



# St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA

Melbourne, Australia

Established 1992

P.O.Box 551, Rosanna, Vic 3084



Newsletter 26

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## Our Objectives

**Socialise and share the Patrician spirit with benevolence.**

**Support our Alma Mater in meaningful ways.**

**One swallow does not make a summer, nor does one day; and so too one day or a short time, does not make a man blessed and happy.**

*Aristotle*

## President's Message

Dear Fellow Patricians

Once again it is a privilege to write a message for the December 2015 edition of our Newsletter.

The Committee thanks all the members who dedicated their time and hard work to the Patrician Nite, which was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2015. It was a very successful event with the participation of 44 Patrician families and friends. The highlight of the event was the attendance of Rev. Fr. John Sherman who started the function with the opening prayers and lighting of the traditional lamp. Later Fr. Sherman delivered a speech about the Cross which the Late Rev. Fr. Long was wearing throughout his priestly life. Afterwards Fr. Sherman blessed the audience with the same cross.

In the year 2016, we will be having our Australia Day family gathering on the 26<sup>th</sup> January. As usual, we have organised a Cricket match for the men, Rounders for the ladies, and Tennis for the children who will also be entertained by a Clown. These events will follow the BBQ which will start at 11.00 a.m. promptly. Please come with your family and participate in our Australia Day Events.

This year brought great joy for us with the consecration of Rt. Rev. Justin Gnanapragasam as the Bishop of Jaffna. As President I sent a congratulatory message on behalf of the Patricians in Melbourne. Along with all the Patricians worldwide, we contributed our share in the cost of publication of Congratulatory Message to

our Bishop in the Veerakesari Tamil Newspaper.

We will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our OBA Melbourne in 2017. We have already created a Sub Committee for the purpose of preparing events for this year of significance. Please put forward your thoughts and ideas to make this event a Great success. Once we finalise the proposals, we will forward it to the members for their suggestions, and a final collective decision will be made at the next AGM.

We wish you all Happy Christmas and blessings for a Prosperous New Year.

*Chrysostom Gunanayagam*

## Members who contributed to the SPC Cricket Fund for 2014 / 15

Anandarajan James	Angelo Fernando
Antony Gratian	Chris Gunanayagam
Dr Anton Mariampillai	Isidore F. Manoraj
James Premanandarajah	James Joseph
Jeevaranjan Fernando	Jerad Jogaratnam
Jeyandra Antonipillai	Noel Rajiv
Patrick Rajaratnam	Philip Ravindraraaj
Rukshan Theophilus	Vincent Pius
William Nimalraj	



**Wishing all Patricians a Happy Christmas, an enjoyable holiday season with family and friends and a better, brighter and more peaceful 2016**

## **Greetings to the new Bishop of Jaffna, a Patrician and former Rector of SPC**

The Vatican announced on October 13, 2015 that the Very Rev. Msgr. Dr. Justin Bernard Gnanapragasam has been appointed as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Jaffna. Bishop Justin was consecrated at St Mary's Cathedral on November 28, 2015. Thus His Lordship joins an illustrious honour-roll—the 2nd Rector of our Collge to be appointed as the Bishop of Jaffna (following in the footsteps of Bishop Guyomard—Rector 1921 to 1924), the 11th Bishop of Jaffna and the 11th Patrician to become a Bishop. Bishop Justin was born on May 13, 1948 in Karampon, Kayts, to Antonipillai Gnanapragasam and Emily Thangamalar as the 4th child in the family with three brothers and three sisters. The village Karampon has produced seven sons of the soil as Bishops and many Priests and Nuns thereby earning the nickname "Little Vatican". He had his primary education at St. Anthony's College, Kayts, entered St Martin's minor seminary in 1959 (a contemporary of some of the Melbourne OBA members) and had his secondary education at St Patrick's College, Jaffna. After completing his studies in Philosophy at the National Seminary in Kandy, he studied Theology at the Papal Seminary in Poona, India. He was ordained a Priest of God on April 24, 1974 at Our Lady of Refuge, Jaffna.



The new Bishop of Jaffna is a scholar with a litany of academic qualifications specialising in the field of education. He completed a Masters Degree in Ecumenical Theology at the University of Hull, England and then did his doctorate - Ph.D in Education - at the University of Southampton, England. He was the Vice-Rector and later Rector of St. Henry's College, Illavalai, from 1989 to 2002, and then served as the Rector of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, from 2002 to 2007. In 2007, he was appointed as the Vicar-General of the Jaffna Diocese. During his remarkable period as Rector, many students excelled in studies, entered University, and the College won several soccer championship trophies. The many academic achievements and appointments of His Lordship include - Visiting lecturer in the Philosophy of Education at the St Francis Xavier Major Seminary, Jaffna (1992 to 2006), Chairman of the Diocesan Commission for Education (1992 to 2002) and Councillor of the University Council, University of Jaffna (1998 to 2014).



His Lordship is a gracious priest of virtue and wisdom and a man of principle and discipline. He is a pastor with a loving heart for the marginalized and the oppressed, and a source of inspiration for many. Many approach him for advice and guidance. Bishop Justin has abundance of abilities and gracefulness to be a shepherd of the Jaffna diocese. He is much recognized and respected by the erudite and Government hierarchy in the north and south. He played an important role during the war years to dispel mistrust and establish peace and harmony in the country. He is an outspoken clergyman who always stood for justice and equality and championed the rights of the people irrespective of their religion or race. Even non-Christians admire his noble qualities and generosity and respectfully accept him as their deliverer in adversity.

### ***Melbourne OBA's association with His Lordship***

As old boys of our College, we Patricians are proud of Bishop Justin's appointment as the Sheppard of the Jaffna Catholic Diocese. As Rector of our Alma Mater from 2002 to 2007, His Lordship served as a distinguished forward-thinking educationist and administrator. During his tenure, he set up many income streams the College needed for its continued survival and advancement. He was instrumental in exhorting the Melbourne OBA to establish the SPC Cricket Fund. During his visit to Melbourne in April 2004, he met with the then OBA Management Committee and asked if we could sponsor the College's ongoing cricketing needs. The request was conveyed to the members, and ad-hock contributions were forthcoming for the next few years. In 2008, the Melbourne OBA's first 'Cricket/BBQ/Family-Day' was held at the Australia Day weekend with the twin goals of 'having fun and raising funds'. Fr Justin, who was visiting Melbourne at the time as Vicar-General of Jaffna, formally launched the 'Jaffna SPC Cricket Sponsorship Fund' at the recreational and heritage grounds of 'Wattle Park', Burwood. He also donated the trophy for the runner-up of the match which is being played annually at the same grounds on the Australia Day weekend. We also had the pleasure of Fr Justin presenting the trophies again at the cricket/family-day held on Australia Day 2011. To-date we have remitted a total sum of \$10,500 to the College from the Fund.



Members of the Melbourne OBA also have fond memories of participating in the Holy Mass he celebrated at St Paschal's, Box Hill, in 2004 on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, and again on his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2008. **Our prayers are for him always.**

*Note: Rev Fr Pathinathan Jebaratnam, also a Patrician—born June 1958 in Alaveddy, has been appointed as the Vicar-General of the Jaffna Diocese.*

## The College COAT OF ARMS



- 1 ) Design – In the top quarter on the right is an OPEN BOOK with the inscription: “Ite et docete” on a field of gold. Symbolism– The Open Book, with the divine commission to “go and teach” represents Holy Bible, and Faith, which is the foundation of a sound catholic training.
- 2 ) Design – In the bottom quarter on the right are three golden BEES on a field of crimson. Symbolism – The bees are clearly suggestive of Labour, which is the vehicle of success in every walk and station of life.
- 3 ) Design – In the top quarter on the left is a golden LION, on a field of crimson. Symbolism – The lion represents the Government of the country. The Lion was the symbol of the British Crown.
- 4 ) Design – In the bottom quarter on the left is a LOTUS on a field of gold. Symbolism – The Lotus represents the dear country of ours whose welfare it is our duty to promote.
- 5 ) Design – In each arm of the inter adjacent cross is a silver SHAMROCK on a field of green. Symbolism – The Shamrock represents St. Patrick the Apostle of Ireland and our heavenly Patron whose fostering and powerful intercession are needed for the realization of our objectives.
- 6 ) Design – In the central shield is the COAT OF ARMS of the congregation of THE OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE on a field of azure which is Mary’s own colour. Symbolism – The Central Shield represents the Oblates of Mary Immaculate to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for what we are.
- 7 ) Design – Below the main shield, surrounding it is a WREATH consisting of : (i) laurels on the right (ii) shamrocks on the left (iii) a musical instrument in the middle inclining towards the right. Symbolism – (i) The Laurels in the Wreath represent the Temporal Rewards, our successes and attainments in this world. (ii) The Shamrocks in the Wreath represent the Eternal Rewards, our heavenly vision of the Triune God. (iii) The Musical Instrument represents the Harmony, and reminds us that every Earthly joy sought after by us should be in perfect accord with our future happiness in Heaven.
- 8 ) Design – Above the main shield is a Scroll on which is written the COLLEGE MOTTO, “Fide et Labore”. Symbolism– The College Motto reminds us that Faith is the means by which the Patricians must adhere to the Christian ideals and principles of education, and that Labour is the means by which these principles are put in practice in their daily life.

*Many thanks to SPC OBA – Norway, for their great research on what the College Logo represents.*

*An occasional tidbit (might be of interest to the many Patricians who bought Telstra shares)*

Question posed to Scott Pape - “The Barefoot Investor” ([scott@barefootinvestor.com](mailto:scott@barefootinvestor.com))

Q: Is it worth holding on to Telstra shares?

A: There are a lot of grey nomads who are dirty on Telstra right now, with the shares slumping about 15 per cent from their peak in February...Here’s the bottom line: Telstra is a business with huge cash flows, a strong dividend, and an ambitious growth plan -- but it’s not a savings account.

### St Patrick’s College Jaffna OBA Melbourne

#### Nomination Form—Office Bearers, Committee for the 2016 / 2017 Patrician Year

Full Name of Nominee : .....

Position Nominated for: .....

I, ..... volunteer to serve in the Management Committee in the abovementioned position.

Full Name of Proposer: .....

Signature: .....Date: .....

Address: .....

.....

Full Name of Seconder: .....

Signature: .....Date: .....

Address: : .....

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# Notice Board

## Annual Family Day

### Barbeque, Cricket, Rounders, Tennis, Golf & Children's Entertainment

Australia Day cricket match, preceded by Barbeque, will be held on **Tuesday, 26 January 2016** at **Wattle Park**, 1012 Riversdale Road, Burwood (Melway ref: 60 J2).

- **Time: 11.00 am - Barbeque first, then cricket and rounders matches.**

It is a fun day for all members of the Patrician families. Tennis courts have been booked for the kids; please bring your racquets. A game of rounders for the ladies. Golf course has been arranged for those who would like a bit of walking— swinging your club along the way.

And a Clown will provide entertainment for the children!

#### Cricket Teams (Provisional)

##### Long House

Isidore (Francis) Manoraj  
Angelo Fernando  
Augustine James  
Chrysostom Arulnayagam  
Noel Rajiv  
James Premanandarajah  
Basil Balendran  
William Rajendram  
Dinesh Isidore  
Basil Patrick  
William Nimalraj  
Mariampillai Jesurajah  
Florentine Singarayar  
Tennakone Berchmans  
Nimal Augustine  
Jeyanathan Stanislaus

##### Bonjean House

Jeyandra Antonypillai  
Antony Gratian  
Basti Douglas  
John Pathinathan  
Partheepan Vivekananthan  
Rukshan Theophilus  
Jeevaranjan Fernando  
Ranjan Gunaratnam  
Bronson Balendran  
Chrysostom Gunanayagam  
Jerard Yogaratnam  
John Priyaan  
Reg Cherubim  
Johnson Balendran  
Michael Augustine  
Dilan Jeyanathan

#### The Golfers



Anandarajan James, Dr Anton Mariampillai, James Joseph and Philip Ravindraraj – they just can't wait to show off their golf skills!

Are you a golf beginner? No problem. Join them and be part of the fun.

**It all begins with tinkering with your swing!**

#### **The Black Dot: An Inspiring Story!**

*Contributed by Anandarajan James*

One day, a teacher entered his classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They all waited anxiously at their desks for the exam to begin. The teacher handed out the exam paper with the text facing down, as usual. Once he handed them all out, he told the students to turn the page over. To everyone's surprise, there were no questions—just a black dot in the centre of the sheet of paper!

The teacher, seeing the expression on the faces of the students, told them “I want you to write about what you see there”

The students confused started on their inexplicable task. At the end of the class, the teacher collected all the answer papers and started reading each one of them aloud in front of the students. All of them without exception tried to explain the position of the black in the centre of the sheet of paper. After all had been read, with the classroom silent, the teacher started to explain:

“I am not going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot—and the same happens in our lives. We have a white piece of paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the dark spots. Our life is a gift given to us by God with love and care and we always have reasons to celebrate—nature renewing itself everyday, our friends around us, the job that provides our livelihood, the miracles we see everyday ...

However, we insist on focusing only on the dark spots—the health issues that bother us, the shortage of money, the complicated relationships etc. The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives, but they are the ones that trouble us most. **Take your eyes away from the black dots in your life. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Live your life with love”**