

St. Joseph Vaz—Holy Mass

By: Trevor D'Sylva

On January 24, 2020, Fr. Daryl Miranda, once again, celebrated Holy Mass for TEGSA members at Commander Community Centre. The Mass was held in honor of St. Joseph Vaz, who is the patron saint of Sri Lanka. TEGSA has also adopted this wonderful saint as the patron saint of the club.

St. Joseph Vaz was a Goan and was born on April 21, 1651, in Benaulim, Goa, India. He was an Oratorian priest, studied at St. Paul's College in Goa and then went to Sri Lanka in 1686 as a missionary during the Dutch occupation. Sri Lanka, known as Ceylon at that time, was mainly Buddhist and the practicing Catholicism was strictly forbidden. St. Joseph Vaz worked clandestinely to spread and keep the Catholic faith alive, often risking his own life. He died on January 16th, 1711 and was canonized by Pope Francis on January 14th, 2015. His feast day is January 16.

Fr. Daryl and TEGSA members honored St. Joseph Vaz by celebrating Holy Mass in a beautiful service. The altar was tastefully decorated and the hymns were sung by all and lead by the melodious voice of Sheila D'Souza. The Reading was done by Mavis Pecus and the Responsorial Psalm by Fatima Lawson.

The generous offering from members was given to Fr. Daryl, as was done at the last Holy Mass, held on November 1st, 2019.

After the Mass, everyone enjoyed a delicious snack, tea and cookies, amid warmth and laughter.

The whole event was very respectful and reverent. A big "Thank You" to Loretta D'Sylva and her team for a lovely evening. Surely St. Joseph Vaz was looking down on us all and gave us his blessings.