



Episcopal Ordination and Installation of the 16th Bishop of Colombo Rt. Revd. Dushantha Lakshman Rodrigo

A Service for the Episcopal Consecration and Installation of Rt. Revd. Dushantha Lakshman Rodrigo as the 16th Bishop of Colombo of The Church of Ceylon was held at the Cathedral of Christ The Living Saviour at Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo adhering to the COVID health guidelines on on 28 October 2020.



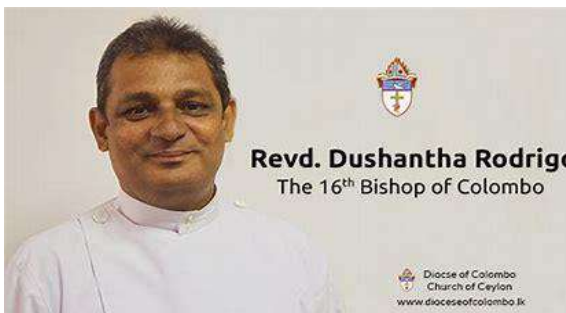
Bishop Emeritus Rt. Revd. Dhiloraj Canagasabey and Kurunagala Bishop Rt. Revd. Keerthisiri Fernando along with the former Bishops Rt. Revd. Duleep De Chickera, Rt. Revd. Kenneth Fernando and Rt. Revd. Kumara Illangasinghe laying their hands on the new Bishop of Colombo at the service.

This follows the announcement in September 2020 by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby of the appointment of Rev, Dushantha Rodrigo as the 16th Bishop of Colombo. The Archbishop was requested by

the Diocesan Council of Colombo to select its next Diocesan bishop in accordance with its constitution, as the Metropolitan of the Church of Ceylon.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said: “I am pleased to announce that Fr Dushantha is to be the next Bishop of Colombo. I congratulated him personally by telephone on Friday and am glad to declare my support for him publicly today. “Please accept my apologies that it has taken me a little time to understand the needs of the diocese, and to identify the qualities that will be needed in its next bishop. I am most grateful to all those who have expressed their views to me so clearly and candidly – not only the members of the formal Consultative Body but also members of the Diocesan Standing Committee, former bishops, and many more. “All have given me invaluable insights, and I am confident that in reliance on the Holy Spirit’s guidance, Fr Dushantha will find the strength he will need to lead and reconcile this lively church ‘at such a time as this’ in united witness to the love of Christ amid all the social, ethnic, religious and cultural diversity in the communities that will be in his care. I should say that although I regard it as a privilege to have been entrusted with this important function in the life of the Church of Ceylon, as its ‘Metropolitan’, it is not a role I have sought, or feel comfortable having to exercise. In my view, it carries too many reminders of a colonial past. I have therefore sought and obtained from Fr Dushantha his assurance that he will give urgent priority to enabling the Church of Ceylon to take its proper place as a fully independent province in the life of the wider Anglican Communion. “So I commend Fr Dushantha to your prayers as he embarks on this demanding new stage in his ministry.”

In response Revd. Dushantha said “The Church of Ceylon Diocese of Colombo in all its richness and vibrant faith is called upon to witness as it has done through the past 175 years as a community that will strive to be obedient to the gospel in its walk of faith and service in the days to come. “As we look to the next decade in the midst of new realities our lives must reflect what God is doing in our midst at this point of time. To a God who has been gracious and merciful we need to sing an unending hymn of praise and extend to one another a magnanimous gesture of kindness that will carry us through to be faithful in the midst of many a challenge. “Our people who are so diverse live side by side and strive to bring meaning to every moment and we are truly blessed to be part of that life-giving diversity.”



Revd. Dushantha was the Head Master of S. Thomas Prep. and is an old boy of S. Thomas College, Mt. Lavinia. He replaces Bishop. Delo Canagasabey, the former Bishop of Colombo.

The OBA in Melbourne congratulates the newly appointed Bishop Rev Dushantha and sends their best wishes and prayers, as he shepherds the flock of the church of Ceylon Diocese of Colombo as its chief Shepherd, in its witness, walk of faith and service to both the community and the nation. It is our prayer that God will endow him with a spirit of courage and right judgement, and a spirit of knowledge and love.

“May the Lord bless him and keep him
The Lord make His face to shine upon him
And be gracious to him
The Lord lift up His countenance upon him and give him peace.”

Editor’s Note: More photos of the Ordination is included in the Photo Gallery

The President's Message

Dear Thomians,



What a year we've had, from bushfires to a global pandemic, it certainly was an eventful one.

The Exco have been busy and conducting our meetings virtually and ensuring that we kept the momentum going. The downside was the fact that we could not have most of our regular events for the year.

Amongst everything going on, we managed to raise some funds for the OBA via some creative fundraisers which was suggested by the Exco. This included the live screening of the Royal Thomian and Melbourne Cup sweep.

I thank all my fellow Exco colleagues and their families who gave their best throughout the year and allowed us to be financially viable.

On behalf of the Exco I wish all of you a wonderful year ahead.

Esto Perpetua!

Peneeth Goonawardena

President

Editor's Note

Dear Thomians,

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Thomiana and Happy New Year 2021. What a year 2020 has been with only a few OBA activities that went ahead and the rest cancelled due to COVID-19. However, the OBA was able to communicate to the members through the Thomiana with notices of activities and articles of interest. Hence this edition will feature mostly articles of interest with contributions made by various Old boys and we have increased the volume. Enjoy reading and stay connected with the OBA.

I would like to thank Eddie Appathurai from the parent OBA in Sri Lanka for providing information about college activities and the Episcopal Ordination and Installation Service of the 16th Bishop of Colombo. Also, my gratitude and thanks to Upali (Pancho) Gooneratne who helped me with this edition and all those who have contributed to the Thomiana.



Esto Perpetua!

Vasikaran Ratnarajah

www.stcobaaust.org.au

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/STCOBA/>

Contents

	Page		Page
<i>Ordination of New Bishop of Colombo</i>	1	<i>Reflections of 70+ Years</i>	16
<i>President's Message</i>	3	<i>A Day in the Life of a Planter</i>	21
<i>Editor's Notes</i>	3	<i>Peter Selvaratnam Interview Part 2</i>	26
<i>STCOBA Information</i>	4	<i>Appreciation – Sarath Jayasuriya</i>	29
<i>Calendar of Events & Executive Committee</i>	5	<i>Appreciation – Sasi Ganeshan</i>	30
<i>OBA News & AGM Notice</i>	6	<i>STC – In Memorium 2020-21</i>	32
<i>Lead Like Jesus...Rev. Marc Bilimoria</i>	9	<i>STCOBA – Service Record</i>	33
<i>Vaccination Won't End Covid Pandemic</i>	12	<i>Photo Gallery</i>	34
<i>Honour of Blue, Black & Blue Award</i>	13	<i>OBA Membership Form</i>	35

Views expressed in articles contained in the Thomiana are of the respective authors. They may not necessarily concur with those of the Executive Committee



S. Thomas' College Old Boys Association Australia Branch (STCOBA)

STCOBA Australia Branch is based in Melbourne. This was the first Thomian OBA to be formed overseas. The founders were a group of old Thomians who migrated to Australia after their primary and secondary studies at S. Thomas' College in Sri Lanka in the early 1960s and 1970s.

The main purpose, of the Thomian OBA, is to foster fellowship amongst Old Thomians in Australia and to raise funds that can be channeled to the Thomian fraternity of schools in Sri Lanka (Mount Lavinia, Kollupitiya, Bandarawala and Gurutalawa).

Advertising in the Thomiana

Did you know that you could advertise your business in the Thomiana?

The Thomiana is circulated amongst members of the Association wherever they are – Victoria, Interstate and Overseas. You will be amazed how our network works!

Enquiries: stcoba.finance@gmail.com

CALENDAR of Events

- Annual General Meeting (AGM): Friday 12th February 2021 at 6.30pm at Mount Waverley Youth Centre, Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley 3149
- Cricket Matches: Royal Thomian - Mulgrave Cricket Grounds, from 10.30am on Sunday 21st February 2021
- Royal Thomian Live Broadcast - Friday 12th March 2021; venue to be confirmed
- Royal Thomian Stag Night - Organised by Royal College OBA - to be confirmed.

Executive Committee – 2020

Title	Name	Telephone	Email
President	Peneeth Goonawardena	0404 213 166	peneeth@gmail.com
Vice Presidents	Jitendra Udugama	0401 735 187	jitendra.u@hotmail.com
	Saman Liyanage	0407 358 415	saman.a.p.liyanage@outlook.com
	Asfan Thajudeen	0416 877 788	asfant@hotmail.com
Secretary	Chris Lawton Snr.	03 8794 9680	cj.lawton@bigpond.com
Asst. Secretary	Mark Nanayakkara	0408 990 146	markstcoba@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Dinesh Fernando	0433 205 311	dinesh.fernando@bigpond.com
Asst. Treasurer	Milinda Liyanage	0458 998 850	milinda.liyanage@gmail.com
Editor	Vasikaran Ratnarajah	0408 866 272	vasidaisy15@gmail.com
Committee	Jayampathy (Pajjo) Silva	0418 619 382	Stcoba.finance@gmail.com
	Chris Varney	0407 630 351	chrisvarney10@gmail.com
	Sankha Wickremasinghe	0407 448 062	sankha.wickramasinghe@gmail.com
	Rayendra Karunaratne	0416 350 244	rayendra_karunaratne@hotmail.com
	Rayesh Gunasekera	0410 047 088	rayesh_g@yahoo.com
	Upali Gooneratne	0449 024 294	fgooneratne@iiec.org
	Navodh Fernando	0452 209 102	navodhfernando@gmail.com
Immediate Past President			
	Mahes Heenetigala	0418 182 707	maheenet@gmail.com

OBA NEWS

LADIES COLLEGE (PPA) CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Ladies College past pupil's association had a Christmas function on Sunday 13th December at the Grand on Cathies in Wantirna. The Ladies College (PPA) Choir and STC (OBA) Choir performed at the event by singing Carols and further entertainment provided by Elmo Jansz with music of the 70's and 80's and DJ Damien providing Baila music. Also, the guests were provided a sumptuous buffet dinner and dancing was enjoyed by everyone with COVID-19 safe guidelines.



The Ladies College (PPA) president approached Rajindra Bibile a past Exco member and invited STC OBA choir to participate at the event. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and short notice a Thomian Choir of six Thomians was formed, comprising Amesh Fernando, Chathura Peiris, Erantha Muthuthanthri, Rajindra Bibile, Rayesh Gunasekara and Vasikaran Ratnarajah. The OBA choir sang "Go tell it on the Mountain" and "Mary's Boy Child" with some verses and chorus in Sinhala and Tamil. The audience enjoyed the singing and LC (PPA) have suggested future joint events between the two associations.

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS – 2021



Dr. Peter Selvaratnam was awarded Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for significant service to Physiotherapy and to professional development.

Our congratulations to Peter for this tremendous achievement.

NEW HEADMASTER AT STC PREP SCHOOL

The Old Boys' Union of STC Prep was informed by the present Headmaster of Prep School, Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo, the Bishop of Colombo & Chairman of the Board of Governors, that Rev. Nihal Fernando (Vicar of Christ Church, Galkissa (Dehiwela) and former Headmaster at STC Gurutalawa) has been appointed as the Headmaster of S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Kollupitiya from the 1st of February, 2021.

JUSTICE ARJUNA OBEYSEKERA APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE APPEAL COURT

Justice Arjuna Obeyesekera, an old boy of S Thomas' College, was appointed President of the Appeal Court by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Justice Obeyesekere was educated at S. Thomas' Preparatory School and S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia, and was a prefect at both schools. He excelled at rowing at College and was awarded colours in that sport in 1986 and 1987. Justice Obeyesekere's family has been educated at S. Thomas' College for many generations.

Following his departure from STC in 1988, Justice Obeyesekere passed out of Sri Lanka Law College with First Class Honours and went on to obtain a Master's degree in Law (LL.M) specializing in Commercial Law from Cambridge University, which he secured with Honours. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he held the rank of Senior Deputy Solicitor General, and has handled a variety of matters of national importance for the State in terms of litigation, advice and negotiations as well as key international arbitrations. Over the 25 years at the Attorney General's office, he has also functioned as a legal consultant to several key public institutions and served as a member of the Company Law Advisory Committee. The S. Thomas' College fraternity congratulates Justice Obeyesekere on his appointment and wishes him all the best in his new role

DR SARATH SENEVIRATNE CREATES MEDICAL HISTORY IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



Eminent Thomian, Dr Sarath Seneviratne created medical history in the Cayman recently when he led a team of doctors to operate on one of the largest tumours ever removed.

It was anticipated that the surgery would take three hours and present many challenges given the size of the mass. Therefore, Dr Seneviratne enlisted the assistance of Dr Tomlinson and Dr Bromley, along with a team of experienced nurses who were well-versed in working together as a surgical team

“We had to stick to basic principles of surgery, we couldn’t do any fancy stuff,” Dr Sarath Seneviratne said. “So, the basic principles are a) you have to stop the bleeding and b) approach it in such a way that she won’t bleed. Those are the two cardinal things,” he said.

The OBA extends its congratulations to Dr. Seneviratne on his achievement.

OLD THOMIANS RECOGNISED IN THE QUEEN’S NEW YEAR’S HONOURS LIST

The Old Boy fraternity of S Thomas’ College extends its heartiest congratulations to the following Old Thomians who were recognised in the Queen’s 2021 New Year’s Honours List.

The list recognises the outstanding achievements of people across the United Kingdom.

Mr Haleem Ossman received an MBE for services to the Sri Lankan community in the UK (London, Greater London). An old boy of S. Thomas College, he is a qualified practising accountant and Chartered Tax Advisor by profession and is a life member and Past President of OTAUK.

Prof. Mohan Edirisinghe received an OBE. Prof Edirisinghe holds the Bonfield Chair of Biomaterials in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at University College London (UCL). Prof. Edirisinghe has been at the forefront of developing new methods to manufacture advanced materials, particularly in healthcare.

His patented technology for producing micro-bubbles and nanoparticles has enabled the manufacture of whole new drug delivery systems, the UCL website states.

Old Thomian Mr Tulsi Wallooppillai’s son **Gaj Wallooppillai** received an OBE for services to equality and community cohesion. A former local councillor in the Royal Borough of Kingston-Upon-Thames, he is currently a Special Advisor to the Conservative Party Chairman and the party’s International Secretary.

Thomianawe value your opinion

In order to structure the newsletter to meet the preferences of our readers, we invite comments and suggestions on ways to improve the publication. Your feedback on the format, overall content, quality of articles, topics and interest in the newsletter is appreciated. Please send your responses to:

Vasikaran Ratnarajah: vasidaisy15@gmail.com or **Upali Gooneratne:** fgooneratne@iiec.org



**S. Thomas' College, Old Boys Association,
Australian Branch Incorporated**

ABN 18 114 799 661

P O Box 2337, Mt. Waverley, Victoria 3149. Australia

www.stcobaust.org.au

President : *Peneeth Goonewardena* Secretary : *Chris. J. Lawton* Treasurer : *D.S. Fernando*

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Friday 12th February 2021 (This is a tentative date and subject to Health Restrictions)

TIME: 6.30 p.m. - Registration / Address check / payment of subscriptions
7.00 p.m. - AGM commences. **HEALTH RESTRICTIONS WILL BE OBSERVED.**

VENUE: Mount Waverley Youth Centre, 45 Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley

AGENDA

1. President's Welcome
2. Apologies
3. In Memoriam
Prayers
4. Adoption of Minutes of the last AGM held on 07th February, 2020
5. Matters arising from these minutes
6. Adoption of the Honorary Secretary's Report for 2020
7. Adoption of the Honorary Treasurer's report & Audited Accounts for 2020
8. Outgoing President's Address
9. Election of Office Bearers & Executive Committee:

a) President	e) Honorary Treasurer
b) Three (3) Vice – Presidents	f) Honorary Assistant Treasurer
c) Honorary Secretary	g) Honorary Editor
d) Honorary Assistant Secretary	h) Seven (7) Committee Members
10. Appointment of Honorary Auditor
11. President's Address
12. **Any Other Business** (about which notice in writing should be given to the Honorary Secretary at : 1 Trafalgar Court, Narre Warren Sth. , VIC 3805 by 05th.February 2021
13. **The President declares the meeting closed**
All stand and sing the College Song

All members and their partners are cordially invited to dinner immediately after the meeting. A delicious Sri Lankan dinner with dessert will be available at \$15 per person. R.S.V.P - for compliance with Covid-19 Guidelines.

Chris. J. Lawton
Honorary Secretary

PLEASE NOTE – Due to Covid-19 restrictions hard copies of all documents will not be provided at the meeting.

Subscriptions are due in January 2021. Please pay at the AGM by cash, cheque or credit card, if you have not already done so.

Lead Like Jesus...

Sermon Preached by the Rev'd Marc Billimoria, Warden of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia at the Episcopal Ordination and Installation of The Reverend Dushantha Lakshman Rodrigo as 16th Bishop of Colombo on The Feast of St Simon & St Jude 28th October 2020 The Cathedral Church of Christ the Living Saviour Colombo 2

May I speak in the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

I was deeply moved to have received Father Dushy's invitation to preach on this occasion on the very evening of his appointment by Archbishop Justin exactly one month ago, and I am glad to be doing so for a couple of reasons.

When the Diocese of Colombo celebrated its centenary in 1945 the Rev. Lakdasa de Mel, an old boy of Royal College, became the first Sri Lankan to be consecrated an Anglican Bishop. This year, in its 175th year, in Fr Dushy our Diocese, at long last, receives its first Thomian Bishop and as the present Warden of S. Thomas' College I am particularly honoured to preach on this historic occasion. Founded by Bishop James Chapman to serve as the Divinity School for his new Diocese, over the years S. Thomas' has produced many priests but no Bishop until now. I am also of course very glad to be here to support one who has been a friend and colleague in ministry for many years. So, thank you Father D for your gracious invitation to share the joy of this day with you and Shehara and the entire Diocese as you begin your journey as our 16th Bishop.



My text this afternoon is an excerpt from the Epistle chosen for this service (Ephesians 4: 11, 12) – ***“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles... to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...”***

According to Luke 6:13, Jesus chose twelve disciples, including St Simon and St Jude, who we remember today, and commissioned them to be Apostles, to go into the world to proclaim his Gospel, to serve people and to point the way to God. After Jesus' Ascension the Apostles passed on the Apostolic Office and Ministry to their successors, the first Bishops according to some Church Fathers. Anglicans believe that Bishops therefore are called to guard the apostolic ***“good deposit of faith”*** and to give visionary leadership to the Church to fulfill God's Mission. Whether or not everyone agrees with this view of Episcopacy, all can agree with St Paul that apostolicity, among the other ministries, is a gift of the Spirit – ***“to equip the saints”***, the whole baptized people of God, for ***“building up the Body of Christ”***, the Church, for ***“the work of ministry”***, the task of mission.

The nature of episcopal ministry has changed over time and today an Anglican Bishop is expected to multi task. I will not repeat what is stated in the Declarations of the Ordination Liturgy about the multifaceted role a Bishop is called to play. I want to however, share with you Father Dushy the words of the Lambeth Fathers of 1988 who expressed it well when they agreed that a Bishop is not just

“A symbol of Unity...a teacher and defender of the faith, a pastor of the pastors and of the laity, an enabler in the preaching of the Word, and in the administration of the Sacraments, a leader in mission...a shepherd who nurtures and cares for the flock of God” but one who is also called to be,

*“a physician to whom are brought the wounds of society;
 a voice of conscience within the society in which the local Church is placed;
 a prophet who proclaims the justice of God in the context of the Gospel of loving redemption;
 a head of the family in its wholeness, its misery and its joys...the family’s centre of life and love.”*

All this points to the fact that fundamentally a Bishop’s ministry is a very personal one in which he must foster a personal touch by walking alongside people— all who know you will agree that God has blessed you with the ability to do this.

This is the need of the hour, because you assume the mantle of Bishop of Colombo at a challenging time. We are not just in a world changed forever by Covid-19 but one in which many people are being dehumanized in a multitude of ways, as described for instance by Pope Francis in his recent Social Encyclical *Fratelli tutti*.

It is in the midst of some harsh realities that you are called to lead the Church in this Diocese to reflect God’s concerns and priorities as we engage in God’s Mission. Father Dushy, you share a name with one of our Church’s most courageous theologians, Bishop Lakshman Wickremesinghe. Addressing the CMS in 1979 on the subject *Mission, Politics and Evangelism* Bishop Lakshman said, **“The kingdom of God comes on earth not only when individuals are converted to Christ but also when society lives more in accordance with the values of this kingdom.”**

Herein lies a challenge to us even today. Our message is not just about personal salvation, as vital as that is, but also one of hope in the renewal of Creation through the incarnation, life and work of Jesus: God’s way of perfecting a world which God always sees as **‘good’** however **‘bad’** we make it. This is why for Anglicans Mission is not just evangelism but is seen in the broader context of the Marks of Mission. But if the Church is to engage in this kind of holistic and integral Mission there is need for honest self-scrutiny and a radical change of direction in order that we may be a certain kind of Church:

- ❖ A Church that is a sacramental and eucharistic community that worships God for God’s sake, (not just to satisfy the individual and relative tastes of the worshippers), and allows all worship to be the springboard for Mission.
- ❖ A Church that proclaims the Reign of God as Jesus did; preaching and teaching the Gospel of wholeness and abundant life.
- ❖ A Church in which childlike faith will not be viewed as a threat to intellectual pursuits and vice versa, that through its processes of formation calls its members, both clergy and laity, to lives of integrity and simplicity, intentional discipleship and authentic spirituality.
- ❖ A Church that as an **“extension of the Incarnation”** celebrates diversity, and honours difference by being an inclusive community in which **ALL** will be welcome and no one will be excluded on the basis of any of the narrow distinctions that continue to divide human beings. So a Church that will **“seek the lost”, “bring back the strayed”, “bind up the injured”** and **“strengthen the weak”** as the Prophet Ezekiel said God would do.
- ❖ A Church that is a living organism rather than a religious system or organization. One that is not, what Bishop Lakshman called **“a captive church”** but one freed from the chains of hierarchy and bureaucracy, in which Mission is given the priority over the long term interests of **“the ecclesiastical establishment”**. A Church then that is truly a Movement of the Spirit than a Monument to past glory!
- ❖ A Church that promotes within itself and in society at large the radically Christian principles of liberty, fraternity, equality, and mutuality while upholding democratic values and working for truth and reconciliation, peace with justice.

While you will undoubtedly value the inheritance of the past, and build on foundations laid by your predecessors over 175 years, you will need to ensure our living faith continues to be relevant by taking the Gospel of generosity, love and grace directly to where the people are and where life happens.

All this is a pretty tall order Father Dushy. The task is demanding and will require of you, in words attributed in the context of episcopal ministry to Rowan Williams, **“the constitution (or stamina) of an ox and the skin of a rhinoceros”!** But the task will also require you to adopt a leadership lifestyle that is in line with that of Jesus’, the Fount of all Ministry and the only authentic model of leadership for the Church. Lesslie Newbigin defined a Bishop as one who so follows **“Jesus in the way of the cross that others find it possible to follow too...”** So look unto Jesus and lead like Him.

- ❖ Lead like Jesus, who had absolutely no confusion about the true nature of his Mission – He came to serve, not to be served and was not afraid **“to spend and be spent”** in His work, which, as Bishop Chapman said, is the **“greatest and best privilege.”**
- ❖ Lead like Jesus, **“the human face of God”**, who reflected God’s radically inclusive love for all people, at all times and in all places and be a true People’s Bishop.
- ❖ Lead like Jesus, patient and faithful in your relationships, courageous and consistent in decision making, remembering to be **“like the serpent keen and wise, harmless as a dove”** when bringing change where change is needed, especially if you need **“to uproot and tear down...to build and to plant.”** (Jeremiah 1: 10).

While exercising the episcopal ministry of oversight you will often feel lonely, BUT, you will **not** be alone. Remember that God will be with you and grant you all the grace necessary to fulfill the demands of God’s Call. You will have the ever faithful Shehara by your side, and you will also have the support, solidarity and prayers of all of us.

We Anglicans describe ourselves as **“episcopally led and synodically governed.”** The word **“synod”** is said to be derived from a Greek word meaning **“walking together”** and so we believe that while exercising your unique apostolic ministry you will walk together with us, your fellow workers, in consultation and collaboration, affirming and encouraging us to use the gifts and talents with which God has endowed us. This will not only enhance our unity and collegiality but also our credibility.

What the Church in this country needs now more than ever is this sort of radical leadership that will show people Jesus, when they ask you, as they did the first Apostles, **“we wish to see Jesus.”** (John 12: 21) By leading like this you will be **“equipping the saints for the work of ministry, building up the body of Christ...”** and the Church will fulfill its true calling of bringing the light of the unchanging Gospel to an ever-changing world.

I want to end with some words from the old Prayer Book Ordinal my dear brother as you take up the pastoral staff of our Diocese today:

“Be to the flock of Christ a shepherd, not a wolf; feed them, devour them not. Hold up the weak, heal the sick, bind up the broken, bring again the outcasts, seek the lost. Be so merciful, that you be not too remiss; so minister discipline, that you forget not mercy; that when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, you may receive the never-fading crown of glory.”

May God who has called you to this ministry journey with you from this day and beyond.

AMEN

VACCINATION WON'T END THE COVID PANDEMIC!



Sanjiva Wijesinha (STCML 1956-1967) is an associate professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Monash University, Melbourne.

More health articles may be found on his webpage at sanjivawijesinha.com

With vaccines against the Coronavirus becoming available in the near future - Britain commenced vaccinating its population in early December with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine- and US President-elect Joe Biden is promising to vaccinate 100 million Americans within the first hundred days of his administration - there is a serious danger that we will run away with the idea that once we start vaccination programmes, we will end the COVID Pandemic.

It is important for us all to realise that vaccination involves giving a person an injection containing a weakened form of a virus that cannot make them sick, but would enter the cells in their bodies and train the body's immune system to prevent them getting sick if the "wild" form of that virus enters the body. The immune cells that are primed by this artificial exposure to the weakened virus in the vaccine are then able to recognise the "spike protein" of this particular Corona virus and so produce antibodies that prevent the COVID-19 virus attacking those cells. Both the Oxford-Astra vaccine and the Chinese vaccine work on this same principle - strengthening the body's immune response so that the dangerous COVID-19 virus cannot enter the cells and cause sickness.

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, unlike the other two vaccines, is not made from a live virus that has been weakened or killed. It relies instead on a form of genetic material called messenger RNA (mRNA) that acts on the body's cells to initiate the process of producing antibodies.

Now the COVID virus, if it infects the cells of a human body, can make that infected person very dangerously ill. Not everyone who catches the virus gets ill - although some of those who do get sick can get dangerously and life-threateningly sick. This is why the COVID pandemic has inundated and over-stretched hospitals with seriously ill patients who have to be treated in specialist respiratory wards and intensive care units - and has contributed to such a devastating number of deaths all over the world.

Whatever Donald Trump may say, this Coronavirus Kills people. Many folk who catch the COVID virus do not get dangerously ill. Some have an influenza-like illness with fever, cough and body aches - and in due course recover with minimal side effects. Some people who recover will have long term side effects like breathlessness and reduced lung function - although the extent and severity of the long term respiratory complications of covid-19 infection are not as yet known.

While we can safely assume that all these vaccines will be effective in preventing people from getting ill with the virus, what many folk do NOT know is that these vaccines cannot prevent people from catching the virus.

The trials have all shown that vaccines (with varying efficacy) prevented those who were vaccinated from getting symptomatic COVID-19 infection. We do not yet know whether vaccination, while protecting people from catching the virus without developing any symptoms of illness will continue to harbour the virus in their airways - from where they can pass it in on to others.

So does Vaccination stop people from catching and transmitting the virus? We do not know and cannot tell. Pfizer says it is carrying out more studies on this important question and will release information soon - but for the moment nobody knows the answer.

So before we line up to get vaccinated with the idea of then throwing away our masks, starting to congregate together in large numbers and stop washing our hands, it is well worth remembering that vaccinations will stop you getting seriously ill with Corona - but they cannot stop you catching the virus, remaining asymptomatic and transmitting the COVID-19 virus to others more vulnerable than yourselves.

Remember: Vaccines **ALONE** won't end this Covid pandemic!

The Honour of being Awarded the Blue, Black and Blue



I still remember how as a little boy I used to run with my friends and play high catches or softball in the lower school play area that overlooked the big club grounds, which at that time seemed a sea of green stretching towards the ocean. A square of greenish-brown lay in the middle, a little elevated from the grass with two sets of stumps erected from time to time, that I used to admire as I walked into my classroom in the morning. At that time little did I know that patch of green would become home to me.

I would long for a Friday where I could see "Aiyas" play cricket with much intensity. From far I would know that we were fielding, as many would wear the blue-black and blue Bradman cap that I used to envy and long to get a closer look at. Over time I learnt of a few stars who represented our side and shouted their names when I recognized them playing during the interval or for a brief moment where I watched a game after school before running to catch my van back home.

Cricket slowly but surely became an obsession. When I wasn't playing with my neighbours, I would hang a sock with a ball on a branch of a tree and hit it till the neighbours complained or the barking of dogs that created much of a racket forced me inside. My mother fondly reminds me how I couldn't walk on the road without running in front and bowling an imaginary ball to an invisible batsman or playing a shadow stroke to an oncoming delivery. Even my Birthday parties were cricket outings at the nearby church that had a big yard which was conducive to play. I would never miss an opportunity to have a bat or ball in hand.

My dad was my biggest cricket supporter, fan & friend. From taking me shopping to buy my first junior bat and kit bag, to encouraging me at every junction, not to mention picking me from practice as much as he could or being present at every game I played, I owe my cricketing success at college to none other. He used to play mercantile cricket for a lower division at Sri Lankan Airlines and whenever he could, he would take me to the MCA where 30 over matches were played. I used to idolize those moments and cheer him on. I loved the attention I got from my dad's colleagues who teased me as the next budding star in STC. I used to eye the senior bats they possessed and whenever I could, I would grab one and play some shadow strokes with much purpose.

At the age of 10, I enrolled in under 11 cricket practices under Mr. P Silva who turned out to be the father of one of my best friends and cricketing idols at college, Kaushal Silva. Some days were limited to batting drills. I still remember with a sense of frustration of how there was no batting against real bowling. All we used to do was stay in a long line and practice the forward defensive or the back-foot defense in three steps. We did it so often that I heard the words – Bat up, one, two, three...etc. in my dreams. Nevertheless, I am so grateful for that drilling of sound technique into us which was the foundation of my batting in years to come.

As a kid, I was more interested in being a fast bowler than anything else. I loved to run up and send the ball down as fast as possible and see the stumps of batsmen cartwheel. I built up quite a reputation as a quick bowler during my junior days which was sadly cut short due to injuries, that only allowed me to significantly feature as a bowler in one of the four big matches that I played in. I was so keen as a kid; I remember being pulled up by Mr. N.I.C Silva for virtually grabbing the ball out of the captain's hand and demanding to bowl.

I fondly remember my first experiences at a big match. I used to be covered from head to toe with wrist bands, caps and gollywogs cheering the college team on till my voice went hoarse either at the boys' tent or the grandstand. Nilanka Peiris, Upeka Fernando and Bhatiya Karunaratne were some of my favourites whom I longed to see in action while growing up. One memory in particular was very significant. In 1999, as a mere 12-year old I witnessed one of the greatest innings by one of my childhood heroes; Meshadh Peiris. He scored a century in the big match, where he came in when the chips were down and smashed the Royal attack to all corners, which set up an unlikely but truly significant win. From that day onwards in my dreams and imaginary scenarios, I being a Peiris as well fantasized being Meshadh, who was cutting and pulling balls for boundaries

and pumping my fist and raising my bat to acknowledge applause from the crowd. That probably heavily contributed to my desire to be a batsman or an all-rounder.

Till the age of 15, I was not very keen on batting. However, I remember my dad always telling me to concentrate on it and try and seize an opportunity to bat up the order or score some runs when I got the opportunity. Mr. N.I.C as we called him too for some reason spotted some talent and believed in me. He sent me to open the batting once in an under 15 game and groomed me to be an all-rounder. I owe him much. He was instrumental in putting me into the 2nd eleven squad when I was only 15 and allowing me to practice with the main squad of 20-30 players at the big club grounds. I learnt and matured much with that experience and before I knew it, I found myself opening for the 2nd eleven team. I was the youngest in the side and under much pressure as not many of the seniors were in favour of my inclusion at a young age.



Celebrating after scoring 100 in RT 2005

Walking out to bat in Big Match

STC last winning captains

One of the biggest setbacks I faced emotionally that made me doubt myself was in the mini-battle in 2002. That was my first experience of a big game against the Royalists. Opening the batting, at the game played at our back yard in mount, I took guard and was clean bowled first ball for a duck. I did not know what happened. I was probably over-anxious; my feet didn't move, and that ball was full and on target. I still remember how I cried that night. Not even my dad's reassuring words were of any comfort. Some seniors made snide remarks about how certain other players could have played and how they knew I would not match up and how I was too young. Mr. N.I.C., however, comforted me and backed me up. He continued to have confidence in me and worked hard on my bowling the following year. I surprised myself when I was included in the first eleven squad of 2003-2004 and found out that I was playing the first game of the season as the first change quick.

Looking back at my cricketing career at college, if I was to choose the day everything changed or the turning point if you may call it would be the day, we travelled to play D.S. Senanayake College at their home ground. On an underprepared square turner of a wicket, we were shot out for a low score and asked to follow on. I went in at number 09 in the first innings and was not out at the end of that innings. I don't know how he did it but Mr. N.I.C. convinced the late Mr. Ranil Abeynaike to send me at number 03. He argued that I had a good technique to negate the two spinners they possessed. I remember Kaushal being concerned as well and probably not too much in favour of that decision at that time but he was shot down and reminded that he too was only 15 when he played for college and it was just fair to give me a chance.

I mustered all the courage I could and walked in at number 03 and somehow intended to prove that I was good enough to meet the task at hand. Despite not scoring more than two boundaries that innings I batted for over two sessions and scored a dogged 45 facing more than 200 deliveries that ensured we drew that game. I was greeted with much applause and appreciation in the dressing room at the end of that inning which I cherished. The next game on a much better batting track I was sent in at number 03 again and I batted with more confidence. I scored a 90 and played a rank bad ball straight down deep mid wickets throat and was unfortunate to miss out on a fresher hundred. Seizing those two opportunities changed my whole cricketing career. I went on to play more as a batsman who could bowl that year and continued at the number 03 slot for the next three years at college. I even represented the national under 19 team as a batsman at number 03 under the leadership of Angelo Matthews that toured to UK & India in 2005.

Having gone through the ranks since grade 09 as a reserve, water boy and the official scorer in Dilshan's year, playing under Kaushal in 2004 that led up to the 125th battle of the blues was truly a phenomenal experience. The pressure was immense and until two weeks before the game, I still did not know if I had done well enough to make it to the side. There was stiff competition and Royal was set to field a very formidable side thus there was no room to gamble. However, age was my friend when it came to selection and I got the nod to play.

That feeling is indescribable. Walking to the SSC a day before the game to see your name up on the giant scoreboard next to your teammates just makes goosebumps rise all over your body. The blessing of the team at the college chapel, awarding of colours at the college assembly and moving into residential camp happened all too fast. I would have much liked to savour those moments and let the feeling sink in. After the cycle parade was over it finally dawned on me. I would take the field the next day wearing that precious colours cap that I so longed to wear.

We would be awarded the colours blazer at 6am before the traditional breakfast hosted by Warden. This was indeed such a special moment, a little extra for me, as I had borrowed Meshad's blazer as there was a concern regarding the right material being shipped from the UK and new blazers, could not be made that year. It being Meshad's just felt a little extra special when I slipped it on amidst small applause from my teammates, and it surprisingly fit well. A childhood dream had come true.

There was pin-drop silence on the way to the SSC, a common factor that was to follow in the next three years as well. Being awarded that colours cap and wearing it and running on to the field is a memory that I will cherish for a lifetime. To date, I try to relive that moment at every possible old boy's game. I sometimes find myself taking it out of the cupboard and staring at it with a smile on my face. I was truly honoured and privileged to play 4 years, Captain College and experience all three possible outcomes at a big match.

I must specially thank God for enabling me to bring back the shield we lost in 2006, and Captain College to victory in my final year and leave on a high note. The moments I spent on the cricketing field at college are undoubtedly the best and most cherished to date. Scoring not one but two centuries and being able to emulate Meshadh, my childhood hero is also a memory that I am truly blessed to hold on to.

If I could offer one piece of advice to the team or any young cricketer, it would be to seize the opportunity and never stop dreaming. Enjoy and cherish these moments you spend on that field of cricket as much as possible for after you leave college and look back, there is nothing more that you want to do than relive those memories. The blue-black and blue blazer you get to wear is special, wearing that cap for the first time gives a pleasure that supersedes the feeling an Australian might feel when awarded the baggy green. So, wear it with pride treasure it, savour it, for I sure do miss it!

Esto Perpetua

Ashan Peiris - was the Head Prefect (2006) and represented College in the Royal Thomian encounters from 2005 to 2007 captaining the winning team in his last year. He scored centuries in 2005 and 2007 in encounters which helped STC in securing wins in both matches. He was also a member of the under 19 Sri Lankan team in 2005.

Bust out of COVID and soak in the festive atmosphere

Royal Thomian

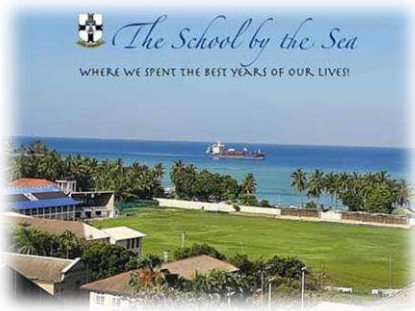
Sunday  21st Feb 2021

Open Game (40 over) @ 10.30am
 Overs 40s (30 over) @ 12.30pm
 Over 50s (30 over) @ 12.30pm

DJ playing your favourite tunes
 Food stalls to sell you happiness
 & Fun activities for the Kids

Mulgrave Cricket Club
 140 Garnett Road, Mulgrave





REFLECTIONS OF 70+ YEARS

By Maurice Fairweather

Writer's Note: These brief recollections are 'extracted from MY memory banks...with no apologies. Any disputes can be settled behind the Chapel after school!!!

Picture this, (1949).70 + years ago an 8-year-old chit of a lad being put into Winchester House under the tutelage and control of very fearsome Rev and Mrs Barnabas. I had just come from Methodist College where I was a big fish in a little pond as one of a few boys among girls. I had been put into Methodist after a short stint (as a boarder) at Bishops College, but after my Pater's transfer to Colombo became a day scholar commuting daily by South Western Bus Co (later CTB) from Ratmalana to Colpetty unaccompanied at the tender age of 7. It seems I was a bit of a handful in lower KG...so was moved to Upper KG with the hope that the older girls would overawe me. However, it appeared that I was able to cope with the work and stayed on, entering college in Form 2B under the indomitable Miss AE Bay.

The first year was perhaps quite traumatic as I was among boys, most of whom were a year older hence conversion to a little fish in a big pond. The Barnabases ruled by a regime of tough Love, *sans the love factor*, if you get my drift. There were many instances of the 'tough' element. My first encounter was actually in the very first week. School terms always started on a Thursday, and the College boarders arrived a day earlier on Wednesday. I recollect being the third recipient of the birch on the first Saturday. The reason for this 'crime'- in the absolute silence expected of 30 odd 8/9-year-old boys, I was reading the bible and came across a phrase..." there was a *bloody* battle". To me, that was a swear word, and I pointed it out to the boy next to me. Barney heard me, summoned me to his quarters and rewarded me with 3 of the best. Did say I was the third, which meant two others had copped it within the first two days of school. The surprise and shock of such an initiation was an indication of life under the Barnnaiya and Barneccchi in Winchester. I recollect running around with a rusty hoop ring in the garden adjoining the Sick Room and getting a severe laceration. For my efforts the indominable Mrs Morrell rewarding me with a couple of stitches without the benefit of any anaesthetic plus a tetanus shot.

Mrs Morrell (also affectionately known as Aunty Bolla).with .a tough and no nonsense exterior had a warm and caring heart. Such as it was and as we knew no better, just accepted (took it on the bump...as we used to say) and got on with life. Apart from going to class we all ran around barefoot. This was long before the advent of Bata Slippers though a few boys may have had clogs. The Dining Hall was some distance away from Winchester, and I remember two brothers (both alive and kicking in SL) possessed yellow raincoats while the rest of us ran with a towel over our heads when it rained.

On Saturday evening all the boys had to polish their shoes for Church on Sunday and the school week to follow. Some years later, I was walking to the tuckshop on a Saturday evening a saw rows and rows of shoes all highly polished on the verandah all done by the then house master Mr VD Burder...how life had changed for the incumbents of Winchester...for the better. I could devote many pages to life in Winchester...but it is what it is...or was... in this case. I am still in touch with boys, now old men (read farts) like me 70 years later. We just got by and to the best of my knowledge there were no lasting effects in our later years. To the best of my knowledge no one ever grew to become an axe murderer or a serial killer!!!

In term 1 1950, the Barnabases, the Morrells and the Gauders all got sick and were off the whole of the first Term. My parents were asked to take over the 'management' of Winchester House. My Mater, a nurse did the sick room while Pater did part-time cricket coaching. I left Winchester after Term 1, and became a Stone

House day scholar. The next few years as a day boy were rather uneventful, and I will move on to my re-entry into the Boarding into Miller Junior at age 14 or so. Boarding House life was more relaxed than at Winchester. Lassie...another Icon, small in stature and a squeaky voice with a big heart and was the House Master. The House and College prefects managed the day to day discipline of a diverse collection...all ethnicities of energetic boys. A cubicle (that is two self-supporting panels with a curtain across the entrance was shared by two prefects.) As boarders our lives/actions were regimented/ruled by the school bell. Martin, the Bellboy (man) rang the first one at 5.45 am and the Houseboy unlocked the concertina door. Yes, we were locked in at night without any thought of fire safety and emergency evacuation; and the last bell at 9.30 'lights out'. In between meal, play, church times were all governed by the "bell". Breakfast was at 6.50 am...and 30 odd boys had to wash and dress using one tap and one toilet. Looking back seems like quite deprived times...but we managed and got by. After breakfast at 7.10am we had 40 mins of Prep, supervised by either a master or a School Prefect. Remember Prep, which was also at night, was a no talk time strictly enforced supposedly for study, but I remember occasionally whiling away the time playing 'book cricket', usually England vs Australia.



The Dorm beds were ex-army I think...or that style...and after a while, the metal mesh expanded, and the mattresses sank. Bed bugs were a source of annoyance. As most if not all the boarder's parents lived out of Colombo(outstation), parental visits involved treats for the boys. Some would stay in the vehicle and scoff whatever, but some boys would generously share with others. The term "Gopal" was conferred on anyone who did not share. I have a recollection of one boy quietly pulling a tin of Condensed milk from under his bed and sucking it after lights out though the prefect's cube lights were still on. I won't/can't mention a name except that he still lives in Melbourne??

In the following year the Boarding houses were amalgamated ...Miller-Chapman and Copleston-Claughton. This sort of created Super Houses as most of the Sports teams comprised of Boarders. The rivalry between the boarding houses was quite fierce. Miller-Chapman produced its magazine... "The Millerite" followed by Copleston-Claughton... "The Tonian". Alas, only two issues were printed as, I believe, it rivalled the School magazine and advertising Rupees were hard to come by.

Ragging or christening too of Freshers especially in Term 1 was quite the 'thing'. Imagine getting a bucket of water, sometimes mixed with grass clippings thrown at you in the wee hours. It did get out of hand at times and I will relate an incident which will probably horrify the reader. I was a senior by this time and must confess; it was a huge joke at the time. The Freshers were made to insert a sparkler into the rectum, it was lit, and he was expected to run the length of the dorm and douse it under the tap in the bathroom. After some time the floor became wet and slippery with the obvious consequence. One boy slipped and burnt his bum slightly. Fortunately, he took it in his stride and decided not to take it up with higher authorities or the fall-out would have been dire for the seniors. During room time if a fresher fell asleep, it was not unknown for a barrage of shoes to be thrown at him. Dorm feeds, usually instigated by the seniors, with major contributions by the Freshers were popular as the food was foremost in a Boarder's mind. Bajou/Baila sessions were also quite popular in the Dorms with the desks/trunks used to provide the beat.

The movies were a primary source of entertainment. Boarders were allowed 5 hours of leave once a fortnight on a Saturday from 1.00-6.00 pm. Remember that no Boarder was allowed to take a step outside the School environs. A junior boy arrived puffing and panting back after the 6.00 pm deadline. Of course, if the explanation wasn't viable to the Prefect on duty, the boy was duly punished. In one instance, the boy's explanation was that the bus had caught fire one stop short and he had run the last bit. This didn't satisfy the Prefect and the boy was duly reprimanded. Sometime later another prefect who had also gone on 5 hours leave came in saying..."hell of a hat no machang, the bloody bus caught fire". To the duty prefects' credit, the boy's punishment was cancelled. Apart from this, the usual type of punishment was lines.."I will not blah

balh” (whatever the misdemeanour). The head prefect came up with what we thought was a brilliant idea to make it a tad more difficult...and we got the English and Sinhalese speaking boys to copy/write 10 lines from a Tamil book...and the Tamil boys in reverse. These were checked by the Sinhalese or Tamil prefects for correctness. This type of punishment did not go down too well and one of the lads told his parents who took it up with Warden Davidson. I was summoned to the Office and duly chastised. The practice/punishment was short lived...The Lad in question also still lives in Melbourne.

Prefects did wield quite a lot of power, even more, than some of the Masters. The two Prefects on Duty for the day shared a special dinner with the master in charge, including dessert. For the inter-house PT Competition, I had to wake the juniors and hustle them down to the Big Club and practice at 6.00 am. School Prefects did not have to go for breakfast and were privileged to have theirs delivered to the Prefects Room. Twice a week we had string hoppers for breakfast with a sambol and a kiri hodhi. My fellow prefect, the late KDK Perera who also assisted in the PT and I scooped the top of the hodhi where the essence was thickest and had our strings. When the others came in for theirs the hodhi was almost like water and alas the kitchen staff were abused...sorry guys a late confession!!

The *School by the Sea* then comprised of around 1100 students of which about 200+ were boarders. To recall from dozens of memories, I remember sitting next to Frankie David in class and him sharing his 5-cent packet of Seeni Kadalay with me. As we sat in front... the sugar-coated skin was eaten first. Then the kadalay was broken in half. ..all this without the master being able to see. In this fashion the 5-cent Kadalay lasted almost the whole of the 45 min period.

Another story goes that when Brookie changed the big club track from a 330 to a 440yards...he made a mistake in the “stagger”, so the person in the outermost lane got a tremendous handicap. Of course, the time set has never been broken...it was more likely closer to 400 yards? I remember the late Baila Samarasinghe...a very talented sportsman, who had an unusual style of running...leaning backwards rather than forward and when running into the sea breeze in the last 100 yards in the 440 near Thalassa..the sea breeze meant the backwards lean was greater.



Athletics Team – 1959: Standing (L-R) Mr Brooke D’Silva, Selva Kanagasabai, Lakshman De Silva, Nihal Algama, Mohan Samarasinghe; Seated (L-R) Maurice Fairweather (Captain), Warden Davidson, Lorensz D’Silva

Sitting in Geometry class Upper 6 maybe diligently studying Theorems (none of which have ever been used by me in later life), Buddy Reid developing a Theorem and proving it correct. Seems the mathematics world’s loss was the medical profession’s gain.

The late Errol Jacotine, was a popular head cop and always with a smile on his face even when reprimanding some recalcitrant junior, and was both an athlete and Rugby Player (captained College I think?). “Jacko” was large by College standards...and it was said he had *arms like legs ...and legs like logs*. I recollect once of him scoring a try from the 25 yard and yes, with three guys hung off his legs/thighs like leeches. Another recollection of Jacko (which should bring a smile or a smirk to the Vics) about 25+ years ago when he was in Perth on holiday, visiting and staying with the late Idira Virasinghe . I caught up with him at my BIL’s fairly close to home late afternoon and undertook to drive him back to Indira’s; and the reminiscing dragged on and I was told to get a move on as we could encounter the usual after office traffic jam on WA’s, then one and only, Kwinana Freeway. We were chatting away I got on the Freeway...and after about 20/25 mins started to take the exit ramp and Jacko casually stated that we seemed to have escaped the traffic jam. I

had to explain that we had just passed it; much to his amusement with him being used to Melbourne's traffic congestion.

Talking of Rugby... Harold 'Bull' Vante played with me as a forward. When Vante ran he put his heart and soul into it and as result used to snort. Once near the try line the ball popped up into his hands and someone pushed him over for the try...and that was the only time he ever scored. ...and if this tall tale is disputed...the issue can be settled *behind the Chapel!* I also use to sit in Lower 6B next to a boy who had a prodigious appetite. My peers will recollect that we mainly carried our books...secured with a canvas strap or a suitcase. These suitcases were made of layers of thick grey paper with the outer skin generally brown...and they usually got slung around and scuffed and battered and the grey would show through. This guy used to tear strips or his suitcase and chew it n class usually after lunch...dessert perhaps! Half way through term, I found him chewing on what suspiciously smelt like Cinnamon. I gather that his Pater had laid into him for the state of the suitcase...and during the lunch interval he used to jump over the wall into *Kurundu Watte* .and pick cinnamon leaves and stalks to chew.

I was privileged to be part of a Ceylon School boys' team which toured Australia in 1960. The other Thomians in the team were Waruna Fernando and the late Lorensz D' Silva. After the tour was over, our last dual meet was in Perth and we boarded the SS Arcadia at Fremantle. For the first day or two we were all sea sick and on the third day we all congregated in the dining room for our first proper meal. We were each given a menu...a three course with the usual 3 choices of Entree, main and sweet. "Lollo" was obviously quite hungry and managed to convince our waiter to bring every item on the menu card for the three of us and to my recollection he devoured all 9 items.

We had some of the best masters and mentors though some who would not quite qualify, if you get my drift. Volumes could and have been written about life in the Boarding. Lifelong friendships were formed. I believe we enjoyed our times at that great School by the sea and are all the better for it.

About the Author

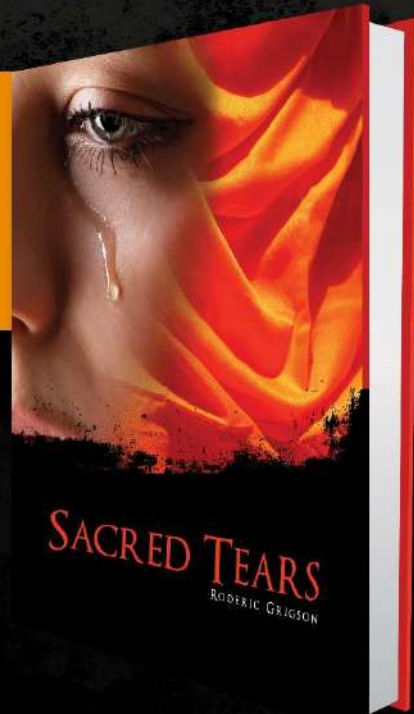
Maurice Fairweather has been a long-time member of the STC OBA in Australia. He was in STCML from 1949-1961 and was Deputy Head Prefect, won College Colours in Rugger, Cricket and Athletics, He was a Member of Havelocks Rugby Club and Ace Athletics Club; and captained Ceylon Schoolboys Athletics team that toured Australia. Maurice migrated to Australia in 1972 and lives in Perth, WA.

To All Old Thomians

If you do have an interesting anecdote about your days at College or some interesting titbits about the after-school life of a fellow Thomian (or even a teacher) or just remember the good old days as they used to be, please, send in your articles, photos, letters, poems, stories, etc. to the Editor **Vasikaran Ratnarajah**: vasidaisy15@gmail.com or **Upali Gooneratne**: fgooneratne@iiec.org.

It is vital that you advise us of changes to your contact details in order to ensure that this publication reaches you. Also, in order to maintain the membership records up to date, please contact the Membership Secretary of any changes (telephone number, address, deaths etc.). **Membership Secretary, PO Box 2337, Mt. Waverley, Victoria 3149.** Email: stcoba.finance@gmail.com

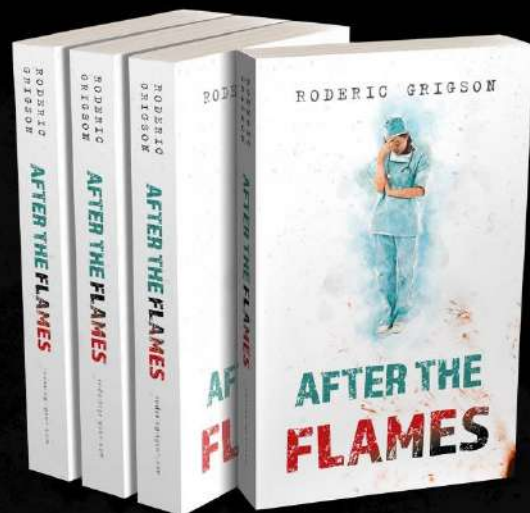
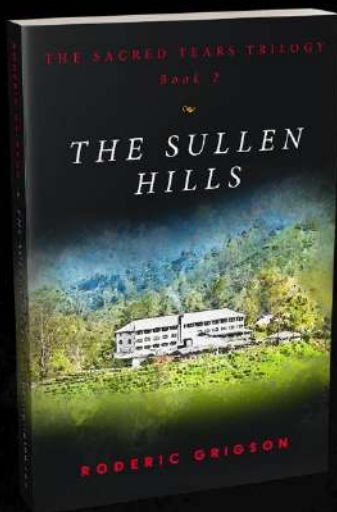
"a fascinating gripping read... fast paced...hard to put down..."



Available for sale on Amazon and through the authors website www.rodericgrigson.com

Sri Lankan born, Australian writer
RODERIC GRIGSON

SACRED TEARS TRILOGY





A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PLANTER

Retrospect provides objectivity. What one has done in one's lifetime is best viewed from afar.

A planter's work day may have not changed substantially, since the old coffee days of the mid-19th century, till perhaps the 19-eighties. The routine is linked to an agricultural calendar, consisting of activities to be done on a daily, weekly, monthly and an annual basis; repetitive but comforting as, on the first day of the year, you had a clear idea of what needed to be done the next day, as well as at the end of the year. The activity programme was driven by predictable weather patterns and changes to the routine corresponded to variations in the weather. My era in planting, which was before Climate Change had been thought of, both weather and climate were reasonably predictable and the routines were consistent, year on year.

To describe a planter's workday to a present day audience, I need to relate it to my time as a planter, which commenced in 1968. Many aspects of the plantation management environment have changed dramatically since then but what the tea bush, or the rubber tree needs, has remained basically the same. What has undergone a gradual evolution and change is the degree of importance attached to those requirements.

To those unfamiliar with planting, the best introduction to a planter's life would be a brief description of the workday of the "Creeper" (trainee planter), for which I shall draw entirely from personal experience and knowledge. The creeping period provides a very reliable definition of a planter's subsequent professional life.

My training as a planter was on Gordon Estate, Udapussellawa, a tea property owned by a prestigious Sterling Company, Standard Tea, managed by George Steuart & Co. My mentor was its then Superintendent, Maurice Koelmeyer.

My introduction to a planter's daily regime began the day after my arrival on the estate, with Maurice giving me a guided tour of the estate in his car. To the best of my recollection, that was also my last field round in a vehicle, on Gordon. For the next six months, till my training ended, I walked. Maurice also told me, categorically, that whilst on my field rounds he did not expect me to hitch rides in the leaf-lorry. The underpinning logic then- irrefutable in today's context as well- was that walking facilitated observation, a critical aspect of the effective learning and supervision process.

The creeping period is a harsh testing time. Initially conceived by the early British planters, many of whom were retired military men, it was a boot-camp regime calculated to test both the physical and mental fortitude of the young trainee. The creeper was not permitted to achieve objectives through easy, efficient means and difficulties and obstructions were, seemingly, deliberately introduced. Most of the local, senior superintendents of my day, faithfully emulated this system set in place by their British forerunners.

My "creeping period" on Gordon was a perfect example of this concept. My training ground was Gracelyn Division, a precipitous, unfriendly segment of land, much of it slab rock, with low-yielding China Jat tea. Access to it was either along a lengthy, winding cart-road or by an arduous climb up steep, slippery foot-paths and narrow steps. The latter, though much more tiring than the cart-road, was quicker, but still took me the better part of an hour. On most days, I did this trip four times a day, back and forth, the first one at dawn, to attend morning muster. Maurice could have sent me to the Gordon division muster ground, ten minutes brisk walk from the bungalow, but he too stayed true to tradition. Obviously, this type of training

was calculated to impress on the novice planter, the need to handle adversity and physical hardship from the very inception.

The mornings were spent largely in fields where agricultural and land management work were in progress, whilst the post-lunch session was entirely in the plucking fields. As deemed by my trainer, daily, I marked the Check-Roll book at evening muster. After dinner, or early morning the next day, before leaving for morning muster, I would total the Check-Roll book and ensure that the labour amalgamation for the previous day was properly accounted for. In addition, on a daily basis, I personally weighed green leaf at randomly selected weighing points.



The Writer- Coneygar Bungalow- St. Leonards - 1969



L-R, Ranjith Sri Nissanka, Selva Kanagasabai, AG- Eskdale Bungalow 1970

My time, both as a trainee and as a young SD (Sinna Dorai - Assistant Manager), was years before the invention of the pocket calculator and the neural gymnastics required for the repetitive addition of rows of numbers used to drive me insane. Largely on account of a congenital mental incapacity for mathematics, the daily Check-Roll computation was, without doubt, the most demanding part of my training period.

In addition to the introduction to wide-ranging aspects of the agricultural management of tea, I was encouraged to learn the basics of tea manufacture. The latter required regular visits to the factory during “night” manufacture, which was after the day’s work was done. Reading back-copies of the Tea Research Institute, Quarterly publications was also mandatory, and Maurice used to question me, on a daily basis, on what I had learned, or observed, during the day.

Another aspect of the training programme was the rapid acquisition of spoken Tamil. The plantation workers, especially in the up-country estates, were almost entirely of Indian origin and, unlike today, very rarely spoke Sinhala. Communication was entirely in their language and early proficiency in Tamil was a non-negotiable requirement. The importance attributed to competence in Tamil was such that the first, mandatory qualifying exam a planter had to face was in spoken Tamil, preceding testing in Tea Manufacture and Plantation Accounting.

The rigour of the training regime I went through was the norm then, right across the plantation sector. Earlier, when the plantation sector was dominated by the British, it had been, reportedly, even more demanding. Maurice, apart from his non-negotiable insistence on the professional aspects of the training programme and its conditions, treated me with much kindness and consideration. My training period, with his charming wife Bella ensuring that all my personal needs were met, was a very comfortable and happy time.

On successful completion of the creeping period, as a young SD, the work routine did not change significantly, except for one key factor. The former creeper was now operationally responsible for every aspect of work in the divisions in his charge. Unlike in the creeping period though, an SD paid for the mistakes he made! The consequences of either inadequacy or incompetence could be costly, even leading to loss of employment under an exacting PD. Such incidents were not uncommon in my day.

If I were to believe that there would be relief from the onerous responsibility of check-roll marking, on becoming an SD, I was soon to be disillusioned. More than a year after my training period, when I was SD on St. Leonards, Halgranoya, my then Superintendent, Chris Mossop, decided that I should do the Coneygar Division Check Roll on my own, for three months and, at the end of each month, compute the labour pay as well. Fifty years later, I must confess that I cheated a bit. Whilst I marked the check roll daily, I got a junior clerk in the estate office to do the month – end labour pay computation.

For the young SD field work supervision was a key element, the morning spent in fields which were being weeded, drained, forked or where other land management work was taking place. The supervision of tea field pruning, unarguably the most important of all field work on an estate, was given prime attention as and when such work took place. The SD was expected to inspect each row of pruned bushes, each day, and that meant spending the greater part of the day on the particular field.

Fertilizer applications in tea fields, which took place once every three to four months, was considered so important that the SD was expected to follow the fertilizer spreading workers from tea row to tea row, ensuring even distribution. Added to field duties would be monthly checking of all stocks on the property, both in the divisional and main stores. There would also be the monthly comprehensive verification of all tea stocks, which involved the weighing and recording of every single gram of tea in the factory, and at least one random check in addition.



Sheen Manager's Bungalow (Courtesy- Dilmah HOCT)

As an SD on Sheen estate, Pundaluoya, in the early 19-seventies, under its Superintendent, Derrick Wickremesinghe, I learnt, at first hand, what it was to deliver on the expectations of a very exacting manager. His insistence on excellence challenged your competence on a daily basis. All of the work routines described in the preceding passages had to be implemented, in this instance, with clock-work precision, whilst maintaining a pre-determined work quality; a serious test of one's commitment to supervision.

Wickremesinghe also insisted that each SD should attend night manufacture twice a week, following the process for a minimum of three batches of leaf, from rolling to firing. The relevant report had to be on his office table by 7.30 am. Immediately on submission of the report, we had breakfast and strode off to the field. That we had spent the better part of the night in the factory, at the end of a hard day in the field, did not entitle us to any rest the next day!!!!

The estate accounts had to be verified monthly, with every book of record being examined in sequence, beginning with the relevant divisional books. I and the Senior-SD (Asoka Herat, old Trinitian) did this together, generally starting on a Friday afternoon and finishing by Sunday evening. All such verifications, including stocks checks, had to be carried out after normal working hours, which meant starting the assignments around 6 pm. The unspoken but clear message was that the hours between 6 am and 6 pm were meant for field work.

An important issue to bear in mind, when comparing the routine of a planter in my day, and that of the planter of today, is that mine was the period before computerization and the digitalization of information. The data which is available to the planter of today, at the click of a mouse, had to be extricated laboriously in my day, manually, by reference to a multitude of voluminous physical books of record.

Another important aspect was the maintenance of work progress and the relevant expenditure records; weeding, draining, forking, fertilizer programme implementation, field history books, individual field yield record books, tea, timber/shade tree/fuel-wood, nursery management records which, on Sheen, had to be

maintained in the SD's own handwriting. Such manual tabulation introduced a repetitive element and the overlapping of information, inevitable in a system as data-driven as plantation management. However, the personal responsibility for records management ensured that the diligent SD had, at his fingertips, access to all the information he needed to make intelligent management decisions; or to respond effectively to testing questions thrown at him at unguarded moments, by a difficult Superintendent, or a Visiting Agent.

The Muster Diary, one book per division, which was updated daily and sent to the PD every morning, was a capsule record of every activity which had taken place on the relevant division, up to the last minute of the previous day. As an SD, I would check this book minutely, either before going to bed, or before leaving for muster early the next morning, a routine duplicated then, on hundreds of estates across the country. The consequences of misreporting or omissions could be dire, for both the SD and the Field Officer of the division.



Sheen Factory (Courtesy, Dilmah HOCT)

The "Labour Day" then was also an important item in the work routine. Individual workers, often accompanied by the divisional "Talaiver" (spokesman of the relevant trade union), presented to the SD various issues, generally personal needs or grievances, which required resolution. Those which required the superintendent's authority for a solution were referred to him, for his monthly labour day. The issues tabled, and the solutions provided, were faithfully recorded in the relevant "Labour Diaries". These were, then, sacrosanct records of important commitments from both the worker and the management. On Sheen there were two divisional labour days each month.

The management protocols which I have described above, using personal experience as examples were widely followed on all plantations, particularly those managed by Agency Houses in the pre-nationalization era, especially on well-run plantations led by competent and exacting Superintendents. The latter qualities were, invariably, synonymous.

As a superintendent, or manager (PD- Periya Dorai) of an estate, there was a primary, and important difference in the daily routine from that of the SD. The PD had the liberty of establishing his own routine, according to his own sense of priorities. Generally, most PD's would start the day with an early morning visit to the factory, to taste the tea from the previous night's manufacture, followed by breakfast and then a session in the office, evaluating the previous day's work by examining the field diaries, normally delivered to the estate office in the morning. There would also be a mid-morning field round, often lasting till lunch time.

The afternoon session would again be in the office, generally dealing with correspondence from a multiplicity of external agencies, and discussions and actions related to estate accounts and estate expenditure. The Cost of Production (COP) was a sacred benchmark which all diligent estate managers kept an eye on, on a daily basis.

At the end of the day, another trip to the factory, perhaps to check on green leaf volumes, condition thereof and, also, to discuss with the Head Factory Officer, any adjustments to the manufacturing process as may be necessary. Such discussions would also address reports from the brokers on tea samples already dispatched, and may result in adjustments to the manufacturing process. Such variations may be either to correct reported deficiencies in the final product, or a response to a sudden change in tea market demands. In addition, there was the almost daily tasting of tea samples, both from one's own estate and from other estates in close proximity. Weather fluctuations, tea market volatility, green leaf standards and volumes, factory machinery issues, all impacted either positively or negatively on the final product and, therefore, had

to be evaluated on a daily basis and countered with appropriate technical responses in the manufacturing process.

Sandwiched in to the daily routine would be discussions with contractors, engineers, agricultural advisers and other service providers, invariably handled personally by the estate manager. These did not take place every day but were important engagements.

I have been associated with the plantation industry, initially from the Agency House era, through the transition consequent to nationalization, State ownership and management, and then the re-privatization or the Regional Plantation Company (RPC) era, which commenced in 1992. These changes have resulted in necessary transformations in the planter's work routine as well. As an active participant of that evolutionary process till retirement a couple of months ago, I am able to speak with reasonable authority on its progression.

At the beginning of this narrative I spoke of the comforting sameness of the planter's daily routine, in my day. That was a result of a combination of factors; reliable weather patterns and a very insular plantation environment which was, to a very large extent, under the planter's control. It was an era when the planter could either successfully resist or reject, or effectively manage, intrusions in to his area of authority. Then it was even possible to disregard changes in the external society and to carry on at one's will, in what used to be the relatively impermeable plantation microcosm.

However, today, the RPC plantation environment is highly externalized and is interconnected with the immediate mainstream society. Intrusions, both legitimate and illegal, much of it driven by a combination of instantaneous communication and ambiguity in the interpretation of ownership and authority, are frequent and, often, unmanageable. As a result, the agenda of today's planter is often written elsewhere and he is denied the luxury of planning on the basis of personal prioritization. Those factors have brought about a complete change in the daily routine of the planter of today and, try as I might, I cannot think of many consequent advantages. Evolution quite often brings about complexity but is not necessarily beneficial.



Anura Gunasekera (STC, Mt. Lavinia '55-'66). Served the plantation industry for over 50 years, initially in several estates in the George Steuarts Agency and the JEDB. Subsequently, was a Director of Kelani Valley Plantations (Hayleys- DPL group), eventually retiring from the MJF Group as Director/CEO, Kahawatte Plantations

Editor's Note: Thanks to Anura for responding to our request for this article which we believe would be of great interest to our readers.

Part 2: Interview with Dr Peter Selvaratnam by Thomiana

Thomiana: What were your memories of being the Warden's son?

Peter: I have good memories and life-enhancing memories. I had good friends prior to my father joining College who were helpful while under 'watchful eyes.' The visit of the Thomian first eleven cricket team prior to the 'Big Match' to the Warden's home for light breakfast and the Warden's 'blessings' was a highlight. It was very exciting for a young boy serve short eats and tea to cricketers whom I looked up to such as Jayampathi Bandaranayke, Anura Tennekoon, Sarath Seneviratne, Prabodha Kariyawasam, Ajith Jayasekera, David Ponniah, Ranjit Watson, Ravi Sathasivam, the late Johann (Tiny) Reid and Arasu Saravanamuttu.

My sister, Sulochana studied at Ladies' College. Her friends requested a special invitation to come and visit our home that day or to sit at the pavilion where the cricketers sat at the P. Sara Stadium to 'eye' the cricketers. It was interesting to observe these Ladies' College Akka's who sat next to me and my sister had many young 'Uncle's' visit them during the lunch break. I used to ask my sister, "How come your friends have very young uncle's holding their hands!!" I later realised that the "Big Match" was the foundation for "Big Match-making!!"



Late Rev. A.J.C Selvaratnam

Another highlight was the choristers' visit after the magnificent Festival of Nine lessons which was based on the choir at King's college London. The choir was superbly conducted by Rev L.G.B. Fernando who enlivened the true meaning of 'Christ-mas'. On one occasion the choristers went and sang carols for patients and doctors in the first peacetime hospital ship 'The SS Hope' which was a great privilege for them.

In March 1968, College held the "Thomian Fair" at the Independence Square. The Hon. Siva Obeysekera (later Speaker of the House and Deputy Health Minister) was the main organiser. She and the OBA committee used to come home at 28 Hotel Road, Mount Lavinia for many meetings. The Thomian Fair was held over three evenings during the "Big Match" period in March 1968. The Fair was a great success and was enjoyed by many.

I recall on the last day of the Fair, I had spent most of my pocket money, and only had 50 cents left. My classmate, Jeyaseelan Singham and I were very hungry, and we were keen to have a hot dog. However, we did not have the money to buy two hot dogs. We pooled our resources of 50 cents each and placed it on a ping pong game which could double our investment. Fortunately, our punt paid dividends and with the two rupees we bought a hot dog each. Little did we realise that many years later I would meet his sister, Jeya in Melbourne and commence life with her in 1984. A good investment in friendship! Jeyaseelan currently helps me in my clinic business dealings as a Management consultant. College friendships certainly bore fruits!!

Thomiana: Many Wardens experience challenges. What challenges did the Warden experience?

Peter: All Wardens and Principals as leaders experience challenges. The Warden tried his best to improve the educational standards of the College, stop the ragging in the boarding - which at times was challenging to some boarders. He saw to it that order and discipline was maintained. *(This affirmative action on ragging was enthusiastically supported by Mr. Godfrey Senaratne who was then a member of the Academic Staff as well as Boarding House Master. Mr Senaratne was himself a Thomian Boarder for 12 years during his student days).*

The Warden faced a few challenges with a minority of the senior staff members who used to take French leave and had to be taken to task. The Warden was supported by the Sub-Warden, Mr Frank Jayasinghe, Mr Orville Abeynaike (the Headmaster of the Lower school and later Sub-Warden), Mr Lassie Abeywardene, and Mr C.S. Weerasinghe who were a tower of strength. Without fear or favour he administered the College with the help of these gentlemen.

Due to the prestige of St Thomas', the College was sought after by many parents for the education of their sons. Not every student got through the entrance examination. Hence, members of Parliament would ring the Warden to admit students who had failed their entrance examination.

On one occasion, the Hon. Dudley Senanayake, Prime Minister (PM), and an old boy, sent a student (with their father) who had not been admitted to College. The Warden declined the PM's request. The PM later mentioned to the Warden, "If I type a letter, please don't admit the boy. But if I handwrite a letter please admit him." When the Warden always stuck to his guns, the PM told parents who were on his back, "You are speaking to the wrong Senanayake." The PM was referring to the Hon. Maithripala Senanayake (member for Madawachiya and later Deputy PM for SLFP) who was the Warden's brother-in-law!

When the Warden emigrated to Melbourne in 1977, he subsequently met many of his students and some teachers at the OBA meetings which was nostalgic in renewing old friendships and making new ones. Barney Reid went out of his way to give him lifts to the OBA meetings. Rajan Hensman, Dr Rohan Abeysinghe and the Victorian OBA committee honoured the Warden and invited him to be the chief guest at the 150th anniversary of St Thomas'. The Warden also wrote a poem for this occasion titled "Ode to St. Thomas' College- Sesquicentennial Birthday."

Thomiana: What were your memories of the 'Transfiguration' at College?

Peter: In a recent article for the OBA NSW on 26 September 2020, I stated that, one of the highlights in my time at College was when my father invited Mr David Paynter to paint the 'Transfiguration' of Jesus Christ. The College did not have all the money. My father appealed to the old boys and they raised the funds. Mr Paynter stayed in our annexe for a short time and would get up in the morning to pray so that he was inspired



by God to paint the figures of Jesus Christ, Peter, James, John, Moses, and Elijah.

I recall the Warden enlightening me in his retirement that, "David Paynter was commissioned since he had earlier painted many Murals of the beardless Christ." He mentioned, "The great wall of the Chapel was carefully cleaned and plastered before the first background paint was brushed. I watched from my Warden's seat with trepidation and prayers, the great artist standing on the long stepladder, working on the figure of our Lord without any models.

David Paynter had a vision of the Christ that attracted children and parents to follow. This he very effectively

presented in bold, clear magnificence, high above the altar, resplendent in Christ's *Parousia* – heavenly glory. David Paynter, like Michael Angelo in the Sistine Chapel, had given his personal vision of a Christ who transforms, translates, and transmutes the lives of those who gaze on Him." In a recent communication with Mr Godfrey Senaratne on 27 September 2020 he mentioned the following: I reproduce the communication in its entirety:

"Dear Peter,

I like to put on record the fact that it was your father, Warden Revd. Selvaratnam, who did the 'initial practical movements' that set in place the communication for the artist and materials and logistics for the Mural. There was already a 'Fund' for such a Mural, but he took steps to sound the Old Boys to get to the required total of Rs 10,000, for the magnificent 'Transfiguration of Our Lord' mural by David Paynter.

From your 'annexe' Mr David Paynter was asked to come over to the rooms that was generally occupied by the House Master of Miller B. To get to these rooms one must ascend the spiral stairs. This was a convenient location for him as this room was in very close proximity to the College Chapel where his 'labour of love' took him Monday to Friday. This lasted about 18 months.

I remember Warden Selvaratnam calling us (Mr Jackson Karunaratne, Mr. Daniel Edirisinghe and me) and introducing Mr. David Paynter to us. Chaplain Revd. David Townsend was also with the Warden at the time to welcome Mr. Paynter to the 'Boarding House Staff' community.

We became friends and sometimes he would come with us (Revd. Townsend, Jackson and me) to the Old Thomians' Swimming Club (where I was on the Committee) for a drink. Also, around once a week we would visit each other's room for a chat and a cup of tea.

Mr David Paynter was the kindest, most charismatic, soft-spoken, and knowledgeable person and of course artist – it was an absolute treat to be in his company. Mr. David Paynter had in his room the prototype of the Transfiguration Mural (a medium sized perhaps about 4ft x 3ft) painting of what became the Mural. Former students of his (at the College of the Arts, where he was the principal) did visit him and he did introduce a few of them to us. You are absolutely accurate about the cost and funding and about Warden Selvaratnam, being the 'prime practical mover' that led to what we revere and love as the Mural in our College Chapel of the Transfiguration.

Chaplain Revd. Roy Bowyer Yin with the 'blessing' of Warden, Revd. Canon Reginald De Saram, had initiated the 'The Friends of the College Chapel-Fund' – I think that was what it was called – in (circa) 1957, with his vision of a future Transfiguration Mural to replace the backdrop of the sanctuary which then had a 'dull' curtain, and the 'dome' – which had stars on a blue background.

I remember this by my regular attendance (in my days as a student and Chapel Server and later, Senior Sacristan) at the meetings of the 'Servers and Choristers.' These meetings (after 'special' breakfast) were held in the Library – following Holy Eucharist on the first Sunday of each Term and were Co-Chaired by The Warden and The Chaplain).

On assuming duties as Warden on 1 July 1965, Revd. John Selvaratnam contacted Revd. Roy Bowyer Yin (who was then in Malaysia). He then came over to Colombo at the invitation of Revd. John Selvaratnam and I think that they contacted Mr. David Paynter – and the rest is history. I know what I am writing about, because I was there – teaching and living at College (as Maths and Science Teacher, and Boarding House Master 1965-1975), and I also remember (as a boarder in Winchester and Copleston-Claughton, 1951-1962), the rather dull Blue and Black curtain that covered the space in the pre-mural era and the scaffolding etc during the painting in progress and how the agile Mr Paynter climbed and descended as he pleased, for the work of painting the Mural. He was technically a 'retired person' then, but he had the God given strength, agility, skill, and vision to complete the wonder!

Warden Selvaratnam had regular mini-conferences (a couple, every week) with Mr Paynter, in the Sanctuary as well as (sometimes) on the Chapel Steps 'seating space' during the currency of the painting process. The Warden as well as Mrs. Rathie Selvaratnam were always enthusiastically supportive of Mr. Paynter and provided hospitality and fellowship at the Warden's House from time to time and made him feel one with us in the Thomian Community.

There have been several 'accounts' of the coming into being of the 'Mural of the Transfiguration of Our Lord' without any mention of Warden Revd. Selvaratnam – and I am glad that you helped to address this inequity in your article for the STC NSW OBA and set the record straight.

It was Bishop Harold De Soysa that presided at the Chapel Service that celebrated the opening of the completed Mural.

In my view, in our 'Transfiguration Mural' History, there are four Heroes – namely, Mr. David Paynter, (for the spiritually and visually artistic wonder he created), Chaplain Revd. Roy Bowyer-Yin (for his visionary idea of the future Mural), Warden Canon Reginald De Saram (for the 'nod of authority' to go ahead with the idea of the Mural proposal), and Warden Revd. John Selvaratnam – (for the practical enthusiasm, authority and the day-to-day follow-up and coordination from commencement to completion, which got the painting of the Mural done). A 'Magnum Opus' for all our Heroes!

Thanks to these Great Leaders working and giving of their prophetic vision, knowledge, skill and time in our College, generations of Thomians and Visitors – have been, and are, and will be – spiritually inspired and heartily grateful as they 'Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness' in our beloved College Chapel.

Esto Perpetua pro Deo et Ecclesia. Godfrey Senaratne"

I would like to thank Mr Godfrey Senaratne for candidly sharing his personal experiences relating to when the Transfiguration was conceived, incubated, birthed and became a reality with David Paynter's vision of the Christ. May we as Thomians continue to transform the lives of those in need.

APPRECIATION - SARATH JAYASURIYA



It is with a deep sense of loss that I record the passing away of a dear friend and classmate at the school by the sea.

Sarath and I entered together in the Lower school as mere boys and grew up together through the Middle and Upper schools until we left the portals of this great institution to pursue higher education at University and in the process built lasting bonds of friendship for just over a decade.

What strikes me most from his young days was his smiling face and pleasant disposition, a very amiable personality, unassuming, a quiet achiever not only in school but also clearly evident in his remarkable entrepreneurial achievements in later life until the very end.

To Sarath his alma mater was close to his heart and he was always proud of the school by the sea and his Thomian heritage. This led to Sarath serving on the Executive committee of the Old Boys Association in Melbourne and it just so happened that we joined in the same year. He served for several years and was also the Vice President.

Sarath was always attached to his classmates. The outpouring of grief and the tributes that have flowed from his classmates is testament to the fact. He was always keen to participate in our reunions and sometimes would advance his arrival or delay his departure from Colombo, if at all possible. I remember meeting him before I left for Colombo in March for our class “Three Score and Ten reunion” and Sarath was not able to attend as he was preparing to go in for surgery and I felt his pain of missing out in reuniting with his friends.

On my return he was so happy to hear news of all our classmates that attended the reunion and inquired about those who missed out. Whenever a classmate visited Melbourne, Sarath was overjoyed and I would get an excited call from my friend and together we would plan a reunion to catch up with fellow Thomians down under. He would also take a day off from his busy schedule to take them around Melbourne sightseeing, entertaining them the whole day. That was Sarath a true, loyal and trusted friend. Sarath also had a heart of gold and a generous spirit.

Lyle Pieris our classmate recounts his induction to First Eleven cricket, thanks to the superb pair of cricket boots, Sarath so gladly offered him (and they were a perfect fit too), when he noticed that Lyle was going for practices with tennis shoes. Wearing those boots Lyle got a match bag of 9 wickets in his maiden appearance and the happiest man was Sarath. Whenever they met Lyle would remind him of his magnanimous gesture. Sarath was a man not only with a large heart but also a kind, compassionate and caring heart.

Another of our classmates Anil remembers Sarath as the one who was instrumental in getting him employment in Colombo by introducing him to a potential employer where he was gainfully employed for over 17 years.

I also remember in August receiving a call from Sarath, so very upset that another of our classmates had passed on so suddenly.

As boys when we walked through the gates at St Thomas’ wealth, class, caste, creed, religion, ethnicity were never a barrier that separated us, but we were one in spirit, the Thomian brotherhood, upholding the great traditions of oneness and equality. These characteristics were ingrained in Sarath as he strove for a just and fair society, devoid of discrimination and inequity, in his mother land Sri Lanka which was close to his heart.

It was Warden Buck the head of the school where Sarath was moulded as a man, said, and I quote, “You belong to one of the best schools in the world, a school with traditions. Be proud to be a Thomian, and make the College proud of numbering you amongst its sons – Remember that what ever you do and wherever you go your life and actions will reflect either credit or discredit on the college where you were trained and to which you owe so much. You have learned the best lessons in the world at St Thomas.

I trust not only English and Mathematics but true manliness and truth, courage, purity and all those things that make a man and a gentleman. Try never to forget them but be men and gentlemen always.” Sarath always did his best to uphold these traditions to the best of his ability and he was truly A MAN AND A GENTLEMAN. Sarath brought honour and credit to his school learning much more than English and Mathematics, he was a “doer” blessed with a sharp intellect, and entrepreneurial skills, always thinking out of the box and moving from one challenge to another.

Sarath, Thomians young and Thomians old, Thomians near and far and all those who have had the privilege of knowing you, salute and honour you for having exemplified and demonstrated the values of courage, service above self, loyalty, generosity, integrity and being a loving family man who adored his wife and children.

Sarath we the Thomian family will miss you dearly and cherish the memories of our friendship that has withstood the test of time.

Rest in peace our dear friend with no more suffering or pain.

Esto Perpetua!

Rajan Hensman



Tribute to Late Mr. Sasi Ganeshan



Mr. Sasi Ganeshan 1976 1st XI Cricket Captain & Head Prefect of S. Thomas' College Mt. Lavinia.

I am truly honored and privileged to have met such a great gentlemen like you Sir, who has been very humble and very open to help out the younger generation to grow up and see life from the bright side.

I still remember the first day I met you at your home with one of my uncles who had worked with you for over two decades to gain some knowledge from your experience as one of the most established school boys as Head prefect of the House, School and as a Cricket Captain S.Thomas' College has ever produced. You're loving wife Aunty Meera also played a very supportive role with her great hospitality whenever we came by to your place for a chat.

At the time I was leading the team in the 139th Battle of the blues I saw how happy you were to share your experience with me and motivate me to lead the Thomian side for a victory which was really helpful in the middle to battle our hearts out with true Thomian spirit. However victory evaded us. I am sure you were more than happy to witness the great Thomian Victory at the 140th Battle of the Blues and I also remember how much you enjoyed the post Big Match dinner at Hilton coming as our Chief Guest with a unique style of dancing.

I will always remember how you were so keen to be updated with my progress in life after leaving college, whenever we met you always made sure to ask me how my cricket and studies had a balanced progress. You always had a smile on your face and the words of wisdom and the memories shared will always be in my heart. Our final meeting was when I came to your place just over a month ago to pay my respects to your late beloved mother. I still recollect the chat we had seated outside your main door in the pathway. Little did I imagine or ever dream that it will be our final meeting.




Once again I am grateful & thankful to have met such a gentlemen like you Sir

Finally I end this message with a deep sense of sorrow in my heart & wish to extend my sympathies to Aunty Meera, Amrtha & Thwaraka

May your soul rest in peace and rise in glory & turf lie gently over you.
Esto Perpetua

Dellon Peiris
Cricket Captain 2018 & Deputy Head Prefect 2019

The Magical sound... of leather on willow
The sweet smell... of freshly cut grass
The Cricketer... crossing the last boundary
To a third innings that would forever last.

STC MERCHANDISE FOR SALE	
	Set of Whiskey Glasses with College Crest in presentation box. \$25.00
	Hip Flask with College Crest in presentation box \$20.00
	College Tie \$15.00
Bundle – Whiskey Glasses and Hip Flask \$40.00	
Bundle – Whiskey Glasses, Hip Flask and Tie \$50.00	
Delivery Options Pick -up by buyer or delivery by OBA Committee Member, if convenient; Or– Handling & Postage at cost	
Contact Information: Chris Varney: Mob: 0407 630 351 Email: chrisvarney10@gmail.com Upali Gooneratne: Mob: 0449024 294 Email: fgooneratne@iiec.org	



STCOBA AND STAFF IN MEMORIUM 2020-21



They remain in our memories forever!!

Sarath Jayasuriya	Sashi Ganeshan
Ranil De Soysa (Class of 55)	Raymond Grero (Class of 2005)
Dion Jayasuriya	Raj Kasianathan
Pastor Lakshman (Lucky) Kanagasabai	R.M. Fernando (1 st XI Cricket Captain 1961)
George Davidson	Peter Armitage
Deveraj Gunasekera	Paduma Wijeratne
Ivor B Cook	Mahasena Jayatilake
Srinath Kapukotuwa	D R N Ferdinando
Sathis Yogaratnam	S K Wickremasinghe
Lakshman De Phillips	Bishan Katugaha (Los Angeles)
Ravi Fernando	Dr Kingsley Gunasekera
Jeyam Devasagayam	Parakrama Jayasinghe
Lyn Amarasuriya	George Mu
Mr L R D De Silva	P Virasinghe
Gamini Amaratunge	Capt. Rakitha Wickramanayeke
C.S. Viswasam (Canada)	P. Mohan Pullenayegem (Arizona)
C.E. Brian Pereira	Lalindra Dharmaratne (Malaysia)
Major. M.R.C. Peiris - SL	Ranji Casinader
D.C. Peiris (UK)	U.N. Gunawardena - SL
Dr C. Ramachandran (Chennai)	Angelo Dias Wanigasekera- SL
S.P.B. Jayasinghe - SL	Arnold Joseph (Brisbane)
Brain A Ferdinands	Mervyn Peiris
Michael De Zoysa	Tilak (Tikka) Wickremasinghe

Esto Perpetua

**STC OBA Australia– Service Record (1972 – 2021)
Past Presidents and Vice Presidents**

First Meeting	28 February 1972
Convened By	Morley Pereira OAM
Attendees	Ivor Jansz, Nimal Wickramanayake, Michael de Jong, Adrian Hancock, Odath Weerasinghe, Trevor Maartensz, Reginald Wydeman

From	To	President		Vice Presidents	
1972	1973				
1973	1974	C R Wise	Norman Jonklass	Benjamin Blaze	
1974	1975	C R Wise			
1975	1976	C R Wise			
1976	1977	C R Wise	Lionel Schockman	Brooke D'Silva	Douglas Pereira
1977	1978	Brooke D'Silva	Lionel Schockman	Douglas Pereira	Errol Jacotine
1978	1979	Brooke D'Silva	Douglas Pereira	Morley Pereira	Ronnie Reid
1979	1980	Brooke D'Silva	Douglas Pereira	Morley Pereira	
1980	1981	Brooke D'Silva	Douglas Pereira	Morley Pereira	George Balthazar
1981	1982	Brooke D'Silva	Douglas Pereira	Morley Pereira	Mark Flamer-Caldera
1982	1983	Brooke D'Silva	Douglas Pereira	Morley Pereira	George Balthazar
1983	1984	Douglas Pereira	Mark Flamer - Caldera	George Balthazar	Frank David
1984	1985	Douglas Pereira	Mark Flamer - Caldera	George Balthazar	Frank David
1985	1986	Douglas Pereira	Mark Flamer - Caldera	George Balthazar	Frank David
1986	1987	Mark Flamer - Caldera	Darley Ingleton	George Balthazar	Frank David
1987	1988	Mark Flamer - Caldera	Darley Ingleton	George Balthazar	Frank David
1988	1989	Darley Ingleton	Frank David	Bandula Molligoda	
1989	1990	Darley Ingleton	Frank David	Bandula Molligoda	
1990	1991	Darley Ingleton	Frank David	Bandula Molligoda	George Balthazar
1991	1992	Darley Ingleton	Frank David	Bandula Molligoda	not filled
1992	1993	Frank David	Bandula Molligoda	Godfrey Senaratne	Delwyn Lappen
1993	1994	Frank David	Bandula Molligoda	Godfrey Senaratne	Delwyn Lappen
1994	1995	Delwyn Lappen	Ralph D'Silva	Bandula Molligoda	Rod Grigson
1995	1996	Delwyn Lappen	Ralph D'Silva	Bandula Molligoda	Rod Grigson
1996	1997	George Balthazar	Jarit De Mel	Bandula Molligoda	Peter Schoorman
1997	1998	Selva Kanagasabai	Jarit De Mel	Peter Schoorman	John Rodie
1998	1999	Selva Kanagasabai	Jarit De Mel	Peter Schoorman	John Rodie
1999	2000	Jarit De Mel	John Rodie	Rajan Hensman	Arasu Saravanamuttu
2000	2001	Jarit De Mel	Rajan Hensman	Arasu Saravanamuttu	Trevor Mendis
2001	2002	Rajan Hensman	Arasu Saravanamuttu	Trevor Mendis	Rohith Amaratunga
2002	2003	Arasu Saravanamuttu	Trevor Mendis	Rohan Abeyasinghe	
2003	2004	Arasu Saravanamuttu	Peter Weerakoon	Rohith Amaratunga	Trevor Mendis
2004	2005	Arasu Saravanamuttu	Peter Weerakoon	Rohith Amaratunga	Jayampathy (Pajjo) Silva
2005	2006	Jayampathy (Pajjo) Silva	Peter Weerakoon	Rohith Amaratunga	Nalin Dassenaik
2006	2007	Jayampathy (Pajjo) Silva	Nalin Dassenaik	Peter Weerakoon	Rohith Amaratunga
2007	2008	Nalin Dassenaik	Peter Weerakoon	Rohith Amaratunga	Chris Varney
2008	2009	Nalin Dassenaik	Peter Weerakoon	Trevor Meares	Chris Varney
2009	2010	Chris Varney	Trevor Mendis	Trevor Meares	Mark Nanayakkara
2010	2011	Chris Varney	Trevor Mendis	Trevor Meares	Ari Saravanamuttu
2011	2012	Trevor Mendis	Trevor Meares	Jayantha Wanigatunga	Peneeth Goonawardena
2012	2013	Trevor Mendis	Trevor Meares	Jayantha Wanigatunga	Peneeth Goonawardena
2013	2014	Trevor Meares	Peneeth Goonawardena	Vasee Nesiah	Niral Fernando
2014	2015	Trevor Meares	Peneeth Goonawardena	Vasee Nesiah	Niral Fernando
2015	2016	Vasee Nesiah	Peneeth Goonawardena	Mahes Heenetigala	Neomal Jasinghe
2016	2017	Vasee Nesiah	Peneeth Goonawardena	Mahes Heenetigala	Milinda Liyanage
2017	2018	Mahes Heenetigala	Peneeth Goonawardena	Ari Saravanamuttu	Sarath Jayasuriya
2018	2019	Mahesh Heenetigala	Peneeth Goonawardena	Ari Saravanamuttu	Jitendra Udugama
2019	2020	Peneeth Goonawardena	Jitendra Udugama	Saman Liyanage	Asfan Thajudeen
2020	2021	Peneeth Goonawardena	Jitendra Udugama	Saman Liyanage	Asfan Thajudeen

Photo Gallery

Ordination of Bishop of Colombo



Procession to the Cathedral



Bishop receiving offering from his wife, Shehara



Bishop blesses people and nation



Other religious dignitaries



Bishop celebrates service



Bishop blesses the Warden

Photos by the courtesy of Herbert Perera herbertpphotography@gmail.com



S Thomas College Mt Lavinia Sri Lanka OBA Australian Branch Inc.

ABN 18 114 799 661
 PO Box 2337, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149
www.stcobaust.org.au

1 Application for Membership

I desire to become a member of S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia, Sri Lanka O.B.A. Australian Branch Inc. On admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association

Surname			
Given Names			
Date of Birth			
Address			
	State		Postcode
Telephone	Home/Work		Mobile
Email			
College Branch Attended		From	To
Proposer (Name)		Phone or Email	
Seconder (Name)		Phone or Email	

Signature of Applicant: Date:/...../.....

2 Membership Renewal / Change of Address

Membership Renewal		Change of Address		(tick)
Name				
Address				
	State		Postcode	
Telephone	Home/Work		Mobile	
Email				

3 Payment Details

Membership Fees	<i>Members: \$25.00; Full-Time Students & Pensioners Concession: \$10.00</i>			
Cash/cheque/MO	\$..... enclosed (in favour of S Thomas College OBA)			
Bank Transfer	I have credited STCOBA's account online at CBA, Mount Waverley BSB 063-151, Account No. 1002-9468 , in the sum of \$..... having clearly recorded my name as remitter for identification purposes.			
Credit Card	Visa		Mastercard	(tick)
	Name on Card			
	Card Number		Exp/..... CVV
	Cardholder's Signature:			

New Members: Please complete Sections 1 and 3; Existing Members: Please complete Sections 2 and 3

Postal Address and Enquiries	Membership Secretary PO Box 2337, Mount Waverley Vic 3149 Enquiries: Jayampathy (Pajjo) Silva Email: stcoba.finance@gmail.com Tel: 0418619382	Committee Use Only	
		Application Approved	
		Payment Recorded	
		Member Notified	

Subscriptions for 2021 were due on 1st January. If you have not already joined or renewed your membership please use the above form. We will always welcome you. So why not come, join us and support the Association

News Bulletin of the S. Thomas' College Old Boys' Association,
Australia Branch Inc.,

Australia Print Post No:

If not claimed within 7 days return to:

PO BOX 2337, Mt. Waverley, Victoria 3149, Australia