

REPUBLIC DAY: Since 26th January 2025 is observed as Republic Day we shall unfurl our National Flag immediately after our Holy Communion Worship Service.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOP: Thanksgiving envelopes are kept at the last pew of our Church you are requested to use this envelope for special thanksgiving occasions. (Birthday, Wedding Anniversaries, any other Joyous occasion)

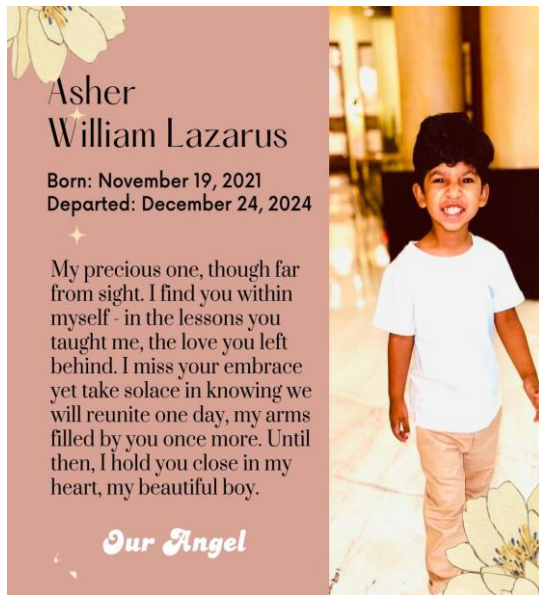
OUR DAILY BREAD: We have received Our Daily Bread Daily Devotional Book 2025. We have very limited copies, if anyone wants to buy Our Daily Bread each copy is Rs. 180/-. You can contact our Church Bearer.


NINE LESSON CAROL SERVICE: Our Nine Lesson Carol Service was held on 15th December 2024. We would like to thank Mr. Christopher Palmer & Adrin Divine for helping us in the Nine Lesson Carol Service. We would specially like to thank our Choral Director, Col. Vineet Daniel for leading and instructing our Four Part Choir Members.

CHURCH DECORATION: We would like to thank all the Youth Fellowship Members for decorating our Church. Specially we would like to thank Ms. Srishti Sathe, Ms. Alisha Samuel, Ms. Sakshi Noel, Mr. James Thangadurai, Mr. Christopher Rushton, Ms. Rashi Gotia and Ms. Shanita Thangadurai. May God bless all of you.


COTTAGE PRAYER MEETINGS: Every Saturday we will be having Cottage Prayer Meeting in the house of Youth Fellowship members & Women's Fellowship Members. The meeting will be conducted on 1st & 3rd Week in the Youth Fellowship member house and on 2nd & 4th Week in the Women's Fellowship member house. The meeting will commence at 6:00 pm.

LENTEN COTTAGE PRAYER MEETINGS: As we are approaching the Lenten Season from the Month of March, we are going to have cottage prayer meeting in each and every house of the Parishioners. All those who wish to have the Lenten Cottage Prayer Meeting in their house can give their names as soon as possible.





CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, (C.N.I), JABALPUR



(Est. 1844)

Church Service- 8:30 am
Rev. Bruce Thangadurai
Hon. Presbyter-in-charge
bruce_scmi @rediffmail.com

Sunday School- 8:30 am
926, North Civil Lines,
Jabalpur-482001 (M.P.)
Mob. No: 9893169749
www.christchurchcnijbp.org

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JANUARY – 2025

1 ST JANUARY	2025	NEW YEAR COVENANT SERVICE
5 TH JANUARY	2025	EPIPHANY SUNDAY
12 TH JANUARY	2025	THIRD SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
19 TH JANUARY	2025	FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
26 TH JANUARY	2025	FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS / Republic Day

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners,
Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Another year has almost gone and we are on the brink of another! What kind of a year has 2024 been for you? Where would you place it on a scale of 1 – 10? Maybe you would give 2024 an 8 or 9 out of 10 – in other words, it was a really good year. It was a good year because you had success in your business, a good year at work or at school, good family relationships, new friendships? 2024 was a year that included a lot of exciting things, new challenges, tasks completed, a great holiday. Or maybe you rate this past year 8 out of ten compared to the previous year which was a horrible year. Maybe 2024 deserves only 2 out of 10. That's because it was a really dreadful year. Everything that could go wrong did go wrong. The year included tragedy, sickness, loss of friends, marriage problems, financial problems, even a death in your family. Think back and check what kind of a person you were during 2024. Are there some regrets? If you were able to have some part of the year over again, how would you have behaved differently? Would you have shown more understanding, cared more, been more patient, less critical, been more supportive and helpful? As we reflect on the year that has past there are certainly things that we wish we would have done differently.
How about your relationship with God? Did that flourish and grow during 2024 or did it just hover in much the same place as it did the previous year or perhaps even went backwards as you prayed less, heard less from God through his Word, worshipped less. Maybe God didn't have a big part to play in your life during this past year; somehow he just slipped into the background. As we stand on the threshold of another year, Jesus tells us a parable. It's brief but the point is clear.

"Listen," Jesus says. "A man has a fig tree and plants it in his vineyard. Three years later he's making his way up and down his vineyard, he is looking forward to the taste of a ripe fig but he sees that the fig tree still doesn't have any fruit. He calls to his gardener, and asks him. Why is this tree still here? It's taking up soil and moisture and space. Cut it down, *right now.*"

Jesus got it right. Why should that tree remain standing? Why should it keep taking up space, using up the goodness of the soil if it's serving no purpose? What's the point of having a tree that should bear fruit but does nothing?

Jesus' words, "*Cut it down, right now, and stick a match to it*" cuts deeply. The owner has a right to be disappointed and angry at that useless tree. It's no wonder he wants it destroyed. But as we listen to Jesus story we know Jesus isn't just talking about a fig tree. He's talking about you and me. We are led to ask ourselves, "Am I bearing fruit? I keep sucking up the nutrients of the soil in which I've been planted and when am I going to show some kind of fruit to match the years I've been standing in God's garden and all the opportunities I've been given?"

Jesus takes a breath and continues. "Leave it alone for one more year", the gardener pleads, "I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year fine! If not, then cut it down."

And with that, Jesus ends his story of the fig tree leaving his listeners to ponder the generosity, the patience, the grace of the gardener. They are struck by the words of the gardener when he says "Leave it alone". The word used by Jesus here also means "forgive". They know now that Jesus wasn't simply telling a story about a fig tree but he was talking about God and the way he forgives us even though we don't deserve such generosity and kindness.

As God's people we build our lives on Jesus. Our very existence, our day-to-day living, our every breathing moment has its source in him. We occupy valuable space in the garden. The soil is rich and our roots are there and the owner of the garden is looking for fruit. God wants to see in us the kind of fruit that he would expect to see from someone who has been made new and holy through the blood of Jesus; from someone who has been given a new life by the living Jesus.

As 2024 draws to a close he sees all too well what has happened in the past - how our relationships haven't always been what they could have been. He's seen it all as it has unfolded during 2024 much to our embarrassment. And he's forgiven it all. And we've drawn on that forgiveness. We've heard his words every Sunday as he says to us, 'Your sins are forgiven!'

We've been assured of that each time we've come to the Lord's Supper. What magnificent love God shows us! He really thinks we're something special. We are like the fig tree that fails to produce good fruit. Thank God for the patience and grace of the gardener.

Jesus gives himself for us. He becomes the manure, the fertilizer for us as he is rejected, laughed at, crucified as a criminal. On the cross, nails, thorn-spikes and spear dig into him. He waters the ground with his own blood. He does everything. We do nothing. We simply trust in his grace. In Christ, we are made beautiful, fruitful gardens.

He digs around so that the love of God pours out of us and begins to work in us and we become lovely people, through Jesus! With his kind of fertilizer we begin to accept others as he was able to accept others ... and us.

The parable about the fig tree makes it quite clear that we have been unfruitful, unfaithful, yet in spite of our lack of fidelity, God is faithful. Be sure of this: Jesus waits for us, spade in hand, wheelbarrow by his side, ready to bring us into 2025. That's a promise. Armed with that promise, we can step forward into the New Year ready to let him do the work in us that only he can do. Thank him for his goodness in giving you, giving us, one more year of grace!

Wish you all a Blessed and Prosperous New Year 2025

BIRTHDAYS – JANUARY

- 1 Trevor Hogg , Allan Jones, Manoj Chauragade
- 2 Diana Rachael Jones, James Thangadurai, Veena Asaph Ranganadan
- 3 Madhumala Joseph, Daniel Manohar
- 4 Ryan Ali
- 5 Jennifer Parihar
- 7 Preeti Irene Thangadurai, Roseleena Maria Kane, Sunita Paul, Asha Vince Samuel
- 9 Maureen Parmar, Raphael Thangadurai
- 10 Christine Ellis
- 12 Viresh Kumar Rathod, Saurav Hogg
- 13 Stephen Chelvam, Jessica Rose Gee
- 14 Lt. Col. Sheeja Thangadurai
- 16 Phyllis Langan, Unique Joshua Patrick
- 18 Crystal Brown, Tony Taylor
- 19 Sarah Sophia Peters, Shaun Raymer
- 20 Yu Min Krysral Chen
- 21 Sharayu B, Shinde, Neha Rodgers
- 22 Harsha Peter
- 24 Beverly Rushton, Olive Lazarus, Mercy Thangadurai
Pratibha James
- 25 Rubena Rushton, David Masih
- 26 Candida Rushton, Ingrid James
- 29 Samuel Chelvam, Leonard Edbrooke
- 30 Pearl Park

We wish each one of you a very Happy Birthday with God's Blessing

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Douglas Green & Sandra Russell
- 4 Sheil Marvin & Marvin Ali
- 5 Christopher & Shefali Palmer
- 10 Vijay & Romila David
- 11 Sanjay & Stella Peter
- 17 Terence Fredrick & Rhonda Jones
- 19 Mrs. & Mr. Akash S. Chelvam
- 28 Jai Moses & Sharon Arland

We wish the couples a very happy long married life with God's Choicest Blessing

PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS DINNER / TREE: We would like to thank all those who helped in organising the Christmas Tree and Dinner specially we would like to thank the Convenors Mr. Nitin Bagh, Mr. Andrew Lazarus, we also would like to thank Mr. R. C. Joseph, Mrs. Enu Wong Ms. Christine Ellis, Mr. Jason Langan, Ms. Srishti Sathe, Ms. Rashi Gotia, and Ms. Alisha Samuel.

SUBSCRIPTION: Dear Parishioners, all those who are paying their subscription Online are requested to send the same before 28th of the month. Please ensure your payment is sent within the cut-off date. (I.e. within 28th of the month) If not, your payment should be sent the following month.

Please also ensure the screenshot of the transaction should be sent to the Treasurer Mr. R. C. Joseph on Whatsapp No. 9300106407 immediately after the payment is sent.