



S. THOMAS' COLLEGE MOUNT LAVINIA

A SERVICE FOR THE END OF TERM

AND

THE ENDING OF THE TENURE

OF

THE 19<sup>th</sup> WARDEN OF THE COLLEGE,  
THE REVEREND MARC BILLIMORIA

CHAPEL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024  
(THE FEAST OF ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA)

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*The congregation stands as the procession enters the sanctuary*

Introit Hymn

O God beyond all praising

**1. O God beyond all praising,  
We worship you today  
And sing the love amazing  
That songs cannot repay;  
For we can only wonder  
At every gift you send,  
At blessings without number  
And mercies without end:  
We lift our hearts before you  
And wait upon your word,  
We honor and adore you,  
Our great and mighty Lord.**

**2. Then hear, O gracious Saviour,  
Accept the love we bring,  
That we who know your favour  
May serve you as our king;  
And whether our tomorrows  
Be filled with good or ill,  
We'll triumph through our sorrows  
And rise to bless you still:  
To marvel at your beauty  
And glory in your ways,  
And make a joyful duty  
Our sacrifice of praise.**

*Words: Michael A. Perry (1942 - 1996)*

*Tune: THAXTED Holst (1874 - 1934)*

Introduction and Welcome

*The Chaplain*

Dear Friends, in the Book of Ecclesiastes, the Preacher writes, “For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.” Today, at the end of another academic year, we gather as a school community to especially acknowledge all that the Reverend Marc Billimoria has been to our school community as our 19<sup>th</sup> Warden and even before that as a teacher, Chaplain and Sub Warden. We are grateful for his leadership that has ensured our School remains a place of welcome and inclusion, of learning and discovery, of play and healthy competition, where all have been valued and given opportunities to flourish. As he leaves us, we commit him and his family to God’s care and grace as they journey onward into a new phase of life. So today we look back, but we also look forward; it is a time for joy, and a time for sadness; a time to give thanks to God for what God has done this past decade.

## Preparation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

V. O Lord, open our lips

**R. and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

V. Reveal among us the light of your presence

**R. that we may behold your power and glory.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be praise and glory for ever! In your tender compassion, the dawn from on high is breaking upon us to dispel the lingering shadows of night. As we look for your coming among us this day, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise; Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

V. God calls us to love one another:

**R. O Come, let us worship.**

V. O God, make speed to save us.

**R. O Lord, make haste to help us.**

V. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Antiphon – In the way of peace and prosperity, may the almighty and merciful Lord lead us.

Psalm 24

A Song of the King's Glory

1. The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
2. **For he has founded it upon the seas and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.**
3. 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, or who can rise up in his holy place?'
4. **'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie;**
5. 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a just reward from the God of their salvation.'

**6. Such is the company of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

7. Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

**8. ‘Who is the King of glory?’ ‘The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.’**

9. Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

**10. ‘Who is this King of glory?’ ‘The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.’**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*ANTIPHON (Repeated by all)*

**In the way of peace and prosperity may the Almighty and merciful Lord lead us; and may his Angel (Raphael) accompany us on the way, that we may return to our homes in peace, in safety and in joy.**

*All Sit*

**‘Endings and Beginnings’  
by Christine Evangelou, 2022**

Wherever you may find yourself – on the edge of a sunset, on the beams of a sunrise,  
balance is knowing when to hold on, and when to let go.

What ends, be it painfully or peacefully, is just a preparation for something new;  
a rebirth,  
the magical seeds of a fresh perspective coming forth.

We are all a story of endings and beginnings;  
a complexion of ego and soul, love and pain, flowers and vines, fire and water,  
earth and air.  
So don't fear what falls away.

Beyond, in unseen places from far out traces,  
there is something more wondrous in preparation to come your way.

The heartbeat, the destiny of a new beginning is far too enticing to ever fear an ending.

*All stand and sing*

Hymn

O Christ the Same through all our story's pages

**1. O Christ the Same through all our story's pages  
Our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;  
Eternal Lord, the King of all the ages,  
Unchanging still, amid the passing years:  
O living Word, the source of all creation,  
Who spread the skies and set the stars ablaze;  
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,  
We bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.**

**2. O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing  
Our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide;  
Still as of old upon your body bearing  
The marks of love, in triumph glorified:  
O Son of man, who stooped for us from heaven,  
O Prince of life, in all your saving power,  
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given,  
We bring our thanks for this the present hour.**

**3. O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping  
Our lives and loves, our days and years remain;  
Our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,  
Our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:  
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,  
For all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,  
O Christ the same, for all our brief tomorrows,  
We bring our thanks for all that is to be.**

*Words: Timothy Dudley - Smith (1926)*

*Tune: LONDONDERRY AIR*

*Harmonised : D. Davidson (b 1957)*

*All sit*

A Reading from the Bible  
*The Senior Sacristan*

Sermon  
*Bishop Duleep de Chickera (Emeritus Bishop of Colombo)*

*All stand and sing*

Hymn

Let us build a house where love can dwell

**Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.**

*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

**Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.**

**Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger.**

**Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.**

*Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950*

End of Term / Tenure Prayers

*The Chaplain*

Let us Pray.

*All kneel*

V. Lord, have mercy upon us

**R. Christ, have mercy upon us**

V. Lord, have mercy upon us.

V. O Lord, save your servants,

**R. Who put their trust in you.**

V. Send them help, O Lord, from your holy place,

**R. And strengthen them out of Sion.**

V. Be unto them, O Lord, a tower of strength

**R. In times of trouble**

V. He shall give his angels charge over you,

**R. To keep you in all your ways.**

V. O Lord, hear our prayer;

**R. And let our cry come unto you.**

FATHER, who has through many years, and by many bountiful servants, blessed this College to be a house of faith and fruitful study; grant us likewise in this place so to learn truth as to bear its light along all our ways, and so to learn Christ as ever to be found in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

*All*     **Amen.**

DIRECT us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*     **Amen.**

*Said by all*

**WE GIVE you hearty thanks, most gracious Father, for all thy mercies vouchsafed in the past year to this School and we humbly commend ourselves to your care and blessing for the days of leisure that we are about to enjoy. Grant that all our teaching and learning may be so effectually consecrated to your service, that they may minister to the good of your church, to our true well-being in this life, and to an eternal happiness thereafter.**

**Enable us to advance in all sound knowledge, but above all in the knowledge of you and of your son: in your light, O Lord, may we see light.**

**Preserve us evermore in your true faith; give us tenderness of conscience, purity of heart, and an honest purpose to do your will.**

**Remember for good all those who are about to leave us, and so guide us all in the ways of peace through this world, that we may at length be united in the home of everlasting joy; through the merits and mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*All sit, the Choir will then sing the Te Deum*

Anthem  
Te Deum - Stanford in B flat

Praying Farewell

*All stand and the Bishop and Members of the School Community stand at the chancel steps and the Warden stands before them.*

*A Member of the Community prays,*  
God of our beginnings and endings,  
we celebrate all we have shared with Warden Marc  
and ask your blessing as he continues on his journey.  
May the love that is in our hearts  
be a bond that unites us forever,  
wherever we may be.  
May the power of your presence  
bless this moment of our leave-taking;  
this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

*The following RESPONSE may be said. Members representing the Community may say their words together or different individuals take a particular part.*

*Community:* As you journey onward, we ask forgiveness where we have failed you; we give thanks for all you have been and given us; we assure you of our love and prayers.

*Warden:* As I leave, I ask forgiveness where I have failed you; I give thanks for all that you have given to me; I assure you of my love and prayers.

*Community:* As you experience the pain of change, and the insecurity of moving on, we pray that you may also experience the blessing of inner growth.

*Warden:* I know that God goes with me.

*Community:* As you meet the poor, the pained, and the stranger on the Way, we pray that you may see in each one the face of Christ.

*Warden:* I know that God goes with me.

*Community:* As you walk through the good times and the bad, we pray that you may never lose sight of the shelter of God's loving arms.

*Warden:* I know that God goes with me.

*Community:* As you ponder your decisions and wonder over the fruits of your choice, we pray that the peace of Christ may reign in your heart.

*Warden:* I know that God goes with me.

*The Bishop then says,*

We praise and thank you, God of our pilgrimage, for our Warden, Father Marc Billimoria who leaves us. We entrust him together with Manisha, Shekainah and Shokeidh into your loving care, knowing that you are always the faithful traveller and companion on the Way.

Shelter and protect them from all harm and anxiety. Grant them the courage to meet the future, and the grace to let go into new life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

*All*     **Amen.**

Father Marc, may God bless you.

*All*     **Amen.**

Go in peace, for our God goes with you.

*All*     **Thanks be to God.**

*The Kiss of Peace is exchanged and shared.*

*All kneel*

The Blessing  
*The Bishop*

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

*All*     **Amen.**

*Then shall be sung by the choir, all kneeling*

The Clare Benediction  
*by Sir John Rutter*

Recessional Hymn

Lord, thou hast brought us to our journey's end

*During the singing of this hymn the College Flag and National Flag will be carried out signifying the end of the school term and will be followed by the Warden alone signifying the end of his tenure.*

**Lord, thou hast brought us to our journey's end:  
Once more to thee our thankful prayers ascend;  
Once more we stand to praise thee for the past;  
Grant prayer and praise be honest at the last.**

**For all the joys which thou hast deigned to share,  
For all the pains which thou hast deigned to bear.  
For all our friends, in life and death the same,  
We thank thee, Lord, and praise thy glorious name.**

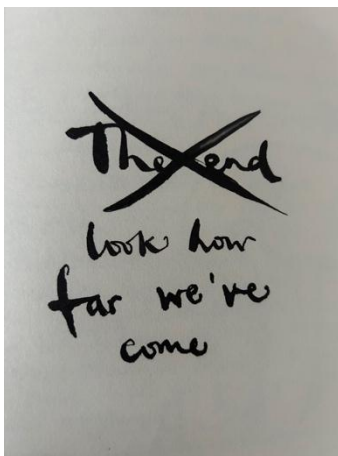
**If from thy paths, by chastening undismayed,  
If, for thy gifts ungrateful, we have strayed,  
If in thy house our prayers were faint and few,  
Forgive, O Lord, and build our hearts anew.**

**If we have learnt to feel our neighbour's need,  
To fight for truth in thought and word and deed,  
If these be lessons which the years have taught,  
Then 'stablish, Lord, what thou in us hast wrought.**

**So be our rest thy palaces most fair,  
Not built with hands, whose stones thy praise declare:  
Where war is not, and all thy sons are free,**

**Where thou art known, and all is known in thee.**

*Words: C. A. Alington*



**Laus Deo**

**'For all that is past – thank...  
For all that is yet to be – YES!'**