

BLUE NEWS WHITE NEWS



NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OLD BOYS' UNION

FEBRUARY 2014

117 YEARS OF JOSEPHIAN EXCELLENCE



Rev. Fr. Rector's Message

I am indeed proud and happy to take over duties as the 13th Rector of St. Joseph's College, Colombo-10, a Premier Catholic Institute of education in the island.

I come here with a heart ready to serve in the Lord's Vineyard, once again in the midst of children. I have done this during my entire 28 years of priesthood, except for the 2 years spent abroad for further education. I am grateful to God for the many years of experience that I have acquired in the field of education and administration. I am sure it will stand me in good stead to lead the Josephian family into the future. At this juncture I remember my mentor and guide the late Rev.Fr. Joe Wickramasinghe, with much gratitude.

I am no stranger to St. Joseph's College as I have been here as Vice Rector from 2001 to 2005. I have many plans in mind for my tenure of Rectorship here at St. Joseph's College which include further all round development of the staff and students. I also hope to ensure that peace, harmony and friendship prevails among all sectors of the great Josephian Family. I believe that, I can achieve this with God's grace, Mother Mary's guidance and our Patron St. Joseph's patronal care.

My predecessor Rev. Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe has done a great service for St. Joseph's College. While thanking him for all that he has done, I seek your assistance and co-operation to steer St. Joseph's College to further heights in the future years.

"I am sure together we can do great things for God."

God Bless!

Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel
Rector
St. Joseph's College, Colombo.



The Old Boys' Union Council of Management 2013 / 14

President: - Rev. Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe-Rector

(until 12th February 2014) Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel - Rector (from 13th February 2014)

Vice Presidents

Nominated -

Elected - Senaka Ranasinghe, Priyanga Perera

Hiran Cooray, Trevor Reckerman, Shammil Perera, Saliya Pieris, Dharshan Jayanetti, Balendra Anthony and Manjula Rodrigo.

Secretary - Rohan Kumarapperuma

Asst Secretary - Ashan Jayamanne

Treasurer - Derrick Perera

Asst Treasurer - Dilshan Wevita

Social Secretary - Lanka Wijesekera

Batch Representatives

Prior to 1960 - K. Surendran, Melvyn Vandort and Gerry Ranasinghe

Oct 65

1961-65 - Lakshman Silva and Dunstan de Silva
 1966-70 - Rohan de Silva

1971-75 - Ishantha Perera 1976-80 - Sampath Fernando 1981-85 - Lilantha Perera, Mohan

Kumaraperuma and Priyantha

Amerasekera

1986-90 - Col. Shiran Abeysekera, Sampath Fernando and Priyantha Kannangara

1991-95 - Rukshan Liyanage, Suranjith de

Silva and Roshan de Saram

1996-2000 - Lasantha Perera, Rukshan Senarath

and Dominic Perera

2001-05 - Granville Samarakoon, Sandun Fernando and Asanga Perera

Fernando and Asanga Perera

2006- to date - Rajinda Silva, Seshan Weerasin

Rajinda Silva, Seshan Weerasinghe, Shermal Manamendra and Sashin Alwares.

www.sjcobu.info



A Double Felicitation Ceremony

The 10th of Feb 2014 is yet another milestone for our dearly beloved Alma Mater.

The Shepherd who guided his flock, the Outgoing Rector Rev .Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe will be handing over the reigns to the Incoming Rector Rev.Fr. Travis Gabriel.

It is with great expectation that we Josephians are looking forward towards the future, to achieve even greater heights under the guidance of The New Shepherd.

We would like to invite ALL Josephians to unite under ONE banner, as ONE Family, to strengthen the hands of The New Shepherd, so that we all move & march in one direction to bring honour & achieve glory.

Though we are many miles away, we assure you that Our Alma Mater is close to our heart. As in the past we will certainly be connected, to honour your call at all times.

Whilst thanking Rev. Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe for the good work done, we extend our warm greetings to Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel & seek his guidance to get Our Alma Mater back on track.

St. Joseph - Pray for us.

Susantha Senanayake President SJC OBA UK



Glimpse of the OBU Ceremony

The 10th of February 2014, was a very special day in the history of the OBU. It was a day of happiness, a day of sadness; a day of celebration, a day of nostalgia; it was a day of "welcoming", a day of "good bye". A day where the baton of the shepherd changed hands, from Rev. Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe to Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel.

The evening commenced with Holy Mass at the Majestic Chapel of the College, with the outgoing Rector as the Chief Celebrant. The large gathering of priests, teachers both past and present, old Josephians and their families, students - specially of the college choir and well wishers, joined together in thanking God for both Rectors, the one leaving and the one joining.

The highlight of the service, was the soul stirring "call for unity and reconciliation" given by one of our Vice Presidents, Mr. Shammil Perera.

Thereafter the drummers & Kandyan dancers led all those present to the Bonjean Hall for the next phase, where both Rectors were garlanded and the lighting of traditional oil lamp took place.

It was an emotional house that listened to Rev. Fr. Sylvester in his farewell speech, and thereafter he was presented with plaques of appreciation for his tireless services to the College.

After a brief entertainment segment, provided by the St. Cecilia's Choir of SJC, it was the turn of the new Rector to give his eagerly awaited inaugural speech. What a speech it turned out to be! Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel set the record straight, as to what he expects to do during his term, with an open invitation to every single person to come forward as a united team and help him to "keep the college flag flying high". He challenged all those present to live the "Fruits of Virtue" that we as Josephians were taught at school, and promised to bring back the "Josephian smiles back". The standing ovation he received at the end of his speech demonstrated that he hit a chord with all those present.

After the formalities ended with the College Anthem, the gathering mingled freely in fellowship.



Golden Jubilee of Rev. Fr. Stanley Abeysekera

The 10th Rector of St. Joseph's College, Rev. Dr. Bernard Stanley Abeysekera celebrated his sacerdotal golden jubilee on the 21st of December 2013. The event was marked with a concelebrated Holy Mass with Fr. Abeysekera as the Chief Celebrant. Joining Fr. Abeysekera among other Priests were two other Rectors of the School, Rev. Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe, the outgoing Rector and Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel the incoming Rector.

At the conclusion of the Mass the Archbishop of Colombo His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith addressed the gathering recalling the great contribution that Rev.Fr. Abeysekera had made to the priesthood and to St. Joseph's College. Present at the Holy Mass were the two Archbishops Emeriti of Colombo His Grace Nicholas Marcus Fernando and His Grace Oswald Gomis.

The Holy Mass was followed by a lunch attended by Priests, Nuns, past and present teachers, Old Boys and relatives and friends of Rev. Fr. Abeysekera.

Rev.Fr. Abeysekera was the Rector of St. Joseph's College from 1983 to 1996, the fourth longest reign in the history of the school the three longest eras being that of Rev.Fr. Legoc, Rev.Fr. Peter Pillai and Rev. Fr. Charles Collins. Those of us who studied at St. Joseph's College when Rev. Fr. Stanley Abeysekera was the Rector recall the visionary Principal of St. Joseph's College whose work ensured that the school remained the Premier Catholic School in Sri Lanka and that its students continued to effectively contribute to the Sri Lankan community.

Rev. Fr. Abeysekera, who holds a doctorate in Education from the University of London, made it his mission to uplift the educational standards of the school. However his vision for St. Joseph's College did not stop at academic excellence. He demonstrated strong leadership in every aspect of governance of St. Joseph's College, developing the school in every aspect both physical and spiritual.

Rev.Fr. Abeysekera as a teacher and Rector inculcated in the students the values of a multi religious and multi-cultural community. This writer recalls on the day after Vesak how Rev.Fr.Abeysekera spoke to the students at the assembly in the College Chapel of the common values of love and compassion the great religions of the world share, recalling the words of Amaradewa's Song "Ada Van Vu Denethin Galana...".

Twenty Five Years ago on Rev.Fr. Stanley Abeysekera's silver jubilee Rev.Fr. Chrispin Leo his then Vice Rector had this to say of him in the Blue and White Magazine: "In all he does what matters most is his Priesthood. It is the commitment to Jesus that compels him to do the best for the Institute and Students. In all his dealings he tries to be a man of God and a Priest of God." (Vol 66 1986-1988)

We wish one of the best loved Rectors of this school many more fruitful years in the vineyard of the Lord.



Au Revoir! We will miss you!

The following teachers retired/resigned from College in December 2013 and February 2014 respectively.

Rev. Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe

- after 8 years as the Rector

Mr. Wimal Fernando

- after 41 years

Mrs. P. Kamala Halwatura

- after 34 years

Mrs. Chandani Withanage

- after 33 years

Mrs .Victoria Sathianadan

- after 30 years

Mrs. Sandya Gunasekara - after 20 years

Mr. V. Umashankar

- after 18 years

Mrs. D. T. Iromi Udugama

- after 15 years

Mrs. Jeyagowri Bonfelius - after 12 years

We the Josephian family wish to thank them very sincerely for their loving, dedicated and untiring services, to the many generations of Josephians and wish them all the very best in their future endeavours. May God Bless them all!



On the 13th February 2014, the 13th Rector Takes Over



Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel, the outgoing Rector of our brother school, St. Peter's College, comes "home" to assume office as the 13th Rector of St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10.

A man of God, a man of a few words, a man of many deeds, he did yeoman service to St. Peter's College, following in the footsteps of his mentor, the highly respected former Rector of St. Peter's College, the late Rev. Fr. Joe Wickramasinghe.

We were privileged to be given permission by the authors of the following quotes, people who worked with him at St. Peter's College, to mention these in our newsletter. These lovely quotes about our new Rector, show the "human being" who is entrusted with the task playing shepherd to the Josephian family.

"Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel is not a person to question petty things, He knows that when he asks something, it will be done to the best of one's ability. I hope you will benefit from his kind and generous manner, he never judges, condemns, harbours grudges or seeks glory."

"Duty is something he did without questioning the hardships. He did it with a clean and loving heart; and he expected the same from everyone."

"He is a wonderful and God fearing human to serve for."

A certain incident where a rival school had gone on a parade during the Big Match season, where a certain section of this parade had tried their hardest to provoke the Peterites into a "street battle", shows a person who leads from the front and is not scared to risk his life for his flock. It is said that Rev.Fr. Travis led a team of priests, staff members and prefects, and formed a human shield between the warring factions in front of the Duplication Road entrance to the college, until the tensions eased out and peace prevailed.

 $"He \ never \ expected \ rewards \ and \ gratitude."$

So this is our new Rector. The one who, in his very first speech at the Felicitation Ceremony organized by the OBU, invited all Josephians to come together and "help him to keep the Blue and White flag flying high" and "to never ever let the flag down."

We wish you dear Rev. Fr. Rector, a wonderful and happy tenure as the Shepherd of our beloved College, and may the good Lord help you to "bring the Josephian smiles back!"

Welcome & Farewell Ceremony organized by the College held on the 13th February 2014, at the Sports Complex









OBU Felicitation Ceremony held on the 10th February 2014

















OBU Family Day

With the objective of re-uniting the Josephian Family, the OBU organized a Family Day on the 9^{th} of February 2014, at the Main Grounds of the College.

This event which was open to all old Josephians and their families, commenced with the Holy Mass at the College Chapel, and thereafter flowed over to the main grounds and its surroundings.

Many old Joes, both young and the "young at heart", some along with their families, kept coming throughout the day, and showed by their numbers, that they want to be "united" again.

There were many events lined up for entertainment, with the Cricket Six-a-side Tournament which pitted 16 teams against each other taking centre stage. The spouses and kids were not forgotten, with a kids' cricket match, face painting, and a few other games being offered exclusively for them.

It was a happy Josephian Family that finally left the college, to the strains of the music of the visiting DJ, at the end of the day.

The organizing committee, comprising of Lanka Wijesekera, Sampath Fernando, Dominic Perera, and Ashan Jayamanna, and their hardworking team, certainly deserve a very special bouquet of thanks, for a great show.

We are also thankful to TV Derana for the free publicity given, our donors & to those who helped us to make this day a success.













Keep these dates Free!

7th & 8th March, 2014 - Joe-Pete Big Match Venue: P. Sara Stadium

15th March, 2014 -Joe-Pete Limited Overs

Encounter Venue : R.Premadasa Stadium

30th March, 2014 -Open Discussion on the

OBU Constitutional Reforms Venue : Bonjean Hall 10th May, 2014 -OBU Sing-a-long Venue to be finalized

June 2014 - AGM (Date to be Notified)

20th September, 2014 - OBU Dance Venue : Hilton Hotel

3rd Sunday of Each Month -OBU Family Mass at the College Chapel followed by Breakfast.



CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

"As mandated at the last Annual General Meeting, the "Constitutional Committee" of the Old Boys' Union headed by Vice President OBU, Attorney-at-Law Saliya Pieris invites proposals for amendments to the present Constitution on or before 15th March 2014 (a copy of the existing could be collected from the OBU Secretariat or by sending a request via email).

All such proposals should be sent under your signature with the OBU membership number and contact details.

Anonymous proposals shall not be considered. Thereafter all proposals shall be forwarded for deliberation among the general membership at the Bonjean Hall on 30th March 2014 at 10 a.m. All members who are interested in joining these deliberations are invited to be present.

Proposals could be sent under registered post, fax, email or hand delivered to the

Secretariat, St. Joseph's College Old Boys Union, 214, T. B. Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10. Tel/Fax: 0112669449 email: sjcobuamd@gmail.com

"Magnificat" - Josephian Christmas Carols 2013

Over 2500 people witnessed the Josephian Christmas Carols 2013 titled "Magnificat" to commemorate the Marian year. Held on the 6th of December 2013 at the vast Josephian auditorium, the 100 strong St. Cecilia's Choir of St. Joseph's College, directed for the 17th consecutive year by Maestro Francis D' Almeida, went through - in songs, carols and anthems - the story of the Creation and Incarnation, in melodious strains.

The evening also included the 80 member Primary Choir, the Old Joes Choir and the Teachers' Choir. Impressive audio visuals depicted on vast screens enhanced the quality and heightened the solemnity of the programme.

A get-together of families and friends united the past and present Josephians and concluded the day's proceedings.

Guild of the Immaculate Heart of Mary **Celebrates Platinum Jubilee**

The Guild of the Immaculate Heart of Mary which was inaugurated in the year 1913 had its centennial celebrations on the 8th December, 2013 which happens to be the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

On this day of our Holy Mother, an unprecedented gathering of both young and senior guildsmen, some in their 80's and 90's, assembled with their families at the grotto. The rosary was recited along with the litany to Our Lady. Thereafter the beautiful statue of Our Lady which was gaily decked, was carried by the guildsmen in procession to the singing of Marian hymns. The College band led the candlelit procession around the quadrangle. The procession quietly vended their way in the twilight with blue and white lanterns into the chapel for a service.

A plaque in commemoration of the Centenary Celebration was unveiled by the Rector, Rev.Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe, at one of the side alters.

It was a memorable event befitting of a Centenary Celebration, and was exquisitely organized and carried out with devotion and fervor, led by its Secretary Desmond Fernando.

Editor's Message

It is a great pleasure to continue as the editor of our Alma Mater for which I am indeed privileged and honoured. Let me take this opportunity to thank the OBU Council for entrusting me with task to be the editor of the OBU newsletter.

We are at a pivotal point in the Josephians' rich history, where we are entering a crucial phase in our existence. We have to understand the changes occurring around us and remember that change means growth. This challenges us to fall in line with change in order to reach the pinnacle of success. In this context we warmly welcome our new shepherd, Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel and wish him a fruitful and happy tenure at St. Joseph's College.

At this juncture, it is appropriate to remember with gratitude all our Past Rectors, especially Rev. Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe, the outgoing Rector and teachers – both past and present - who have guided and moulded us to be what we are at present.

May St. Joseph's College, which has maintained the highest standards in education, sports, discipline and character building for 117 years, go forward from strength to strength for many more centuries.

"St. Joseph dear, who never fails to aid us in every needy hour, we praise and thank thee"

Maruthai Ravindhiran

Editor – OBU Newsletter Committee

Our Deepest Condolences

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep." (1 Thes 4: 14)



Mr. Priyalal de Silva

Cricketer **Privalal de Silva** (1973-75) passed away in Oman after a brief illness. His body was flown to Sri Lanka and was buried on 17th January at the General Cemetery, Borella.

Privalal was a fine all rounder, right arm medium fast bowler and was a hard hitting middle order bat. He played a vital role in St. Joseph's winning the Vaseline trophy in 1974. Priyalal's brother Ranjan, another Old Joe- Past Cricketer (1971-1974), pre-deceased him some time back.

The OBU members offered the OBU Family mass on the 19th January 2014 at the College Chapel for the repose of his soul.

Much loved and famed Old Joe - Past A very loyal Old Joe & Former OBU Council member, Muni Kundanmal, left this world to his eternal rest on the 20th February 2014. During his tenure as the Chairman of Kundanmals, he was a very generous benefactor of the College.

Mrs. Lorna Ratnayake

At the time of going to the press we have been informed of the demise of one of our dear and very senior teachers Mrs. Lorna Dissanayake (nee Ratnayake)

May You Rest in Peace!

From the College Sports Desk

Cricket

The 1st XI Cricket season is in full swing with the team having played a bulk of the fixtures as well as traditional annual encounters. The team is led by seasoned campaigner Dylan Fernandopulle and has quite a few senior colors-men as well.

Priyamal Perera who is the vice-captain, along with the flashy stroke player Sadeera Samarawickrama have been selected for the national team for the on-going Under 19 Cricket World Cup 2014. We are the only school to have 2 members in the team and Sadeera is also the vice-captain of the side, bringing much honour to our College.

Very recently the college team beat St. Anthony's Katugasthota, winning the Murali-Vaas Trophy.

You may further follow regular updates on the official Facebook fan page (Facebook/Joes Cricket).

Soccer

Our 1st XI soccer team completed a tremendous year as we emerged as the Runners Up at the 2013 All Island Tournament. This was the first time in over 17 years where the senior team reached such heights at national level. The Soccer Academy which was initiated by the Soccer Advisory Committee (SAC) has also completed three successful years, with College teams achieving many accolades in the said period.

In celebrating the success of the 1st XI team as well as the Soccer Academy, the SAC has organized a Tour to Bangkok for the team where they will play 3 games with Suankularb Wittayalai, Vajiravudh College and Bangkok Christian College.

The OBU made a financial contribution as a gesture of goodwill, and wishes the team a successful tour!

Rugby

The College 1st XV team will continue to battle in the "A" Division this season as well with the new tournament format coming to play. We will share more details of the team and fixtures in the following issue.

Athletics Meet

The annual inter-house athletics meet was held on Friday, 7th February 2014. Mr.T. Don Augustine, a distinguished old boy and a reputed athlete during his schooldays, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Bonjean House emerged as the Champions.

Swimming

The college swimming team won the Sri Lanka Schools Swimming Championship for the 10th consecutive year. This is a fantastic achievement and we wish to congratulate all the swimmers, the coach Mr. Ruwan Manawadu and his team, for bringing this honour to College.

Rowing

The college Rowing Team took part in an international rowing meet conducted by the Association of Schools Rowing in Asia (ASRA), held from 5th February to 9th February 2014.

The young Josephians did extremely well to win a respectable placing in all the events they took part in.

+ Double scull (under20) - 3rd Place + Quadruple scull (under20) - 3rd Place + Sculling (under20) - 4th Place

+ Regatta - Boys Schools - Overall 3rd place (out of 12 schools).

We wish to congratulate Masters Glenard Leon, Vinodh Siriwardena, Heshal Peiris, Sachin Arulanandan and Himendra Rodrigo, as well as the team behind their success, for their stupendous performances in bringing honour and glory to our College.

The team was coached by Mr. Baasim Hassan with Mr. Nipuna Nakkawita as the Asst. Coach, both Old Joes.

It must be stated that these events were won by our young Josephians, in spite of having "not so state of the art" equipments such as boats, when compared to the other local and foreign schools which participated.

Special Announcements

Option of getting your next Newsletter via electronic media

In this age of e-science, the OBU is deliberating, based on your response, to refrain from sending the hardcopy of the newsletter to those of you who wish to obtain it via electronic media. This will help us to reduce the rising costs involved in sending out hardcopies.

Therefore anyone who is interested in obtaining future newsletters, via electronic media only, please be kind enough to inform the OBU Secretariat at your earliest.

To the rest of you, we will continue to send the hardcopy.

Appreciate your kind response to this venture.

Do you know old Joes who have not yet obtained their OBU Membership?

If you do know of anyone in this category, and who is willing to join us, kindly get him enrolled. All you have to do is to obtain an Application Form from the OBU Secretariat, and hurry over with the completed one to the OBU Secretariat.

We will do the rest. The College needs all of you! and so do we at the OBU!

Do you have any "News" to be published in the next Newsletter?

If you do, kindly forward an email to the OBU Secretariat.

We will do our best to accommodate your item, in the next Newsletter.

Notable Quotes from the Editor's Desk

"Change your opinions - keep to your Principals; Change your leaves - keep to your roots." - [Victor Hugo]

"They must often change, who would be constant in happiness or wisdom." [Confucius]

"Do not wait. The time will never be just right." - [Napolean Hill]

"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind and not with it." [Henry Ford]

"Worry is the interest paid by those borrow trouble." [George Washington]

We are in the process of updating our data base. As such please drop in an email / letter to the OBU Secretariat, with your current postal and email addresses, telephone & fax nos.

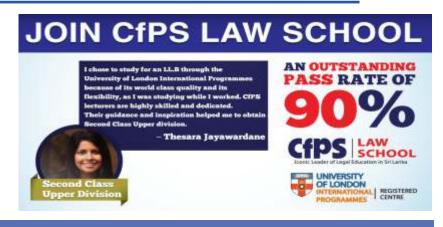
From the Editorial Team

We the Team behind this Newsletter, take collective responsibility, for the drafting and compilation of all articles in this edition. We tried to accommodate as many as time and space provided for. So if any "news", which you think should be there, has not appeared in this edition, rest assured it was unintentional, and we say "sorry" for any such omission.

Hope you enjoyed this edition of your very own newsletter!

Saliya Pieris (Chairman), Senaka Ranasinghe, Suranjith de Silva, Sandun Fernando and Maruthai Ravindhiran (Editor).





If undelivered return to us:

OBU SECRETARIAT

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