



THE PATRICIAN

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE JAFFNA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (UK)

Registered Charity No: 1088167

www.patrician.org.uk

ISSUE

30

February
2010

Andrew master

A tribute on behalf of the SPC
Jaffna alumni association



Many would have been left wondering why I had not paid my own tribute to Andrew master as yet. I attended his funeral and heard the many tributes paid to him, especially from his sons and I was concerned that I could fall far short of paying the tribute he deserves. Fully aware of this predicament I however felt that I should venture to pay a tribute not just on my behalf but I owed it on behalf of the SPC Alumni Association UK.

Just as I started writing I was reminded of a sermon that I had listened to many years ago, which was firmly ingrained in my mind and I hope will become clear to you why. The preacher alluded to the fact that the Jews

addressed the prophet Moses as Moshe Rabbenu – Mosses the Teacher. Surely Moses had many attributes by which his greatness and his contribution to the Jewish people could have been recognised. He was the liberator of the Jewish people and led them out of captivity. He was the law – giver, a prophet and perhaps even a military leader. We all know the importance of these roles in the history of the Jewish people. Yet the people of Israel felt that the greatest role he had played in their lives and what they revered him most for was his role as a teacher. It is not often that we can recall the contents of a sermon. This sermon stayed with me. It reflected my own admiration and gratitude towards my teachers.

Each one of us could certainly recall a teacher who has left a lasting impression in our minds or one who inspired us to become who we are. Our parents perhaps had the greatest influence in our lives. Indeed it is true. But parents have an influence over their own children. It is almost frightening to imagine

the number of children that a single teacher could influence, perhaps even over two generations. How often have we stopped to realise the significance of this. We at St. Patrick's College were privileged to have had the benefit of some good and great teachers. Andrew master was an outstanding example.

Have I wasted precious space allotted to me by talking of teachers and Moses when I should have been extolling the virtues of Andrew master. I asked myself what Andrew master would have wanted. Had I given him the choice he would have said "Joseph, the modern generation has lost the respect that we used to have for our teachers. Please convey that sense of the importance of a teacher in our lives". Andrew master the truly altruistic individual that he was would have been delighted if even a handful of readers are inspired to have an even greater respect and admiration for those in his chosen profession. I am certain that a tribute to his profession

would please him more than anything I would say about him.

Many tributes have been paid to Andrew master the husband, the father, the teacher and in many other roles. It was moving to hear Jude talking of his father. There are few fathers as deserving as Andrew master. It was such a tribute to hear the son refer to him not just as father but as a friend. His submission to the will of God throughout his illness was a true reflection of his deep Christian faith. He once told me when he was fighting fit, "Joseph we have to accept God's will when the time comes". How well he lived up to his beliefs.

I wish to pay special tribute to him as our leader in the alumni association. He succeeded me as the president. It was the early days of our association and it required strong leadership and we got it. He set the example and his influence lives on today and has undoubtedly influenced the highly successful presidents who followed him. He dedicated a lot of his time and effort and instilled that devotion to his alma mater to all the members of his committee and to the members of the association. Such was his devotion that when Anton heard of his admission to hospital and went to visit him his first inquiry was about the perpetual fund. Soft spoken and gentle in his ways he proved to be a president

we all admired. Having achieved a lot he never made me feel inadequate with what I had achieved.

I am sure that all our members would join me paying a sincere and heartfelt tribute and make bold to say 'not less is thy might wherein heaven thou art. Oh come to our aid in our struggles take part.

He is dearly missed by us all.

Dr. Arulraj Joseph – Editor

The Annual General Meeting of the SPC AA UK will be held at the Northolt Village Community Centre at 5.00pm (17.00 hrs). Members are kindly invited to attend the meeting as informed. Thank you

Secretary SPC AA UK



From the President

Dear Members,

Once again I take great pleasure in conveying my message to you all as President of SPC Alumni Association UK. I am taking this

opportunity to let you all know what we have accomplished in the past year and what our plans are for the future.

The whole world has been in the midst of financial difficulties due to the credit crunch and the economical recession. We too did not escape the brunt of the effects of these difficulties. We saw our income dwindle because of the low interest rate from our Perpetual Fund and also some of our well wishers had difficulties in donating as much as they did in the past. Despite all these difficulties, we have not done too badly when it comes to helping our Alma Mater. I am proud to say that our Alma Mater received the most donations from our Association compared to any other around the world. We as the Association raised in the last year, a total of £24,000. I am so proud to be the head of such a vibrant and enthusiastic team.

So far we have remitted £12,700 to the college for various uses including Relief Fund for Cyclone Nisha, to pay the school fees for the under privileged children, coach the children for Year 5 scholarship etc. equivalent to SL Rs 2.5 million.

We dedicated our Christmas Dinner Dance to raise the awareness of the IDP students who are being educated at our school. There are around 140 IDP students being educated and nine of them are being looked after at the hostel. This means that these children have to be fed & clothed by means of funding alone. On average, these

children need around £300 per year. We appealed for help at our Dinner Dance and two major donors have already contributed £2,500. This money will be sent to the Rector shortly. Once again, through this News Letter, I thank these donors for their generous contribution. We have received details of all the students who are being looked after in the hostel and we are in the process of getting individual donors for these students. I will be very grateful, if any of you can either **fully or partially** (monthly /quarterly contributions are most welcome) sponsor any of these children, please contact one of the committee members. This gesture of goodwill, will be greatly appreciated by the association and the Alma Mater. I also would like to announce that we made a net profit of nearly £4,000 at this event which goes to top up our Perpetual Fund.

At the Dinner Dance we honoured our past Teachers, Mr. Mariasoosai & Mr Navaratnam, Mr. Ponnukone for his services to the Association and Mr. Dilip Tisseverasinghe for his single handed "Marathon Effort" to raise

around £6,000 (incl tax credits) with his sponsored marathon. We the members of the Association are very proud of his personal commitment and achievement.

We are also in the process of compiling a brochure of our aims and achievements, so that we can approach financial institutes for their financial support. This brochure is expected to be released in Spring/Summer 2010. We are also revamping our web site with more efficient communication facilities. For this we need your help. I will be very grateful if all of you could update your details specially your phone numbers and email addresses which will enable us to communicate with you more efficiently and at less cost.

We also stay committed to increase the membership and also to recruit young associate members into the association. Again we need your help to encourage your children to join in as Associate members for this worthy cause.

We are trying our best not to leave any stone unturned when it comes to fund raising. This task

will be made easier if every member helps in any way they can. I am looking forward to your whole hearted support in the coming year.

On a sad note, we lost one of our past President A. B. Andrew (Andrew master) on the 15th January 2010. Andrew Master had been our ardent supporter all through his life in UK and we will miss him beyond any word could describe. Please read Editor's tribute in this issue along with the other tributes appearing on our website.

We are also launching a new fund raising scheme referred to as "Gift Voucher". Please read our Secretary's detailed explanation on this.

I wish you all a very Happy Patrick's Day and look forward to seeing you on Saturday the 20th March 2010 at our Patrick's Day celebrations & AGM.

Dr.N.R.Rubakumar
President

UK Alumni Launches Gift Vouchers

The establishment of an endowment fund by the SPC Alumni Association was conceived. during July 2004 Patrician Global reunion It was enthusiastically adopted by the association, perhaps unaware of the enormity of the task.

The main fundraising event for the association was the annual dinner dance and sale of raffle tickets. This was complemented by the occasional gift by a few generous donors

The endowment fund relabelled the Perpetual Fund was the brain child of Fr Justin Ganapragasam, then Rector St Patrick's College Jaffna. His objective was for the alumni associations all over the world to build a SLRs. 50,000,000 (Fifty million rupees) perpetual fund. It was hoped that the proceeds from its investment (interest) would contribute to the annual running cost of the college. SPC Alumni Association (UK) undertook to raise £250,000 for investment in the UK for this worthy cause.

In addition to the usual fund raising activities enterprising members of the alumni have raised significant sums of money. Gajan successfully carried out a daredevil parachute jump and Dilip one of our past presidents completed a gruelling half marathon.

In search of more novel ideas we are now pleased to announce the launch of a novel gift voucher scheme the brain child of our present secretary Raj Mohan. We are greatly encouraged by its instant success and in two events in January we have raised over £1000 for the Perpetual Fund

The gift vouchers such as the Marks & Spencer and John Lewis vouchers are familiar to all of us. It comes in very handy when recipients do not wish to receive any other form of gifts or if the donor cannot decide on any other gift. It is very common for individuals to request donations to be made to charities of their choice rather than receiving gifts. This is now becoming a popular means by which receive funds.

It is hoped that both Patricians and well wishers would through the purchase of The Patrician Perpetual Fund gift vouchers contribute to this worthy cause and support St. Patrick's College Jaffna to continue with the education specially of children who would otherwise be denied an education they deserve.

We therefore recommend this gift voucher scheme to help us grow the Perpetual Fund to its target and hence support the college to maintain the high standards of education and produce worthy citizens of our motherland and loyal Patricians.

Gift vouchers are available in denominations of £25, £20 & £15 and may be obtained from Dr N R Rubakumar

020 8393 2474 / 0778 690 6613

Mr Joseph Rajmohan

020 8546 8416 / 0791 321 4187

Mr Joseph Edirimanasinghe

020 8345 7210 / 0781 112 8536



**The Old Boys of
St Patrick's College Jaffna Alumni
in the UK
cordially invite all Patricians,
their families, friends and
well-wishers
to join them in celebrating**

St Patrick's Day

**on Saturday the 20th March 2010 at the
Northolt Village Community Hall
Ealing Road
NORTHOLT
UB5 6AD**

Holy Mass at 6.30pm

**Traditional St. Patrick's day dinner
to follow Holy mass**

Entry fee £ 5.00

Please contact Exco member

Notes for you Diary

20th March 2010 – Saturday- AGM

20th March 2010 – Saturday- St Patrick's Day Mass

8th August 2010 Dinukshi Ferdinand – Triathlon –
Fund raising event

1st week in Sept 2010 – Fr Rector visit to UK
(details to follow)

11th December 2010 – Saturday
Christmas Dinner Dance (details to follow)

Fide et labore