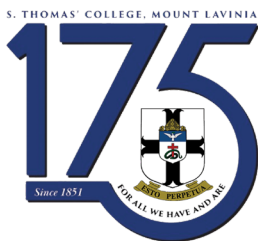


# The Chapel of The Transfiguration



## Gurutalawa Day

A Service to Celebrate Unity and Enduring Friendship

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
7.45 am



*The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.  
Remain seated as the choir enters and takes their place.  
All stand, to sing, as the servers and clergy enter and move to the  
sanctuary,*

Hymn

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To his feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven.  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King!**

**Praise him for his grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him still the same forever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness.**

**Father-like he tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame he knows;  
In his hands he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Widely as his mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore him;  
Ye behold him face to face;  
Sun and moon bow down before him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace!**

Words: Henry Lyte (1800–80)

Tune: Praise my Soul  
John Goss (1800–80)

*Remain standing. Ven. Samuel Ponniah, Chaplain, S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, gives*

## The Welcome and Introduction

*All sit. A Server from S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, reads*

### The First Reading | Ephesians 4. 1–6

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Thanks be to God.

*Remain seated. Mr. Chamodh de Silva, Lay Assisant, S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, reads*

### Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!  
It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.  
It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,  
life for evermore.

*All sit. The Senior Sacristan of S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa, reads,*

### The Second Reading | John 15. 12–17

‘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.

Thanks be to God.

*Remain seated. Ven. Samuel Ponniah, gives*

### The Address

*All stand for*

## An Act of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

*The chapel bell tolls once, and a period of silence is kept in memory of all past Heads, Staff, Students, and Benefactors. At the end of the silence, the bell will toll once more, after which the Rev'd. Patrick Lawrence, Chaplain, S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa, continues*

Let us pray.

Almighty and most gracious God,  
in whose name we are gathered this day,  
we give thee thanks for the foundation and growth of this School:  
first at Mutwal in 1851,  
then at Mount Lavinia in 1918,  
and at Gurutalawa in 1942.

We remember with gratitude thy servant James Chapman,  
our Founder;  
R. S. de Saram;  
R. L. Hayman;  
and A. J. Foster;  
together with all who have given of their labour, their vision,  
and their generosity.

We give thee thanks for those who designed and built,  
for those who taught and served,  
and for all who, in every generation,  
have shaped and strengthened this community.

We remember before thee all who have gone before us—  
Governors, Wardens, Head Masters, Sub Wardens, Chaplains,  
Staff, and Students—and all who, by their faithful service,  
have inspired and guided young lives.

Grant that we, mindful of their example,  
may be faithful in our own generation;  
that we may seek what is right,  
and uphold all that is good and true;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Remain standing. The Ven. Samuel Ponniah gives*

## The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest;  
to the peoples of every church and nation, peace and goodwill;  
to our Schools, strength in purpose and growth in wisdom;  
and to us, and to all the servants of God, life everlasting;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, be among you,  
and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*Remain standing to sing*

## Hymn

**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 to-day.**

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

**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.**

Words: Martin Rinkart (1586–1649)

Tune: Nun Danket  
Johann Crüger (1598–1662)

## Music after the Service

Prelude and Fugue in B flat major BWV 560 J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

*Please remain standing until the choir moves out, then sit, and  
remain seated until invited to move out by a college prefect*