



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Feast of Presentation of the Lord Sunday C, 1-2 February, 2025

Remembering Fr Xavier Ubagaraswamy CP

Marcus Aurelius said, *"Death smiles at us all; all a man can do is smile back."* This philosophy was exemplified in the life of Rev. Fr. Xavier Ubagaraswamy, commonly known as Xavier USA.

Fr. Xavier was born on January 19, 1965, in Coimbatore, India, as the youngest of a family comprising seven sons and six daughters. He began his vocation as a Passionist in 1983 when he entered the minor seminary in Kochi, India. In 1986, he joined the Novitiate in Tanzania, taking his first vows in 1987. He completed his philosophical studies in Tanzania and pursued theological studies in Nairobi, Kenya. On July 7, 1994, he took his final vows and was ordained a Passionist Priest on August 24, 1995.

Following his ordination, Fr. Xavier served as the Assistant Parish Priest at a Mission Parish until the year 2000. From 2000 to 2005, he held the position of Parish Priest and correspondent for St. Gemma School. During this period, he initiated self-help groups and programs to empower women and youth. Notably, he established a program that provided interest-free loans to poor farmers to purchase cows. This initiative evolved into the St. Paul of the Cross Milk Society.

In 2005, Fr. Xavier was appointed to our philosophy house in Bhopal. From 2007 to 2009, he served as the administrator at our theology house in Bangalore. Between 2009 and 2017, he was part of various parish ministries at St. Brigid's in Sydney, St. Paul of the Cross, Adelaide, St. Joseph's, Hobart, and, ultimately at St. Paul Apostle, Endeavour Hills, Melbourne.

Upon his return from Australia, Fr. Xavier was assigned to our philosophy house, where he contributed to both educational and social work initiatives. He subsequently returned to our retreat house in Bangalore, providing ministerial support at the Social Service Centre operated by the Bangalore Diocese. Fr. Xavier also engaged

in retreat preaching and the celebration of Mass at different convents and churches in and around Bangalore. He dedicated Saturdays to hearing confessions at Our Lady of Good Health Basilica and Thursdays at the Infant Jesus Shrine and Divine Mercy Retreat Centre.



I first encountered Fr. Xavier (Swamy) in 1993, after his return from Nairobi, when I was beginning my philosophical studies. While our paths diverged when he undertook his initial mission assignment in Randam (Tamil Nadu), we frequently reunited to exchange insights regarding our missions and ministries. We were part of the same community upon his return from Bhopal, although I later relocated to a new mission in Myanmar.

The three qualities I esteemed most in Fr. Xavier were his unwavering smile, even in challenging circumstances; his commitment to prayer, as he was regularly found in the chapel before the scheduled time; and his profound compassion for the impoverished, which led him to extend assistance in as many ways as possible.

On January 11, 2025, at approximately 11 a.m. (Indian Time), Fr. Xavier was engaged in hearing confessions at St. Mary's Basilica in Bangalore when he suffered a cardiac arrest and passed away. He devoted his life to serving the Indian Vice Province and the Holy Spirit Province in Australia with steadfast dedication and love. In the homily delivered at his funeral, Fr. Deveraj CP remarked that, while the boat remains in the sea, it is no longer visible to us. May his soul find eternal rest in Christ.

(written by Fr Sony Kannanaikal CP)

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Please note
Sunday 11am online
Mass is
"temporarily unavailable"

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
Fr Sony Kannanaikal CP
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding & Visitation)

St Paul Apostle North
Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Cathy Mason

St Paul Apostle South
Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's
Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for NEXT WEEK
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

First Reading

Isaiah 6: 1-2, 3-8

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings.

And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I, send me!"

Psalm

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the Angels I sing your praise;
I bow down toward your holy temple,
and give thanks to your name
For your steadfast love and your faithfulness

For you have exalted your name
and your word above everything.
On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord
for they have heard the words of your mouth
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord
for great is the glory of the Lord

You stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.
The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever
Do not forsake the work of your hands

Second Reading

1 Cor 15: 3-8, 11

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters,

I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

Then he appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord
and I will make you fishers of people.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 5: 1-11

While Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Jesus got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long, but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For Simon Peter and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Reflection

1. A satnav will help us to reach our destination but might take us on an unexpected route.
2. Our path and faith journey will not look the same as anyone else's. God calls each of us to follow – but that will mean something different for each of us

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

PARISH SURVEY

The Parish Pastoral Council is exploring avenues in which we can deepen our faith as individuals and as a community. This year, we plan to organise formation programs which primarily focuses on growing in our faith. It incorporates the catechetical, liturgical and pastoral ministries. For this, they are running a survey at all weekend Masses in the next two weeks (each person only need to do it ONCE). We ask you to pick up one of the survey form to fill out at Mass and return it to the baskets (provided) at all entrances in the Church at the end of Mass, as you leave the Church. Please take part in the survey, as this will help PPC to decide what we can do.

2025 SACRAMENT PROGRAMS (for children)

Reconciliation

(children in grade 4 and have been baptised in Catholic Church)

Registration form must be in by
Wednesday, 11 February 2025

First Family night Tuesday 25 February at 7pm
(Follow by 3 classes at parish schools or ASRE)

Last Family night Tuesday 25 March at 7pm
Service Tuesday 1 April at 7pm
(depending on the number, maybe 2 shifts)

First Communion

(children in grade 4. Have been baptised in Catholic Church and received Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Registration form must be in by
Thursday, 17 April, 2025
First Family Night Tuesday 6 May at 7pm
(Follow by 5 classes at parish schools or ASRE)

Last family night Tuesday 24 June at 7pm
Masses Saturday 28 June
(time **TO BE ADVISED** depending on the number maybe 2 sessions)

Confirmation

(Children in Grade 6. have been baptised in Catholic Church, have received Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Communion)

Please note that the registration for this sacrament is required to be in EARLY IN THE YEAR

Registration form must be in by **Thursday, 17 April, 2025**

First Family night Tuesday 16 September at 7pm
(Follow by 4 classes at parish Schools or ASRE)

Last Family Night Tuesday 18 November at 7pm
Session with Bishop To be advised
Masses Saturday 22 November at 2pm
(depending on the number, maybe also at 3.45pm)

**** Donation for is \$25 per child, per sacrament ****

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Will resume on Sunday, 2nd February at 11am Mass. This group is designed to bring the liturgy of the words in a language which is suitable for all children up to grade 6. Children in this age bracket are welcome to join in. However, please note that all children under 5 years old must be accompanied by one parent/ guardian.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

The Man Cave – Empowering boys to become great men. The Man Cave is Australia's leading preventative mental health and emotional intelligence charity for teenage boys and their communities. Their vision is for a world in which every man has healthy relationships, contributes to his community and reaches his full potential. They work to provide young men with impactful programs, positive male role models and accessible resources. More information can be found at <https://themancave.life/about/>

Readings:

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Sunday Time Yr C

Malachi 3:1-5
Hebrews 2:14-end
Luke 2:22-40

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C

Isaiah 6: 1-2, 3-8
1 Cor 15: 3-8, 11
Luke 5: 1-11

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, Fr Tony Martyn, Merlinda B. Szuba, Marian Meade, "Horse" Ian Price, Josip Dujic, Hector de Santos, Gladys Torres, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Danny Sugunasekera, Anton Jansz, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Fr Xavier Ubagaraswamy, Isabel Florindo, Lionel Alwis, William Cham, Martin Fonseca, Tony Gangemi, Telesia Litia Dunlop, Rajendra George Rasiah, George Petterson, Sybil Petterson, Roland de Alwis, Joyce Madeira, Jonas Hoareau **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS IN THE CHURCH

You may have noticed that every week we have a beautiful flower arrangement in the Church. These are lovingly created by some of our parishioners. They are rostered on to do it once in every 5 weeks. We have a weekly budget to cover this activity. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the parish office and we will provide you with more information. Should you wish to get involved in other areas in our parish, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office and we will be able to assist you. Please note, under direction from the Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese, every volunteer is required to follow a few protocols before they actively take part in any ministry in or for the Church. It is not a complicated procedure, if you come to the Parish Office, we can guide you through the process.

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2025

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Alvita Dias	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Stephen Nasalio Diane Heaton
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Anne Astin Cecilia Tan	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Yvonne Sherwin	Marg Keating William Roncon
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Grace Sudjono Janina Gorski	Mary Heaton Jennifer Tanti	Lakni Weerasekera Charlene Nheu

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2025

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Rohan Wickramasinghe	Vianney Clark Antoniette Gargano Florence Madeira	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Esteban Morales Aloma Pereira	Sharon Normington Jean Jansz Naomi Falo	Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Lakni Weerasekera
3rd Sunday	Celine Quinless Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell	Florence Madeira Sai Dlinger Binitha Mathew	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Mary Moore Rohan Wickramasinghe	Vianney Clark Stephen Herbert Lauren Rafferty	Swineetha Disanayake Dominique Maclou Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Carmeline Don Paul Mima Arena	Sig Romano Esteban Morales Nila Fernando	Binitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Sharon Normington	Ayomi Fernandez Peng Chee Jenny Catania