



THE EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
TO BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG AND THE EUROPEAN UNION
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Christmas celebrations at the Embassy

In keeping with the tradition to commemorate important festivals of the four religions practiced in Sri Lanka, the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brussels celebrated Christmas with the participation of the Sri Lankan community in Belgium and other well wishers at the Embassy premises on 10 December 2010. Father Claude Nonis led the prayers, which were conducted in English, Sinhala, Tamil, French and Flemish.

Ambassador Ravintha Aryasinha addressing the gathering noted that Christmas symbolizes peace and the coming together of people. He said the Embassy was encouraged by the growing number of Belgium based Sri Lankans and friends of Sri Lanka, who attended the event. He said the Sinhala-Tamil bi-lingual Holy Mass celebrated at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Brussels in September this year officiated by Rev.Fr.(Dr.)Justin Chawkin and Rev. Fr.Claude Nonis, had been an important milestone in helping foster greater integration of those of Sri Lankan origin living in Brussels. He urged that this spirit of collectivity be built upon in the coming years and assured that the Embassy will continue to play the role of catalyst towards this end. Christmas carols were sung by the community members in Sinhala, Tamil and English, and violin and organ recitals were performed by several young Sri Lankans. This was followed by a reception with traditional Sri Lankan delicacies.

Embassy of Sri Lanka
Brussels