



OLD BOYS' UNION

JOSEPHIAN NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2019

STUDENTS FIRST.  
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ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OLD BOYS' UNION

# NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As we begin 2019 we get a chance to look back at 2018 and truly be proud of being part of the Josephian family for the numerous achievements in many spheres. Not only have the young Joes excelled in Sports as perhaps the only school to have held Soccer, Cricket and Swimming national championship titles in the same year (one could argue that these are 3 of possibly the top 5 most followed sports) but we also celebrated the new year with the news of exemplary achievements in A/Ls with 19 students out of c. 200 obtaining 3As. This newsletter will capture some of the articles published in the newspapers summarizing the extraordinary year which is now becoming a routine order of business for Josephians and sets high-standards for others to follow. Josephians have also excelled well in the corporate sector, public sector as well as political and diplomatic spheres thanks to many distinguished luminaries in the respective area. The success of the Josephians as always can be attributed to God himself who has blessed this premier institution and all its stakeholders for being close to God in prayer and by putting God ahead of them. The Josephian family is always indebted to the teachers and administration of St. Joseph's College whose services are above and beyond the call of duty, and last but certainly not the least, the parents who have imparted values which Jesus himself taught. The successes of Josephians will continue to keep the blue white and blue flag fluttering high above all other and will no doubt will continue remain in its premier catholic status for another century more.

A brief note on the newsletter itself...

Being the 4th edition since 2017 the Josephian newsletter is now becoming a consistent publication for the Josephian community to keep themselves updated on the latest news in College. With a brand-new look and more content the Josephian newsletter has attracted many positive comments from many recipients both in Sri Lanka as well as those living overseas. All attempts are being made to make the newsletter published electronically on a quarterly basis without compromising the current quality it has maintained. At present the newsletter is published once in six (6) months. I hope with some more support from the younger old boys in the council the newsletter can be published more frequently. I must also thank Eashan Perera for volunteering to help with the publication of the 4th Edition. Whilst there are many practical obstacles in juggling between a day job and honorary work for the OBU council the understanding and encouragement of many is a motivation to overcome the challenges that come in many forms. I wish to invite other non-OBU council members who are interested in being part of the newsletter team to get in touch with Alex – Secretary of the OBU Secretariat or by mailing [cjrjive@gmail.com](mailto:cjrjive@gmail.com) with your details. I wish you all a good read!

Editor-in-Chief  
Rajive Silva



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# FR. PEDURU FONSEKA ANOTHER OLD JOE PREACHING THE WORD OF GOD

They say that 'God works in mysterious ways,' and the story of my dear friend Anushka could indeed bear testament to this saying.

Fr. Peduru Fonseka, previously known as Anushka Fonseka to his friends and family, was born on the 16th of November 1982. He was a parish member of Our Lady of Fatima Church in his hometown Battaramulla and attended St. Joseph's College for his primary and secondary education. He chose the stream of Mathematics for his Advanced Level studies and was also appointed a Senior Prefect during his final two years at school (Batch of 2001). During his formative years, never would his family or close friends or he himself have ever imagined that he would answer a call to serve God.

Subsequent to completing his secondary education at St. Joseph's, he moved to Mobile, Alabama in the United States in the year 2002 to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at the University of South Alabama. During his undergraduate years, he worked as a Research Assistant at the university for 2 ½ years as well as an Engineering Intern at Barter & Associates, Inc. as part of his curriculum. Furthermore, he has had several conference papers published and presented at various forums in 2007 & 2008, and has also co-authored a refereed journal publication in the Journal of Advanced Concrete Technology in 2008. Having graduated from the university in December 2008, he was absorbed into the cadre of Barter & Associates, Inc. as a Structural Engineer, where he performed his duties for three years.

After several years of hibernation and to much amazement of his friends and family, he declared his desire - in an email

dated 18th May 20011 to his close friends - to become a Father and Good Shepherd of God, a decision 'made after several years of prayers, discernment, and spiritual guidance.' He then entered into the Saint Meinrad Archabbey on 28th May 2011 as a candidate to start on his four-year formation to become a Benedictine monk (O.S.B.).

As part of the important milestones in his priestly journey, Fr. Peduru made his first vows on the 6th of August 2012, and professed his final solemn vows on 15th August 2016. As a general practice, each monk receives a religious name and a patronal feast day when they make their first vows. Once a monk has submitted three of their choices for the desired patron saint, it falls on the superior of the monastery, Fr. Abbot, to choose one of the names from the three options that have been submitted. As a result, his superior Fr. Abbot chose St. Peter as Fr. Peduru's patron saint whose patronal feast day falls on the 29th of June. The then seminarian and student of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology received the Order of Deacon from the Most Rev. Charles Thompson, Bishop of the Diocese of Evansville, Indiana at the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church in St. Meinrad on the 22nd of April 2017. As part of his priestly education, he graduated from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology with an M.A. Catholic Philosophical Studies in May 2014 and a Master of Divinity degree in May 2018.

At a very solemn and prayerful ordination ceremony, Fr. Peduru Fonseka, O.S.B. was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest on Saturday, 11th August 2018 by the Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.



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The ordination ceremony was held in Saint Meinrad's Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln in Indiana. Fr. Peduru presided over his first Holy Mass the next day at the Archabbey Church. He is currently assigned as the Conference Manager of the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates at Saint Meinrad School of Theology and Seminary.

Fr. Peduru will be arriving in Sri Lanka in November this year for a short visit and will preside over the OBU Family Mass to be held on the 9th of December at the College Chapel.

About the monastery: Saint Meinrad Archabbey ([www.saintmeinrad.org](http://www.saintmeinrad.org)) is a Benedictine monastery founded in 1854 by monks from Einsiedeln Abbey in Switzerland and is home to a thriving community of over 80 Catholic & Benedictine monks who live, work, and pray in solitude. These monks of the Benedictine community still live by the Rule of St. Benedict, and the motto *ora et labora* (pray and work). Saint Meinrad Archabbey is a peaceful and spiritual place with beautiful landscaped grounds which offers the opportunity for prayer with the Benedictine monks. The abbey is named after St. Meinrad, a monk who died in 961. It is one of only two archabbeys in the United States and one of 11 in the world. One of the primary works of Saint Meinrad has been the education of future leaders of the Catholic Church. The Benedictine monks operate Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, which offers initial education and ongoing formation for priests, permanent deacons and lay ministers of the Roman Catholic Church. The abbey is located in Saint Meinrad in the state of Indiana, USA.



- Written by Anuk De Silva, a childhood friend of Fr. Peduru with a friendship spanning over three decades



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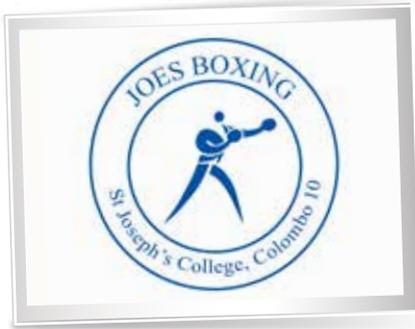
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## JOES BOXING POWERED BY BATCH OF 2000

The Joes batch of 2000 continued contribution towards the sport of boxing was rewarded with a successful year in 2018 with several podium finishes at national level. Batch president for 2017/18 Surain Algama, president for 2018/19 Dilanjan Ransinghe, Secretary Shamal Gamage along with many others in the Joes 2000 batch have represented the whole batch in leading from the front.



## JOES 2000 MONOGRAM PROJECT

Joes 2000 batch with the help of one of the batchmates -Viran Fernandopulle made arrangements to provide Monograms (College crest that gets sewn to the uniform shirt pocket) for College free of charge. This initiative has helped College to save a lot of money which College otherwise spends on purchasing such monograms for its applicable student population.



Batch of 2000 handed over the first set of college monograms to Rev Fr Rector which will be used for the uniforms for the year 2019. We will continue to sponsor the monograms to college in the coming years. Special thank you goes to Mr. Viran Fernandopulle who came forward in supplying the monograms to make this project a success.



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## BATCH OF 92' 'SING-A-LONG' TO RAISE FUNDS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL IT LAB

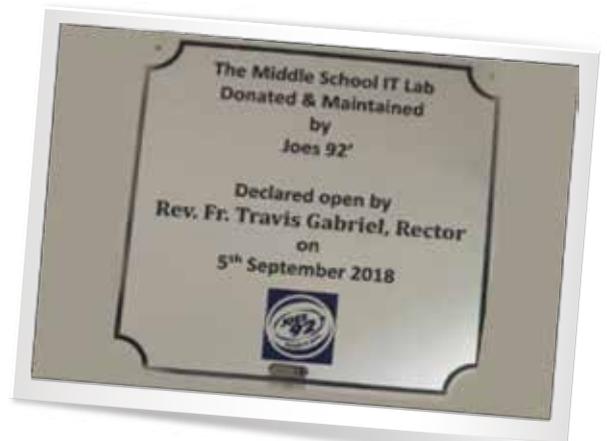
The Batch of 92' or better known as JOES 92, held their inaugural Sing A'long on 7th July 2018 amidst a gathering of approximately 400 guests at the Liberty Ballroom, Hotel Ramada. This project was initiated to generate the required funds to refurbish the Middle School IT Lab.

The band in attendance was Sohan & The X-Periments with Judy de Silva as the guest artist and the comperes for the night were Dominick Keller & Asanka Sahabandu or better known as Dom & Asanka. The event was full of fun & excitement and went on till the early hours of the morning with a Buffet Dinner, Spirits, many games & competitions.

## BATCH OF 92' SPONSORED MIDDLE SCHOOL IT LAB

With the funds raised from the Sing A 'long held on 7th July 2018, the Batch of 92, donated a fully re-furbished IT Lab for the middle school, with state of the art technology and was declared open on 5th September 2018 by Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel, rector of St. Joseph's College amidst a gathering of many priests, Principals and Heads of Department, Sectional Heads, teachers, students and representatives from the Batch of 1992.

The first state of the art digital interactive board of the school was installed in the middle school IT Lab and the investment consists of Computers, Furniture, UPS Units, a Multi Media Projector, and an interactive digital screen. Emphasis was made to reduce the heat in the room with modifications done to the windows, blinds and also entering into service contracts with many service providers / vendors were also a part of the project for ongoing maintenance work.





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## ROAMAL PERERA - AN OLD JOE INDUCTED TO HALL OF FAME

Raomal Perera was inducted into the Business Excellence Institute's Hall of Fame at the Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin, Ireland on April 19, 2018, along with two other outstanding people; Ambassador Julia Chang-Bloch, President of the US-China Education Trust and Marie Lindsay, Principal, St. Mary's College, Derry.

### About Raomal Perera

Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship, INSEAD & UCD

Raomal had his primary education at St. Joseph's College, Colombo the premier catholic educational institute in Sri Lanka and later graduated as an engineer and then became a serial entrepreneur and finally an educator. He co-founded ISOCOR, which was listed on the NASDAQ in 1996, and also founded the Irish software company Network365 (later renamed Valista), which won the Wall Street Journal Innovation Gold Award for business and was listed by Time Magazine as one of Europe's Hottest Tech firms in 2001 and 2002. He became an Adjunct Professor at INSEAD in 2007 and in UCD in 2014 and started his third venture, Lean Disruptor, in 2015.

### The 2018 Excellence Hall Of Fame Induction Ceremony

Once a year, members of the Institute nominate candidates who meet eligibility criteria for induction to the Excellence Hall of Fame and the nominations are then voted on by the Institute's Fellows. The Fellows are selective about who is honoured, they look for people of integrity with a sustained track record of excellence and the bar is set very high.

This year Raomal Perera was inducted to the Excellence Hall of Fame in acknowledgment of his contribution to the organizations that he has been involved with and his contribution to his communities. We received the following words of congratulations for Raomal:

"On behalf of the Irish technology sector, I would like to warmly congratulate Raomal on his induction to the Hall of Fame. Raomal is a true patriarch of the Irish software sector and in many ways can be credited with the great successes we see in the sector today. Raomal has given selflessly of his time in supporting a new generation of entrepreneurs, helping others learn from his trailblazing

achievements. Many congratulations Raomal." Paul Sweetman, Director of Technology Ireland at IBEC, the Irish Business and Employers Confederation:

"Raomal has been a pillar of entrepreneurship at INSEAD since 2001. Raomal has educated hundreds of students and built a large, vocal fan base at INSEAD. He is best known for giving unstintingly of his time in counselling entrepreneurs and teams. Raomal is one of those vitals individuals who connects our European and Asian campuses and he is truly an ambassador of goodwill for Ireland just by being a wonderful role model for those who aspire to build ventures. Raomal's induction into the Excellence Hall of Fame by the Fellows of the Business Excellence Institute is a tribute to a wonderful man and dear friend who exemplifies what it means to say that business should be a force for good, INSEAD's guiding principle. Phil Anderson, Professor of Entrepreneurship at INSEAD and Academic Director of their Centre for Entrepreneurship:



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## About The Institute

The Business Excellence Institute is a membership body headquartered in Dublin, Ireland, with members in 32 countries on 5 continents. The Institute, "BEX" for short, is dedicated to helping people - and the organisations they work for - achieve outstanding results for all their stakeholders. It promotes business excellence as a multi-disciplinary profession, excellence in management, and the use of innovative approaches to personal and organizational development. It supports organisations ranging from small family businesses to federal governments with services being provided by its members.

## About The Excellence Hall of Fame

The Excellence Hall of Fame was established in 2016 to recognise and celebrate people who have made significant contributions to the organizations in which they have worked, to the discipline of management, or to society at large.





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## SENAKA FERNANDO - MEMBER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Born on 09th January 1970, Senaka Fernando has made both his Alma Mater and Country proud by his many accomplishments globally. He currently resides in Cambodia which he has made his home since 1994.

Senaka is a well respected professional in Cambodia and is a great host to many a Josephian who visits Cambodia whether its business or leisure. Senaka is married to Benilda Custodio and together have two daughters named Nadia and Nadine. Senaka is an associate member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka that is in turn affiliated with the Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ACA). He is also an active member of the Kampuchea Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Auditors (CPA Cambodia) and a Member of the Institute of Marketing – London. He was the country director for PricewaterhouseCoopers Cambodia after the globally known audit firm entrusted the responsibility of setting up its office in Cambodia on Senakas shoulders. Prior to Senakas tenure with PWC he was with Ernest & Young in Vietnam for 2 years and 5 years prior to that In Sri Lanka. Senaka was the Vice President and Treasurer of the International Business Club, Chairman of the British Business Association of Cambodia, Vice President and Treasurer – Cambodian Federation of Employers and Business Associations (CAMFEBA), Committee Member of the Continuing Professional Development Program (CPD) of the Kampuchea Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Auditors, Member of the American Cambodian Business Council (AMCHAM) and a member of the Business Advisory Council. Senaka was conferred the M.B.E Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire on 13th February 2009.





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## “MEDIEVAL RENDEZVOUS” ANNUAL JOSEPHIAN BLACK-TIE BALL

Gliding smoothly, softly in regal gowns and lavishly decorated sarees the ladies in the hands of the gentlemen in their tuxedos, the night of 6th October 2018 yet again saw the grandest and the most lavish black-tie ball in Colombo taking place. Like stars lighting up the floor and feeling of electricity flowing through the bodies of over 500 guests, the Josephian Ball 2018 themed the 'Medieval Rendezvous' lived up to its expectations of being the Ball of all Balls. With lavish decorations that transformed the Colombo Hilton from a 5 star hotel to a medieval Scottish castle the ambience was all set for a grand dance from dusk to dawn. Light foyer music was played as cocktails served for guests who were given a red carpet welcome. The evenings formal proceedings got under way with the Scottish Pipers with their Bagpipes entering the hall and Clifford Richards introducing himself as the host for the evening. Mr. Priyantha Kannangara the Chairman of the dance committee for 2018 gave the welcome speech in which he thanked the numerous sponsors and well-wishers as well as all those who made the evening possible.

Mr. and Mrs. Priyantha Kannangara opened the dance floor in traditional fashion with the rest of the organizing committee and their wives dancing to the tunes of Misty. The evening was certainly not short of great music as both Heat and Gypsies also took turns to keep the dance floor vibrating to the footsteps of the couples. Each table was filled with fine spirits, fruit cocktails, finger food and other refreshments fit for royalty. The guests were also treated with many raffle draws and table draws that seemed to never end. Another notable highlight of the evening was where Johann Peries who was the first Sri Lankan man (second Sri Lankan) to summit mount Everest was also felicitated.

Proceeds from this years dance was also set aside for the proposed Cricket indoor nets & the new luxury pavilion.





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# OBU DANCE 2019

## CHAIRMAN : DILSHAN WEVITA

Josephian OBU has appointed the new Chairman and work has already begun towards the Josephian Ball 2019. Mr. Dilshan Wevita has been appointed as the Chairman of the Dance for 2019. It must also be noted that with the excitement building up each passing year a Chairman is also nominated for the 2020 dance already which goes to show that the Josephian dance is certainly growing from strength to strength.

Book your tables now as pre-bookings will be open months ahead of the Ball.

# SAVE THE DATE



## Joes Dance 2019

**Venue : Grand ballroom - Colombo Hilton**  
**Date : 21st September 2019**  
**MC : Clifford Richards**  
**Bands : Black & Doctor with other surprise Guest Artists**





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## A/L STUDENT FAREWELL LUNCH JUNE 2018

Old Boys Union as has been the recent tradition organized the A/L students farewell lunch cum career day in June 2018. The event was organized by the OBU and was ably led by Russel Valentine and his team. The event saw the most senior batch at College being hosted by the OBU for a farewell lunch on the last day of their withdrawals exam prior to the all important A/L exams. The purpose of this event each year is to provide the young Josephians who are completing their student years at the great institution and stepping into the world as young adults. The OBU encourages the students who are about to leave College to join the OBU whilst also giving many options to pursue higher studies by also inviting reputed educational institutions such as American National College to present their educational portfolios. Many young Josephians opt for higher education and go on to become successful in their respective fields and the felicitation lunch gives them some options to consider for studies soon after A/Ls.



## PHOTOCOPY MACHINE FOR A/L STREAM

Old Boys Union led by the A/L Career Day Organizing committee donated a photocopier machine to the A/L stream in November 2018 for the benefit of the students. The Photocopier machine was donated to Rev. Fr. Rector and Ms. Sriya.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF OLD JOSEPHIANS' CLUB OF AUSTRALIA INC.

The Annual General meeting of Old Josephians' Club of Australia Inc., was held at 6.00 PM on Sunday 21st October 2018, Venue was **"The Bungalow", 477 Princess Highway, Noble Park, Victoria.**



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## SJC NEW AND IMPROVED OBU DB

Old Boys Union has undertaken the task of updating the OBU database due to many letters and e-mails getting returned. As a result of the current manual and outdated system many Old Joes are not kept updated regarding College news and events. The Database and Membership drive committee made up of Rajive, Derrick, Sudesh and Dilan have come up with an online membership portal and have received the support of the OBU Council after it was demonstrated at a council meeting. The membership portal will allow existing members to log-in using their membership numbers and a first time password made up of their username and first name joined together. Once the existing members log-in they will be promoted to change their password to a unique one known only to them and thereafter will be expected to update their data from time to time to ensure its kept relevant. Even if one forgets the password a self reset feature is also set. The DB committee will also enable new member registrations to be done online in the future with an online payment option. The portal itself is a well known system used for large enterprise clients for Human Resource Management purposes but is customized by the product owner to accommodate the member requirement. The system is provided free of charge as part of an agreement to use the success of the same as a reference for the products success. The system will comply to information security guidelines. Ownership of the data will remain confidential and with the OBU Secretary and the council whilst the IT team made up of the above individuals will be managing this new system hereafter.





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## DISCOVERING TAMBIMUTTU



James Meary (Thuraijaha) Tambimuttu (1915–1983) was a Tamil poet, editor, critic and publisher, who for many years played a significant part in the literary scenes of London and New York City. Tambimuttu had a Catholic upbringing, and received his primary and secondary education at St Joseph's College, Colombo, where English was the medium of instruction. After moving to London in 1938, he founded the respected literary magazine Poetry London the following year, which "soon became the best known poetry periodical in England, and Tambimuttu became widely known as a skilful editor". The magazine was revived in 1988, and the latest Summer 2018 issue features a caricature of Tambimuttu on the cover. In 1955 Tambimuttu was described by The New York Times as "probably the best-known contemporary Sri Lankan Tamil poet".

The Poetry London magazine was only one part of the entire venture - there were approximately seventy books and pamphlets produced by the publishers in the 1940's. Some of these are now in the Northwestern University (Illinois, USA) and the British Library.

There is apparently a bronze bust of Tambimuttu placed beside a commemorative tree planted in his honour in Fitzrovia where he lived for 13 years. Fitzrovia is the official name of the Camden area between Fitzroy Square and Oxford Street. In his book London Calling local resident Barry Miles credits the invention of the name 'Fitzrovia' to Tambimuttu, not because of its proximity to the Square or

affiliation with Charles Fitzroy, Lord of the Manor of Tottenham, but because of his favourite watering hole, the Fitzroy Tavern. The root of the word is "fitz-roving", which Tambimuttu used to describe his pub trawl route in 1939.

This is just one of many anecdotes associated with Tambimuttu, who appears to have been an extremely colourful character indeed, and is said to have 'startled literary circles with his Bohemian lifestyle'. One story which caught my imagination is mentioned by Andrew Sinclair, "He kept all the submitted manuscripts (to his famous magazine) in a large chamber pot under his bed". Sinclair goes on to state, "The Swiss and the French pubs and the Hog in the Pound were frequently his offices, although he also used the public baths in Russell Street, even if the steam room tended to dissolve the work of his contributors."

Despite his eccentricities, Poetry London was a success for many years, and he published many famous writers. The manifesto printed in the 1938 prospectus includes heavyweights such as Walter de la Mare, T. S. Eliot, David Gascoyne, Louis Macneice, Stephen Spender, W. B. Yeats, Lawrence Durrell and Dylan Thomas. Interestingly, there is a piece of correspondence in the Letters of Dylan Thomas, written in 1939, where he submits a poem to the magazine and inquires if he could be paid a guinea since he hasn't a single penny at that moment!

Tambi's greatest supporter was T. S. Eliot, who observed that, "In the present chaos of opinion and belief we may expect to find quite different literatures existing in the same language in the same country" and "It is only in Poetry London that I can consistently expect to find new poets who matter". When Tambimuttu entered a period of poverty and depression in the early 1940's Eliot stepped up to assist the editor he admired. The result was Poetry in Wartime which appeared in August 1942. Alan Smith writes, "Eliot also made personal contributions to help Tambi through this period and was a source of influential



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support."

Following disagreement with his business partner Richard March, Tambi returned to Ceylon in 1949 to seek capital for a fresh start. He eventually settled in New York and in 1956 Poetry London - New York was born. Later he founded The Lyrebird Press in 1968 and the Indian Arts Council in 1983. He died of a heart attack in 1983 in London. Poet Kathleen Raine said in an obituary, "The torch Tambimuttu has lit should not be allowed to go out." His ashes lie in Atchuvely, Jaffna (in the North of Sri Lanka).

Tambimuttu's greatest legacy must be his ability to find the diamond in the rough. Many a writer has attributed his success to the leap of faith taken by this editor and publisher. In the words of poet Keith Douglas, "I had given up all idea of writing in the Army and your efforts nerved me to try again."

Most of Tambimuttu's work is difficult to access and much has been lost to time. His daughter Shakuntala recently donated some of his early poetry to the Tambimuttu archive at the British Library. These are a rare find since his early poems which were published before his arrival in London, were presumed lost for many years.

There is a resurgence of interest in the writing of the 1940's in England. In Bridge Between Two Worlds Tambimuttu is remembered by Iris Murdoch, Brian Patten and Alan Brownjohn, among many others. Unfortunately, in Sri Lanka only academics remember the pioneering intellectual who contributed so much to English literature. So, if you ever find yourself walking through Fitzrovia, keep your eyes peeled for the bronze bust of Tambi and say hello to the man known as "a catalyst of chaos."

## JOSEPHIAN CAROL SERVICE 2018

The Annual Josephian Carol Service was once again organized with seasonal grandeur and Christian spirit on the 2nd December, 2018, under the theme 'Dona Nobis Pacem'. This evening of fellowship saw the presence and support of over 2500 Josephians and was graced by Chief Guest, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo, Most Rev. Dr. Maxwell Silva, and presented the orchestrated efforts and harmonious bliss of the St. Cecilia's Choir, the Primary Choir, the Old Joes Choir and the Teachers' Choir. The Interact Club of St. Joseph's College too played a role in making the evening much more charitable by accommodating the orphans of 'The Boys Industrial Home' in Wellawatte at the Carol Service and by organizing some fun-filled activities to celebrate the spirit of Christmas.





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# SPORTS UPDATES (JUNE – DEC 31ST)

## ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2018 IN THE FIELD OF SPORTS

### SOCCER

Under 19 All Island Championship beating St Patrick's College Jaffna 3 goals to 1

Asela Madushan was adjudged as the Player of the Tournament

Under 15 All Island Championship beating Gateway College 3 to Nil

Pathum Gimhana was adjudged as the Player of the Tournament

Under 20 All Island Champions beating Hameed Al Hussein College on Penalty tie breaker, winning for the 3rd consecutive year

Chamath Rasmitha was adjudged as the Player of the tournament

Asela Madushan was picked to represent Sri Lanka as a schoolboy at the SAFF Championship

Sachinthaka Perera and Chalana Premantha picked to represent Sri Lanka Under 18 Soccer team

### BASKETBALL

Under 15 All Island Championship beating Lyceum International College

Shehan Fernando was adjudged as the Player of the tournament

Under 17 All Island Championship beating Gateway College

Shehan Fernando was adjudged as the Player of the tournament

Under 17 Runner up in the Jathika Pasal Championship

Shamin & Shehan Fernando picked to represent Sri Lanka Under 18 for the Asian Championship



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## ROWING

Under 18 Runner up in the Schools Senior Rowing Championship  
Under 16 Overall Champions in the Sri Lanka Schools National Regatta

## SWIMMING

Pentathlon Swimming Championship 2018  
National Age group Relay Championship  
All Island Swimming Championship for the 15th successive year  
National Age group Swimming Championship

## BADMINTON

Under 17 All Island Runner up B Division  
Vikum Fernando became 2nd Runner up at the 66th Badminton Nationals

## BOXING

Under 13 Gold Medal winner at the All Island Schools Boxing Championship

## SQUASH

Mohammed Rilwan picked to represent Sri Lanka at the 25th Asian Junior Squash Championship

## CRICKET

Under 19 All Island Champions beating Trinity College, Kandy  
Under 17 All Island Championship beating St Sebastian's College, Moratuwa  
National Representations in the Under 19  
Jehan Daniel, Dunith Wellalage, Dineth Jayakody & Lakshan Gamage  
Dunith Wellalage Captained the National Under 15 team

## RUGBY

Under 19 Schools League Runner up to Royal College  
Under 19 Schools Knock out Runner up to St Peter's College  
Schools Rugby 7's Champions  
Under 14 Schools All Island Milo 10 a side Rugby championship  
Gemunu Chethiya and Keshan Kavindu picked to represent Sri Lanka Under 20 for the Asian Sevens tournament  
Gemunu Chethiya Picked to lead Sri Lanka Under 20 Rugby team for the Asian Championship, with Tharindu de Alwis, Keshan Kavindu and Shan Akila in the team

## HOCKEY

Under 16 All Island Championship

## ATHLETICS

Runner up at the Junior Trabant Schools Athletic Championship meet held in Anuradhapura  
Sheshan Kariyawasam & Shavin Rumeska represented Sri Lanka in the South Asian Junior Athletic meet



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# UNPRECEDENTED YEAR OF SUCCESS FOR JOSEPHIAN SPORTS

To produce 11 all island champion teams in the sports arena at schools level in one year is no easy task. Even if the feat was achieved by students of various age groups. St. Joseph's College Colombo had a remarkable year achieving this.

Spearheaded by two sport-minded leaders in Rector Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel taking the lead and ably supported by Rev. Fr. Milan Bernard, the youngsters have been able to bring glory to their alma mater in the areas of swimming, cricket, rugby, basketball, athletics, football, rowing, boxing, tennis and squash.

They have continued their unprecedented dominance in the swimming pool by clinching the blue ribbon meet among all meets the All Island Schools Championship for the 15th consecutive year.

The other top titles include the U19 and U17 Division one Cricket, U20 7s and U14 champions in Rugby, U20, U18 and U15 Division A football champions as well as U16. This is in addition to being the Champions in U18 football for the 3rd year running.

Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel speaking to the DailyMirror emphasized that the school has been able to achieve these feats due to the tireless efforts put in by the coaches, and the masters in charge as well as the parents and old boys. St. Joseph's has achieved these successes in the field of sports whilst also maintaining its excellence in education which is worth highlighting.





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## JOES EXCEL IN A/L'S YET AGAIN! 2018 A/L EXAM RESULTS

St. Joseph's College, Colombo has continued to raise the bar for all by carrying the success of its sports achievements through to education by producing another batch that have excelled in Advance Level Exams. Ms. Sriya speaking to the newsletter crew highlighted the support given by Rev. Fr. Rector and the commitment of the rest of the tutorial staff. Ms. Sriya also mentioned that St. Joseph's College is not just about education but making men who can lead and are capable in many areas if life. She went on to mention that there are many teachers who have been in service for decades at St. Joseph's College and have become part of a family that they all are bound by.

	2016	2017	2018
NUMBER OF 3A'S (EXCLUDING LONDON A/L'S)	21	13	19
TOTAL STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR UNIVERSITY	152	145	173
NUMBER OF STUDENTS SELECTED FOR THE MAIN STREAMS	50	52	63

\*Typically a batch consist of nearly 250 students who sit for exams (could vary between 240 – 260)

\*Above does not consider any results from the branch schools

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# FLYING JOES – ATHLETICS PUBLISHED IN THE QUADRANGLE

## MEMORIES OF JOSEPHIAN ATHLETICS AND ATHLETES

### QUADRANGLE SPECIAL BY NEIL WIJERATNE

We were awaiting the arrival of those flying runners. They will outclass all other competitors, as we were told, and would bring glory to our school. Unbelievable.

I had a hurried lunch, a few slices of “seeni sambol” bread and a glass of “lime juice” at the College “tuck shop” and ran back to the grounds, even before the ‘Tucky’ sorted out the balance. The fliers were yet to mark their arrival. The primary school office assistants, Marceleenu and Sarpeenu told us to lined-up under the Maara tree, near Father Noel Perera’s office, if we were keen to watch our athletes flying. We obliged. There was an inter-school athletic meet at the College grounds and it was the sprint events that marvelled us. Our College athletes ran fast and hard to emerge winners in almost all the sprint events. We, being primary school students went on cheering continuously. Later-on, the seniors informed us, that we were the Colombo North Group Meet Champs. That’s all. My classmates were thrilled and happy. But I was expecting something different; something extra-ordinary. I was expecting someone to emerge like a phoenix, from the far end behind the school and that he would hop on to the Beira grounds, step on the middle grounds and jump over the main grounds. It never happened!

A couple of years later when I saw our athletic captain Adolf Silva at his best on the field, I realised what

Marceleenu and Sarpeenu meant the other day. He was a flyer; a complete athlete. Like Priya Perera in cricket, Hiranjan Perera in rugby football, Adolf became my hero in athletics. In 1960, I saw him carrying away the “Leigh Smith Cup” at the Inter House meet for the best individual performance and I was told that he was the winner in 200 meter sprint event and second in 100 meters in the A.A.A. junior championship meet. And also I heard from the seniors how my favourite athlete “ran in the third laps of two relays turning each race into a victory for the Josephians at the Public Schools Meet”. The “Blue and White” magazine had this to say about him: “Adolf has played a heroic part in helping us to win one Junior Championship (1958) and three consecutive Senior Tarbat victories and numerous relay triumphs in the victories of Daily News and Jeaffreson trophies”.

As per historical records of St. Joseph’s College, Colombo, the first athletic captain of the school is Greg Roshkowsky. That was far back in 1932. He was among the first batch of athletes along with Norman Matthews, G. Sivapragasam and D. Jayasekera, who were awarded Athletic “Blues”. Along with that came the formation of the Josephian Athletic Club.

Astonishingly, even before the college athletic wing was formed and

athletic captain was appointed, the school had



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established itself as a force to be reckoned with. One classic example for this is the gallant performance of long distance runner Norman Mathews in 1930.

Date: October 4, 1930. Venue: Police grounds, Bambalapitiya. It was the second day of the first ever public schools athletic meet organised by the Ceylon AAA. Events for the day started at 3.30 p.m. with 4 x 100 relay, followed by Pole Vault, Quarter mile race, 100 yards finals and one-mile race as the final event, before the prize distribution. So the glamour event in front of the chief guest the Governor General of Ceylon and the other distinguished gathering and spectators turned out to be the one mile race.

On the following day, the broadsheets mentioned that "Norman Mathews, a 15 year old from St. Joseph's ran an astonishing race to win the mile in 5 mt. 6 secs." Certainly, this was the earliest instance where St. Joseph's College engraved its name in the annals of school athletics history in the island.

History reveals that the Josephians played their first ever inter collegiate cricket match just two seasons after the inauguration of the school in 1896. They played soccer too. And also had the annual sports meet almost since inception.

The inaugural issue of the College magazine (1905) carried the following account about the "Athletic Sports Meet" held in January 1905. "There was a special pavilion to accommodate His Grace the Archbishop, and the other Bishops who were present; and here the prizes were tastefully arranged and displayed. There was a fashionable and brilliant assemblage to witness the proceedings, while the Volunteer Band was in attendance and played a charming selection of music. The grounds presented quite a festive appearance; being decorated with greens, flags etc., and the course was carefully marked and prepared. The sports commenced at 3 p.m. sharp." Apart from the customary events such as short and long distance races and other items, there were also "100 yards sack race", "obstacle race", "one mile bicycle race", "menagerie

race" and "old boys slow bicycle race".

In 1927 the Josephians were fortunate to have a galaxy of well known sports personalities in the country

volunteering as 'Judges' of the College meet and amongst them were Col. E. H. Joseph (who is considered as 'father of Ceylonese rugby' and former president of NCC and first president of CR & FC), Dr. V. Schokman (All-Ceylon cricketer, ruggerite and former President of A.A.A.), Dr. C. H. Gunasekera (former skipper of the All-Ceylon cricket team), Dr. A. Raffel, P. J. Parsons and C. T. Van Geysel (being the first Ceylonese to clear the six-foot barrier in high jump and former President of the Ceylon Amateur Athletic Association from 1952 to 1966, a period of 15 years!). It shows the importance and acceptance of the Josephian 'athletic meet' amongst other sporting activities of the island at the time.

Although the running and jumping athletic events were very much popular amongst the students and the sports meet was held annually, the athletic spirit was yet to reach the organizational level of cricket and football activities in the school. Thereby in 1932, the tenure of Rev. Fr. T. L. Victor Fernando as Prefect of Games, saw the formation of St. Joseph's Athletic Club. Greg Roszkowski, being a Put Shot champion was appointed as the first captain of St. Joseph's athletics. The historic photograph of first members of the "SJC Athletic Club" with Rev. Fr. Rector and POG was later published in the College magazine in its 1932 November issue with a detailed description of the newly formed Athletic Club. The school also introduced a new scheme of awarding athletic colours, popularly called "Athletic Blues" during the period of 1931-32.

In the formative years the annual sports meet of St. Joseph's was followed by a grand "Garden Party". For a longer period of time, the end piece of the annual sports meet was the Garden Party, well attended by the Priests, guests, well-wishers and importantly, the old boys, who were the organisers of the meet since the formation of the OBU. And interestingly, most of the time the annual meet was held on the Rector's day.

It was only in 1935, nearly four decades after the opening of the school, that the "Athletic Sports Meet" which was an annual feature of the school by then was named "Inter House Athletic Meet". The first athletic meet conducted on the House system was held on the 20th September 1935. The College magazine reported: "This meet was in every respect the most successful we have had for many



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years. The events worked off without a hitch before a large gathering. A radio set discoursed a fine selection of music, and announced items and results. The prize table presented a gorgeous spectacle of trophies. This

year saw the inauguration of the system of challenge cups for all events reckoned for the House Championship. The major share of the credit for this glittering array of silver goes to Rev. Fr. Alfred Nanayakkara, our new Prefect of Games." (1935)

At the end of the 1935 sports meet, Bonjean House emerged first winner of the Inter House championship with 49 points, closely followed by Coudert House with 46 points. The College magazine (1935) whilst giving a detailed account on the individual performances stated that "the best performance of the meet however came from the star athletes of Marque House – S. A. Edwards, A. C. Dep and M. Spittel". Edwards won the High Jump event, Spittel won the Pole Vault whilst Dep carried off the Long Jump title.

Interestingly, in the Public Schools Meet of 1935 A. C. Dep and Malcolm Spittel performed brilliantly to secure record breaking first and the second places respectively in

the Pole Vault event. High Jump champ S. A. Edwards also won his event comfortably with another stunning record jump. According to the 'Blue & White' magazine (1935): "A. C. Dep broke the schools record with a vault of 10 ft. 7 7/10 ins., and narrowly missed setting up a new Ceylon record. Spittel did remarkably well in going up to 10 ft. 5 ins. with little or no training!"

A few years later Arthur C. Dep became the first Sri Lankan athlete to go over "eleven-foot" barrier and then the "twelve-foot" barrier in the Pole-Vaulting event. And Malcolm Spittel went on to represent the All- Ceylon team in cricket!

Josephian participation in the Tarbat Cup competition was to follow.

It was in 1937 that the Josephians first touched the Tarbat Challenge Cup. They became the Public Schools champs by totaling 24 points. The following year – 1938 they had to share the school athletic supremacy when they tied with St. Thomas' Mount Lavinia (20 pts. each).

The "Ceylon Daily News" stated: "At a meeting of the Sports sub-committee of the Ceylon AAA held early this week (October 1938), it was agreed that another replica purchased and awarded to St. Thomas', who tied with St. Joseph's for the Championship at the recent schools Athletic meet."

There is an interesting story behind the "Leigh Smith Cup" which is synonymous with the House Meet at St. Joseph's. This piece of silver was originally called "Victor Ludorum Cup" which was won outright by a scholar and athlete the late Mr. Leigh Smith whilst at the University of Durham, England at the beginning

of the twentieth century. According to an article published in the College Magazine (1953 issue): "Mr. Leigh Smith, who won this Cup, has been aptly called the father of Ceylon Athletics by one of her greatest sporting statisticians Mr. S. P. Foenander. It is a rare privilege for St. Joseph's to get this Cup, where one of Mr. Smith's pupils is kindling athletic fires in obedience to his wishes and loyalty to his school. It is a noble piece of silver which would fetch a round six hundred rupees to-day. It is an athletic treasure. It has been decided to award this trophy as a perpetual Challenge Cup to the Josephian Athlete, regardless of age, whose performance shall be considered the most outstanding for the year. For 1950-51 the brilliant and deserving winner has been P. D. Victor, only fifteen years of age, for breaking the best Junior Public School's long jump performance of Rev. Bro. Darnley de Souza, by fully 1 ft. 2 ins. when he cleared 19 ft. 11 ins." (Blue & White magazine – 1953)

During my years in the primary school and middle school at St. Joseph's, I must say, the glamour sport of the school was not cricket, it was athletics.

In between the years 1960 to 67, we were privileged to witness some outstanding runners leading the athletic team, who brought fame and glamour to the sport. We saw how Adolf Silva, Neomal Basnayake, Srian and Janaka Perera, Shantilal Fernando, Joseph de Soysa and Constantine Wickramasinghe among many others stole the limelight in the athletic sphere.

When Adolf Silva's team won the Tarbat Cup and C. C. Dissanayake Cup in 1960, it created a carnival



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atmosphere in the school. Loads of stories on their heroic display were told and re-told. We listened to our

class masters and seniors, as if we are listening to a Fairy Tale. It was all about courage and determination. And of Josephian grit.

They illustrated before us, how Sam Lovell, our goal-keeper in soccer came first in the 120 yards hurdles; how Samuel Joseph threw the Javelin and Discus; Adolf Silva's performances in the relays; and importantly how our "flying sprinters" created a record in the 4x110 relay to make sure of the title.

To recapture that memorable run in the 4x110 relay, according to the "Blue and White" Magazine: (In the first Lap) "B. Sangaradasan made a comparatively slow start, but fought away courageously and handed the baton in third position to Neomal Basnayake. (Second Lap) Neomal Basnayake forged into second place with an incredible burst of speed amidst a storm of cheering and handed the baton still ten yards behind the leader to Adolf. (Third Lap) "The lead Adolf (Silva) gave to Brian Buultjens running in the last lap could not be an inch less than a conservative twelve yards. (Fourth Lap) Then Darrel Liversz of Royal made a gallant bid for the lead, the challenge was strict heartedly accepted and Brian Buultjens drove on doggedly to victory and glory. St. Joseph's had made a record!"

Apart from the achievements in the Public Schools athletic meet, another wonderful scenario was witnessed at the annual Relay Carnival. The way that St. Joseph's emerged champs year after year for seven long years in-a-row from the inaugural Relay Carnival in 1961 is one of the most colourful chapters in Josephian history.

It was during Adolf Silva's year that the Josephians won the inaugural Public Schools' Relay Carnival championship. Recording overall 54 points (Royal 49, S.T.C. 38), they achieved the honour of being the first ever recipient of the "Daily News" Challenge Cup. And on the following Monday, Rev. Fr. Rector called the students for "Assembly" at the Bonjean Hall in honour of our flying heroes.

In the following year too our athletes dominated the "Relay Carnival". The "Blue and White" magazine carried

a lengthy, vivid and comprehensive account on the rainbows of the meet. According to the College magazine, "Just before the Inter House Meet we fared quite well at the Second Relay Carnival winning the trophy again. Neville Perera, Suraj Perera, Srian Perera and Naomal Basnayake were second in the 4 x 200 metres and the same runners were winners in the 4 x 100 metres Seniors. In the 4 x 400 metres Randolph

Mendis, Joy de Alwis, Terence Kuruppu and Naomal Basnayake ran fourth and in the 4 x 800 metres Randolph Mendis, Joy de Alwis, Terence Kuruppu and Naomal Basnayake were third. We also won the 4 x 100 metres Seniors with the same team as in the 4 x 200 metres Seniors. The under 14 Juniors ran a fair third in the 4 x 100 metres though the under sixteens were disqualified at this same distance. But S. K. de Alwis, S. Perera, S. Athukorale and Shanti Fernando easily won the 4 x 200 metres. The total points scored by us were (SJC) 56 points to 42, 41 and 35, scored by St. Peters, St. Thomas' and Royal respectively".

Frankly, for me the most stylish sprinter I have seen during my schooldays at St. Joseph's was none other than former athletic captain Neomal Basnayake. His style of running was of copy book perfect and rhythmic too.

The flying saga continued year after year as we were moving from class room to class room at the end of each year; becoming students of new class teachers and masters. "To have won the Relay Championship year after year for seven years without a break, right from the first year of the inception of the Relay Carnival, is a unique achievement in the history of Ceylon Athletics, an achievement of which all Josephians may well be proud. It is one more brilliant record added to the long list of outstanding achievements to the credit of St. Joseph's" reported the College Magazine in its Diamond Jubilee Issue, published in 1969.

By then, the Josephians not only bid adieu to their great athletic coach Anthony Abeysinghe, who had been appointed as the national athletic coach but also surrendered the dominance of the Relay Carnival. It was a coincidence that both happened almost at the same time. "However, in the same breath we have to add, most



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regretfully, that this appointment (Mr. Abeysinghe's), though a gain to the country, is a loss to St. Joseph's" added the College Magazine.

Another memorable year to remember during my schooldays was 1966; the year that the Josephians became triple champs! Led by Joseph de Soysa, the Joes won both the Senior and Junior Tarbat trophies and also the C. C. Dissanayake trophy for field events in the "Pubs", the Group meet title and Relay carnival trophy.

To name some of the athletes in the 1966 SJC Athletic team: Joseph de Soysa (Captain), Graham Ludowyke, Constantine Wickremasinghe, Tuan Kitchell, Brian Obeysekera, Sunil

Hettiarachchi, Rohan de Alwis, Arthur Hakel, Domma Ranasinghe, Asoka Wickremasinghe, J. Fernandopulle

and Priyanga de Alwis. Anthony Abeysinghe (Coach), Cyril Fernando (Master-in-Charge), Ben Ockersz (Sports Secretary).

More memories on 1966 "Pubs": Having arrived from Madras after representing the country in a basketball tournament, Graham Ludowyke dashed straightaway to the grounds to throw the 12 pound put-shot 41 feet away to win the first place of the event.

The 1966 SJC athletic team was a rare combination of star studded all-rounders in sport. Skipper Joseph de Soysa, Graham Ludowyke, Brian Obeysekera and Rohan de Alwis were outstanding ruggers; Brian Obeysekera was a dashing batsman (remember his 161 against St. Thomas' in 1969) who went on to represent the country in cricket; Arthur Hakel's 5 for 29 in the 2nd innings of Josephian – Benedictine match in 1969 is still haunting my memory; Rohan de Alwis showed his cricketing prowess at junior level but as a senior player opted to concentrate on rugby and athletics; Sunil Hettiarachchi was the goal-keeper of the football team at the time and later represented Ratnam Football club in 'A' division football tournament.

And then there was another fine sportsman Tuan Kitchell who clinched title in sprint double at the Public schools meet. Two years earlier, in 1964, he was the fastest runner in the country at junior category, wherein he established a new "Public Schools" record in the 100

metre event by timing 12.3 secs. Importantly, he gave a new dimension to Josephian rugby with his sudden-burst of match winning drop-kicks. I could still picture in my memory of his marvelous and decisive drop goals against St. Thomas' at our own Darley Road grounds.

In a preview on 1967 Relay Carnival, "Ceylon Daily News" predicted "St. Joseph's will go out to retain 'Ceylon Daily News' trophy for boys schools at the 7th annual relay carnival at Police grounds. With athletes like Tuan Kitchell, Constantine Wickremasinghe and Rohan de Alwis in the ranks, Josephians likely to win again." And they did so, recording 53 points as against 40 points scored by the second placed Thomians.

And that was the time when athletics beat cricket in popularity at St. Joseph's.

