



SOLI DEO GLORIA

A SERVICE OF PRAISE, WORSHIP & THANKSGIVING

**TO
CELEBRATE GOD'S GRACE & LOVING KINDNESS**

**ON
THE COMPLETION OF TEN YEARS OF SERVICE
AS NINETEENTH WARDEN OF THE COLLEGE**

**BY
THE REV'D MARC BILLIMORIA**

**CHAPEL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
S. THOMAS' COLLEGE
MOUNT LAVINIA**

5TH DECEMBER 2024 AT 6.00 PM

**“Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of
old” (Psalm 25:6).**

ORDER OF SERVICE

All Stand when the Angelus bell rings and the Processional Cross enters the West Door leading the officiating clergy into the Chapel.

Processional Hymn

All People that on earth do dwell

1. ALL people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,
Come ye before Him, and rejoice.

2. The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

3. O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

4. For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

5. To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God whom Heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

Words: W. Kethe

Tune: OLD HUNDRETH

Arrangement: R. Vaughan Williams (1872 - 1958)

Welcome and Preparation

The Chaplain

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

All: **Amen.**

Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and enter his courts with praise.
Give thanks to the Lord and bless his name. For the Lord is good;

All: **His steadfast love endures forever.**

Cf. Psalm 100.4-5

Dear Friends, on behalf of the Community of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, I welcome you to this Chapel to give thanks to God for the completion of ten full years of service among us by our 19th Warden. As we realize God's presence with us we praise and thank God for all that has been possible in every sphere of school life during this tenure. We thank God that while striving for excellence we have also courageously remained a community committed to Christian values; a truly inclusive community, in which diversity has been valued, difference celebrated, and the mutual flourishing of all encouraged. We are thankful for the nurturing of a variety of talents, the creative spirit, responsible independence and critical thinking among our boys. We also give thanks for all the improvements made to physical infrastructure by the effective harnessing of the support and solidarity of old boys, parents and friends of the College, that has resulted in up-to-date facilities to enhance and enrich the learning experience. Together, as we celebrate God's faithfulness we also pray together for our Warden and his family as they look to the future and to all that God has planned for them.

All kneel in Silence to realize God's presence.

Let us pray.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in this act of worship and in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

All Pray together,

O Holy Spirit, Giver of light and life, Impart to us thoughts higher than our own thoughts, and prayers better than our own prayers, and powers beyond our own powers. That we may spend and be spent in the ways of love and goodness, after the perfect image of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Act of Penitence

The Rev'd Niroshan de Mel

As those who have known the generosity of God, let us confess the ways in which we have taken God's grace and goodness for granted, as well as those times we have failed to love one another and failed to be true to ourselves.

Silence for reflection

Creator God, you have given us so much, yet we have taken your good gifts for granted and misused them; Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Gracious God, you have blessed us each day, yet we forget to be thankful and to bless one another in turn; Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Generous God, you offer abundant life through your Son, yet we have often turned away from you and followed our own desires; Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him more faithfully in all you are and do, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Then shall be sung by the Choir, all standing

Canticle of Praise

Let all the world in corner sing

1. LET all the world in every corner sing, "My God and King!"
The heav'ns are not too high, God's praise may thither fly;
The earth is not too low, His praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing, "My God and King!"

2. Let all the world in every corner sing, "My God and King!"
The church with psalms must shout: no door can keep them out.
But, above all, the heart must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing, "My God and King!"

Words: George Herbert (1593 - 1633)
Tune: LUCKINGTON

All sit.

A Reading
from "The Memorials of Bishop James Chapman"
Mr Giban de Chickera

In building for God, in working, in spending for God, we run no venture, we hazard no loss, we cherish no vague or uncertain hopes. Though unseen, when grounded on true faith, hope is never unreal. Enduring works are often of humble beginning. The few fishermen of Galilee were the evangelizers of the world; the noblest Cathedral was once but unhewn masses of stone... the greatest university was at first no more than an alphabetical school; the Son of God Himself had but a manger cradle. It is faith which exalts, and as it were, consecrates humility in every work of man, — no fancy of the imagination, or mere profession of the lips, but a realized, living, growing principle, which "worketh by love" — active in work, beneficent in charity and brotherly love, — blessing others indeed, but in all itself most blessed. In works like ours, be not faithless, but believing; for "Blessed are they that see not," because they look not for the yet distant results of their work, and yet believe, that as God has begun, so He will continue to bless, and consummate in blessing, that work for Him, which has been from the commencement, and is, and must still remain, perhaps for many a year, essentially a work of faith, for the good of future generations.

To be sung by all, standing.

Hymn
O God beyond all praising we worship you today

**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)*

A Reading

St Paul's 1st Epistle to the Thessalonians ch. 5 vs. 12 – 24

The Rev'd Hasban de Mel

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

A Tribute

The Senior Sacristan

To be sung by all, standing

Hymn

King of glory, King of peace

**1. King of glory, King of peace,
I will love Thee;
And that love may never cease,
I will move Thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast,
Thou hast spared me.**

**2. Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing Thee,
And the cream of all my heart
I will bring Thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
Thou didst clear me;
And alone, when they replied,
Thou didst hear me.**

**3. Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n,
I will praise Thee;
In my heart, though not in heav'n,
I can raise Thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
To enroll Thee:
E'en eternity's too short
To extol Thee.**

*Words: George Herbert (1593 - 1633)
Tune: GWALCHMAI J.D. Jones (1827 - 70)*

All Sit

A Poem
'At the Crossroads' from 'The Upward Reach' by Sadie Tiller Crawley
Ms. Vaidehi Perera

He stood at the crossroads all alone,
The sunlight in his face;
He had no fear for the path unknown,
He was set for manly race.
But the road stretched east, and the road stretched west,
There was no one to tell him which road was best;
So he took the wrong road and it led him down,
Till he lost the race and the victor's crown,
He fell at last in an ugly snare;
Because no one stood at the crossroads there.

Another boy on another day,
At the selfsame crossroads stood;
He paused a moment to choose the way
That would lead to the greater good.
And the road stretched east and the road stretched west,
And one was there to show him the best;
So he turned right and went on and on,
And he won the race and the victor's crown;
He walks today the highway fair,
Because one stood at the crossroads there.

All stand and sing

Hymn
Great is Thy faithfulness

**1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain: **Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided:
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]**

**3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]**

Words: Thomas O Chisholm (1866 - 1960)

Tune: FAITHFULNESS W.M. Runyan (1870 - 1957)

Remain standing

A Reading
from the Gospel According to St John ch. 15 vs. 12 – 17
Mrs Lalani Muttuthanthri

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

All sit

A Reflection
The Rev'd Canon Joshua Ratnam

All stand

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

(Cf. Ephesians 3)

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 (b1957)

All sit

A Personal Testimony
The Rev'd Marc Billimoria

The Congregation shall stand for the singing of the Te Deum by the Choir. During which, the Altar will be incensed by the Chaplain.

Te Deum Laudamus *Stanford in B Flat*

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein.
To thee cherubin and seraphin continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee:
the Father of an infinite majesty;
thine honourable, true and only Son;
also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.
Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,
thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting.
O Lord, save thy people and bless thine heritage.
Govern them and lift them up for ever.
Day by day we magnify thee;
and we worship thy name, ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

Offertory Hymn

Lord of all power I give you my will

The Offertory received at this Service will be towards the Chapel Solidarity Fund from which members of the Chapel and School communities are assisted in times of need.

**1. Lord of all power, I give you my will,
In joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.
Your bondage is freedom, your service is song,
And, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.**

**2. Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
Rich truth that surpasses our knowledge to find.
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
Is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word.**

**3. Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you for all you impart:
Your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
Your presence to cheer me, whatever betide.**

**4. Lord of all being, I give you my all.
If e'er I disown you, I stumble and fall,
But, sworn in glad service your word to obey,
I walk in your freedom to the end of the way.**

Words: Jack C. Winslow (1882 - 1974)
Tune: SLANE Irish Traditional Melody
Harmonised: E. Routley (1917 - 1982)

Praying Farewell

Bishop Dhiloraj Canagasabay (Emeritus Bishop of Colombo) stands at the chancel steps and the Warden stands before him.

Bishop Dhiloraj addresses the congregation

Dear friends, in the book of Ecclesiastes, the Preacher writes the following: "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:."

Father Marc Billimoria has completed ten years of stewardship as our Warden and is leaving us to continue his pilgrimage elsewhere. This evening, therefore, as we thank God for Fr Marc's ministry here at S. Thomas' College; it is a time to look back, and a time to look forward; a time for joy, and a time for sadness. It is a time to give praise to God for what Fr Marc has been to each of us and to let him go to continue his pilgrimage as we continue ours as a school community without him. He has not just been the Warden, he has been a teacher, a mentor, a friend. With mixed emotions, we mark and celebrate the ending of his ministry among us.

Bishop Dhilloraj then addresses the Warden,

Father Marc, we commissioned you to be our Warden, you have provided leadership and guidance to this community in the spirit of Christ these past ten years. You have challenged us with the values of the Gospel in your work. You have helped us to find our direction and encouraged us on our way. Sharing in our joys and sorrows, you have been important to us in our life together in this School.

The Bishop then addresses the congregation,

With praise and thanksgiving to God let us pray together for Father Marc, Manisha, Shekainah and Shokeidh and for this community as we all prepare for inevitable change.

Eternal Lord God: We pray for Father Marc, his family and this School community. You have done many mighty things in this place. Even as you empowered Fr Marc and all those who worked with him here for the common good and for the sake of those committed to their care, continue to bless and guide them into the future that is known unto you alone. We pray that they may all continue to show forth in all their relationships and areas of influence, in both word and deed, the life of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that we all may continue to serve you till our lives end; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

The choir shall then sing

The Clare Benediction

by Sir John Rutter

May the Lord show His mercy upon you
May the light of His presence be your guide
May He guard you and uphold you
May His spirit be ever by your side

May the Lord's loving kindness surround you
Keep you safe as you journey on your way
May he lead you and inspire you
As he grants you the gift of each new day.

When you sleep, may His angels watch over you
When you wake, may He fill you with His grace
May you love Him and serve Him all your days
Then in heaven may you see His face

May he bless all your loved ones and cherish them
Ev'ry friend, ev'ry stranger at your door
In the name of his Son our Saviour Christ
May God bless you now and evermore

The Lord's Prayer

Joseph Lee

Blessing
Bishop Dhiloraj Canagasabey

The Love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself; the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service; the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your lives; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and abide with you and all those with whom you share life and love, this night and always.

All: **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn
All my hope on God is Founded

The Clergy recess to the West Door accompanied by the Warden.

**1. ALL my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown, He alone calls my heart to be his own.**

**2. Pride of man and earthly glory,
Sword and crown betray his trust;
What with care and toil he buildeth,
Tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, Hour by hour, is my temple and my tower.**

**3. God's great goodness aye endureth,
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light, and life attend him,
Beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore From his store new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**4. Daily doth th' Almighty giver
Bounteous gifts on us bestow;
His desire our soul delighteth,
Pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand At his hand; joy doth wait on his command.**

**5 Still from earth to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call One and all: ye who follow shall not fall.**

*Words: Robert Bridges (1844 - 1930)
based on German of J. Neander (1650 - 80)
Tune: MICHAEL Herbert Howells
Arrangement: Christopher Palmer*

For Reflection

Teach us, good Lord,
to serve you as you deserve;
to give, and not to count the cost,
to fight, and not to heed the wounds,
to toil, and not to seek for rest,
to labour, and not to ask for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do your will.

– *St Ignatius of Loyola*

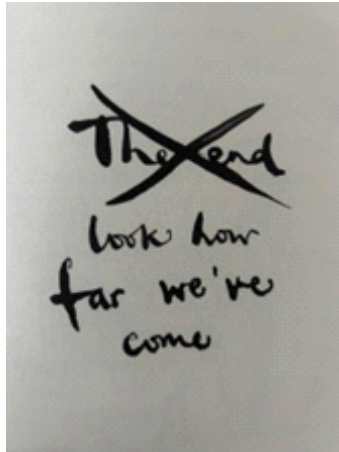
My son, I will teach you the way of peace and true liberty...
try to do another's will rather than your own.
Always choose to have less than more.
Always choose the lowest place and to be less than everyone else.
Always long and pray that the will of God may be fully realized in your life.
You will find the man who does all this walks in the land of peace and
quietness.

– *Thomas a Kempis*

To spend and be spent in our work is our greatest and best privilege
– *Bishop James Chapman*

Education: by that I understand not merely the imparting of knowledge. But the
drawing out of the powers of mind, spirit and body; The evoking of a reverence for
truth, and the use of the imagination in its pursuit.

– *Archbishop Michael Ramsey*



Laus Deo

'For all that is past – thank...
For all that is yet to be – YES!' (DH)