



St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA

Melbourne, Australia

Established 1992



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Newsletter 27

P.O.Box 551, Rosanna, Vic 3084

March 2016

Our Objectives

Socialise and share the Patrician spirit with benevolence.

Support our Alma Mater in meaningful ways.

President's Message

Dear fellow Patricians

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to connect with you through the March 2016 edition of our newsletter. I would like to mention that our Patrician Nite held on 29 August 2015 was a great success, even due to competing events held around Melbourne. The highlights of the evening were Fr John Sherman's opening prayer and speech about his connections with the Late Fr. Long, Stephanie Jeevaranjan singing the national anthem, and the blessing of the gathering with the cross previously worn by Fr Long. We received praise for the hall decorations, the catering and the hospitality of the OBA members. Both MCs - Ravi and Edward - did a marvellous job and the balloon dance between the couples was a great spectacle.

Our Australia Day Cricket/BBQ was another winner. The excellent cricket match was the highlight of the day, with tennis, golf and 'Pirate' Sean's entertainment of the ladies (due to the low turnout of children). The cricket fund collection was \$1300, with a few more contributions to come.

We are planning to hold our next event, St Patrick's Day celebrations, on March 19, starting at 5.30 pm at St Pascal's Church, Box Hill, with Mass to be celebrated by Fr Anthony Gnanapragasam. This will be followed by the AGM and dinner. The names of those who have volunteered to be the office bearers and panel members for next year are published on page 4 of the newsletter. Additional members to serve on the Committee or Panel are very welcome. At this AGM, we will focus on the 2016 Patrician Nite and the 25th Anniversary celebrations of OBA Melbourne.

We hope that members will show their Patrician and College spirit and participate in our annual St Patrick's Day celebrations. Look forward to seeing you all on March 19, 2016.

Chrys Gunanayagam

Silver Jubilee Perpetual Fund



Next year, the OBA is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its formation. As part of the events to commemorate the year, the Committee has been planning many activities. One of these is the establishment of a perpetual fund.

In 2004, the then Rector of the College (now the Bishop of Jaffna), Fr Justin Gnanapragasam visited the many OBAs around the world and requested that each OBA set up a fund to generate income streams to support the various activities of the College. Having had the experience of managing a government funded St. Henry's college for years, he was well aware of the difficulties in managing a better and bigger St. Patrick's college with limited financial resources.

Fr Justin explained that while the Government subsidises staff salaries, without any assistance from the Diocese, the financial resources for managing the college need to be generated internally from fees and donations. He indicated that the college buildings needed renovation and maintenance, and the students needed extra activities other than just education for which there was very little financial support.

His vision was to create perpetual funds to provide regular income streams so that the future college management did not have to endure the difficulties he faced. Fr Justin requested that the Alumni Associations around the world establish such funds, and asked members of the Melbourne OBA to consider contributing \$6 each per month.

The UK OBA was the first to respond and initiated the perpetual fund with the target of 250,000 Pounds. We understand that their fund has collected over 180,000 Pounds. The Colombo OBA also established a fund, which currently stands at Rs 6.1 million.

With Melbourne slow to respond, Fr Justin made the request again during his visit here a couple of years later.

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Next Function—St. Patrick's Day Mass, AGM & Traditional Dinner on March 19, 2016

Two Patricians who served as Bishops in the Northern Province retired recently.

Bishop Thomas Savundaranayagam was born on 13 July 1938, son of Mr. Marisal Saverimuthu Vaiapiragasam Emmanuel and Mrs. Thomas Saviriachi in the island of Velanaitivu in Kayts. He had his primary education at St Anthony's, Kayts. In 1953 he enrolled at St Martin's Minor Seminary and joined St Patrick's College. In 1957, he entered the National Seminary, Ampitiya, and was ordained a priest at St Mary's Cathedral on 21 December 1963. He served as Assistant Priest at the Cathedral, as well as Periyavilan, Pandatharippu, Moolai and Chankani churches, and later as Parish Priest at Nanaattan and Vankalai. In 1973, he obtained Diploma in Catechetics at Bangalore, India, and in 1981, a Doctorate in Biblical Theology at Urbaniana University, Rome. He was consecrated on 30 July 1981 as the 1st Bishop of the Mannar Diocese at the Madhu Shrine. On 6 July 1992 he was appointed the Bishop of Jaffna and took charge of the Diocesan responsibilities on 5 November 1992.



Mr Anton Raji of the Toronto OBA wrote as follows on Bishop Thomas's sacerdotal golden jubilee in December 2013:

"Most of his period as Bishop has been during the war years and in war-torn areas. Bishop Thomas's deep faith and prayer helped him to sail through the most difficult and dangerous times. His great resilience even when the shells were raining and bombers were strafing his residence has been extra-ordinary. During the war numerous churches and other places of worships were destroyed, priests were brutally murdered or went missing, and the flock had to flee from place to place seeking refuge. Bishop Thomas has always been a people's bishop. He followed the flock to console and heal them and help the people with their spiritual and temporal needs. He truly understands the suffering of the dispersed and displaced people. And has won the love and respect of people from all walks of life and religious persuasions. His customary simplicity makes him approachable and creates positive rapport.

As our chief shepherd, Bishop Thomas stood by truth and justice without antagonizing the rulers of the land of the day. In spite of the tremendous odds that prevailed, Bishop Thomas has led the diocese of Jaffna with unshakable faith in the Lord and provided an exceptionally commendable leadership with humility, serenity, courage and vision. He has been a man of quiet eloquence with dignity in every gesture. Bishop Thomas will be remembered with deep gratitude by the ordinary people for voicing the untold sufferings of guiltless civilians. As a war-time Bishop of Jaffna during the most turbulent period in the history of Jaffna and Sri Lanka, our dear "People's Bishop" Bishop Thomas belongs to the history of our ancestral homeland."

Bishop Rayappu Joseph was born in Neduntheevu (Delft) on 16 April 1940. His family later relocated to Ilavaalai and subsequently to Cheddikulam. He enrolled at St Martin's Minor Seminary and St Patrick's College around 1955 and entered the National Seminary in Ampitiya, Kandy in 1960. Rayappu Joseph was ordained a priest in December 1967. He later obtained a Doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome, which led to him being appointed as a Professor at St. Francis Xavier Major Seminary in Colombuthurai, Jaffna. On 6 July 1992, Mgr. Rayappu Joseph was appointed as the Bishop of the Mannar Diocese.



Mr Jehan Perera, Executive Director of the National Peace Council, quoting Mr Ruki Fernando, a Human Rights Advocate, writes this tribute to Bishop Rayappu and his pastoral care in the UCAN India News:

"In my frequent visits to the bishop's house in Mannar, there would always be a long line of people to meet him - mostly survivors and families of victims of human rights violations. Bishop Joseph regularly visited prisons, refugee camps, resettled villages and was often on the scene within hours after bombings and massacres. While spending so much time with such people, he also engaged with top Sri Lankan officials and heads of the military plus representatives of foreign governments and the UN. The Bishop was subjected to assassination attempts, interrogated several time by Sri Lankan authorities, and ridiculed and branded a 'terrorist supporter'. Families of those who disappeared or were killed, those whose lands are occupied will be the ones who will mostly feel the ill-health of the Bishop. The human rights community will also miss his voice." Mr Perera adds "Bishop Joseph gave credible, courageous and spiritual leadership to the Catholic Church in the midst of life-threatening conditions".

This time he made a specific request to the Melbourne OBA to support the College's cricket activities. The committee then appealed to the membership for the establishment of the SPC Cricket Fund and received overwhelming support. \$2,300 was collected in the first year and \$1,900 in the second year. Since then every year members have been contributing very generously to the fund. For the past 8 years, we have been remitting \$1,500 annually for cricket activities — a total of \$12,000 to date. The Committee is grateful to those members who make voluntary contributions to this project, which has enabled the Melbourne OBA to fulfil the undertaking it made. Thus, the Melbourne OBA has become a:

- proud sponsor of the best cricket team in the Northern Province, with SPC playing in Sri Lanka's Division 2 competitions, and
- regular financial contributor to the college along with other individuals and organisations from around the world.

A global list of individuals and organizations who donated funds to the College's needs in 2013/2014 is published below.

This year, the Committee is considering setting up a **perpetual fund in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Rector** to provide ongoing financial assistance to the College's **cricket and other educational needs**. The targeted capital amount is A\$25,000, which will self-fund our annual remittance to the College in future years. The main source of the fund will be raised from advertisements for a **2-year Diary (2017 & 2018)** for distribution among Patricians and friends. This will kick start the silver jubilee activities of our OBA. **The committee earnestly requests our members make the project a success by canvassing potential businesses and entrepreneurs who may be able to provide suitable advertisements for the diary.** The finer details of this ambitious effort will be discussed at the forthcoming AGM.

List of contributors to the College's activities in 2013/2014

[Source: College Prize-Day Souvenir 2015]

Financial Assistance received from July 2013 to June 2014		
Sir Chittambalam A Gardiner Trust Scholarship		2,812,500
Mrs Charmaine Obeysekera	For Educational Assistance	1,950,000
Mr Joe Manuepillai	Sponsoring 40 students	888,000
Norway OBA	For Tennis Court, Chapel, Table Tennis etc	497,130
France OBA	Chapel Renovation	300,000
France OBA	For Football & Students without parents	150,000
Patrician Perpetual Trust Fund (Colombo OBA)		275,000
Dr & Mrs G.R.J.Selvananthan	For Junior Science lab	238,791
Melbourne OBA	For Cricket	176,250
Tamil Catholic Chaplaincy (Germany)	For Education, Midday meals	175,000
Canada OBA	For Chapel renovation	134,166
Canada OBA	For Vanni Scholarship Students	122,152
Dr W.A.Joseph Ferdinand	Continuing monthly order	120,000
Mr Cyril Perinpanayagam & Friends	For 10 Bicycles for needy students	120,000
Mr S. Tharmarajasingham	Science equipment	104,410
Mr Glady Luxman Gerad	For Lab & Sports	100,000
Jaffna OBA	Chapel & Other celebrations	75,000
Mr R.J. Amirthanayagam		66,000
Mr and Mrs N.T.Swampillai		53,615
Rev.Sr.Christa Mariyathas (Provincial HFC)	For English Union	50,000
Patricians 2002 Batch	For Cricket	42,000
Tamil Catholic Chaplaincy (UK)		32,250
Mr M Johnson		31,000
Mr Andrew Sajeewan (UK)		30,000
Mr Francis Sandrasagar		25,000
Mr Charles (Norway)	For Basketball	20,000
Mr C.Anton Jude	For College needs	20,000
Mrs Theresa Joseph (Canada)	For Hostellers	20,000
Mr Packiyarajan (France)	For essay competition	18,000
Mr A.H.Ratnananthan		15,000
Mr A.S.Augustine		10,000
Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation		10,000
For New Primary School Building		
Jaffna OBA		300,000
Sydney OBA		187,740
Mr R.Thiruchelvam		25,000
Mrs Charmaine Obeysekera		3,134,000
Mr Jovan Titus (Sydney)		24,000
Mr Franklin Jesuthasan (Canada)		112,000

Notice Board

The Annual General Meeting of St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA, Melbourne, will be held on Saturday, 19 March 2016 at St Paschal's Church Hall, **100 Albion Road, Box Hill**. The AGM will be preceded by **Holy Mass at 5.30 pm.** celebrated by Rev Fr Anthony Gnanapragasam (Tamil Community Chaplain for Victoria).

As usual, the AGM will be followed by dinner - traditional Stringhopper with curries, etc.

Donation of \$10 per family will be appreciated to cover the cost of hall hire.

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The following members have volunteered to serve in the Management Committee for the year 2016/17:

Chrys Gunanayagam as **President**; Rukshan Theophilus as **Secretary**; Noel Rajiv as **Treasurer**; Philip Ravindraraj as **Asst. Treasurer**; Anandarajan James as **Social & Events Secretary**; Jeyandra Antonipillai as **Sports Secretary**.

Angelo Fernando, William Nimalraj, James Joseph, Patrick Rajaratnam, Dr Sanjeev Alfred and Berchmans Tennakone to serve as **Committee Members**.

Alfred Reynald, Anton Newton, Dr. Anton Mariampillai, Antony Gratian, Edward Arulnesathasan, Gunaratnam Arulanantham, Isidore Manoraj, James Premanandarajah, Jeevaranjan Fernando, Jerard Jogaratnam, Joseph Vijayarajam, Reg Cherubim, Parthiban Vivekanandan, Pillai Mariasegaram, Vincent Pius and William Rajendram to serve as members of the **Advisory & Support Panel**.



Awards from Melbourne OBA's Annual Cricket Match held on 26 January 2016

Winners - Bonjean House (Captain - Chinniah Nishanthan)

Runners up - Long House (Captain - Angelo Fernando)

Best Batsman - Chinniah Nishanthan

Best Bowler - Parthiban Vivekanandan

Best Fielder - Pillai Mariasegaram

Player of the Match - Dylan Jeyanathan

Umpire - William Nimalraj

Scorer - Philip Ravindraraj

Trophies will be presented at the St Patrick's Day celebrations & AGM on 19 March 2016.

Mervyn Jackson Education Fund

Mervyn is a boarding student at the College and his father died in a car accident in December 2013 while on a visit to Australia. It was his dying wish that his son complete his studies at SPC. The following Patricians have very generously paid his fees for 2015 & 2016 - a total of \$1,100.

2015	2016
Dr Hutchinson Thurairajah	Anton Sylvester
James Premanandarajah	Jenith Jesuthasan
Anandarajan James	Nimal Augustine
Jeevaranjan Fernando	Raj Niruban Vimalathasan
Noel Rajiv	Anton Newton
Patrick Rajaratnam	Berchmans Tennakone
Philip Ravindraraj	Jeyandra Antonipillai
William Nimalraj	Nijanthan Thurairajah



SPC Jaffna OBA - Melbourne

No. of subscriptions received to-date for 2015 - **32***

No. of Patricians to whom newsletter is posted - **140**

Annual subscription - \$20.00

***We believe we can do better!**