

Alma MaterI Blest sanctum of learning Where the mind is adorned with rich lore; And each tutored faculty's yearning Is sated and taught to seek more.

College Anthem

Alma Mater! Fond nurse of my childhood So indulgent, yet prudently firm; Thy affection and smile cheer my boyhood And foster each heavenly germ.

Alma Mater! Whose love brooks no fetter To the heart thou doth culture with toil; 'Tis that science and art may thrive better When rooted in virginal soil.

Prayer

Father in Heaven, the source of all goodness and love. We thank you for all the graces and blessings you have bestowed upon us.

We see your hand in all our work, efforts and successes. May our 30th anniversary celebrations be a time to strengthen our friendship and share our love for one another.

In your infinite generosity, grant us and our families and friends your continued blessings throughout the coming years.

We fondly remember all the departed members of our Association at this time. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Founded in 1850 by Roman Catholic missionaries, the *Jaffna Catholic English School* was later renamed *Jaffna Boys' Seminary*. The school was registered as a High School in 1881 and renamed *St. Patrick's College* on 10 January 1881.

SPC Jaffna Rectors and Principals

- 1850-58 Patrick Foy
- 1859-61 Rev. Bro. John Joseph Brown
- 1862-70 Rev. Bro. Patrick Joseph Conway
- 1870 Rev. Bro. Michael A. Murphy
- 1870-74 Rev. Bro. (Fr.) Patrick O Flanagan
- 1874-75 T. W. McMahan
- 1875-80 Rev. Bro. (Fr.) Patrick O Flanagan
- 1880-83 Rev. Bro. (Fr.) J. A. R. Smythe
- 1883-85 Rev. Fr. Charles H. Lytton
- 1885-88 Rev. Fr. Jules Collin
- 1888-89 Rev. Fr. M. Dubreuil
- 1889-01 Rev. Fr. Patrick Dunne
- 1901-02 Rev. Fr. Jules Collin
- 1902-05 Rev. Fr. Charles A. Beaud
- 1905-21 Rev. Fr. Charles S. Matthews
- 1921-24 Rev. Fr. John A. Guyomar
- 1924-36 Rev. Fr. Charles S. Matthews
- 1936-54 Rev. Fr. Timothy M. F. Long
- 1954-60 Rev. Fr. S. N. Arulnesan
- 1960-66 Rev. Fr. P. J. Jeevaratnam
- 1966-76 Rev. Fr. T. A. J. Mathuranayagam
- 1976-79 Rev. Fr. John A. Francis
- 1979-92 Rev. Fr. G. A. Michael (Francis) Joseph
- 1992-02 Rev. Fr. A. I. Bernard
- 2002-07 Rev. Fr. Dr. Justin Gnanapragasam
- 2008-18 Rev. Fr. Jero Selvanayagam
- 2018 Rev. Fr. A. P. Thirumahan

The College motto: Fide et Labore — Faith and Labour



Bishop's Message

Rt. Revd. Dr. Justin B Gnanapragasam Bishop of Jaffna



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Message from the Bishop of Jaffna

The Alumni Association of St. Patrick's College, Melbourne Branch

My Dear Patricians,

I am, indeed, very pleased to give my warm prayers and blessings to you as you celebrate the 30th year of the formation of OBA of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna in Melbourne. I also extend my best wishes and prayers to you as you gather for the Annual Dinner and Patrician Nite on November 19, 2022.

I am aware of the support and encouragement you give to Revd. Fr. Rector and the College. We have just got out of the Covid~19 pandemic situation and fallen into an economic crisis which is affecting most of the people. Kindly keep all the poor people in your prayers.

Once again, I wish you all a happy gathering and a revival of the good old days at St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.

Yours devotedly in the Lord & M I,

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Rt. Revd. Dr. Justin B. Gnanapragasam Bishop of Jaffna









Dear members of Alumni, Melbourne

It's with great joy and pleasure I am writing this message as you all celebrate the 30th Anniversary of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna OBA Melbourne and convey my greetings of the Seasons.

I thank God the Almighty for all the founder members and Exco members for their valuable services and the dedication and the hard work by the present and past members of your Association. I take this opportunity to congratulate and wish your Association all the very best in your future endeavours.

Christmas is a special time to experience divine love in the most tangible way as God is born in the midst of human beings. The historical birth of God still occurs in our times if we identify Him among the poor, needy, oppressed and under privileged. The whole world is under the grip of an economic crisis. War is everywhere. The threat of the global pandemic is not yet over. However, the Prince of Peace is born again to remind that our attempt to love, show mercy and make peace is still possible.

As you gather for the 30th Anniversary celebration, I am pleased to express my deep sense of gratitude for your marvellous generosity towards your Alma Mater. Your contribution has made a difference in the overall wellbeing of the College. In a special way I thank for the special project of updating our Engineering Technology Lab with equipment. Continue to be with us so that we can continue to render our service to the society.

May the showers of blessings of the Holy Babe of Bethlehem fill your hearts and homes.

Merry Christmas and Prosperous 2023.

Rev. Fr. A. P. Thirumahan

Rector





Greetings to All

It's my pleasure to welcome all our members, friends and well-wishers to our 30thyear anniversary Patrician Nite 2022 celebrations. After a pause for a couple of years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our committee members are excited to host this event. And we are looking forward to a great night of fun, laughter and friendship.

This year marks yet another milestone. Thirty years is a long time for an association to survive, let alone thrive. This is made possible only because of the dedication of past presidents, committees and the camaraderie of our members. Since its inception in 1992, the OBA has been a great platform to connect and cherish the nostalgic memories of our carefree college days. I thank you all for your dedication and drive.

The association has a longstanding partnership with our Alma Mater and supported projects that assist with education, structural improvements, sports, emergency humanitarian assistance, etc. As a continuation of this tradition, and to mark this milestone year, our association has—at the request of the Rector— pledged to help with equipping the Engineering Technology Lab. This will immensely support the engineering stream students with their practical studies that are necessary to complete their tertiary education successfully, as well as gain trade qualifications to improve their career opportunities. A project of this size needs substantial funding and great effort to complete. This would not have been possible without the generous donations from our members, well-wishers and sponsors, as well as the remarkable support extended by the committee members with procurement and shipping. All the equipment have now been shipped to be available for the next academic year.

The last two years we had to scale down our activities due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, we managed to have the 2021 St. Patrick's Day celebration, connect with members via Zoom on Australia Day 2022 (Family Fun Day), and St. Patrick's Day celebration 2022 with many members, spouses and children participating.

Tonight we are delighted, honoured and thankful to Rector Fr. Thirumahan for taking the time to travel to be with us as Chief Guest of the Patrician Nite 2022, in spite of his busy schedule back home. His visit will, no doubt, help to strengthen the bond between us and our Alma Mater in a special way.

I am blessed to have a very capable and efficient committee, which includes a number of past presidents. I sincerely thank them for their advice, constructive support and hard work throughout this year. Their immense passion for the Alma Mater and our association is unparalleled.

May we grow from strength to strength and continue to enjoy the camaraderie for many more years to come.

Noel Rajiv

Past Presidents								
1992~1994	Dr. Anton Mariampillai	2005~2007	Brian Alexander					
1994~1996	The late Anton Santhiapillai	2007~2009	Jeevaranjan Fernando					
1996~1997	Joseph Vijayaretnam	2009~2011	James Joseph					
1997~1998	Basil Patrick	2011~2013	Philip Ravindraraj					
1998~2000	Basil Balendran	2013~2015	Anandarajan James					
2000~2002	Dr. Bruno Jesuthasan	2015~2017	Chrys Gunanayagam					
2002~2003	Joseph Vijayaretnam	2017~2019	William Nilmalraj					
2003~2005	John Priyaan	2019~2021	Jeyandra Antonipillai					

The Association is ever grateful for the invaluable contributions made by the past presidents, office-bearers, committee members and support groups for its growth over the last 30 years.



Seated (L-R): Parthiban Vivekanandan (Assist. Secretary), Berchmans Tennakone (Secretary), Noel Rajiv (President), Richman Mangalanayagam (Treasurer), Jenith Jesuthasan (Vice President).

Standing (L-R): William Nimalraj, Jeevaranjan Fernando, Philip Ravindraraj, Anandarajan James, Fredy James, Angelo Fernando.

Absent: Dr Sanjeev Alfred, Jeyandra Antonipillai, Chrys Gunanayagam, Raj Lingham, Dr Hutchinson Thurairajah.



30th Anniversary Events and Activities

Australia Day Cricket and Family Fun Day

This very popular event was, once again, cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings. However, we had a zoom meeting with the Rector and our members, in which the Rector provided updates on the college activities. Members had the opportunity to connect with each other as we usually do on Australia Day.

AGM and St. Patrick's Day

The AGM was held on the 17th of March via zoom, and it was well-attended by the members. The Committee Members for 2021–22 were unanimously re-elected for the year 2022–23.

The St. Patrick's Day Celebrations were held at St. Clare Church, Box Hill North, on the 26th of March. Holy Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Punithakumar and Fr. Yogarajah, followed by an evening of gathering. It was great to see many Patricians after a long break; we all had a fantastic time together over a sumptuous dinner.





30th Anniversary Events and Activities

Fundraising for equipping Engineering Technology Lab

There are over 50 students in the engineering stream, but currently only 5 can participate in 'practicals' at any one time. The Engineering Technology Lab provides the required knowledge and skills to students to prepare them for rigorous employment standards, gain trade qualifications and obtain certificates of prescribed vocational education which will assist them with better employment opportunities. The project will greatly enhance students' capacity building in line with our objective of supporting the Alma Mater in meaningful ways.

We are very grateful to all those who have generously supported this special project through donations and sponsorships, particularly our committee members who have worked so tirelessly behind the scenes.

Patrician Nite

Having cancelled this event for the last two years due to COVID, we are excited to have Rector Fr. A. P. Thirumahan participate in this 30th-anniversary celebration of our association. Live Band and DJ; Buffet Dinner; Beer, Wine and Spirits; and Children's Entertainment (Magic Show, Balloon Twisting, etc.) — all these will be part of the night's agenda to rejuvenate our years of friendship and camaraderie.



Every drop of blood counts

Blood transfusion is part of medicine that treats hundreds and thousands of patients each year. Donated blood is used for many patient requirements. Cancer treatment, patients who require surgery, and transfusions for blood loss due to traumatic injuries are some of the situations where donated blood could be used.

When a patient has been diagnosed with cancer, the blood cells that are made in the bone marrow are often at risk. This lack of blood cell production can cause chronic diseases which may affect organs such as the kidneys, spleen and liver. For cancer patients, blood transfusions can act as a resource to implement platelets back into the body after treatments such as chemo or radiation therapy. According to the Australian Red cross, each blood donation can save up to three lives.

		How your do	onated red blo			
		6	\geqslant	5	3	
34%	19%	18%	13%	10%	4%	2%
Cancer and blood diseases	Anaemia and other needs	Heart, organ and other non- orthopaedic surgeries	Stomach, kidney and other diseases	Fracture and other joint replacements	Help pregnant women, new mothers and young children	Road accidents and other traumas

Image source: Life Blood Australia, 2022

Covid-19 had a significant impact on the blood transfusion services. Due to the pandemic, the number of voluntary blood donations had declined along with the disruption of the supply chain of transfusion diagnostics.

Blood donation centers in many developed and emerging countries have experienced a downfall in blood donations due to social distancing norms and cancellation of blood drives. For example, on 23rd March 2020, NHS(UK) reported that there was 15.0% decline in blood donors the previous week. In July 2021, Australia also recorded a downturn in blood donations. This was attributed to COVID lockdowns, a change in people's movements, lifestyles, and general social anxiety.

In response to the declining number of blood donations, government and medical organisations in several countries took initiatives to maintain an adequate blood supply during the pandemic for public health, accident victims and patients suffering from chronic diseases such as Cancer, etc. For example, in April 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration modified few existing policies regarding donor eligibility criteria. Without compromising the blood safety, such as for those individuals with recent tattoos and piercings, the agency changed the recommended deferral period from 12 months to 3 months. According to an article published on ABC News in January 2022, the Red Cross has reduced blood donors' post-COVID wait from 28 days to seven.

Post COVID-19 pandemic could lead to new strategies (for example: creating online system for coordination among blood centres) being adopted at blood banks and hospitals in order to overcome the shortage in blood products. Hospitals could also be encouraged to have in place an emergency blood management plan in order to ensure a sustainable and safe supply of blood.

One part of blood transfusion is the blood collection and supply. The other part is the processing of blood. After it is donated, the blood is separated into red blood cells, plasma and platelets.

Rising prevalence of blood-related disorders such as hemophilia, leukemia, and other chronic conditions among general population in developed and emerging countries have been responsible for increasing demand for transfusion of blood and blood components. Moreover, increasing incidence of blood-related diseases among geriatric population along with increasing number of patients

suffering from anaemia has led to the upsurge in demand for blood transfusion globally. Thus, growing patient population suffering from blood related disorders coupled with increasing cases of accidents globally is leading to an increasing demand for transfusion of blood or blood components. Clinical laboratories are under constant pressure to protect patient's health and deliver safe blood and blood components to the patients at right time.



In response to the growing demand, key global medical diagnostic companies are introducing rapid diagnostic products that can perform blood screening and blood group testing within few minutes to minimise the current challenges faced by the clinicians. Companies like Haemokinesis which is an Australian based global medical diagnostics company, has launched a bench-top gel card systems capable of performing best in class 1 minute forward reverse group, 10-minute cross-match/antibody screen, and providing a 3x faster group specific blood in emergency situations, which substantially affects a patient's chance of survival.

Increased blood donations and cutting-edge new technology in transfusion medicine will go a long way in improving patient lives.

So, please donate blood. Thank you.



தானங்களில் சிறந்தது இரத்த தானம்.

Author: Dr Sanjeev Alfred, PhD, EMBA

Sanjeev currently is the Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of Haemokinesis Ltd and is responsible for the global commercial operations. He is also a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (MAICD). And, of course, an old boy of SPC Jaffna.



30th-Annive

In 2021, the Rector requested Melbourne OBA to support the practical education of the Engineering stream students by furnishing equipment for the Engineering Lab of the Technology Centre.



The total commitment was for Rs 2.3m (or \$16,000) at the time.



Earlier, in October, 2021, a \$3000 sum of was remitted to procure items locally. However, due to evolving financial and economic crisis it wasn't possible for the college to do so, hence we decided to source urgent and critical items from Australia.

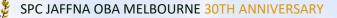
We will continue to work with the college to ensure the Engineering Lab is sufficiently equipped to meet the needs of the students.





Currently we are working with the college and the master-in-charge regarding sourcing some of the heavy items locally.

> Those who provided valuable researched and purchased t



rsary Project

A total of 111 items of equipment Mechanical needed for the Engineering Unit costing \$6,000 was shipped in October 2022. Some high value items included Surveying Tools, Automatic Level, Tripod, Ranging Pole, 3D Electronic Laser Level, Baby Lathe and Wood Lathe. Some other main items were Makita Angle Grinder, Belt Sander, Bench Grinder, etc. The shipment is expected to reach Sri Lanka in late December.

A further 100 items costing approximately Rs 900,000, are to be sourced by the College locally and will be funded by the OBA.

கொட்டும் மழையிலும் காரியம் நிறைவேறியது



We thank the following sponsors for their generosity Dr Keith Abraham (Doreen Total Health Care Clinic) William Anandaraj **Nimal Augustine** Vijay Balendra (MKS Spices'n Things) Jeevaranjan Fernando **Professor Singarayer Florentine Antony Gratian** Anandarajan James **Fredy James Dr Darious Jerome Dr Bruno Jesuthasan** Jenith Jesuthasan (Burjen Pty Ltd) Landmark Computers Osman Mariampillai (Ceylon Express Money Transfer) Reuben Marianayagam (Perpetua Money Transfer) William Nimalraj **Dr Pratheepan Parameswaran** Noel Rajiv **Philip Ravindraraj** Victor St. George (Mortgage Broker/Consultant) William Sugantharaj **Berchmans Tennakone** Johnson Balendren Thambipillai Dr Rose Thanenthiran (Doncaster East Family Medical Centre) Dr Hutchinson Thurairajah (Wallan General Practice) Rajan Vijayarajan (Ridgewater Homes) information and advice to accomplish this project, contributed funds, he 111 items, and helped pack the shipment must be congratulated.







ஒன்றுபட்டால் உண்டு வாழ்வு



அறிவும் ஆற்றலுமே மனிதனின் இன்பத்துக்கு மூலகாரணம். அந்த அறிவுக்கு இயல்பு பிறர் துன்பங்கண்டு இரங்குதல் என்று சொல்கிறார் பொய்யாமொழிப்புலவர் திருவள்ளுவர்: "அறிவினான் ஆகுவ துண்டோ பிறிதின்நோய் தந்நோய்போல் போற்றாக் கடை" (குறள்#315). நம்மைவிட எளியவர்களுக்கு கருணை காட்டுவதென்பது நம்மில் பலருக்கு இயல்பானதே. ஆயினும் ஒன்றுபட்டு சமூகமாக செயற்படுவதில் சற்று பின்வாங்குவதையே காண்கிறோம்.

போட்டிகளும் பொறாமைகளும் சுயநலமும் நிறைந்திருந்தும் உலகம் இன்னும் உயிர்ப்போடு இயங்கி வருகிறது என்றால், அதற்கு நமது மனித மனதில் ஊறித் திளைத்திருக்கும் மனிதநேய உணர்வுதான் காரணம். மனிதநேயமின்றி மனிதவாழ்வு சிறக்காது.

ஒன்றுபடுதலுக்கு ஒருவருக்கொருவர் விட்டுக்கொடுக்கும் பெருந்தன்மை அவசியமாகிறது. இது மற்றவர் நன்மைகருதி நம் சொந்த விருப்புகளை ஓரளவேனும் விட்டுக்கொடுத்தல் ஆகும். எல்லாவற்றுக்கும் மேலாக **அன்பு, நேர்மை, பணிவு, பொறுமை, மனத்துணிச்சல்** இவையின்றி எவ்வித பொதுநலப் பணிகளும் கைகூடுவது அரிது.

ஒற்றுமை பற்றி வேதாகமத்தில் "**நீங்கள் அனைவரும் ஒருமனப் பட்டிருங்கள்; பிறரிடம் பரிவு, சகோதர அன்பு, இரக்கம் காட்டுங்கள்; மனத் தாழ்ச்சி உடையவராய் இருங்கள்**" என்று (1 இராயப்பர் 3) இலும்; **"வாழ்வின் ஒற்றுமையை அனுபவிப்பவன் எல்லா உயிர்களிலும் தன்னையே காண்கிறான்**" (He who experiences the unity of life sees his own self in all beings) என்று கௌதம புத்தரும்; **"உங்களில் எவரும் தனக்கு விரும்புவதை தன் சகோதரனுக்கு விரும்பாதவரை இறை நம்பிக்கை உள்ளவராக இருக்கமாட்டீர்கள்**" (None of you will have faith until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself) என்று தாதர் முஹம்மது நபியும் கூறுவதைக் காணலாம். அவ்வாறே கடவுள் எல்லாவற்றிலும் வசிப்பதால் அனைத்து உயிரினங்களுக்கும் இடையில் ஒற்றுமை இருப்பதாக உணர்த்தும் பகவத்கீதை, சமத்துவம் மற்றும் சோகோதரத்துவ மனப்பான்மையைக் கற்பிக்கிறது.

மற்றவர்கள் நல்வாழ்வுக்காக செயலாற்றும்போது நாம் படும் துன்ப துயரங்களை நல்மனதுடன் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ள வேண்டியவர்களாய் இருக்கிறோம். இவ்வாறு நமக்குள்ளே ஒன்றுபடும் போதுதான் "உண்டு வாழ்வு". இத்தகைய ஒற்றுமையில் காணும் பலத்தைக் கொண்டுதான் நாம் அரிய பெரிய காரியங்களை வெற்றியுடன் முடிக்க முடியும்.

ஆறு பெருகினால் ஒன்று சேர்ந்து அணை கட்டுகிறோம்; ஒவ்வொரு மண்பைகளாக நிரப்பித் துணை செய்கிறோம். காட்டுத்தீ கட்டுக்கடங்காது பரவும்போது ஊரே கூடி அணைக்கிறோம்; ஒருவர் ஒருவராகக் கூவியழைத்து தப்பிப் பிழைக்கிறோம். கோவிட்-19 பெருந்தொற்றின்போது



தாதிகளும் மருத்துவர்களும் தம் உயிரையும் பொருட்படுத்தாது இரவு பகலாய் சேவைசெய்ய, தடுப்பூசிகளுக்காக உலகெங்கும் விஞ்ஞானிகள் ஓயாது ஆய்வுகள் செய்தனர்; இன்னும் பலர் இப் புதிய தடுப்பூசிளைப் பரிசோதிப்பதற்காக தயங்காது தமது கரங்களை மனமுவந்து நீட்டினர். இவர்கள் போன்றோரால்தான் இப்பெருந்தொற்று இன்று பெருமளவில் கட்டுப்பாட்டுக்குள் கொண்டுவரப்படுள்ளது. இவையெல்லாம் நம்பிக்கையுடன் கருத்தொருமித்து செயற்படுபவர்களுக்கு கிடைக்கும் வெற்றியே.

இன்று எமது சங்கக் குழு உறுப்பினர்களின் ஒற்றுமை, புரிதல் மற்றும் மனஉறுதியே எமது கல்லூரியின் பொறியியல் ஆய்வகத்திற்கு ஆக்கபூர்வமாக உதவ வழிசமைத்தது.

'அடம்பன் கொடியும் திரண்டால் மிடுக்கு' என்றும் 'சிறு துளி பெரு வெள்ளம்' என்றும் நம் முன்னோர்கள் சொன்னதெல்லாம் ஒற்றுமையின் பலத்தையும் தேவையையும் குறித்துத்தான்.

நாம் சிறு வயதில் அடிக்கடி கேட்ட பாடல் **"உள்ளத்திலே உரம் வேணுமடா, உண்மையிலே திறம் காணுமடா, ஒற்றுமையால் வெற்றி ஓங்குமடா...**" அப்பாடலை இவ்வேளையில் ஒருமுறை மீட்டுப் பார்ப்போமே. [<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6hZNQ-chcw</u>]

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Annual Events 2018-2021



AGM in progress - March, 2018





Office-bearers, Committee Members and participants at St. Patrick's Day Celebrations - March, 2019



Cricket and Family Fund Day - January, 2020



St. Patrick's Day and AGM - March, 2021

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