



# News Letter



1927 - Born & named Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger  
1951 - Ordained a Priest  
1977 - Appointed Cardinal  
1981 - Made Prefect of the CDF  
2005 - Elected as the Pope & took the name, BANEDICT XVI  
2013 - Announced Resignation on Feb 28 Take the title 'POPE EMERITUS'  
2022 - Died at 95 years

“

**The Catechism was not written to  
please you.  
It will Not make life easy for you,  
because it demands of you a New Life.**

- Pope Benedict XVI -



Bishop of the Diocese:  
Most Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickramasinghe

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Designed by:  
S.Reginold  
"Media Unit"

FOR CIRCULATION AMONG THE CLERGY  
OF THE GALLE DIOCESE.

Dear Rev. Fathers & Sisters,  
You are kindly requested to send your  
information and news articles  
to be published in the News Letter  
before 20th of every month.

# News Letter

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022 VOL. 17 NO. 07

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**With God as our Leader,  
may we be prepared to live  
another year under His guidance.**

***Happy New Year!***

**2023**

*Praying that your year is full of everything  
your heart desires.*





TOTALLY FOR CHRIST



My dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,  
**"May God bless us and make his face to shine upon us."** We proclaim these words from Ps. 66, which is an ancient priestly blessing upon the people of the covenant. It is especially significant that at the start of every New Year God sheds upon us, His people, the light of His Holy Name, the Name pronounced three times in the solemn form of biblical blessing. Nor is it less significant that to the Word of God – who "became Flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn. 1:14) as "the true Light that enlightens every man" (1:9) is given the Name of Jesus eight days after His birth (cf. Lk. 2:21). It is in this Name that we are on a Synodal Journey, accompanying my brother and sister in to the light of a great hope. I am particularly grateful to you as ministers of the Church and to the exemplary lay faithful who have given their lives for the service in the Vineyard of the Lord.

**At the time I write this message to you, we have heard the passing away of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on the 31st of December 2022.** He was a gentleman of principals and a clergy with a vision and a clear mission for the Church. He upheld the values of the "Scripture and Tradition". I am humbled to recall the two meetings with him which I had in Rome in 2012. Some of us were blessed to meet him also during the Synod for Asia in 1998, then as Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger. He will be also remembered as one of the greatest Theologians and an inspired writer of our times. Let us all thank God for him. May our beloved Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, enter the Promised Land and Rest in Peace.

**St. Francis of Asisi Church, Tangalle, will bid farewell to the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Chaminda Fernando, SSS, and Rev. Fr. Marcus Codipilly, SSS,** after serving the flock for some years. Their services will be remembered by the diocese for many more years to come. They mingled with the diocesan Presbyterium well and coordinated the apostolates without any hesitation. We are truly happy for them and thank also the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers for appointing two such valiant Priests. We wish them well in their future undertakings.

Although the world is sadly marked by **'hotbeds' of tension and conflict** caused by growing instances of inequality between rich and poor, by the

prevalence of a selfish and individualistic mindset which also finds expression in an unregulated financial capitalism, as well as by various forms of terrorism and crime, I am convinced that the many different efforts at peacemaking which abound in our world testify to mankind's innate vocation to peace. In every person the desire for peace is an essential aspiration which coincides in a certain way with the desire for a full, happy, and successful human life. Let us draw inspiration from the words of Jesus Christ: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God' (Mt. 5:9).

**The situation of our beloved Motherland is still in a very bad state.** The continuous lies, insincerity on the part of the Country's leaders are truly frustrating. There is no justice at all for the Easter Sunday Bomb attacked surviving victims and their families. The political jargon in the public stage has become a 'joke' for the intelligentsia of the country. The clear division of the concepts and values among the Religious Leaders are visible when it comes to party politics in the Country. We as a family of Christians have a duty to be the voice of the voiceless and the ignorant poor in the society. Our people need justice and please understand that they have a right for a dignified life. May I humbly invite you to be that voice and work strenuously to see the light of the day for Sri Lanka. **We need a strong new constitution that respects the rights of all, especially the rights of the family and of the children and youth.** The elderly are the foundation of our successes and therefore, their rights must be safeguarded too.

**So beloved brothers and sisters, so often we wait for things to happen. But we should not forget that we can also make things happen.** We need not wait for people to call us. We could go even before we are called. We can get ourselves 'invited'. We must during this New Year, develop an eye for opportunities and skills for making new approaches. God has made us to His own image and likeness. If he is the Creator, we too have been given the ability to create. When we adopt new methods and ways, when we try out new approaches, when we add something fresh and original to what we are already doing in the Parish, Convent and in our institutions, we are being creative. Our people will love the new journey – the new spirit.



"And as you go, proclaim that the Kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and cast our devils. You received without charge, give without charge." (Mt. 10:8).

During this New Year, may our loving Father fill you with His Love. May Mary, the Mother of Jesus

help us to live in Peace with one another!

+ Raymond Wickramasinghe  
Bishop of Galle

## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes Halpatota



**Vespers - Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2023  
at 4.30 pm**

**Festive mass - Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2023  
at 8.00 am**

## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

FOR THE MONTH OF

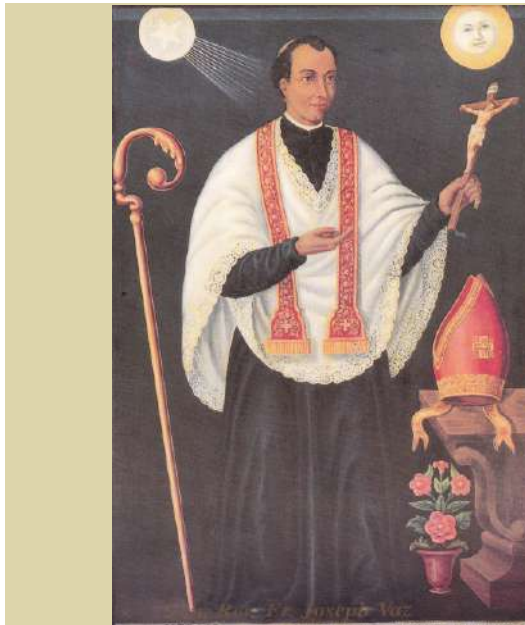
**JANUARY**  
For Educators



**FEBRUARY**  
For Parishes

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.



### A SAINT speaks

**St. Joseph Vaz**

**BORN:** April 21, 1651, Benaulim, India

**DIED:** January 16, 1711, Kandy

**EDUCATION:** Saint Paul's College, Goa

**NATIONALITY:** Indian

**CANONISED:** 14 January 2015, Galle Face Green, Colombo, Sri Lanka by Pope Francis

**Feast - 16<sup>th</sup> January**

**St. Joseph Vaz**  
Pray for us

“

Help one another with the generosity of the Lord and despise no one.  
When you have the opportunity to do good, do not let it go by.



## JOURNEYING TOGETHER



**“I trust that this decision will promote the understanding of synodality as a constitutive dimension of the Church, and help everyone to live it as the journey of brothers and sisters who proclaim the joy of the Gospel.”**

- Pope Francis -



**Fr. Chaminda Fernando, SSS**

**Thank you  
for the Service done  
at the Parish of Tangalle**



**Fr. Marcus Codipilly, SSS**



**Fr Viraj Fonseka, TOR**

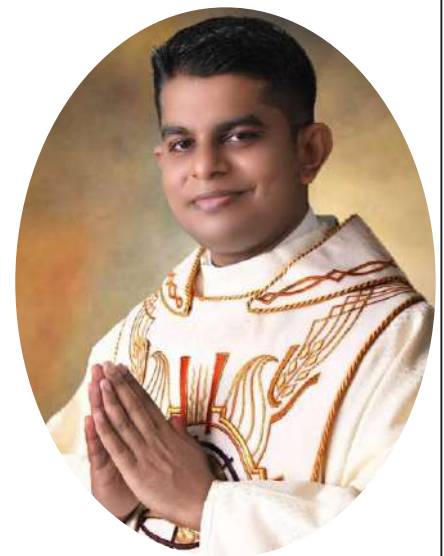
**Thank you  
for the Service done  
as a Teacher  
at St. Servatius College - Matara**

**Welcome**



**Fr Antony Marcus, SSS**

**New Parish priest  
and  
assistant  
to Tangalle parish**



**Fr Thilina Lakshan, SSS**

**We wish you GOD's Blessings on your new appointments!**



## Renovated Chapel at Galle Prison



75<sup>th</sup>

independence day

Live as people who are free,  
not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil,  
but living as servants of God.

1 Peter 2:16

**Happy independence day !**



## Ash Wednesday

February 22<sup>nd</sup>

**“As Lent is the time for greater love,  
listen to Jesus”**

*- Blessed Teresa of Calcutta -*

## Feast of St Sebastian Church - Udugama



Vespers - Saturday, 21st of January 2023  
05.00pm

Festive Mass - Sunday, 22nd of January 2023  
09.00am

## Feast of St Sebastian Church - Hulindawa

Vespers - Saturday, 4th of February 2023  
04.30pm

Festive Mass - Sunday, 5th of February 2023  
08.30am

# YOU ARE CALLED ... !

## Vocation Camp - 2023 Diocese of Galle

VENUE:

St. Francis Xavier's Minor  
Seminary - Kalegana, Galle

DATES

27, 28 & 29 of January 2023

CONTACT:

Rev. Fr. Rector - 0778115003

I press on toward the goal  
for the prize  
of the upward call of  
God in Christ.

*(Philippians 3:14)*





## Annual Christmas Celebration at CODESEP, Deniyaya - 2022



**A Visit to Hanford estate in Deniyaya,  
by the Catholic Relief Service Asian Executive Director &  
the National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka Rev. Fr. Luke Nelson,  
accompanied by Fr. Lasantha Fonseka (Director - Caritas SED Galle  
& Fr. A. Jesuthasan OMI (Director - CODESEP)**



## Galle City cleaning campaign organized by Caritas SED Galle



## DATES TO BE REMEMBERED

### JANUARY

Rev. Fr. Naveen Jude de Silva

**10th January**

Rev. Fr. Sandanam Daniel

**11th January**

Rev. Fr. Bernard Fernando

**13th January**

Rev. Fr. Bernard Jayasinghe SJ

**14th January**

Rev. Fr. Bernard Wijeratne

**17th January**

### BIRTHDAYS

### FEBRUARY

Rev. Fr. Sudesh Damian Arsakularatne

**01st February**

Rev. Fr. Jude Sampath Wilegoda

**04th February**

Rev. Fr. Arun Rex, OCD

**06th February**

Rev. Fr. Lakshman Peiris, SJ

**17th February**

Rev. Fr. Sheron Fernando

**18th February**

### FEAST DAYS

Rev. Sr. M. Scholastica MC  
(Kapuhempola Community)

**10th February**

Rev. Sr. Lourdes Anthony MC  
(Kapuhempola Community)

**11th February**

### JANUARY

Fr. Shanth Patrick

**January 12**

Fr. Anselm Rodrigo

**January 21**

Fr. Susith Asiri  
Fr. Chrisan Hasalaka  
Fr. Sheron Fernando

**January 25**

Rev. Fr. Naveen Jude de Silva

**January 29**

### ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

### FEBRUARY

Rev. Fr. Bernard Wijerathne  
**09th February**

Rev. Fr. Michael Colin  
**17th February**

Rev. Fr. Mariyalangaram Gratian  
**20th February**

Rev. Fr. Sebastian Nagaraja  
**22nd February**

Rev. Fr. Lasantha Fonseka  
**22nd February**

Rev. Fr. Dominic Sameera TOR  
**25th February**

### DEAR DEPARTED

### FEBRUARY

**Death anniversary of His Lordship  
Most Rev. Dr. Anthony De Saram (1982)  
28th February**

Rev. Fr. Walter Wickramasinghe (1952)  
**01st February**

Msgr. Moses Perera (1985)  
**12th February**

Rev. Fr. Henry Duvén (1919)  
**18th February**



## Feast - St. Francis Xavier's Minor Seminary 2022



## Feast - St. Francis Xavier's Church Kalegana 2022



## Feast - Balapitiya Church 2022





## Golden Jubilee Celebration of Rev. Fr. Bernard Fernando At Galle Cathedral

