

St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA



Melbourne, Australia

Established 1992

P.O.Box 551, Rosanna, Vic 3084



Website: www.spcaustralia.com

Email: secretary@spcaustralia.com

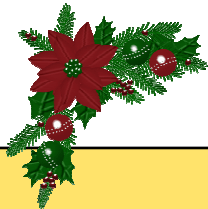
Newsletter 29

December 2016

Our Objectives

Socialise and share the Patrician spirit with benevolence.

Support our Alma Mater in meaningful ways.



Let the clouds rain down the just one,
and the earth bring forth a Saviour.

Psalm 84

President's Message

Dear Fellow Patricians

Once again it is my privilege to write a message for the December 2016 edition of our newsletter.

The Patrician Nite this year was held on September 3. We sold over 210 tickets to 50 Patricians and their families and friends. It was a great night once again. The event has been growing each year, bringing three generations of Patricians and their families together in an informal way to meet, greet and have a great 'night out'. Mr Anton Alfred, retired GA Jaffna, and Mrs Jacinta Joseph, retired Primary School Principal of our college lit the traditional lamp accompanied by me and my wife Felicia. Mr Vincent Bonaventure opened the day's proceedings with a prayer, Stephanie Fernando gave a wonderful rendition of the Australian National Anthem, and Sharmaine Fernando and Jessica Fernando did a great job as Masters of Ceremonies. One of the highlights of the night was karaoke by Sharmaine, Stephanie, Karishma Wimal, Antony Gratian and Jerad Yogaratnam, who kept the audience entertained. I take this opportunity to thank all the singers and MCs for their valuable contribution that night. Dr Florentine Singarayer and Dr Anton Mariampillai made comprehensive presentations on the College and the OBA; our past and continuing efforts to help our College achieve its educational aims; and our current project – the Silver Jubilee Commemoration Perpetual Fund.

As we all know, 2017 is the 25th year of the founding of the OBA. We'll kick-start the year with the family day BBQ on Thursday, January 26 - Australia Day. This year, we plan to stage 3 cricket matches

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Silver Jubilee Perpetual Fund



In the last two newsletters published in March and July 2016 we have provided detailed information about establishing a Perpetual Fund to provide ongoing financial assistance to our College. The Committee has received overwhelming support for the formation of the fund and a number of OBA members have committed a total amount of \$20,750 at the time of writing. The names of the members who have donated to the fund will be acknowledged in the Silver Jubilee Perpetual Diary which is well underway.

Donations for the Perpetual Fund can also be made on the Australia Day Cricket Match 2017 at Wattle Park, which will be its 10th anniversary as a fundraising event for the college cricket. The Australia Day cricket matches will continue to take place after 2017 as part of our Family Day activities, but will no longer be used as a fundraising event after the setting up of the Perpetual Fund.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all members who have donated to the college Cricket Fund over the past 10 years, as well as those who have contributed generously towards the emerging Perpetual Fund.

For detailed information please visit our website <http://spcaustralia.com/25th.html#sponsor>

Those wishing to be part of this rewarding jubilee year project can still make a direct contribution or obtain ads for the diary, so we may exceed our original target amount of \$25,000.



Next Function — Australia Day cricket match and Family Day — January 26, 2017

The Christmas Story: Does It Still Matter?

Written by **Rusty Wright**

What does Christmas mean to you? Times with family and friends? Perhaps carols, cards, television specials. Maybe hectic shopping, parties, and eating too much.

All these and more are part of North American Christmas. But what about the first Christmas? Why is the original story—the baby in a manger, shepherds, wise men, angels—important, if at all?



May I invite you to consider eight reasons why the original Christmas story matters, even to you? You may not agree with all of them, but perhaps they will stimulate your thinking and maybe even kindle some feelings that resonate with that famous story.

First, the Christmas story is important because it is. . .

A Story that Has *Endured*

For two millennia, people have told of the child in a Bethlehem manger; of angels who announced his birth to shepherds; of learned men who travelled a great distance to view him.

That a story persists for many years does not prove its truthfulness. Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the tooth fairy survive in the popular imagination. But a twenty-century tenure at least merits our consideration. What deep human longings does the Christmas story portray? Why has it connected so profoundly with millions of people? Is the story factual? Curiosity prompts further investigation.

Second, the Christmas story is also . . .

A Story of *Hope and Survival*

Jesus' society knew great pain and oppression. Rome ruled. Corrupt tax collectors burdened the people. Some religious leaders even sanctioned physical beating of Jewish citizens participating in compulsory religious duties.

Joseph and his pregnant wife Mary traveled a long distance to Bethlehem to register for a census but could not obtain proper lodging. Mary bore her baby and laid him in a manger, a feeding trough for animals. Eventually, King Herod sought to kill the baby. Warned of impending risk, Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt, then returned home after Herod's death.

Imagine how Mary felt. Traveling while pregnant would be challenging. Fleeing to another nation lest some king slay your son would not be pleasant. Yet she, Joseph, and Jesus survived the ordeal.

In the midst of social and cultural challenges, the Christmas story offers hope and encouragement toward survival, hope of new life linked to something—someone—greater than oneself. One of Jesus' followers said Jesus' "name . . . [would] be the hope of all the world."

So, the Christmas story is important because it has endured and because it speaks of hope and survival.

[Excerpt - Courtesy: <http://www.thoughts-about-god.com/christmas/rw-christmasstory.html>]



இயேசு பாலனை பிறந்திருக்கும் இடத்தில் தேடுங்கள்

பாவினை மீட்க பிறந்த கோமகனுக்குக் கிடைத்தது: வானகமே கூரை, வாடையே போர்வை, வைக்கோலே பஞ்சணை, தீவனத் தொட்டியே தொட்டில். தாயை ஏற்றி வந்த கழுதையும், தனியாய் ஒதுங்கி நின்ற பசுவமே அவருக்குத் தோழர்கள். அமைதியான தனிமை. பனி கலந்த வாடைக்காற்றின் குளிரில் நடுங்கிய குழந்தையை கழுதையும், மாடும் தான் தங்கள் மூச்சுக்காற்றால் சூடேற்றின. இறைமகன் இப்படிப்பட்ட ஏழ்மைச் சூழலில் ஏழையாகவே பிறந்தார் என்பதற்கு இதைவிட வேறு சான்று என்ன வேண்டும்? கீழ்த்திசை ஞானிகள் “அந்தப் பாலகன் எங்கே பிறந்திருக்கிறார்” என்று தேடிச் சென்றனர். இல்லாத இடத்தில் தேடியதால் விழி பிதிங்கினர். இருக்கும் இடத்தை தேடிக் கண்டனர். இன்று நீங்கள் அந்தப் பாலனை எங்கே தேடுகிறீர்கள்? அவர் இருக்குமிடத்திலா அல்லது இல்லாத இடத்திலா? ஏழைகளின் இல்லங்களில், மனநோயாளிகளின் காப்பிடங்களில் மற்றும் இதுபோன்ற கருணை இல்லங்களில்தான் அவர் பிறந்திருக்கின்றார். நீங்கள் தேடி அலைய வேண்டாம். இவ்விடங்களுக்கு நேரே போங்கள்; பாருங்கள், சேவை புரியுங்கள், இயேசுவின் ஆசி பெறுங்கள்.

பேராசிரியர் S.J.சல்வதோர் விக்டர்
கூட்டப்புகள்

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between 4 teams representing the 4 Houses of the College. Events have also been organised for the kids and ladies. I hope to see as many Patricians as possible with their families and friends enjoying an amusing day out.

The Annual General Meeting for 2017 will be held on 12th February 2017 at St Pascal's Church Hall at 3.30pm. It is held earlier than usual in order to facilitate special ceremonies in March in connection with our silver jubilee year. With this newsletter, we have attached a Nomination Form for members to nominate as office bearers or Committee members to take the OBA forward in the year 2017/18 and beyond. Please note our St. Patrick's feast day celebrations will be held on 18th March 2017 at St. Luke the Evangelist Church, Blackburn South.

'Patrician Nite', the major event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the OBA Melbourne has been planned to be held on 18th November 2017, and interstate and overseas visitors will be invited to attend. Dr Mariampillai has put forward a suggestion that – with interstate and overseas visitors in attendance – we should seize the occasion making it the 'Australasian Reunion of Patricians' with extra activities on the weekend. The Committee is inviting all members to comment on this proposal, and any other activities that can make our Silver Jubilee Year a memorable one.

We wish all Patricians, your families and friends a very happy and enjoyable Christmas season and blessings for a prosperous New Year.

Chrys Gunanayagam

St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA Melbourne

Nomination Form—Office Bearers and Committee Members for the 2017 / 2018 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:

Full Name of Seconder:

Signature: Date:.....

Signature: Date:.....

Address:

Address:

Notice Board

Events in 2017 – OBA's 25th year

At this point in time, the following events have been planned for the Jubilee Year.

Annual Family Day – Barbeque, Cricket, Tennis, Golf & Rounders

Australia Day cricket match and family day will be held on Thursday, **26 January 2017**, at Wattle Park, 1012 Riversdale Road, Burwood (Melway ref: 60 J2).

Time: Early start to ensure we play 3 matches; Tentative Time 10.30 am.

Australia Day cricket matches will be played between four teams to represent the 4 Houses of the College - Long, Bonjean, Matthews & Dunne. Many Patricians have confirmed their participation in the cricket matches. Others, please advise Jeyandra (0428 366 504) or Tennakone (0430 657 736) of your attendance so that the participants can be divided into 4 teams well in advance.

Team details will be available and advised in January 2017. The plan is to have:

- One match before barbeque lunch and another match after lunch.
- The winners of the 1st and 2nd matches will play in the final for the trophy. (Altogether 3 matches).
- The number of overs in each match expected to be between 8-10.

The Patricians who have confirmed attendance so far are: Anandarajan James; Angelo Fernando; Balendran Thambipillai; Barath Raj; Bronson Balendran; Canisius Ghanasooriar; Chrysostom Gunanayaham; Dinesh Francis; Dylan Jeyanathan; Florentine Singarayer; Jeevaranjan Fernando; Jeremy Antonipillai; Jerry Antonipillai; Jeyanathan Stanislaus; Jeyandra Antonipillai; Jonathan Arulanantham; Joshua Kulasingam; Manoraj Francis; Nimal Augustine; Niruban Vimalathas; Nishanthan Chinniah; Parthi Vivekanandan; Patrick Rajaratnam; Premanandarajah James; Priyanthan Arulanantham; Rajeeve Noel; Ravindraraaj Philip; Richman Mangalanyaham; Rukshan Theophilus; Thavachelvan Sabaratnam; Thennakone Berchmans; Thavarajah Lingam; Vimalraj Mariadas; and Vincent Pius.

Additionally, 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 a club along the way.

Cost: Adult \$10 & Kids \$5

Other events

AGM - The 25th Year **Annual General Meeting** of St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA, Melbourne, will be held on Sunday, **12th February 2017 at 3.30 pm** at St Paschal's Church YTU common hall, 100 Albion Road, Box Hill.

St Patrick's Day Celebrations – Saturday, 18th March 2017.

Patrician Nite – Saturday, 18th November 2017.

Note: We have received many suggestions and ideas on ways to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Melbourne OBA. Dr. Mariampillai has suggested that we organise a '**Australasian Reunion of Patricians**' in conjunction with the Patrician Nite, inviting visitors from interstate and overseas to mark the occasion. The Committee has discussed the proposal and is exploring the modalities of doing this during the Patrician-Nite weekend. **Can the members please convey what you think of the proposal and any suggestions you may have to any of our Committee Members?** Any feedback (positive and negative) is welcome.

Friendly Reminder

We call on the nearly 100 Patricians who haven't paid/renewed their membership to kindly do so .

Annual subscription:  **ONLY**

Contact Treasurer Noel Rajiv on: **0421839197**



Enjoy your holidays

and

Take Care

on the roads.