

BISHOPS OF COLOMBO & VISITORS TO THE COLLEGE

The Rt Revd C. D. Horsley
The Rt Revd A. R. Graham-Campbell
The Rt Revd C. H. W. de Soysa
The Rt Revd C. L. Abeynaike
The Rt Revd S. W. Fernando
The Rt Revd J. J. Gnanapragasam
The Rt Revd K. M. J. Fernando
The Rt Revd D. K. de Chickera

ARCHDEACONS OF NUWARA ELIYA

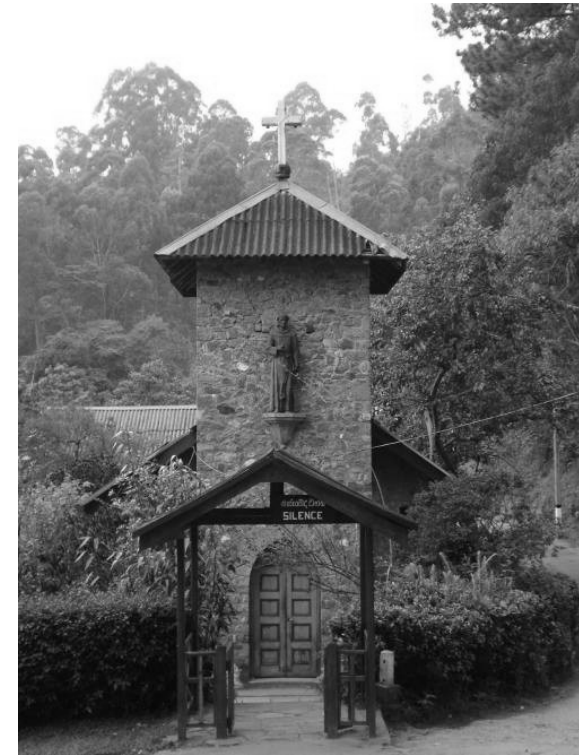
The College and Chapel have been within the Archdeaconry of Nuwara Eliya since 1983, before which they were part of the Archdeaconry of Colombo
The Ven. C. E. G. Weerasooriya
The Ven. J. Daniel
The Ven. D. R. Canagasabey

CHAPLAINS WHO HAVE SERVED

The Revd Canon A. J. Foster	1942 – 1946
The Revd G. Oakley	1946 – 1947
The Revd Canon C. M. Thomas	1947 – 1948
The Revd Canon A. J. Foster	1948 – 1965
The Revd A. C. Hobson	1950
The Revd H. C. Goodchild	1965 – 1969
Visiting Clergy from Bandarawela	1969 – 1974
The Revd R. L. V. Pereira	1975
The Revd H. C. Goodchild	1976 – 1990
The Revd C. W. C Balraj	1991 – 1995
The Revd D. L. Rodrigo	1995 – 1997
The Revd W. S. Mohotti	1997 - 1998
The Revd N. Gunasekera	1999 - 2001
The Revd H. N. J. R. Fernando	2002 – 2003
The Revd H. C. Goodchild	2004 – 2006
The Revd J. A. Gnaniah	2007 – 2008
A Chaplaincy Team	2009 to date

S.THOMAS' COLLEGE AT GURUTALAWA

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE 65TH DEDICATION FESTIVAL OF THE CHAPEL OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (Consecrated - 4th December 1945)



SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER 2010

9.00 A. M.

THE GATHERING AND PREPARATION

Processional Hymn : *A Tamil Lyric of Praise and Thanks acknowledging the need to sing praises to God everywhere and all the time.*

The Procession of boys, staff and the clergy commenced at the Basketball Court, near the Persimmon Tree planted by Dr R. L. Hayman and proceeded to the Chapel led by Thurifer, Crucifer, Sesath Bearers, Acolytes and Choir.

Welcome & Introduction : Rev. Marc Billimoria
Headmaster

Opening Sentence

Jacob was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." *Genesis 28:17*

Invocation : *An invocation inviting the Triune God to be present in Sinhala & Tamil*

Confession : *Ninefold Kyries in Tamil*

Absolution : Rt. Rev. Kenneth Fernando

Gloria : *In Sinhala*

Collect for the Day : Rev. Saman Jayasooriya

Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: we praise you for the many blessing you have given to those who worship you here, we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you, and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may become a living temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading : 2 Chronicles 7: 11 – 16 *(in Sinhala)*
T. I. Dharmaraj, the Senior Sacristan

Epistle : 1 Peter 2: 1 – 10 *(in Tamil)*
Mrs. J. Nesaseelan, A Member of Staff

Gradual Hymn *A Sinhala Lyric based on the famous Prayer for Peace attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of the Chapel.*

Gospel : Matthew 21: 12 – 16 *(in English)*
Mrs. Inga Fairweather, a Friend of the Chapel

Sermon : The Rt. Revd Kenneth Fernando
Bishop Emeritus
(in Sinhala with a simultaneous translation into Tamil)

Affirmation of Faith : Rev. Ranjit Perera

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exists?

All:- We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All:-We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All:-We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**All:- This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Intercessory Prayers : Rev. Marc Billimoria
Two minutes silence was kept by all to remember all the benefactors of the Chapel notably Dr R. L. & Mary Hayman and Canon A. J. Foster. This act of remembrance was followed by biddings for the Nation , the Church & Diocese, the School and all people everywhere in need of Shalom(Wholeness and Peace)

The Peace

Offertory Hymn *A Sinhala Lyric based on the English Hymn 'Take my Life, and let it be' written by the late Canon Sydney Weragoda and set to the tune of a much loved song by the late Sunil Shantha*

During the Offertory Hymn the College Flag was brought up in procession and offered up as a symbol of the re-dedication of the School to God.

MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Offertory Chant	:	<i>In Sinhala</i>
The Great Thanksgiving	:	<i>In Sinhala, Tamil & English</i>
The Breaking of Bread	:	<i>In English</i>
The Lord's Prayer	:	<i>In Sinhala</i>
The Elevation	:	<i>In Sinhala</i>

DEEP SILENCE was kept to reverence the Blessed Sacrament, to prepare to receive the Body and Blood of Christ and enter a state of Grace

The Communion

AFTER COMMUNION

After Communion Sentence

God has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has enlisted us in this service of reconciliation. *2 Corinthians 12: 18*

After Communion Collect : Rev. Ranjit Perera

Thanksgiving Prayer

The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi :- *All*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, peace;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
Grant that we may not so much
Seek to be consoled as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life
In your blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Blessing	:	The Bishop Emeritus
The Dismissal	:	Rev. Saman Jayasooriya
Recessional Hymn	:	The Church's One Foundation

THE STORY OF OUR CHAPEL

The Chapel of St. Francis of Assisi, S. Thomas' College at Gurutalawa was consecrated by the Rt. Revd Cecil Douglas Horsley DD, 7th Bishop of Colombo, assisted by the Rt Revd Lakdasa de Mel, Assistant Bishop of Colombo on the 4th of December 1945 at the invitation of the Warden of the School, the Revd Canon R. S. de Saram in the presence of a gathering of distinguished old boys, clergy, boys and well wishers of the School.

The Chapel was built thanks to the generosity of one single anonymous donor in memory of Jacob de Mel, an old Thomian of the Mutwal years.

Thomians from Mount Lavinia were still in exile despite the war in Asia having ended and it had been decided that a part of the School would remain at Gurutalawa from January 1946 together with Dr R. L. Hayman and Canon A. J. Foster and a few other members of staff. The consecration of a Chapel was thus a sign of the establishment and continuity of a Thomian community at Gurutalawa.

The fact that the Chapel was consecrated in the name of St. Francis of Assisi was no accident. It is said to have been a very definite choice by the Triumvirate - Canon R. S. de Saram, Dr R. L. Hayman and Canon A. J. Foster – who felt that given the location of the School amidst a beautiful natural setting, naming it for the 'Patron Saint of Nature' would be the most appropriate decision. Certainly its unique, simple design reflects the spirituality of the Patron Saint that is meant to be fostered.

As with the Chapel of the Transfiguration at STC Mount Lavinia, the Thomian Chapel at Gurutalawa has since the day of its consecration been central to the life of the entire School community, irrespective of religious persuasion. But unlike the Mount Lavinia Chapel, the Chapel at Gurutalawa was deliberately built for a small community and for the past 65 years has served its purpose. Even when the number of students were over a thousand in the late 1980s, the number of Christians is said to have never exceeded the space provided for in and around the Chapel.

From the very beginning the Chapel has catered for the spiritual needs of all Christian students and staff of all denominations. Many non-Christian students and staff belonging to other living faiths have also sought spiritual succour within this sacred space. To this day a number of students of other living faiths join the various activities of the Chapel, of course with the consent of their parents and the School authorities. Many benefactors of the Chapel over the years have been non-Christian old boys and staff for whom the Chapel has held special significance. It has been for many 'a House of Prayer' and 'the Gate of Heaven'.

Since the beginning a number of Anglican clergy of the Diocese of Colombo, starting with Canon A. J. Foster, have served as Chaplains and contributed much to the spiritual lives of those who worshipped within the Chapel. Canon A. J. Foster gave of himself in more ways than one to the Chapel and the School until his sudden and untimely death. Many of the altar ornaments, pictures, images and vestments still in use were gifts to the Chapel by him. He also bequeathed a legacy of Anglo-Catholic or High Church spirituality and liturgical style that continues to be fostered together with more modern styles of worship. A plaque in his memory was placed in the Chapel soon after his death to remind future generations of his many acts of selfless service to the Chapel.