

A Service of Thanksgiving and Commendation
to Celebrate
the Life and Work of



Mr. Udaya Gunaratne
(February 1969 - January 2025)

The Chapel of the Transfiguration
S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia

16th January 2025

The Funeral Service

Receiving the Coffin

The minister meets the coffin at the Chapel Steps and says

We receive the body of our brother *Udaya* with confidence in God, the giver of life, who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead.

The College Flag will then be draped on the coffin and will be sprinkled with water while saying these words

With this water we call to mind *Udaya's* baptism. As Christ went through the deep waters of death for us, so may he bring us to the fullness of resurrection life with *Udaya* and all the redeemed.

The coffin is then carried into the Chapel by the School Prefects. During which the minister will say the following sentences

‘I am the resurrection and the life,’ says the Lord. ‘Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

John 11.25,26

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38,39

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. So we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4.14,17b,18

We brought nothing into the world, and we take nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

1 Timothy 6.7; Job 1.21b

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is his faithfulness.

Lamentations 3.22,23

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matthew 5.4

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3.16

When the coffin is in place, the minister prays using these words

God our Father, by raising Christ your Son you destroyed the power of death and opened for us the way to eternal life. As we remember before you our brother *Udaya*, we ask your help for all who shall gather in his memory. Grant us the assurance of your presence and grace, by the Spirit you have given us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Introduction

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father. Grace and mercy be with you.

We have come here today to remember before God our brother *Udaya* to give thanks for his life; to commend him to God our merciful redeemer and judge; to commit his body to be buried, and to comfort one another in our grief.

God of all consolation, your Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears at the grave of Lazarus his friend. Look with compassion on your children in their loss; give to troubled hearts the light of hope and strengthen in us the gift of faith, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

**1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!**

**2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer!**

**3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge--
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
You will find a solace there.**

Call to Penitence

As children of a loving heavenly Father, let us ask his forgiveness, for he is gentle and full of compassion.

Silence is kept.

Confession

God of mercy, we acknowledge that we are all sinners. We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done, and are mindful of all that we have failed to do. For the sake of Jesus, who died for us, forgive us for all that is past, and help us to live each day in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

May God our Father forgive you your sins and bring you to the eternal joy of his kingdom, where dust and ashes have no dominion. **Amen.**

The Collect

Merciful Father, hear our prayers and comfort us; renew our trust in your Son, whom you raised from the dead; strengthen our faith that all who have died in the love of Christ will share in his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lesson *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Silence

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Eulogy

Prayers of the people

God of mercy, Lord of life, you have made us in your image to reflect your truth and light: we give you thanks for *Udaya*, for the grace and mercy he received from you, for all that was good in his life, for the memories we treasure today.

Lord, in your mercy : **Hear our prayer.**

You promised eternal life to those who believe. Remember for good this your servant *Udaya* as we also remember him. Bring all who rest in Christ into the fullness of your kingdom where sins have been forgiven and death is no more.

Lord, in your mercy : **Hear our prayer.**

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief and life out of death. Look in mercy on all who mourn. Give them patient faith in times of darkness. Strengthen them with the knowledge of your love.

Lord, in your mercy : **Hear our prayer.**

You are tender towards your children and your mercy is over all your works. Heal the memories of hurt and failure. Give us the wisdom and grace to use aright the time that is left to us here on earth, to turn to Christ and follow in his steps in the way that leads to everlasting life.

Lord, in your mercy : **Hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, entrusting into your hands all that you have made and rejoicing in our communion with all your faithful people, we make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

**1. The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.**

**2. Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.**

**3.Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**4.In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.**

**5.Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**6.And so through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.**

Commendation and Farewell

The minister stands by the coffin and says

Let us commend *Udaya* to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

God our creator and redeemer, by your power Christ conquered death and entered into glory. Confident of his victory and claiming his promises, we entrust *Udaya* to your mercy in the name of Jesus our Lord, who died and is alive and reigns with you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Then shall be sung by the choir; the Nunc Dimittis.

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people, Israel.

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

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

All stand still for the playing of the Dead March

Dead March

Prayers

Forgiving God, in the face of death we discover how many things are still undone, how much might have been done otherwise, and redeem our failure. Bind up the wounds of past mistakes. Transform our guilt to active love and by your forgiveness make us whole. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Heavenly Father, in your Son Jesus Christ you have given us a true faith and a sure hope. Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days, that we may live as those who believe in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Support us, O Lord, all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May God give you his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy, in this world and the next; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

During the singing of the hymn, the Coffin will be carried out.

Hymn

**1. Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.**

**2. O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
To keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.**

**3. All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The One eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore. Amen**