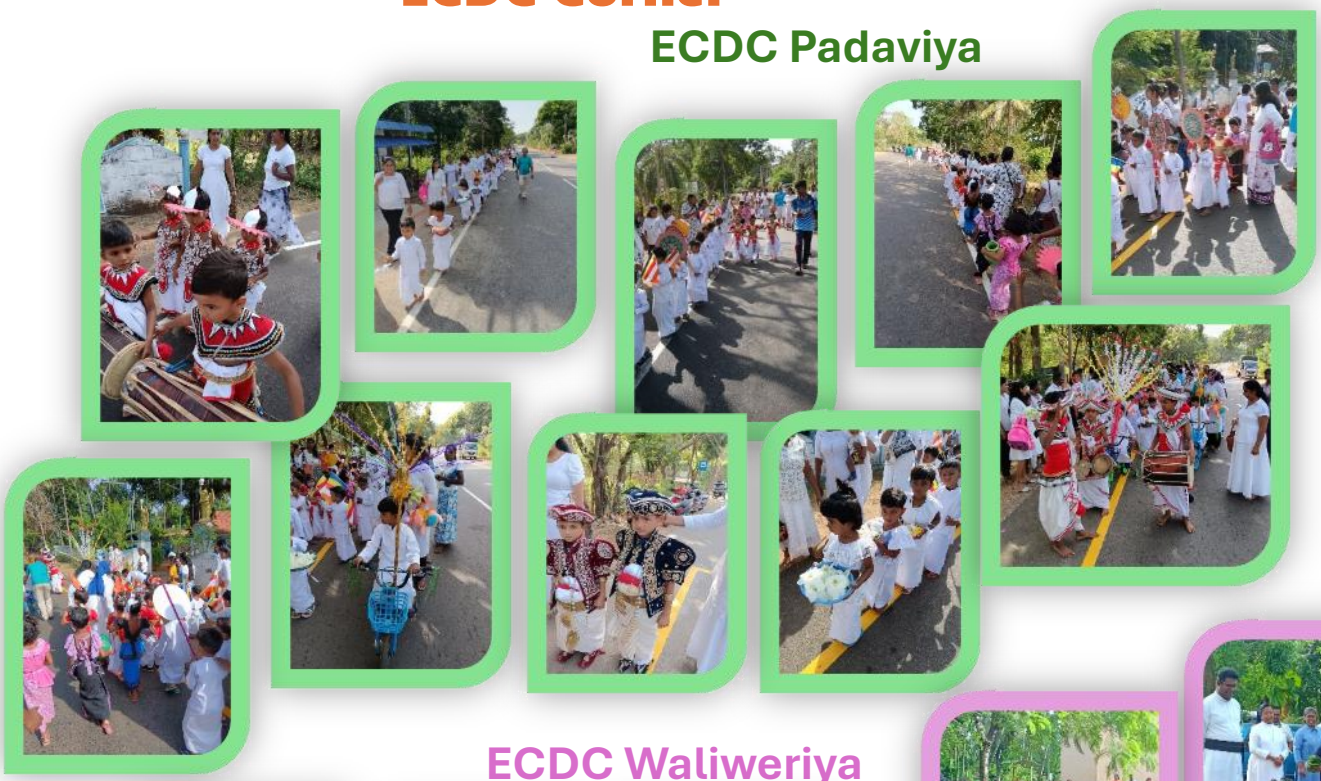
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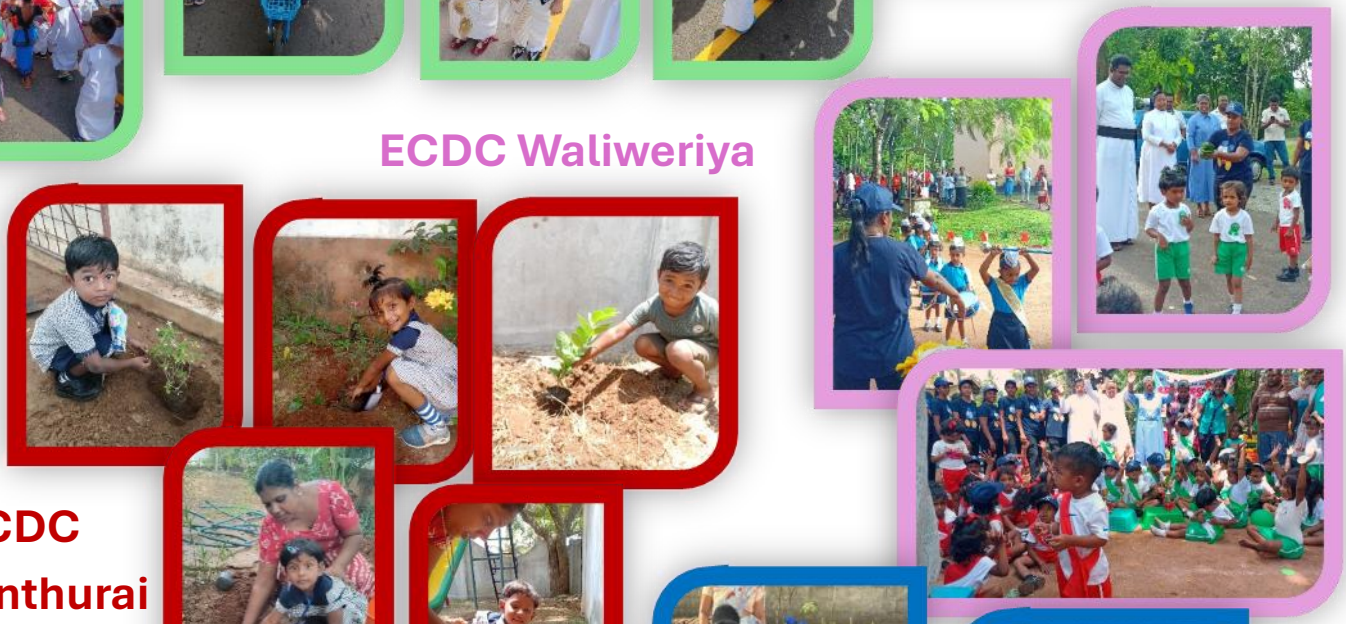
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ECDC Corner

ECDC Padaviya



ECDC Waliweriya



ECDC Navanthurai



ECDC Seastreet



Continue Page 29.....

Chapter 2025 Highlights
















































Welcome
to the 20TH
PROVINCE
CHAPTER













































































ECDC –Panadura

Panadura Crowning of Our Lady







Wesak Celebration





Colours Day









Birthdays & Feast Days

Birthdays...

December	
10	Sr. Bridget
11	Sr. Francine
12	Sr. Anestasia
13	Sr. Mercia
18	Sr. Vinitha
19	Sr. Madonna
19	Sr. Francisca
21	Sr. Noella
21	Sr. Nilanka
22	Sr. Marian
23	Sr. Sharomi
25	Sr. Chrishani
25	Sr. Damayanthi
28	Sr. Prisca
30	Sr. Chamali
31	Sr. Sumudu

January	
1	Sr. Chryshanthi F.
2	Sr. Grace
3	Sr. Celinta
3	Sr. Nishanthi
5	Sr. Loretta
5	Sr. Bernadeth
5	Sr. Teresa
5	Sr. Iolanthi
5	Sr. Freeda
7	Sr. Rosaliia
9	Sr. Rosary
11	Sr. Rohini
12	Sr. Mabel
12	Sr. Nicoline
13	Sr. Srimathie
14	Sr. Agnes Marie
16	Sr. Ruth Mary
17	Sr. Murine
18	Sr. Nivali
18	Sr. Lucina
20	Sr. Muriel
23	Sr. Ranjani Fon.
25	Sr. Marina
26	Sr. Chandani
26	Sr. Nilanthi
27	Sr. Sudarika
27	Sr. Goretti
28	Sr. Rani Agnes

February	
1	Sr. Nelin
3	Sr. Susila M.
3	Sr. Pathmini
6	Sr. Dhammi
6	Sr. Lourdu Mary
7	Sr. Anita J.
11	Sr. Judith
12	Sr. Priyanthi
12	Sr. Navamony
17	Sr. Marie Neomi
20	Sr. Sahayamarie
20	Sr. Lawrencie
20	Sr. Francina
25	Sr. Clotilda
25	Sr. Victoria
25	Sr. Lalani Eka.
26	Sr. Stanislau
26	Sr. Preethika
27	Sr. Prasangika
28	Sr. Hilda Fdo.

March	
4	Sr. Devika
5	Sr. Chamari
5	Sr. Primrose
5	Sr. Shanthi (J)
6	Sr. Annette de A.
7	Sr. Ramani
8	Sr. Florida
8	Sr. Regina
10	Sr. Samudra
14	Sr. Deepthi
16	Sr. Piumali
16	Sr. Suhirtha
17	Sr. Euphrasia
20	Sr. Wilma
22	Sr. Laetitia
23	Sr. Annunciata
25	Sr. Magdalene
25	Sr. Vinitha
25	Sr. Carmini
30	Sr. Angelique

"May God's goodness & love follow you all the days of your life." (Ps. 23:6)

Feast days...

December	
6	Sr. Nicoline
8	Sr. Sujani
8	Sr. Concepta
8	Sr. Sudarika
8	Sr. Shanthi (J)
8	Sr. Punitharani
8	Sr. Susila T.
8	Sr. Marie Neomi
8	Sr. M. Patrisia
8	Sr. Shamindani
10	Sr. Loretta
12	Sr. Janet
12	Sr. Chamali
13	Sr. Sothy
13	Sr. Rohini
25	Sr. Noella
28	Sr. Nimali

January	
15	Sr. Ita
18	Sr. Prisca
20	Sr. Nilanthi
21	Sr. Rani Agnes
21	Sr. Agnes M.
23	Sr. Sunita
29	Sr. Constance

February	
2	Sr. Susila M.
2	Sr. Murial
2	Sr. Nelin
4	Sr. Pearl
4	Sr. Lanka
4	Sr. Nilanka
8	Sr. Navamony
8	Sr. Emaline
8	Sr. Shanthi (S)
11	Sr. Dilrukshika
11	Sr. Lourdes K.
11	Sr. Lourdu Mary
18	Sr. Shirani B.
18	Sr. Bernadette W.

March	
9	Sr. Nivali
19	Sr. Wilma
19	Sr. Dhammi
19	Sr. Josita
19	Sr. Damayanthi
19	Sr. Jessy
19	Sr. Josephine
25	Sr. Priyanthi
25	Sr. Priyangika
25	Sr. Maristella
25	Sr. Suhirtha
25	Sr. Mangalika
25	Sr. Stella
25	Sr. Annunciata
25	Sr. Gratia
25	Sr. Grace

Birthdays & Feast days...

December	
5	Sr. Ayola
8	Sr. Vajira
8	Sr. Hilda C.
10	Sr. Lynette
13	Sr. Ranjani Fdo.
14	Sr. Ayesha
15	Sr. Sirilla
20	Sr. Subani
22	Sr. Jayamani

January	
21	Roshanthi

February	
2	Sr. Shanika (S)
2	Sr. Dayanthi
20	Sr. Chrishanthi B.
25	Sr. Maguerita

March	
3	Sr. Pathmini
10	Sr. Shermila
11	Sr. Chandrika
11	Sr. Gayathri
11	Sr. Lakshika
15	Sr. Beatrice
16	Sr. Susani
18	Sr. Dinesha
22	Sr. Cyrilline
24	Sr. Dinalika

Tears Behind the Kurunegala Expressway

When we travel on Sri Lanka's modern expressways, it's easy to admire the speed, convenience, and connection they bring. But beneath the concrete lies a painful, often invisible story—one of displacement, broken promises, and forgotten people. This is the untold story of the villagers who sacrificed everything for the development that never truly included them.

The previous government launched an ambitious plan to expand the country's road network through expressways. While the intention may have been development, the execution was far from just. In regions where the state had no ownership of land, the government forcibly acquired property from local villagers—ordinary men and women whose lives were deeply rooted in their land and water sources.

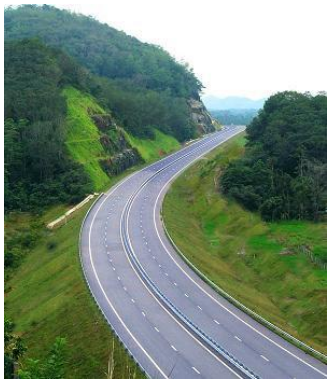
In exchange, authorities promised them fair compensation per perch, relocation to fertile land for cultivation, restoration of any damage to property, and protection of vital water sources. Convinced by these promises and with little choice, the villagers agreed.

Promises Made, Then Broken



Once construction began, reality set in. The community saw little of what was promised. The land was taken, but the compensation was either severely undervalued or never delivered. Protests erupted as villagers began to resist the injustice. One village leader was arrested. Later, five more protestors were taken into custody. The construction, however, went on uninterrupted. The cries of the community were silenced, and what had been assured to them was quietly swept under the rug.

Exposing the Truth



Refusing to be silenced, the villagers sought answers. They discovered that what was happening wasn't just a local development project—it was part of a larger, concealed agenda involving multinational interests. The Road Development Authority eventually promised that Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation would handle the compensation. A new agreement was signed. But to this day, the actual terms and the amount disbursed remain a mystery.

When students from Ruhuna University conducted an independent re-assessment, they estimated the actual damage to be four times higher than what the government had calculated. Despite these findings, justice remains out of reach.

Lives in Ruins: The impact on the community has been devastating: No compensation has been paid to many affected families. Homes have cracked due to ongoing explosions—making them unsafe for habitation. Wells have dried up, cutting off water supply for daily use. Paddy fields lack

irrigation, jeopardizing food security and livelihoods. Natural water sources have been blocked, causing environmental imbalance. Land boundaries are inaccessible, preventing farmers from reaching their own lands.

The Hidden Agenda

This expressway is not just a road—it's a link in a larger chain involving multinational corporations and regional agreements spanning 36 South Asian countries. The project plans to create 11,636 kilometers of highways within Sri Lanka to facilitate trade and business. But behind the shiny vision lies a web of corruption, where middlemen and agents have allegedly siphoned funds, and no one has been held accountable.

A Road Paved with Suffering. So how do I feel when I use the expressway?

I feel the weight of the injustice.

I feel the grief of the farmers who lost their land.

I feel the silence of the families still waiting for justice.

The smooth, modern highway may impress the traveler—but it is built on the sorrow of forgotten people whose tears have seeped deep into the soil. Their cries may not echo through the tunnels, but they remain—waiting to be heard. For the affected villagers, every passing vehicle is a reminder—not of national progress—but of personal loss.

Their land, their water, and their future were sacrificed for a promise that was never kept.

Sr. Lakshmi Fernando
Wattala Mission Center

"Wonders of Sri Lanka"

A Spectacular Primary Concert at Ave Maria Convent Negombo

The primary section of **Ave Maria Convent Negombo** recently held a vibrant and memorable concert titled **"Wonders of Sri Lanka"**, with the theme focused on **Aviation** and the rich cultural heritage of Sri Lanka. The event took place in two exciting shows, the first from **10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** and the second from **2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** on 20th of September 2025, attracting enthusiastic

audiences and esteemed guests both local and foreign.

The concert unfolded in the form of an engaging drama that set the stage for a unique cultural journey. The plot centered around a foreign couple, who after landing in Sri Lanka, are guided on an unforgettable tour of the island. This creative narrative allowed the audience to experience Sri
Lanka through the eyes of a traveler, highlighting the country's diverse culture, traditions, and natural beauty.

As the couple explored the island, they were introduced to the rich cultural values and traditions of Sri Lanka, all presented through various dance performances that showcased the unique styles from each of Sri Lanka's

provinces. All the performances were a true reflection of Sri Lanka's diverse artistic heritage.

The concert was honored by two sets of distinguished guests. For the **first show**, the primary section was delighted to welcome **Yvonne and Thomas Fohrigen**, a German couple who were warmly received by the students and staff. Their presence added a special touch to the occasion, representing the international connection that Ave Maria Convent fosters through its educational programs.

The **second show** saw another notable set of guests, the **family of Stephen Smith** from the UK. Their participation further emphasized the global nature of the event, bridging cultural boundaries and strengthening the bond between the school and the international community.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the concert was the full participation of the **primary students**. Every student played a vital role in the performance, whether through acting, dancing, or singing, making the concert an all-inclusive event that truly showcased the talent and teamwork of the school's young performers.

From the youngest performers to the more experienced, every child had a moment to shine, demonstrating their dedication and hard work. The concert was a true celebration of the children's talents, creativity, and love for their culture.

The concert was a heartwarming experience not only for the students but also for the parents and guests in attendance. The vibrant performances, coupled with the compelling storyline, held the audience's attention throughout both shows. Parents were visibly moved by their children's performances, and the guests were impressed by the professionalism and enthusiasm displayed by the students.

The show's success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the teachers and staff, who ensured that every detail, from the choreography to the stage setup, was perfectly executed. Rev. Sr Priyangani Hathurusinghe the principal of the school, Rev. Sr. Gayathri Alwis the vice principal and the head of the primary section along with the organizing committee and all the teachers of the primary section, led all of this and carried out an excellent task.

In conclusion, the **"Wonders of Sri Lanka"** concert at **Ave Maria Convent Negombo** was a resounding success, showcasing not only the artistic talents of the students but also the deep cultural appreciation embedded within the school community. The concert beautifully highlighted Sri Lanka's rich traditions and values, all through the lens of a fascinating journey with international guests.

With the participation of distinguished guests, a captivating storyline, and the wholehearted involvement of the primary students, the concert will surely be remembered as a celebration of Sri Lankan culture and the joy of learning through the arts.

Ms. Rasika Vinodan

Inaugural Session of the Student Parliament



The Student Parliament of Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena, marked a historic beginning with its inaugural session for 2025, held at the prestigious Old Parliament Chamber, Presidential Secretariat, Colombo. The occasion was graced by the Honorable Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament, adding great dignity and inspiration to the event.

This initiative aims to foster democratic values, leadership skills, and responsible citizenship among Shepherdian students. Stepping into the very chamber where national leaders once debated and shaped the country's destiny, the students experienced the spirit of governance and the power of dialogue.



The presence of the Honorable Speaker



provided the young parliamentarians with a living example of statesmanship, reminding them that leadership is a call to serve with integrity and vision. The session included oath-taking, appointments of student ministers, and meaningful discussions on school development, reflecting a true spirit of participation and responsibility.

The inaugural Student Parliament stands as a milestone in the school's journey to nurture vibrant Shepherdesses with fullness of life—future leaders who will shape society with wisdom, compassion, and courage.

Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena

We are One in the Spirit

"We are One in the Spirit - We are One in the Lord" was the theme selected by the sisters of the Mission Centre at Weligampitiya., for the day organized by them for their Partners in Mission, on the 15th of September 2025.

Sr. Marie Iolanthi Nicholas, mentor of this group addressed those present quoting from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, as well as from the Conferences of St. Mary Euphrasia, on the 'Good Shepherd', Love for Work' and ' The Bees' which made a remarkable impact on each one of them, widening their knowledge about the life of St. Mary Euphrasia and her teachings.

Sister emphasized that this group of Partners in Mission were sharers in a rich heritage due to the presence of the pioneers and above all because this convent, formerly St. Francis

Xavier's Convent, had been the resting place of Mother Solange Duschene (a missionary of revered memory) who used to stop there, on her way to Bolawalana from Kotahena by cart. On hearing this many of the members recalled rich memories with tears welling up in their eyes; stories of toil, hardship, zeal and commitment of their predecessors, thus creating a sense of purpose, commitment and importance.

Finally special prayers were offered, remembering the dearly departed. During fellowship plans were discussed for a day-out to Illagolla, Wahacotte, on the 6th October 2025 to pay homage to St. Mary Euphrasia at the church erected in her name.

The Kandana Community deeply appreciates the dedication, devotion and commitment of our Partners in Mission sincerely hoping that their numbers will increase as they journey together, believing that we are certainly 'One in Spirit.'

Sr. Marian Eusta
Welligampitiya Mission Center

Sri Lanka's Unique Biodiversity and its Ecosystems

The Environmental Society of St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 07 is a vibrant student-led initiative dedicated to fostering a deep sense of responsibility and love for nature among the school community. Guided by the values of stewardship, sustainability, and education, the society works to promote environmental awareness, encourage sustainable practices, and take meaningful action to protect the planet.

In 2025, the society proudly embraces the theme "Sri Lanka's Unique Biodiversity and its ecosystems"—a tribute to our island's incredible natural heritage, which is home to a vast array of endemic flora and fauna found nowhere else on Earth. Through this theme, we aim to highlight the importance of conserving Sri Lanka's diverse ecosystems, from rainforests and wetlands to coral reefs and montane cloud forests.

Our society engages students through interactive projects, field workshops, awareness campaigns, competitions, and expert-led seminars, providing opportunities to explore environmental issues both locally and globally. With a strong focus on youth engagement, our goal is to empower students to become thoughtful, proactive changemakers who champion sustainability in their daily lives and future pursuits.

Our Core Goals:

- Promote awareness of pressing environmental challenges
- Celebrate and protect Sri Lanka's rich biodiversity
- Encourage eco-friendly habits and school-wide sustainability
- Build partnerships with conservation organizations and community leaders
- Foster critical thinking, creativity, and leadership through green initiatives

Environmental Society Projects 2024/2025

Recycle Thursday: Turning Plastic into Purpose

Now in its second successful year, Recycle Thursday is a student-led initiative at our school aimed at reducing plastic pollution on

campus. Every Thursday, students and staff come together to collect used plastic bottles for ethical recycling, in collaboration with Chakra Suthra, a local organization dedicated to responsible waste management.

This program not only reduces the environmental impact of single-use plastics but also encourages students to adopt sustainable habits and understand the real-world importance of recycling. Through this ongoing effort, we strive to create a cleaner school environment and contribute to a greener future for Sri Lanka.

Small actions, big impact — one bottle at a time.

Project PenBin Love: Giving Old Pens a New Purpose

Project PenBin Love is an eco-conscious initiative launched by our school in collaboration with the Zero Plastic Community of Sabaragamuwa University. As part of this ongoing project, a dedicated PenBin has been placed at school, where students can responsibly dispose of their used plastic ballpoint pens.

Rather than letting these pens end up in landfills or contribute to plastic pollution, they are collected for sustainable disposal and recycling. This project not only helps reduce non-biodegradable waste but also teaches students the importance of rethinking everyday habits. The project was launched on June 13th 2025.

By turning even the smallest items into opportunities for change, Project PenBin Love reminds us that **every piece of plastic counts**.

Project Blue Echo: Voices for Water Conservation

Project Blue Echo was a two-phase environmental initiative launched in celebration of World Water Month, focusing on the sustainable use and conservation of water.

The first phase featured a school-wide art competition, where students creatively expressed the theme of water protection through drawings, paintings, and digital artwork. This phase aimed to inspire personal reflection on the value of water and the role each individual plays in protecting it.

The second phase was an online webinar conducted by Ms. Himashi, a respected expert in sustainable water management. Her engaging session empowered students with practical knowledge on water-saving methods, global and local water issues, and the importance of youth advocacy in solving today's environmental challenges.

Project Blue Echo successfully echoed the message that water is life, and every drop saved is a step toward a more sustainable future.

Birds, Biodiversity & Beyond – A Seminar with Mrs. Narmada Dangampola

On the 26th of September 2024, our school had the privilege of hosting Mrs. Narmada Dangampola, a passionate bird activist and representative of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS), for an inspiring seminar on avian conservation and biodiversity awareness.

Mrs. Dangampola shared her vast knowledge about Sri Lanka's rich birdlife, the ecological importance of birds, and the growing threats they face due to habitat loss and human activity. Through captivating stories, photographs, and expert insights, she encouraged students to become mindful observers of nature and take active roles in protecting the environment.

The seminar was an eye-opening experience that deepened students 'appreciation for the delicate balance of ecosystems and the role each individual can play in preserving our natural heritage.

The Environmental Society of St. Bridget's convent celebrated Environmental day 2025 on the 11th of September 2025. Prior to the day the society members participated in two phases.

Phase 01: Dilmah Workshop

On the 12th of August 2025, 25 members of our Society, together with our teacher-in-Charge Mrs. Michelle, had the opportunity to visit the Dilmah Conservation Centre.

The day began with an inspiring lecture on sustainability, where we explored its meaning, importance for future generations, and the challenges we face in making it a reality.

The tour consisted of:

- The Organic Farm, where we learned about natural farming methods, vertical gardening, and how organic waste can be turned into renewable energy.
- The Forest Arboretum, where we discovered Sri Lanka's unique endemic plants, the threat of invasive species, and the value of green spaces in cities as carbon sinks and biodiversity sanctuaries.
- And finally, the Butterfly Garden, a vibrant haven alive with pollinators. Here we understood how butterflies are indicators of environmental health, and how even small gardens at home can provide safe havens for them.

This workshop gave us knowledge, inspiration, and a renewed sense of responsibility towards sustainability and conservation.

Phase 02: Scar workshop

For the second phase of our initiative, 15 members of our Society had the wonderful opportunity to explore Diyasaru Park under the expert guidance of Mr. Amavin from SCAR.

This experience opened our eyes to the true value of wetlands. We learned how they act as natural water filters, protect us from floods, and provide safe havens for countless species. Wetlands are not just "swamps" to be ignored, they're living, breathing ecosystems that support both people and wildlife.

As we toured the park, we observed its rich biodiversity first-hand: from shimmering schools of fish, to unique aquatic plants, to birds and other animals that call the wetlands their home. Every step reminded us that these ecosystems are interconnected and fragile, and that conserving them is essential for a healthier future.

Environmental Day 2025 – Whiskers of the Wetlands

Our Environment Society proudly hosted Environmental Day 2025 under the theme "Whiskers of the Wetlands", celebrating the beauty and importance of our precious wetland ecosystems.

We were honored to welcome Miss Anya Rathnayaka, Co- founder of Small Cat Advocacy and Research (SCAR) our Chief Guest, whose inspiring presence and expertise brought greater awareness to the significance of protecting our environment and the incredible species that call our wetlands home.

The day was filled with learning, creativity, and enthusiasm as our students came together to highlight the value of conservation and the urgent need to protect nature for future generations.

Environmental Society
St. Bridget's Convent

Living as the Tender Shepherd:
Compassion in Action

Children holding books – joy of learning together



When Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd, He gave us an image of love that is both tender and practical. A shepherd does not remain distant—he walks with his flock, protects them, and gently guides them to places of safety and nourishment. This image is at the heart of our mission today: to walk with children and families in their daily struggles, offering not only words but concrete actions of care and support.

Sister with children – guiding with presence



Our work with children makes this mission visible. Many of them come from situations of hardship—facing poverty, lack of resources, or limited opportunities for learning. Yet their hearts are full of life, laughter, and a desire to grow. By offering spaces of education, play, and encouragement, we create environments where they can discover their dignity and gifts. A kind word, help with reading, a safe place to gather—all of these become signs of the Good Shepherd's love.

Children with artwork – creativity and hope



Tenderness is not abstract; it is lived out in simple, practical ways. Giving a child a book, sharing a meal, encouraging creativity, listening to their concerns, or standing with families in their struggles—these acts weave together a community of hope. As sisters, volunteers, and friends, we are called to be present, to accompany, and to build bridges of compassion that strengthen both children and society.

The Call for All of Us

The Good Shepherd invites each of us to share in this mission. Whether through teaching, mentoring, offering resources, or giving time, every act of compassion helps children grow in confidence and communities grow in love. Together, we witness to God's presence in the world, not only in words but in concrete deeds of care.

If we live and share these values of tenderness and compassion, our communities will flourish, and the world will indeed be a more beautiful place.

Sr. M. Chandrika Perera
Munnakkaraya Mission Center

Punchi Paada – 2025
Little Steps in a Grand Tradition

Sri Lanka is a land blessed with a rich cultural tapestry, where traditions are woven into the daily lives of its people. Among these, the perahera stands as one of the island's most treasured cultural celebrations. The Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy hosts the grand *Esala Perahera*, a dazzling procession of dancers, drummers, flag bearers, and elephants that has captured the hearts of millions for centuries. These pageants are not merely spectacles of color and sound; they are profound expressions of faith, unity, and heritage.

It was in the spirit of this great tradition that the Primary Section of Good Shepherd Convent, Colombo, organized its own cultural pageant, *Punchi Paada – 2025*. The name, meaning "little steps," reflected both the innocence of childhood and the promise of carrying forward age-old customs into the future. Presented by the Grade 1 and 2 students, the perahera was a vibrant blend of creativity, artistry, and youthful joy, transforming the school grounds into a living celebration of Sri Lanka's cultural pride.

The procession unfolded in a carefully arranged sequence of performances, each with its own charm and significance. It began with the *whip crackers*, their loud rhythmic cracks echoing across the grounds. Traditionally, whip crackers herald the arrival of a procession, and the young performers captured this spirit with infectious energy, filling the audience with anticipation for what was to follow.

The pageant then softened into a display of freshness and beauty as the *flower bicycles* rolled in. Young riders, proudly pedaling their cycles decorated with garlands of blossoms, created a vision of creativity and innocence. This charming display symbolized growth, joy, and the blossoming of new generations nurtured by tradition.

Following closely were the *flag bearers*, their colorful banners swaying gracefully in the breeze. The children carried their flags with dignity and pride, evoking the grandeur of national and cultural pageantry. They were succeeded by the *nilames*, who entered in regal attire, representing the noble guardianship that has long been associated with Sri Lanka's great peraheras. Their presence added elegance and solemnity to the event.

The vibrant rhythms of the *Kandyan dancers* soon took over, as little performers in glittering costumes showcased one of the island's most iconic classical dances. Their graceful movements, coupled with the resonating beat of the drums, drew loud applause from parents and guests alike. Immediately after, the *lee keli* dancers enlivened the atmosphere, skillfully clashing their sticks in perfect harmony. The sharp beats and synchronized movements reflected teamwork, discipline, and festive cheer.

The perahera reached new heights of excitement with the *kawadi dancers*. Dressed in bright colors and moving to energetic rhythms, these young performers filled the grounds with infectious enthusiasm. Their spirited steps brought laughter, clapping, and cheers from the delighted audience. Then came the enchanting *peacock dance*, a performance of elegance and grace that symbolized beauty, spirituality, and divine blessings. The children's delicate movements, enhanced by colorful costumes, left the audience spellbound.

Finally, the perahera reached its climax with the arrival of a grand *elephant*—a creative representation built and carried by the students. In Sri Lanka's traditional pageants, the elephant symbolizes majesty and reverence, and the children's imaginative recreation captured that sense of wonder. It was a fitting conclusion to a procession that combined tradition with youthful creativity.

Yet, beyond the dazzle of costumes and music, *Punchi Paada – 2025* carried a deeper message. It was a celebration of unity, community, and togetherness. The perahera was not just about cultural display; it was about the children learning the value of heritage, teamwork, and

pride in their roots. Teachers, parents, and students worked hand in hand to bring the event to life, reflecting the strong bonds within the Good Shepherd Convent family.

Adding prestige to the occasion was the presence of distinguished guests from the Zonal Education Office of Colombo. Their participation not only honored the school but also underscored the importance of nurturing cultural awareness at the primary level. The officials commended the young Shepherdians for their spirited performances and praised the dedication of teachers and parents who guided them.

As the cheers and applause echoed through the grounds, one truth became clear—traditions are not bound by age. In the joyful steps of children, in their colorful dances and innocent smiles, Sri Lanka's timeless heritage finds new life. *Punchi Paada – 2025* was more than a school event; it was a promise that the little steps of today will lead to the great processions of tomorrow.

Good Shepherd Convent - Kotahena

Children's Day in Kandana

The late- famous Singer Michal Jackson sang 'We are the world, we are the Children, we are the ones who make a brighter day" Giving life and meaning to that song, the Kandana community organized an extra ordinary programme for the children of Kandawatta, Pubudugama, Indivitiya, Batagama and Kandana, in the GOOD SHPHERD CONVENT premises on 4th October, 2025 at 9.00 am which prolonged until 3.00 pm.

Srs. Susila and Marian accompanied children from Batagama and Indivitiya, Mr. Bevely Fernando (Sr Blossom`s brother) and Sr Iolanthi too were invited for the programme. The programme commenced at 9.00am with a wonderful gathering at the feet of ST MARY EUPHRASIA at the main entrance. Sr Felicia invited to elect leaders Representing each area and flowers were offered to mother MARY. We had a beautiful prayer service prepared by Sr. Marina invoking graces and blessings from the LORD.

Then Sr Iolanthi introduced the 'NAME GAME` to the children to help one another feel at home. After the refreshment, all were eagerly waiting for the arrival of the guest speaker of the day. A son of the soil, a product of the church, famous actor and singer, Mr. RODNEY WARNAKULASOORIYA was welcomed by Sr. Felicia Hettiarachchi and few children. Mr.Rodney was able to win the hearts not only of the children but the whole gathering. His creative input was based on keeping the, environment clean, to be better people and to make use of GOD given talents. Children were enlightened by the creative input, and enjoyed the presentation very much.

A talent show was organized after the fellowship meal. Children had prepared songs, dances as they show-cased with pride and delight. Sr Iolanthi kept the group alive, awake and active with riddles and creative acts. Mr Nirosh generously shared his time while Ravi and Vishaka, a very devoted couple of Kandana parish, and benefactors of the sisters gave their fullest support and corporation to make the day joyful.

We the community of KANDANA are very grateful to our HEAVENLY FATHER, for enlightening us to do something for these children, who most of them belong to the less privileged category. We are delighted in the LORD for inspiring us to do something for the least in society. We wish that this event will make an impact in their lives to have a happy, bright, meaningful childhood and better future.

Sr Felicia Hettiarachchi
Kandana Mission Center

A Symphony of Unity and Talent

On Saturday, the 12th of July 2025, the grand stage of Nelum Pokuna came alive with rhythm, harmony, and celebration as St. Bridget's Convent proudly hosted "The Sound of Drums"—a spectacular band show that resonated far beyond its musical notes.

This remarkable event brought together 13 invited schools, each part of the Good Shepherd network, in a vibrant display of unity, artistry, and youthful brilliance. It was more than a concert—it was a communion of hearts, a platform where students could shine, share, and uplift one another through the universal language of music.

From the first beat to the final crescendo, the evening was a testament to the power of collaboration and the reverence our students hold for the musical arts. Each performance echoed with dedication, discipline, and joy, transforming the stage into a sacred space of expression and celebration.

The event not only showcased the immense talent nurtured within our schools but also strengthened the bonds of sisterhood and solidarity among the Good Shepherd institutions. It was a proud moment for St. Bridget's Convent to lead this initiative, offering students a stage to dream, perform, and inspire.

As the drums faded into the night, what remained was a deep sense of gratitude—for the music, the memories, and the shared journey. Truly, "The Sound of Drums" was a heartbeat of hope, echoing the spirit of the Good Shepherd in every note.

St. Bridget's Convent

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දෙවියන් වහන්සේ ලෝකය මවා එය මනරම් බව දුටු සේක.(උත්. 1:12) එතුමාණෝ ඔබට, මට ආරාධනා කරන්නේ එහි මනරම් බව, එහි සතුට සැනසීම භුක්ති විඳීමටය. මන්ද ඇය වරෙක මාතාවකි. විටෙක සහෝදරියකි. තවත් මොහොතක හිතවත් අසල්වැසියකි. උදේට පායන හිරු, රෑ අඳුර දුරු කරන සඳ, අහස් කුස සරසන තරු රටා, ඇතින් ඇසෙන කුරුලු හඬ, තුරුලතා, රසගුණ පිරි ගඩා ගෙඩි, සිත පුබුදන නෙක නෙක පුෂ්පයන්, කඩා හැලෙන දිය ඇලි,

විශ්මිත කඳු හෙල්, තැනිතලා, සතා සිව්පාවුන්, මේ සියල්ල මිනිසාගේ පැවැත්මටයි.

මැවිල්ලේ උතුම්ම මල්කඩ වන මිනිසා මෙය අවබෝධ කරගෙනද? එම අවබෝධය ලැබීමට හිමිදිරියේ පෙත්ත පෙත්ත පිපෙන මලක් දෙස බැලීමට අපේ සිත් සන්සුන්ද ? පරිසරයේ නිහඬියාව අපිට බොහෝ දේ පසක් කරයි. අප නොදැනුවත්තම සොබාදම් මාතාව පැණි දොඩම් ගස ඇඹුල් දොඩම් ගසක් බවට පත් කරයි. හේතුව ඖෂධීය ගුණයෙන් මිනිස් ජීවිතය සුවපත් කිරීමටයි. මේ මහා පොළොව එහි අඩංගු සියල්ල මුමුණන රහස පැහැදිලි කර ගනිමු. ගසකට, ගෙඩියකට, වැලකට, මුලකට, මලකට, පොත්තකට ඖෂධීය ගුණයක් ගෙන දිය හැකිනම්, දේව සමාන කමට මවන ලද ඔබට, මට මිහිමත කවුරුන් විය හැකිද? සිතමු. මේ නිමේෂයේ සිටම, කාලය උදාවී ඇත. පැණි දොඩම් රස ම රසයි. ඇඹුල් දොඩම් ගුණම ගුණයි.

මාරී සුවිනීතා සොහොයුරිය
පහත්ගම පැවිදි සංඝය

Rebuilding with Love: A House Born from Ashes and Mercy



" Unless the Lord Builds the House, the Builders Labor in Vain" (Psalm 127:1)

In a heart-breaking turn of events, a dedicated member of our school's supportive staff faced a life-shattering tragedy. While she was faithfully performing her duties at school, she received devastating news—her entire house had been consumed by fire. The shock was so overwhelming that she collapsed upon hearing it. This humble lady, who had worked tirelessly to support her family, suddenly found herself without a roof over her head. But in her darkest hour, the light of compassion began to shine.

Moved by her plight, the Parish Priest of St. Anthony's Cathedral, Kandy, along with the teachers, parents, and past pupils of the school, came together with hearts full of love and hands ready to help. United by a shared sense of empathy and Christian charity, they rallied to support one of their own.



With unwavering faith and God's grace, this collective effort bore fruit. What began as ashes and sorrow was transformed into hope and renewal. A beautiful new house now stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together, guided by love, mercy, and divine providence.

Gratitude Beyond Words

Speaking at the house blessing ceremony, the Parish Priest said: "This is what it means to live the Gospel—not just in words, but in action. Today, we are not just celebrating a house, but the power of love in action."

A Testament of God's Love

This story is a powerful reminder that no one stands alone when faith is lived fully. God's hand often works through human hearts. When people come together with genuine compassion, miracles happen.

Let this house be a beacon of hope. Let it remind us all that even in the face of disaster, love has the final word .



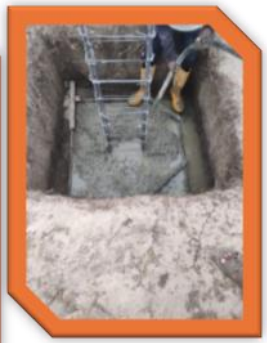






Progress of the CDC Building Valachcheni
















Joyful Celebration of Colours and Creativity

The Little Friends of Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena, including Pack A and Pack B recently experienced days filled with laughter, excitement, and discovery through a special event –The Kite Festival "where creativity met joy" held on 9th of September. This event was organized to provide our young members with opportunities to learn, share, and shine while nurturing their talents and friendships.

The clear blue skies above our school grounds turned into a canvas of colours as the Little Friends gathered for the much-awaited Kite Festival. Children arrived with kites of every size, shape, and shade – some made at home with their families and others crafted at school during activity sessions. With strings in their hands and wide smiles on their faces, the children watched their kites dance gracefully in the wind.

The festival was not only about fun but also about teamwork and creativity. The Little Friends learned how to prepare their kites, adjust the strings, and wait for the right breeze to lift their creations high into the sky. Teachers and Reverend Sisters were equally delighted to see the young ones working together, encouraging one another, and celebrating every successful flight. The playground echoed with cheerful laughter, joyful cheers, and the spirit of friendship.

The Kite Festival was more than just an outdoor activity – it was a lesson in patience, sharing, and resilience. When some kites did not fly as expected, the children quickly learned to repair and try again, showing us all how determination brings success.

This event highlighted the importance of togetherness, joy, and creativity in the lives of

our Little Friends. This event was not only a memorable experience but also an opportunity to live out the values of cooperation, respect, and gratitude that the Good Shepherd Convent instills in its students.

As the kites soared high in the sky and the exhibition hall sparkled with youthful creativity, the Little Friends of Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena reminded us that childhood is a time of wonder – a time to dream, to create, and to grow together in friendship.

The success of this event reflects the loving guidance and encouragement of Good Shepherd Convent, which constantly provides a nurturing environment for children to grow. The Convent has always believed that every child has a spark of talent within, and through platforms like the Little Friends' programmes, they help bring out the best in each student.

The Good Shepherd Convent's vision goes beyond academics; it is about forming children with values, creativity, confidence, and compassion. By instilling discipline, encouraging curiosity, and motivating the young to take part in activities, the school ensures that its children become well-rounded individuals.

Through these initiatives such as the Kite Festival, the Convent offers not only the Little Friends but also many other children the opportunity to explore their skills, discover their strengths, and share their gifts with others. These experiences become stepping stones for bigger achievements in life.

Little Friends of Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena.

Her Voice Matters – Fostering Change, One Voice at a Time



Sri Lanka holds a special place in the global Good Shepherd congregation as the country with the largest number of Good Shepherd schools and sisters, a proud reflection of our nation's enduring spirit of service, education and empowerment.

Believing firmly that we are not the leaders of tomorrow but the leaders of today, the Good Shepherd community came together to host a thought-provoking and empowering virtual talk show titled *"Her Voice Matters: Fostering Change, One Voice at a Time,"* in honour of the International Day of the Girl Child.

With heartfelt thanks to St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7, for hosting this impactful programme presented by Tharuka and Kendra held via Zoom on the 8th of October, the event brought together an inspiring mix of students, educators, a legal expert and a mother from across the Good Shepherd Network. It provided a brave and open platform for girls and young women to share their stories, express their views and reflect on the realities faced by girls in today's society. Together, they celebrated achievements, explored challenges and renewed their commitment to uphold the values of love, compassion and courage the cornerstones of the Good Shepherd identity.

The event saw the participation of nine Good Shepherd schools from across Sri Lanka, along with global participants from the Sri Lanka-Pakistan Region, uniting voices and hearts beyond borders. With over 400 participants behind the screens and more than 90 devices connected, the programme truly reflected the power of collective engagement and shared purpose within the Good Shepherd Network.

The discussions explored timely and important issues such as gender inequality, period poverty, child marriage and online safety sparking meaningful conversations about how education, awareness and unity can drive lasting change.

Among the highlights of the programme were the insightful contributions from the guest speakers. Ms. Rukshany Azeez, International Commissioner of the Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association and an educator from St. Bridget's Convent, Primary School, spoke passionately about the importance of digital safety and empowerment in the online world, encouraging girls to use their voices responsibly and fearlessly. A loving mother from St. Lawrence's Convent, Wellawatte shared how Good Shepherd schools nurture not just academics but faith, love and character. Inspired by St. Mary Euphrasia's message of love, she reminded the girls



to trust in God, live with compassion and carry the Good Shepherd's spirit wherever they go. Mr. Indika Bandara Abeykoon, Attorney-at-Law, shed light on the legal rights and protections available to girls, urging them to stand up against injustice and seek support when needed. Rev. Sr. Priyangani Hathurusinghe, Principal of Ave Maria Convent, reminded all participants of the role schools play in shaping confident, compassionate and socially conscious leaders.

Adding depth and emotion to the discussion were the heartfelt voices of Yenara Bandaranayake from *Good Shepherd Convent, Kandy*, Duhara Mendis from *Good Shepherd Convent, Panadura*, Savindula Dias from *Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena*, Ridmi Peiris from *Palakudawa St. Peter's Girls' School* and Ganindu Niwunhalla from *Our Lady's School, Nuwara Eliya* young advocates who courageously shared their experiences and perspectives. Their words echoed the collective dreams of many girls across Sri Lanka a call for education, equality, safety and empowerment.

As the event drew to a close, one message resonated deeply: *"When we uplift a girl, we uplift generations"* The session not only celebrated the spirit of the Good Shepherd mission but also served as a powerful reminder that every girl's voice matters and when those voices rise together in strength and purpose, they have the power to



transform the world.

We are deeply touched by the insights shared by Rev. Sr. Josita Corera, Congregational Councillor whose words added depth and spiritual strength to the session. Our sincere gratitude goes to the Congregational Leadership Team for their gracious presence and support throughout the event.

On a special note, we extend heartfelt thanks to Rev. Sr. Roshanthi Ranwatte, our Province Leader and Rev. Sr. Maryanne Perera, our former Province Leader for their invaluable presence and unwavering support.

We specially acknowledge Ms. Onalie De Silva, Regional Manager Asia Pacific, Good Shepherd International Foundation, Italy, for her thoughtful contributions, and we express our sincere appreciation to the many mentors and mentees whose dedication and preparation made the event a meaningful success.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Rev. Sr. Alexandra Mendis, Link Counsellor, Good Shepherd Province of Sri Lanka/Pakistan for her constant guidance, encouragement and support throughout the planning and execution of this event. Her thoughtful insights and presence greatly contributed to its success.

A warm word of thanks also goes out to the principals of the participating Good Shepherd schools, whose encouragement and guidance

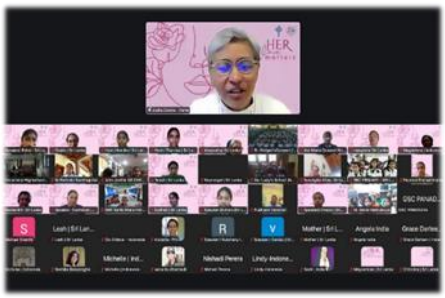


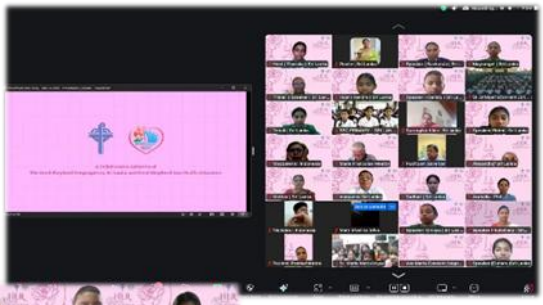
remain vital to empowering the next generation of leaders.

Finally, we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the organizing committee, ably led by Rev. Sr. Dilrukshika Silva and Secretary Ms. Thinali Perera, together with Rev. Sr. Benita Lambert and Ms. Ramona Jansz, whose leadership and dedication brought this vision to life.

As we conclude this heartfelt sharing, the IDG 2025 Committee invites everyone to continue carrying the Good Shepherd spirit of love, faith and compassion.

IDG 2025 Organizing Committee
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7







Death List

Sr. M. Francis Borgia Quigley	01.01.1892
Sr. M. Cyriac Fernando	01.01.2016
Sr. M. of the Immaculate Conception Hughes	05.01.1958
Sr. Julitta Gunawardena	05.01.1974
Sr. M. Rosary Rodrigo	07.01.2015
Sr. Joan of Arc Perera	08.01.1974
Sr. M. Stella Fernando	08.01.1982
Sr. Agnes of the Annunciation (CGS)	10.01.2023
Sr. M. Angela Fernando	11.01.1970
Sr. M. Assumption Biesty	11.01.1976
Sr. M. Dolores Joseph	11.01.1985
Sr. M. Sigibert Dias	12.01.1968
Sr. M. Bernard Wanigasekara	13.01.2010
Sr. M. Magdalen Kelly	16.01.1943
Sr. M. Visitation Fernando	16.01.1965
Sr. Anthony Mulkeen	16.01.2000
Sr. M. Raphael	17.01.1960
Sr. M. Perpetual S. Hackett	19.01.1964
Sr. M. of Our Lady Flynn	22.01.1975
Sr. M. Finbarr Twomey	22.01.1995
Sr. M. Angels Murray	23.01.1923
Sr. M. Columba O'Regan	23.01.1934
Sr. M. Lawrence Perera	24.01.2003
Sr. M. John Bosco Bastian	25.01.2011
Sr. M. Hedwiedge Fernando	28.01.1988
Sr. M. Dympna Dias	29.01.1964
Sr. M. Nicholas	29.01.1973
Sr. M. Norberta Wickramarathne	29.01.1990
Sr. Winnie Margaret Samarakoon	29.01.2005
Sr. M. Paul of Christ Wawita	29.01.2023
Sr. M. Teresa Curley	30.01.1971
Sr. M. Sheila Perera	31.01.2014
Sr. M. Lucienne Perera	02.12.1983
Sr. John Eudes Gunawaredene	03.12.2008
Sr. M. Albert Perera	04.12.2006
Sr. M. Damian Grero	04.12.2008
Sr. M. Nirmala Abeyasinghe	06.12.2023
Sr. M. Brendan Duckham	07.12.1963
Sr. Catherine Veale	07.12.2024

"For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten." (Eccles. 9:5)

Sr. M. Vincent Dona Isabella	08.12.1976
Sr. M. Victor Cooray	11.12.1964
Sr. M. Nirmalie Seneviratne	12.12.2024
Sr. M. Holy Cross Dona	14.12.1966
Sr. Gaetan Cooray	14.12.2000
Sr. M. Camille Perera	15.12.1971
Sr. M. Utan Iowney	17.12.1951
Sr. M. James Fernando	17.12.1965
Sr. M. Archangel Fernando	17.12.2006
Sr. M. Monica Fernando	22.12.1972
Sr. M. Georgina Riyndds	24.12.1970
Sr. M. Madaline Ryan	26.12.2007
Sr. M. Sylvester Kiely	28.12.1971
Sr. Maureen Gertrude Silva	28.12.2010
Sr. M. Andrew Brown	29.12.1924
Sr. M. Aloysius Guinan	30.12.1922
Sr. M. Annuntiata Diaz	30.12.1986
Sr. Pius Adaikalam	30.12.199
Sr. M. of Our Lady Walsh	31.12.1932
Sr. M. Dympna Kavanagh	.02.1950
Sr. Susila Silva	01.02.1978
Sr. M. Thiaga Perera	03.02.2018
Sr. M. Sidonie Dona	04.02.1983
Sr. M. Eugene Fernando	07.02.1964
Sr. M. Prisca	07.02.1983
Sr. M. Aidan Hewlett	09.02.1956
Sr. M. Perpetual Succour	09.02.1959
Sr. M. Nathalie Fox	11.02.1902
Sr. M. Rita Pulukuttuarachchige	12.02.1998
Sr. M. Paula Cooray	13.02.1959
Sr. M. Elizabeth Riley	14.02.1957

Sr. M. Pauline Tewarrperuma	14.02.2005
Sr. M. Genevieve Mc Coy	15.02.1925
Sr. M. John Baptist Hennessy	16.02.1981
Sr. M. Euphrasia O'Connor	16.02.2012
Sr. M. Gaetan Sheeley	17.02.1896
Sr. M. Tarcissius Rodrigo	18.02.1965
Sr. M. Joseph Gollagher	19.02.1912
Sr. M. Good Counsel Fernando	20.02.1971
Sr. M. Lourdes Uoyd	21.02.1960
Sr. M. Andrew Ryan	24.02.1960
Sr. M. Amedee Kennedy	25.02.1895
Sr. M. Bertha Ratnayake	25.02.1968
Sr. M. Teresa of the Divine Heart David	25.02.1972
Sr. M. Pius	26.02.1960
Sr. M. Nicholas Croos	26.02.1988
Sr. M. Hildegarde Silva	28.02.1963
Sr. M. Good Counsel Mills	28.02.1991
Sr. M. Rosalie Waters	01.03.1956
Sr. M. Mercy Holmes	02.03.1942
Sr. M. Bertha Perera	02.03.1975
Sr. M. Paschal Greene	03.03.1959
Sr. Marie Hyacinth Perera	03.03.2013
Sr. M. Delphine Silva	04.03.2004
Sr. M. Dorothy Silva (CGS)	05.03.2020
Sr. M. Rosary Dona	06.03.1968
Sr. M. Holy Cross Cox	10.03.1985
Sr. Annette Perera (CGS)	11.03.2024
Sr. M. Ambrose	12.03.1973
Sr. M. Gertrude Culleton	13.03.1961
Sr. Magdalene de Pazzi	13.03.1974
Sr. M. Divine Heart Fernando	17.03.1978
Sr. M. Ita Harte	18.03.1917
Sr. M. Dhammika Gunawardane	19.03.1999
Sr. M. Chantal Bertin	23.03.1939
Sr. M. Holy Redeemer Heffernan	23.03.1959
Sr. M. Hyacinth Cooray	27.03.1965
Sr. M. Francisca Silva	27.03.1968
Sr. M. Columba Mc Cormack	28.03.1993
Sr. M. Cecile Christoffelsz	30.03.1975
Sr. M. Cecilia	March.1938

Called to Eternal Happiness

(July 2025 – November 2025)

"Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."
(Joshua 1:9)

Our Sisters …

1. ***Sr. Mary Immaculata Silva*** ***23rd July*** ***(Age 90)***
2. ***Sr. Mary Monica Fernando*** ***12th October*** ***(Age 86)***

Departed Family Members …

1. ***Sr. Freeda's*** ***Brother***
2. ***Sr. Benildus'*** ***Sister***
3. ***Sr. Patricia Rajes'*** ***Brother***
4. ***Sr. Jessey's*** ***Father***
5. ***Sr. Punitharani's*** ***Mother***

Dear Sisters of the Province of Sri Lanka

As you are aware, with the new governance structure to form a *Region*, we, the Sisters of the Pakistan Sector, have expressed our desire to join the regionalisation process along with the **four Units:** Indonesia, Australia/New Zealand, Malaysia, and North East Asia. This proposal was presented at the 20th Chapter held in September 2025, where it was warmly approved.

On behalf of all the Sisters of the Pakistan Sector, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the Sisters of Sri Lanka for sowing the seeds of the Good Shepherd Mission in Pakistan since 1975. We are deeply thankful for your commitment and vision, which have enabled us to live and share the mission of reconciliation and compassion in our land.



Over these 50 blessed years, many Sri Lankan Sisters have come to Pakistan, serving our people and communities with love, care, and dedication. Your presence and guidance have left a lasting mark on our hearts and on the lives of those we serve.

As we continue this journey in faith and unity, we remain ever grateful for your support, inspiration, and the strong foundation you have laid for the Good Shepherd Mission in Pakistan.

With love and gratitude,
Sr. Rozina Emmanuel
On behalf of all the Sisters of the Pakistan Sector
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

"You must remember all your lives, beloved daughters, that you are privileged children of God and of the church; and endeavor to correspond wholeheartedly with the plans of Divine Providence for our Congregation" (SME)



Dear Sisters,

On behalf of the Communication Committee, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the Sisters who contributed to the Province Newsletter. Thank you for sharing your beautiful reflections, creative thoughts, and inspiring experiences on time — your contributions make the newsletter come alive and help us grow together in the Good Shepherd spirit.

Our sincere thanks also go to all the Local Leaders who encouraged and supported your communities to write and ensured that every message and article reached us promptly.

We also wish to gratefully acknowledge two special people who work silently behind the scenes — Mrs. Priyani Cooray and Mr. Indika Silva— for their generous time, care, and support in the printing process.

Thank you once again for your collaboration, enthusiasm, and commitment. May God bless each one of you for helping us continue this beautiful mission of communication and sharing.

With gratitude and blessings,
Members of the Communication Committee

Attention...

You are invited to pen your thoughts and experiences of your shepherding journey in the province newsletter which is a splendid platform to express your views. Please send your articles before 10th February 2026 to newsletterrgs@gmail.com