

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd



S. Thomas' College,
Bandarawela



**Golden Jubilee Celebration
1959 - 2009**

September 29th, 2009



Message from the Bishop of Colombo

I am glad to note that the Chapel of the Good Shepherd of S. Thomas' College Bandarawela is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its dedication. School Chapels play an important part in the life of the school community. It is at the centre of school life and very often, it assists the whole school community, irrespective of their religious beliefs, in their spiritual and moral journey.

We give thanks to God for the role that the Chapel has played in the life of the school community at S Thomas' Bandarawela. My prayer is that you continue to be a beacon of light to the whole school community.

With Peace and Blessings.

The Rt Revd Duleep de Chickera
Bishop of Colombo



Message from the Bishop of Kurunagala

It is a great pleasure to have this opportunity to associate with the Golden Jubilee of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd and to send this message when you thank God for all what God has been able to achieve through the ministry of the Chaplaincy at S. Thomas', Bandarawela.

As a Christian community having fulfilled the will of God for the past 50 years you are now ready to launch out to the future with courage and determination. I join with you to thank God for all the great blessings bestowed on you during the past decades. It is time to revisit the past and to ascertain your efforts to be obedient to God day by day and to fulfill the tasks that God has placed before you.

The ministry among students needs special attention and is characterized by the fact that you are among children and young people and that you are serving God in an educational setting. Formation of character and personality is part and parcel of education and I am confident that the Chapel continues to play a very important role within the larger responsibilities of the school. Our ministry becomes much more significant in the understanding that the students are children who have been committed to our care by God and we are directly accountable to God on our pastoral ministry, as much as we do have a responsibility by our parents and all other stakeholders of the college. It is a tremendous privilege in all our schools to have the opportunity to serve beyond all barriers of race, religion, age or any other factor that divides us. It is understood beyond doubt that the ministry of the chaplaincy enfolds the whole community and is truly inclusive. On this Holy occasion let us place our trust solely in Him who has created us to His own likeness, and seek God's guidance

to continue this ministry meaningfully and effectively in the days to come. Our determination to do so confirms our gratitude for those who have gone before us in this ministry and who have set the direction for us.

Please be assured of our prayers and all good wishes as you celebrate this occasion and thank God. It is my firm belief that you will be much in the abundance of God's mercy and liberating love.

Shalom and with every blessing.

The Rt Revd Kumara Illangasinghe
The Bishop of Kurunagala



Message from the Chaplain S. Thomas' College Bandarawela & Archdeacon of Nuwara Eliya

I take great pleasure in sending my greetings and best wishes to the Headmaster, Staff students and parents of S. Thomas' College Bandarawela as they commemorate the Golden Anniversary of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd on Tuesday the 29th of September 2009.

The Lord Jesus who said “Let little children come unto me for such is the Kingdom of God” also said “I am the Good Shepherd” The Chapel of the Good Shepherd through all the worship that took place within its walls and through all its activities has been engaged in the function of drawing all children and teachers unto God. The children have been nurtured to imbibe the qualities of a lamb and the teachers to play the role of a shepherd in forming and fashioning the lives of children committed to their charge.

We praise God for all that the Lord has achieved in the lives of all people who walked into the chapel in prayer during these 50 years that have gone by. For all that we have failed to offer Him in return during these 50 years we ask for His forgiveness. Let us trust Him for all that He hopes to achieve through us in the future.

May the Chapel of the Good Shepherd remain as the centre of attraction and a symbol of Christian spirituality for all who may walk into that premises.

May God Bless you all!

The Venerable Dhiloraj Ranjit Canagasabey
Chaplain, S. Thomas' College Bandarawela &
Archdeacon of Nuwara Eliya



Headmaster's Message

I pen this message with great pleasure and pride on the occasion of celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

It was fifty years ago, in September 1959 that The Right Reverend Archibald Campbell, Lord Bishop of Colombo laid the foundation stone of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd at St. Thomas' Preparatory School, Bandarawela.

Since then, hundreds and thousands of children have entered this beautiful Chapel on the hill and have been blessed in numerous ways.

Many still make it a point to visit the Chapel to pay homage when they are in Bandarawela.

The Church is comprised of stones of many different shapes and sizes of many different types of children and adults who speak all of the languages and follow all of the cultures of the human family. The Church that Christ builds welcomes all who seek membership therein and does not reject anyone who ever longs to be a part of this structure of faith, hope and love.

We are thankful to all who helped plan this chapel, those who put in untold hours in overseeing the construction and for those who have sacrificed to make this chapel possible.

We give thanks to the past, but also look forward to another 50 years and beyond...

Esto Perpetua!

L.A.M. Chandrasekera
Headmaster

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd

The dedication of the School Chapel on Tuesday 7th November marked an important landmark in the history of the School. When in 1942 the School buildings in Colombo were taken over by the Navy, the whole boarding house had to be moved to Bandarawela, where Mr. Keble had just opened the Up-country branch in a rented bungalow, which is now occupied by Messrs. Walker Sons & Co. Ltd. Everything was extremely make shift as we were not able to bring any of the School furniture from Colombo, owing to the absence of transport, both railway and road refusing to carry our goods. A year later, when the School moved down the hill to the bungalow that Mr. Hulugalle so very generously lent us to house the rapidly growing School, the Navy sent up a lorry load of odds and ends of School furniture, which included that of the Chapel. At first we had only a mud walled, earthen-floored shed which was our Chapel. A little later, Mr. Keble bought a large steel- framed and tagaram-walled cattle shed, which was put upon Mr. Hulugalle's land near the bungalow, and divided into Chapel, Office, Classrooms and a tiny two-roomed flat for Mr. & Mrs. Keble.

When planning the layout of the School, one of the first spots Mr. Keble decided on was the site for the Chapel, on the top of the hill where, as he said, it would stand up like a beacon and be seen from all sides. The temporary Chapel was in one of the rooms of the first building - Wijewardane House. We had set aside the offertories at the Chapel services to be the beginning of a "Chapel Fund" but some of this had to be used for fitting up the temporary Chapel, as the things sent up by the Navy did not include seats. This Chapel was dedicated in 1946 by Cannon Boteju who was Vicar of the Bandarawela Church, and acted as School Chaplain.

Mr. Keble and some of the boys and staff cleared and levelled the site for the permanent Chapel, even the Kindergarten doing their share: In the first term of 1956 the large block of classrooms on the top of the hill was opened and the office and Headmaster's room were moved from Wijewardane House to the new building and the Chapel was transferred to the vacated part of Wijewardane House, which was slightly larger than the one previously in use. Mr. Keble had prepared plans, and beautiful pencil drawings of the Chapel he hoped to built on the permanent site. These, sad to say, mysteriously vanished shortly after he left Ceylon.

These plans would have been too expensive to carry out in detail, under the present conditions, so have been slightly modified, but the general character of the plan has been retained. Thanks to many generous donations in money and in

materials, from parents and friends of the school, we were able to have the laying of the foundation stone on St. Michael's Day 1959, when the Bishop of Colombo came and officiated at the ceremony. It was a beautiful service, and the Bishop of Kurunegala, a very old friend of Mr. Keble as they were fellow students at Oxford, and many clergy and members of the local congregations were present.

There have been many delays and hindrances but at last to our great joy we have realized our dream, and have a real place of worship, more worthy of its purpose. "A Chapel set on a hill" where services can be held in a proper atmosphere of quiet and reverence undisturbed by incoming cars, and other school traffic. Our great regret is that Mr. and Mrs. Keble are not able to see it and rejoice with us.

We are thankful to Mr. E.C.R. Schockman who drew up the plans for the Chapel and Mr. K.C. Bartholomeusz, one of our parents and a good friend of the school, who supervised the building of the Chapel till he left Ceylon to settle down in Australia last July.

We are thankful to Mr. L.B. Werapitiya, one of our parents, who made available the satin timber necessary for the doors and window frames.

We are deeply grateful to Mr. S.C. Fernando who built the Bandarawela Town Hall, for rapidly coming to our aid, when the original contractor disappointed us. Mr Fernando and his able assistant Mr. W.J. Kulasiri of Moratuwa have spared no pains in completing this beautiful edifice. It has been a labour of love for them.

Our grateful thanks are due to the numerous friends and parents, members of the staff and pupils who have contributed liberally towards the building and furnishing of the Chapel.

The above article on the Chapel of the Good Shepherd was first published in the School Magazine of 1961

Recollection of Rev. Canon Douglas Neville Amaratunge

It is now less than six months since he left us after a brief illness. A person who mentored many, loved and respected by all who came in contact with him and yet was a private person, who shied away from recognition and applause. He led a very simple life, with no scooters or cars, but his own feet were his vehicle for a distance of two to three kilometers.

Even though Fr. Amaratunge was a private person, he gave up his privacy, and his vicarage became a safe house for many in the town during the peak time of “black July” in 1983. He was not a spectator of violence or merely lamented it but came forward, condemning it, responded to the need of that time, risking his own life. He courageously refused to let any one who sought his protection to be moved to the Government managed camps, whether it was the parishioners or not. He took care of us until we were able to return to our homes.

Father Amaratunge was one whom all the students of S. Thomas' Bandarawela, feared with great respect and love because of his firmness and his ability to know the boys beyond knowing their names alone. Whenever his pupils would meet him, he proudly acknowledged that they were his pupils and would recall their other friends and all 'pranks' of their student-hood. His love and commitment for the chaplaincy role was always appreciated by all the students and the staff, no doubt. Of course, he was a great asset and a good companion to the Headmaster in handling student problems.

“Education only in and about one's own tradition deprives people of the richness and diversity of the human community. Knowledge and experience of the religious lives of those among whom we live help us to have a feel of what it means to be part of the wider human community.” Rev. Amaratunge, later a Canon of the Church was definitely a follower of the above idea. He introduced an introductory course named 'comparative religion' sharing the class with the then Headmaster Mr. S.L.A. Ratnayake, who conducted class on 'Social Relationship' alternatively to prepare the senior students to life in the outer world.

When, we students waited for the public transport or the private vehicles of our friends to reach the school, which was a few kilometres away from the town, no pouring rain or scorching sun would let him enjoy even a free ride offered to him. He always walked to and fro with his umbrella and the briefcase. Sometimes we had the opportunity of walking with him, usually unable to be abreast with him.

Fr. Amaratunge was very methodical, systematic and a perfectionist, who made training under him very tough, which definitely has the benefit in the long run,

whether it was putting up notices, walking in procession, serving at the Altar, public reading of the scriptures etc. He was very particular about sufficiently educating and training the confirmation candidates.

People loved listening to the well prepared, thoughtful sermons in high flown English of this ardent reader and a powerful, expressive speaker. He always appeared to people clad in his cassock. To his nobility and friendliness mingled with straightforwardness and firmness, the parish welcomed him as vicar for the second time after a short spell following the completion of his first term. I believe, all would agree with me that we are unfortunate to miss the presence of Fr. Amaratunge at this great time of joy of the parish. We thank God for the ministry he performed in the parish of the Church of the Ascension along with St. Jame's Diyatalawa, St. Andrew's Haputale, Welimada Chapel, St. John's, Koslanda and S. Thomas' College from 01.06.1976 to 31.12.1980 and 01.10.1982 to 31.12.1987.

Fr. Amaratunge, a product of Bishops' College, Calcutta,
Guru, Mentor and a friend!
Your powerful voice still rings in our ears,
Your laughter in between dialogues are before us,
Your sitting posture, straight and unmoving for long hours fascinates us,
Your forceful and decent embraces and the holding of our arms, we miss!
One question, which we dared not ask you then
Thinking smart of us, we concealed our boyhood mischief from you,
Yet, realized our foolishness,
Not because you pulled us up,
But, to our dismay, you refrained from doing so.
Why such silence?
Supposedly, you ignored our mischief, surely with hope!
Sorry Father, some of us missed your last journey on 02.06.2009!
However, we are ever indebted to you, for who you were to us, in Bandarawela

Rev. Christopher Balraj

Lecturer
Theological College of Lanka
Pilimatalawa
and past pupil of S.T.C. Bandarawela

*Copied from the Church of the Ascension, Bandarawela Centenary Souvenir
1909-2009*

Recent Activities

The following development and activities were carried out during the recent past

- ? The isle of the Chapel was tiled
- ? The Chapel was renovated and colour washed
- ? A new public address and recorded music system was introduced with the assistance of Mr. Andrew Heselgrave a volunteer teacher from the United Kingdom
- ? The Carol Service has become an annual event and choristers have been provided with choir robes
- ? The services of Pastor Jan Mack has been obtained to form a permanent choir and it has been a great success.
- ? The SCM has been able to raise funds and materials to assist the less privileged
- ? Shramadana campaigns have been organized in public areas and orphanages.
- ? Inter religious dialogue programme organized through the SCM with the participation of major religious dignitaries from the area came and shared their ideas in inter religious harmony. Buddhists, Hindus, Islam, Roman Catholic, Anglicans, Methodists and Christians
- ? The Easter Musical Programme was initiated in 2005 and has become an annual event.
- ? Special Services were conducted to welcome teachers of the Link Programme from Richard Taylor Primary School UK.
- ? A Chapel Library was opened for Christian students in 2006 and books were donated by the Richard Taylor Primary School UK.
- ? In addition to the normal daily religious worship a service of blessing is conducted for G.C.E. (O/L) and (A/L) students since 2005 onwards.
- ? Communion service is conducted on the Founders Day

Christian Students Total 165

Christian Teachers Total 33

The chapel of the Good Shepherd cannot accommodate the present total of Christian students and teachers as it was built for a small number and we trust that the support of well wishers would be extended to expand the Chapel. The Chapel would be expanded without destroying architectural pattern and values which is a challenge to us.

Chaplains at S. Thomas' College, Bandarawela

Ven. Dhiloraj Canagasabey

Rev. Pradeep Jesudian (January 2004 - December 2008)

Ven. Dhiloraj Canagasabey

Rev. Jayantha Jeyaweerasingham

Rev. Douglas Amarathunga

Rev. Henry Perera

Rev. Gamini Serasinghe

Rev. Goodchild

Rev. Edison Mendis

Rev. George Jeerasinghe

A PICTORIAL GUIDE:

CHAPEL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

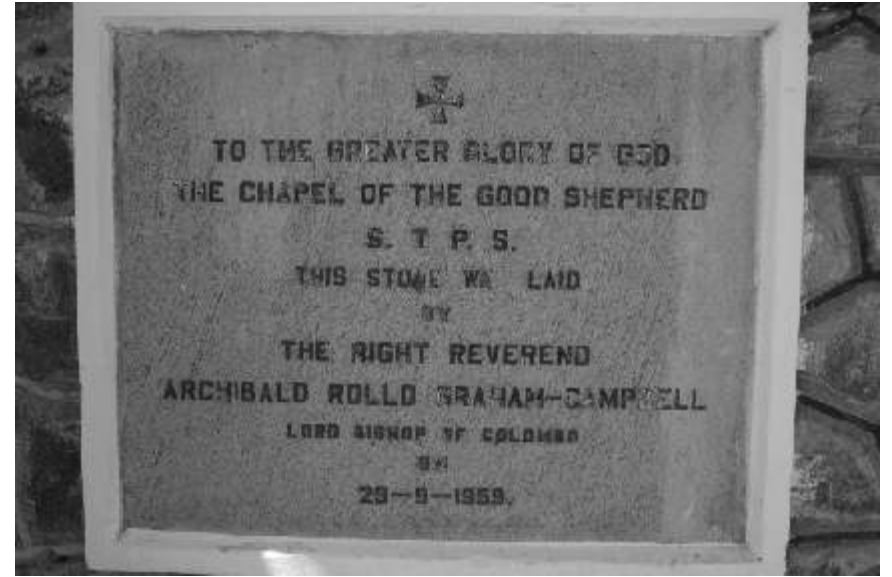


Procession leading towards the new chapel



Laying of the foundation stone by the Right Reverend Archibald Graham-Cambell assisted by the Headmaster Mr. V.D. Paulraj

At the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone



Plaque at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd



Staff and well-wishers at the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone



The Facade of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd



Interior of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd



SCM Get-together



Choristers with new robes for the Carol Service



Opening of the Chapel Library by the Staff of Richard Taylor Primary School UK.



Charity work by the Student Christian Movement

The Liturgy

Chapel of the Good Shepherd
S. Thomas' College
Bandarawela

Opening Sentences: “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of Heaven.”
Genesis 28:17

Hymn 1 - Now thank we all our God

Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

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.

Silence

Let us make humble confession of our sins to God.

We confess to Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, through our grievous fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. Wherefore we pray God to have mercy on us.

Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and deliver us from all evil, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

Songs of Praise

God is so good

God you are good ///
You are good to me!

I love you so ///
You are good to me!

Thou art worthy

Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy,
Thou art worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory, glory and honor,
Glory and honor and power;
For Thou has created,
Hast all things created,
Thou hast created all things,
And for Thy pleasure they are created:
Thou art worthy, O Lord!

You're my Lord

You're my Lord, You're my Lord.
You are risen from the dead
And you're my Lord.
Yes my knee shall bow,
Yes my tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

Your name is Wonderful

Your name is Wonderful, Your name is Wonderful,
Your name is Wonderful, Jesus my Lord;
You are the mighty King, master of everything,
Your name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.

You are the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages,
Almighty God are you;
We bow down before you, love and adore you,
Your name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.

Collect

Almighty God to whose we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer; we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who worshipped in her during the past 50 years and who still worship you here; We pray that all who seek you in this House of Prayer may find you, and being filled with the Holy Spirit may become a living temple acceptable to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Epistle

Hymn 2 - The Lord's my Shepherd

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;

For Thou art with me; and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

Gospel Reading - All Stand

Listen to the Good News proclaimed in Chapter
..... reading from verse to

Glory to Christ our Saviour

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise to Christ our Lord

Sermon Rt. Revd. Kumara Illangasinghe, President Bishop of the Church of Ceylon and Bishop of Kurunegala

The Nicene Creed Stand

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Notices:

Intercessions

Hasten O Father, the coming of your Kingdom, and grant that we and all your servants, being strengthened together in the eternal fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may with joy behold your Son at his coming again in glorious majesty, even Jesus Christ our only Mediator.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

All stand for the Greeting of peace

Peace be with
And also with you

Beloved let us love one another for love is of God

Offertory Hymn - How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,

Consider all the works Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Chorus:

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

Chorus

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Chorus

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Chorus

Offertory prayer

Yours O Lord is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory and the majesty. For everything in Heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you O Lord, and of your own do we give you.

The Great Thanksgiving

All may stand

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Life up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give God thanks and praise

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty Father, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of host

God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Glory be to you O Lord most high

Holy indeed are you Almighty Father Eternal Sovereign who in all your gifts and works, manifests your holiness to all humanity.

Holy is your only begotten Son Jesus Christ through whom you did order the universe. And holy is your ever blessed Spirit who reveals all things, even the deep things of you O God.

Just as you yourself are holy, so also you created us in your own image that we might live in holy fellowship. And when we disobeyed your commandments, you did not abandon us but you guided us, as a merciful Father, you revealed yourself to us through the great sages, the law and the Prophets, and through your acts in history. And when the time was ripe, you spoke to us specially through your Son Jesus our Lord, whom you sent into the world to share our human nature in order that He might revive your own image in us.

Father, Jesus loved us and sacrificed himself for us and heralded the new age in breaking bread with his friends.

On the very night that he was betrayed to suffer death upon the cross for us, the Lord Jesus took bread and after giving thanks to you Almighty Father, broke it and gave it to the disciples to share saying: Take, eat, this is my Body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me. In the same manner after supper, he took the cup of wine, after giving thanks to you he gave it to them saying: Drink, all of you from this, for this is my blood of the New Covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me

We proclaim his death, we live by his resurrection, we look for his coming again.

And so Father, we present this Bread and Cup in communion with your whole Church, in fellowship with all the Saints, and in union with all creation we celebrate your Son's death and victory, giving thanks for all that He has done for us.

And we entreat you Most Merciful Father that your Holy Spirit may hallow the whole earth and us, as we partake in the Body and Blood of your dearly loved, Son, and unite us with your new creation.

Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; make us one body in Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory be to you Almighty Father, world without end. Amen

The bread which we break is it not a sharing of the Body of Christ?

We being many are one Bread, one Body, for we all partake of one Bread.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we now pray:

Our Father in Heaven, Holy be Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, On earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do

not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and for ever. Amen

The gifts of God for the people of God!

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We do not come to this your table O merciful Lord, trusting in our righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink His Blood, that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.

? Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Have mercy on us.

? Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Have mercy on us.

? Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Grant us Your peace

Invitation

Draw near with faith and take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort.

Communion

Post communion sentence: "You are the temple of the living God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you. The temple of God is holy; you are that temple.

I Corinthians 3:16

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious

God's mercy endures forever.

Almighty God we thank you for feeding us with the Body and Blood of your son Jesus Christ. Through Him we offer you ourselves, to be a living sacrifice, send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Dismissal

Brothers and Sisters, to the mercies of the holy and glorious Trinity we commit you, go now with the food of your pilgrimage in peace and gladness. Serve the Lord and help to free others.

In the name of Christ. Amen

Recessional Hymn

Hymn for Sri Lanka

O Father, thou has promised
The isles shall wait for thee
The joyous isles of Ocean
The jewels of the sea
Lo, we this island's watchmen
Would give and take no rest
For thus, hath thou commanded
Till our dear land be blessed. //

Then bless her mighty Father
With blessings needed most
In every verdant village
By every palmy coast
On every soaring mountain
O'er every spreading plain
May all her sons and daughters
Thy righteousness attain. //

Give peace within her borders
"Twixt man and man goodwill"
The love all unsuspecting
The love that works no ill
In loyal lowly service
Let each from other learn
The guardian and the guarded
Till Christ Himself return //