



Light from Heaven

Bulletin of SACK OBA (Colombo Branch) July 2025

THEME: National contributions in the field of sports should be the aim of the better sportsmen of the college.

SLOGAN: Sports definitely puts the icing on the cake to a complete Education

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THE COLOMBO BRANCH

The Colombo Branch has initiated many activities and events in keeping with its dedication and one hundred percent loyalty to the ALMA MATER, since its inception 99 years ago. The College of Presidents are as follows and the leadership ADVISE AND GUIDANCE, THEY IMPART is an ADVANTAGE TO THIS PARTICULAR FAMOUS BRANCH OF St. Anthonys College Old Boys Association, popularly referred to as SACKOBA Colombo branch. Let's read the names of the college of presidents as follows



Gamini Karunaratne, Shirly Wickramasingha, Justice Asoka De silva, Tissa Bandaranayake, Priyantha Mendis, Priyantha Rose, Akantha Pandithasekera, mark Francis, Murshid Maharoof, Wilhelm Brown , and Rohan Wijesinghe. We take this opportunity to congratulate Jude Pillai who was voted in as the President of the Colombo Branch for a second term in the recent AGM of June 1st, 2025, at Cinnamon Lakeside hotel where there were 85 old Antonians in attendance. The Acting Principal Rev. Fr. Dushantha Perera OSB and the President of the SACK OBA Parent Body Mark Stephens kind presence at the Colombo Branch AGM was inspiring and supportive. We thank them both most sincerely. The following members joined the Colombo branch. In 2024/25. They are BGMS BokKawela, Amodha Galgamuwa, Gayan Abeykoon, SSB Angunawela, Dhamika Samarasekera, Reza Junaideen, M Maufer Usoof, T Kokul Dev, Nihal Dhammika Jayasekera, Asela Jayasekera. We thank them profoundly.

The Colombo Branch, under President Jude Pillai's efficient leadership, reveled and had some fantastic events like the December 2024 Christmas Carols, the amazing most beautiful Dinner Dance of our history where 400 plus were in attendance and all had a memorable night in January 20225, at The Cinnamon Life Hotel. The recent AGM at Cinnamon Lakeside was another fabulous event, thanks to Jude Pillai, Ruchira Athurupana, Sanjaya Sirisena, Shehan Fernando, Sirimevan Perera, Ladis Ghnanapragasam, to name a few. A special word of praise to our Hony. Secretary of the Colombo Branch, Sanjaya Sirisena, who over the years, has done yeoman and excellent service to the branch as a dedicated ever hard-working Hony. Secretary. Next year 2026, Colombo Branch celebrates its centenary. So dear Antonians, rally round the banner and the Colombo branch with lots of support and participation, God bless you all. St. Anthony of Padua, our Patron be with us.

Lux De Coelo.

A VISIT TO OUR COLLEGE PREMISES IN APRIL 2025

A visit around almost the entire acreage of St. Anthony's College Kandy was nostalgic during our three-day big match versus Trinity which was played on our beautiful and well maintained college cricket grounds. Our cricketers bounced back really well and held Trinity to a tame draw in the first ever three-day encounter thanks to an excellent and breezy quick fire century by a young and bold, gallant Antonian cricketer who has carved his name into our history book of King Cricket. meeting former colleagues of our Alma Mater and the teaching staff was memorable. We met the warden of villa, Rev. Fr. Joseph and warden of orphanage at former Masoon Rev. Fr. Emille Joseph, main OSB Priests including the Acting Principal Rev. Fr. Dushmantha Perera OSB Vice Principal who is doing a great job at College, as the warden of the Villa boarding, the Priest in charge of the Mansion Orphanage, Rev Fr. Emille Joseph OSB and we also visited The Principal, Rev. Fr. Henry Wijeratne OSB, who is recuperating after a surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery. At the Old boys and visitors viewing new building, we met Rev. Fr. Araliya Jayasundera OSB, who is the Principal of Trinity College Kandy and who is doing an excellent administrative job as Principal at Trinity. Rev. Fr. Araliya and I met each other after a few years and I was really glad to see him. Father Araliya Jayasundera is such a dynamic, very competent and handsome OSB priest. whom I used to meet at college rugger matches some years ago when he was our vice Principal and a few times at Trincomalee when he did great service to the children in the then war torn Eastern coastal town of Trincomalee. Meeting the Tutorial staff at our big match and especially the teachers was a pleasant surprise and we visited the Staff Room and the Quadrangular block and the two high-rise buildings, one named Padua block. These areas and buildings and washrooms were very well maintained, clean and fabulous. Congratulations to the acting Principal, other OSB Priests at College tutorial Staff and the support staff, the high Caliber College Prefects and most of the students. Looking forward to seeing a new Chapel or small church at our Primary School.

Finally the closed-up areas like the former Pre Mansion, the former Sickroom, the Upper Refectory areas are overgrown and unclean. Clean Sri Lanka requires owners of properties, buildings and gardens to be kept clean and tidy. Overgrown tall grass and shrubs are trimmed and kept clean in enhancing a good environment and countering the Mosquito menace that's causing dengue and chikungunya. closed up properties in the premises of St Anthony's college Kandy look terrible. THE former rainbow and its historic chapel are all demolished for the Rugger stadium coming up. In conclusion we inform all readers that The basketball courts project is still ongoing and that the Colombo branch will definitely complete it soon.... rest assured Young and Old Antonians. My following friends accompanied me for the big match and walked all over our college premises on 4th and 5th April 2025. They are Premalal De Silva, Chithral Munaweera, Srimevan Perera, and Saliya Munaweera.

The Colombo Branch will be taking steps to improve the College Archives Section. A team of four Colombo Branch Ex, Co members, headed by Priyantha Rose of the College of Presidents will visit the Archives Section in College in July in this regard.

Lux De Coelo.

God bless you all, Dear Rev. Fr. Principal and Staff and present and Old Antonians.

Shane Balthazaar 

(An Antonian - Jan 1962 to May 1974)





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT- SACKOBA COLOMBO BRANCH

It is with immense pride and heartfelt gratitude that I reflect on the journey of my first term as President of the Colombo Branch of our beloved Old Boys' Association. This past year has been a testament to the strength of our brotherhood, the dedication of our members, and the enduring spirit of our alma mater.

One of the highlights of this term was the successful hosting of the SACKOBA Ball 2025, a night that brought together Antonians and their families in celebration, fellowship, and tradition. The event was a resounding success, showcasing the unity and elegance that define our association.

My sincere appreciation to the Co-Chairs Mr. Priyan Perera and Mr. Charaka Perera of the Equally heartwarming was the Christmas Carols program of Dec 2024, beautifully organized by the spouses of our members. Their creativity and commitment added a special warmth to the festive season, reminding us that the OBA family extends beyond its members to those who support us every day. A word of thanks to Editor Bulletin for the two Bulletins of 2024. We also saw vibrant batch gatherings that rekindled old friendships and created new memories, reinforcing the bonds that tie us across generations.

Our initiative, "Antonians Helping Antonians," stood as a shining example of our values in action—offering support, guidance, and solidarity to those in need within our community.

Additionally, our members' social meetings provided a platform for connection, collaboration, and camaraderie, strengthening the fabric of our association. We also were the host of the Saint's Quadrangular Tournament, which was successfully completed and for the first time we invited our sister schools to participate in the ladies' cricket tournament.

Good wishes to our PRIOR, Rev. Fr. Shamindra Jayawardena OSB, now Abbot General of worldwide OSB based in Vatican, Rome in Rome. Special word of thanks to the Hony. Secretary Sanjaya Sirisena and the Treasurer Amila Munaweera and also to Ladislaus Ghana-pragasam and Shehan Fernando. A special note of thanks to Mr. Ladislaus Gnanapragasam and Mr. Shehan Fernando. Best wishes to our Principal, Rev. Fr. Henry Wijeratne OSB, for a speedy recovery and a big thank you to the Acting Principal, Rev. Fr. Dushantha Perera OSB for gracing all events of the Colombo Branch.

As I conclude this first term, I am deeply thankful for the unwavering support of our executive committee, the enthusiasm of our members, and the generosity of our sponsors and well-wishers. Together, we have laid a strong foundation for the future. Let us continue to move forward with unity, purpose, and pride in our shared heritage.

Dimitri Jude Pillai

President - SACKOBA Colombo Branch AGM 2024/25





MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGE KANDY

Good wishes and blessings to the President of the Colombo branch, Mr. Jude Pillai and to his Executive Committee, to the college of Presidents and all the members of the SACKOBA Colombo Branch for a happy and successful year ahead in 2025 – 26

Your commitment in upholding the proud traditions and core values of St Anthonys college Kandy is truly commendable. I am deeply grateful to you for the many ways in which you continue to help the college be it through membership, infrastructure development, scholarships or special programs. These efforts strengthen our institution and serves as a guiding light to the present generations of Antonians.



As you chart your future plan, I encourage you to continue in this noble mission keeping alive the spirit of harmony loyalty and service that has been the hallmark of The Alma Mater.

May your deliberations be successful and your comradery be ever enriched by the values we cherish.

May GOD Bless you all

Rev Fr Dushantha Perera OSB
Acting Principal of St. Anthony's College Kandy.



**ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGE KANDY OBA
DEFENSE FORCES AND POLICE GROUP SOCIAL
AND FELLOWSHIP DINNER NIGHT, AT
SRI LANKA NAVY CLUB HOUSE IN NOVEMBER
2024**



THIS OBA GROUP WHICH WAS INAUGURATED IN 2018 HAS BEEN RECOGNISED BY THE OBA PARENT BODY AND BOASTS OF MEMBERSHIP OF 200 ANTONIANS WHO ARE SERVING OR HAVE SERVED THE COUNTRY, IN THE DEFENCE FORCES AND AND POLICE.

THE INAUGURAL SACKOBA DFP GROUP IN 2018 AT NAVAL HEADQUARTERS AREA, COLOMBO FORT



Old Antonian Social Club Inc. ABN 13 567 343 351
698 Stud Road VIC 3179 Email:- AustralianSACKOBA@outlook.com



Most Rev. Fr. DOM Shamindra Jayawardane-OSB
The Abbot General,
Sylvestro Benedictine Congregation.

03rd June 2025

Prayerful Congregations to most Rev. Fr. DOM Shamindra Jayawardane-OSB

Your Excellency,

On Your Election as Abbot General of the Sylvestro Benedictine Congregation

As fellow Antonians, we are filled with joy and gratitude to God for your historic election as the first ever Sri Lankan and Antonian Abbot General of the Sylvestro Benedictine Congregation. We join you in prayerful thanksgiving for this esteemed appointment, which is both a great honour and a profound responsibility in the service of the Church.

All Antonians in Australia unite with me in offering our heartfelt congratulations and prayerful best wishes as you begin this new chapter of your ministry in God's vineyard. May the Lord continue to guide, strengthen and bless you abundantly as you lead the Congregation with wisdom and humility.

The Old Antonian Social Club fondly recalls the many occasions our members were privileged to meet you, both here in Australia and in Sri Lanka. Your warmth, humility and spiritual leadership have always left a lasting impression on our community.

With prayers and best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ashok Ariyaratnam

President Old Antonian Social Club Inc. Australia

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IMPORTANT PHOTOS TAKEN AT AGM 2025

**THE EXCELLENT HARD WORKING
AND
DEDICATED HONY SECRETARY
OF SACKOBA COLOMBO BRANCH
MR. SANJAYA SIRISENA.
A LOYAL ANTONIAN
AND A STALWART
OF THE COLOMBO BRANCH.**



IMPORTANT PHOTOS TAKEN AT AGM 2025



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IMPORTANT PHOTOS TAKEN AT AGM 2025



SRI LANKAN ABBOT ELECTED TO HEAD SYLVESTRO BENEDICTINE CONGREGATION



Most Rev. Dr. Shamindra Jayawardena OSB has been elected the Superior General of the Sylvestro Benedictine Congregation.

A Sri Lankan abbot has been elected the Superior General of the Sylvestro Benedictine Congregation.

Most Rev. Dr. Shamindra Jayawardena OSB has been elected as the Abbot General (Superior General) of the Sylvestro Benedictine Congregation.

By this election, he became the 119th successor of St. Sylvester Guzzolini, Abbot, the founder of the Monastic Order, as announced by Sylvestro Benedictines-Sri Lanka's Facebook post on May 28.

Sylvestrine Congregation of the Benedictine Order (O.S.B. Silv.) is a Monastic Order of Pontifical Right for men.

In 1231, St. Sylvester Guzzolini, Abbot, founded the monastic order in Italy. Shamindra was born on January 13, 1972, made first vows on August 15, 1992, and final vows on August 15, 1998. He was ordained a priest on December 21, 2000.

He was elected as the prior abbot of Sri Lanka on November 21, 2013, and was re-elected for the second time in 2019.

He is the second person from Asia to head the congregation. The Sylvestro Benedictine Congregation is present in Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

NEWS ABOUT PROJECTS AND ONGOING PROJECTS DONE BY SACKOBA COLOMBO BRANCH FOR COLLEGE FOR 2025—26

BISHOP LEO NANAYAKKARA SPORTS COMPLEX

This is administered and maintained by the Colombo branch with the assistance of the manager Mr. Chandra Mahawattage and Rev Father Principal. The complex has been utilized by college students and outsiders. Colombo branch of SACKOBA carries out repair's renovations and maintenance. It includes the badminton court. Table tennis court cricketers



dressing room, cricket coaches and umpires dressing room dormitory for team Viewing galleries and washrooms/toilets. Colombo branch is in the process of raising funds to do a complete overhaul of the complex.

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

The Colombo Branch President made special mention to Editor bulletin Shane Balthazaar for relaunching the Colombo branch bulletin. Two quarterly bulletins put out in 202as editor was overseas. And this year there will be bulletins in July October and December 2025.

BASKETBALL COMPLEX PROJECT IS ONGOING

This being the brainchild of immediate past president of the Colombo branch Mr. Rohan Wijesinghe, the project consists of relaying of bitumen and replacement of Basketball posts of the exiting court, completion of Changing rooms and a VIP viewing gallery, Shooting boards for practice sessions, Half court complex for the primary section and adjustable and movable backboard funded by Australian branch. Now Courts complex and shooting boards are in place for practice sessions, we are delighted to bring back basketball to college and grateful for untiring efforts made by Immediate past president.



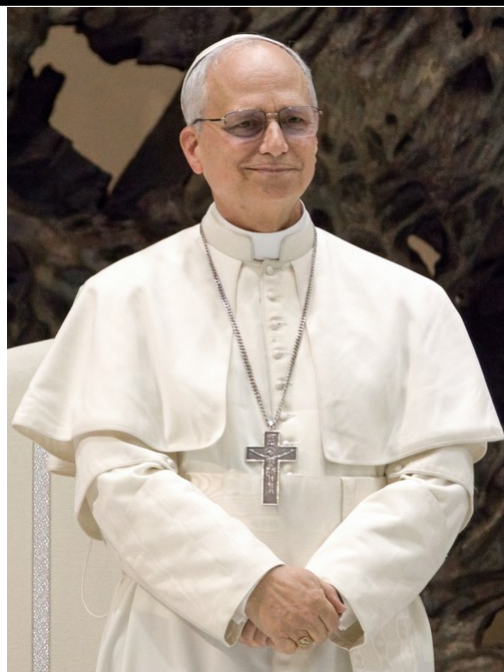
Editor's Note... feedback ..Mr. Wijesinghe said better Levelling of court will be done along with ongoing work in relation to this wonderful project.

OUR NEW POPE LOUIS THE X1V

By Aloy Von Cuylenburg

The Pope wants us all to pray for Peace

Regarding the ongoing wars in the Middle East, Pope Leo XIV asked priests to immediately open the doors of churches and invite people to recite the Holy Rosary and pray with humility before the Eucharist. The American Pope asked the faithful to go to their churches or to the nearest church to pray. The Pope also issued a warning to the world, saying: "The wars in the Middle East, and now also in Ukraine and Crimea, will become very serious and will spread. To stop them, we must pray to God to fill the world with His mercy and for the Holy Spirit to enlighten the rulers so that they may have the knowledge of good and evil and fight together for peace and love." Pope Leo XIV also asked priests to celebrate the Divine Liturgy with simplicity and love, renewing his appeal to all Christians: "Pray, pray, pray, united in prayer every day. Wherever you are in the world, at any time you prefer, leave everything behind and pray to God to send His Holy Spirit to earth!" Pray the Lord's Prayer three times and the Hail Mary three times. A prayer for God to send His Holy Spirit to earth. If you can, share this message with your loved ones.



The Pope writes and asks for our help in spreading it:

For peace in the whole world. We are asked to pray this prayer from today onwards and to repeat it with insistence: Most Holy Trinity, Almighty God, Precious Blood of Christ, destroy Satan, and nullify and paralyze the plots of those who manipulate the whole world. Immaculate Heart of Mary, crush Satan, and nullify and paralyze the plots of those who manipulate the whole world. Saint Michael the Archangel, chain Satan, nullify and paralyze the plots of those who manipulate the whole world. Amen!

The New Pope

1975: This man made a shocking decision:

He rejected Harvard Law to serve Peru's poorest villages Now, he's the 267th Pope

- * Speaks ancient Incan
- * Walked 8hrs to help the poor
- * First American born ever

The untold story of new elected Pope Robert Prevost: In 1975

Robert Prevost was at the top of his game. Chicago math teacher. Devout Catholic. Accepted into Harvard Law. He had everything a young man could dream of, but then—he decided that no one saw coming. He said no to Harvard

No to a six-figure future. No to fame. No to comfort

And yes—to something few dare to choose: A life of complete surrender. He joined a missionary group and moved to Peru. Not to the cities. Not to the tourist spots .



**THE 45TH DINNER DANCE OF THE COLOMBO BRANCH
OF ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGE KANDY,
WAS A FABULOUS EVENT
IN THE TROPICAL CITY OF COLOMBO**

by Editor

A night of Elegance, Rhythm and celebration on 18th January 2025, till 6.00 am the next morning, took place at Cinnamon Life Hotel Colombo. This prestigious event attracted 400 Old Antonians and their guests. Congratulations and hats off to the Two CO CHAIRS PRIYAN PERERA AND CHARAKA PERRA and the dinner dance committee of our Ex Co: for a splendid job in making this event a splendid success. The College of Presidents and Ex-Co-members and those who were able to fulfill their targets in getting sponsorships / and for giving personal donations towards the dance budget, are all complimented here with profound thanks. A big thank you to all who reserved their seats.

The Dinner dance souvenir was elegant, short and pleasing to the eye. We thank our Chief Guest, Mr. Nihal Jayawardena, a legal professional and the Chairman of Hatton National bank Sri Lanka, for his kind presence and as Antonians Old and Young, we are proud of Mr. Nihal Jayawardena's achievements in the banking sector.

We were very pleased with the Marians and Misty for their fabulous. Music. I loved the Marians mate. And Misty has improved with the girls now included, which make it a better band. The ever-green Compere, our own Clifford Richards as usual did an excellent job and yes, the audience was spell bound.

The ladies who took part in the QUEEN OF THE NIGHT are the nicest in our Antonian fraternity who attended this amazing dance. A big thankyou to them all for the pleasant competition which is the spice of life. The judges had a herculean task in deciding the winner and runners up.

All in all, Cinnamon Life City of dreams is a lovely new classy hotel. Two dishes of that memorable diner buffet needed better preparation and professional cooking; so I hope the hotel will make a note of this feedback and improve in this aspect in the future.

We thank all those Antonians who attended the gala night from overseas. Thank you very much Antonian brothers, both young and old in an extra special way.

Congratulations to Our Colombo branch President Jude Pillai and his beloved wife - our first lady. for this great event.

Lux De Coelo.

FEATURE ARTICLE -ANURADHAPURA OUR ETERNAL CITY

By DGS Balthazaar

To visit the sacred city of Anuradhapura one can, take a flight or helicopter from Ratmalana and in less than an hour you will be there. By road or rail is very convenient and cheaper as you reach Sri Maha Bodhi from Colombo in four and half hours to the Buddhist world Anuradhapura has always been the sacred city.

Millions of tourists and devotees visit the Atamasthana every year especially during Vesak and Poson. Mihintale is near the Atamasthana which consist of the Sri Maha Bodhi, the Thuparama, the Brazen Palace, the Ruwanwelisaya, the Abhayagiri, the Mirisavetiya, the Lankarama and the Jetawanarama. During Poson Poya Sri Lankans celebrate the introduction of Buddhism to Lanka/ Ceylon which was the third century BC.

King Devanampiyatissa built the first Dagaba in ancient Lanka in the 3rd century BC which is the Thuparama. He also built Isurumuniya an ancient monastery. The Thuparama is about 60ft in height. At Isurumuniya the “panel of lovers”, the horseman and elephants and a monastery. All done 2500 years ago, what splendor and genius during the reign of the Kings time. Devanampiyatissa is the Father of Buddhism in Lanka, during his reign there was a famous Emperor named Asoka in India. He sent his son and daughter to Anuradhapura (Mihintale) and introduced Buddhism. They were Monk Arahat Mahinda and Monk Sangamitta.

The most celebrated ruler of ancient Lanka was King Dutugemunu, During King Dutugemunu’s reign he built the Miriswetiya dagaba, the great Ruwanwelisaya dagaba. Ruwanwelisaya is the best and nicest dagaba in the World. King Duttugemunu also built the “Brazan Palace”, which was built to accommodate all the Monks in the sacred city at Attamastana, today all that remains of this monastery are few rows of store pillars about 12ft in height. The oldest historical tree in the World is the Sri Maha Bodhi (250-210BC) a sapling of the Bo Tree that Gautama mediated in Buddhagaya India, was sent by Emperor Asoka through his daughter Monk Sangamitta. This sapling was planted amidst all Buddhist Monks, the king and devotees of the time. This has grown over two and half centuries into a large tree named “Sri Maha Bodhi”.

The Abhayagiri was built by King Vattagamani Abhaya, the Lankaramaya was also built by him, popularly known as King Valagambahu and the Jethawanaramaya was built by King Mahasen.

The irrigational engineering of the famous wewas is a marvel of both the ancient world and modern Era. The Nuwara Wewa. The Tissa Wewa, and the Bassawakkulama Reservoir are artificial lakes called tanks and are only about 40 miles from the famous Kala wewa built by King Datusena. Spend a day at the Attamastana, Isurumuniya, Mihintale , Kala Wewa and Aukana and have a night stop at Tissa Wewa Rest House or any nearby hotel.

When Emperor Asoka’s son, Prince Arahat Monk Mahinda converted King Devanmpiyatissa to Buddhism at Mihintale 2500 years ago, Buddhism became a great religion in Ceylon Sri Lanka and Asia.

In conclusion we must never forget that the founder of the “City of Anuradhapura” was king Pandukabhaya in 437 BC and let us remember the following: -

Vijaya landed in Thambapani – Sri Lanka – 544 BC with 700 followers

Arahat Monk Mahinda converts Devanampiyatissa to Buddhism in Mihintale and people followed – 307 BC

Woman Monk Shangamitta, daughter of Emperor Asoka of India brings sapling of Bo Tree of Buddhagaya to Lanka in 288 BC. The Sapling grew to a huge tree and now it is the oldest tree in the world in Anuradhapura.

Anuradhapura was the ancient capital city of Sri Lanka from 543 BC to 1029 AD and thereafter the Capital City shifted to Polonnaruwa from 1029 AD to 1232 AD

**Executive committee
of St. Anthony's College Kandy OBA
Defense Forces & Police
for 2024-26**



Executive Committee Members:

President: Rear Admiral PJB Marambe

Vice President (Army): Brigadier Thushan Ganepola

Vice President (Navy): Rear Admiral Nilantha Hewavitharana

Vice President (Air Force): Group Captain Rajeew Pagoda

Vice President (Police): Senior Superintendent of Police IJM Devapriya

Secretary: Group Captain Niroshan Kiriwella

Treasurer: Major Thilina de Silva

Other Executive Committee Members:

Squadron Leader P C Jansz

Major General Udayantha Wijerathne (Retd)

Rear Admiral KG Paul (Retd)

Colonel Sampath Bulathgama

Senior Superintendent of Police Athula Daulagala (Retd)

Captain Sagara Chandrasoma

Commodore Upul Samarakoon (Retd)

The New Pope of the Roman Catholic Church of the World

1975: This man made a shocking decision: He rejected Harvard Law to serve Peru's poorest villages. Now, he's the 267th Pope

- Speaks ancient Incan
- Walked 8hrs to help the poor
- First American born ever

The untold story of new elected Pope Robert Prevost: In 1975 Robert Prevost was at the top of his game. Chicago math teacher. Devout Catholic. Accepted into Harvard Law. He had everything a young man could dream of, But then—he made a decision that no one saw coming. He said no to Harvard. No to a six-figure future. No to fame. No to comfort. And yes—to something few dare to choose: A life of complete surrender. He joined a missionary group and moved to Peru. Not to the cities. Not to the tourist spots. But to the **most** remote villages—where children die from treatable diseases. And families walk miles just for clean water. There were no roads. No running water. No WiFi. Just mountains. Silence and poverty. But he embraced it like home

Robert didn't just live **among** the people. He became **one** of them

- Learned Quechua—the sacred language of the Incas
- Carried food on foot for days
- Slept on dirt floors with the villagers
- Prayed under the stars

When he wasn't building shelters. He taught math to barefoot kids under broken rooftops. When he wasn't teaching. He carried the sick on donkeys to get help. When he wasn't healing. He listened—truly listened—to stories no one else cared to hear.

While his friends from back home became lawyers and doctors. He became something else entirely. A shepherd. A brother. A quiet warrior of faith. And slowly—his legend grew. His acts weren't broadcasted. But they echoed through the Andes. Bishops noticed. Priests noticed. And eventually—the Vatican noticed

They called him back to lead his entire Augustinian order. From serving a village to overseeing 2,800 brothers in over 40 countries.

Still—he kept his same sandals. Still—he walked with the poor. Still—he rejected luxury. Then came the call that changed everything. Rome wanted him closer. In 2020 He was appointed Archbishop and assigned to govern other bishops globally. It was rare. But Robert had never chased tradition. He wasn't just fluent in Latin or Canon Law.

He was fluent in **compassion**. In humility. In listening. In **presence**

The Vatican didn't just see a priest. They saw a **leader with soul**. On September 30, 2023. Pope Francis made it official:

Robert Prevost was named a Cardinal. Just one step below the Pope

And then... in 2025: History was made. For the first time ever. An American. A former math teacher. A missionary to the forgotten. Was elevated as the 267th Pope of the Catholic Church

And he didn't forget the people who shaped him. To this day. Pope Robert still returns to the same villages. Still prays in

Quechua. Still sits on dirt floors. Still holds the hands of the elderly in silence'

Because leadership he believes: Is about **presence** not position

The world is obsessed with power. But Robert Prevost proves:

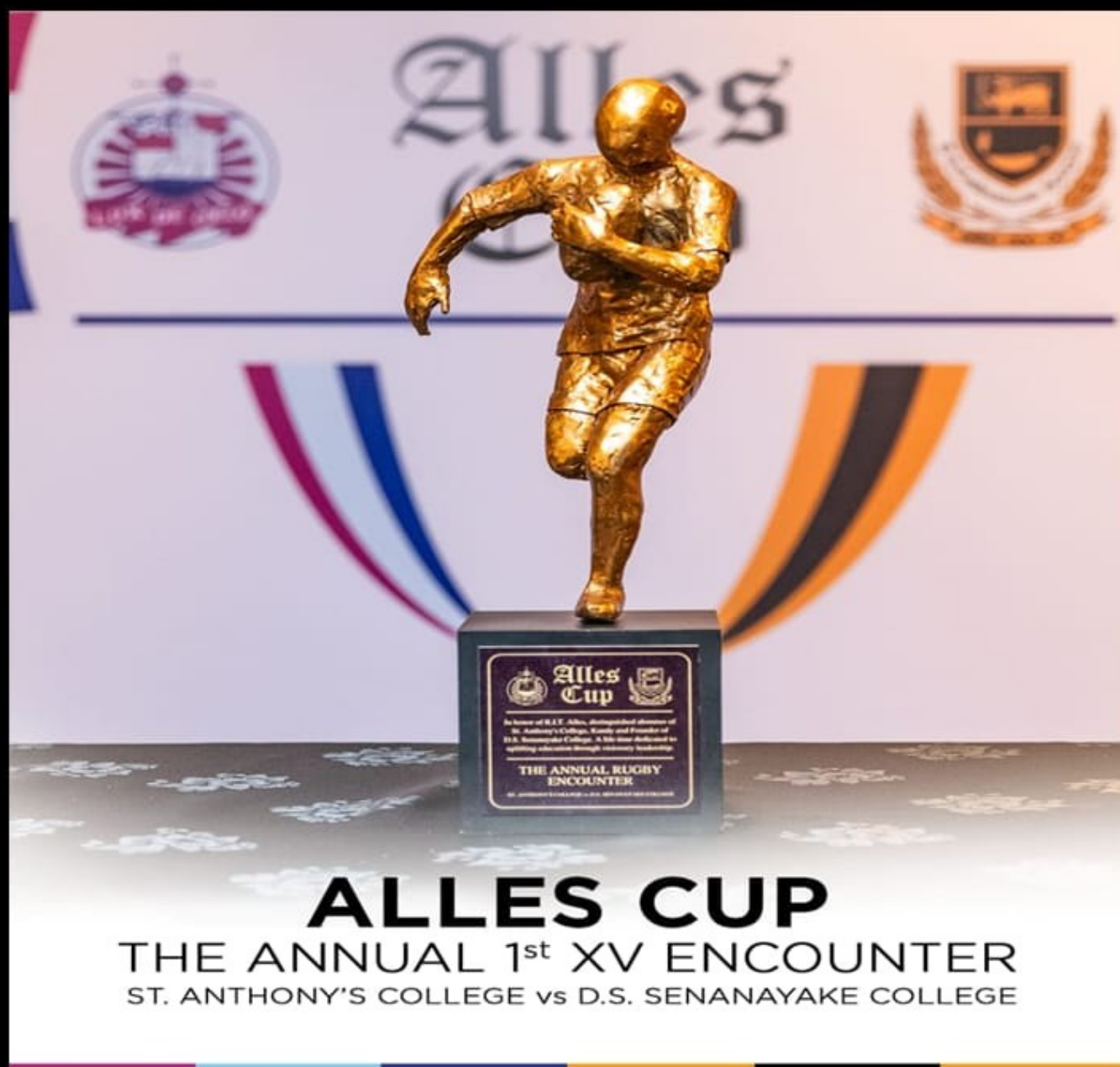
- Titles mean nothing without service
- Knowledge is useless without love
- And faith—without sacrifice—is noise

He turned down the world. And changed it instead.



Sent by Jude Lester Perra of the Ex Co

MARKING A NEW CHAPTER IN SCHOOLS RUGBY!



D.S. Senanayake College vs. St. Anthony's College, Kandy clashing for the inaugural Alles Cup –

The official annual 1st XV rugby encounter between two proud institutions.

The Alles Cup is named in honor of R.I.T. Alles – a distinguished alumnus of St. Anthony's College, Kandy and the visionary Founder of D.S. Senanayake College, who dedicated his life to uplifting education through visionary leadership.

The inaugural edition of the Alles Cup was held on 6th June 2025 at the historic Nittawela Stadium, Kandy.



RECIPE CORNER

FROM SACK OBA COLOMBO BRANCH LADIES CLUB

Easy Mediterranean Baked Chicken Breast

By Deepika Perera

Prep Time:10mins/Cook Time:40 mins/Additional Time:10mins/Total Time:1hr

Ingredients

- 2 (8 ounce) skinless, boneless chicken breasts
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ cup olive oil
- ¼ cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano, or more to taste
- ¼ teaspoon dried thyme, or more to taste

Directions

Season chicken breasts with salt and pepper on all sides and place in a bowl or lidded container. Combine olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, oregano, and thyme in a small bowl and pour marinade over chicken breasts. Marinate for 10 minutes at room temperature.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Set one oven rack about 6 inches from the heat source.

Place chicken breasts into a baking dish and pour marinade on top.

Bake chicken on the middle rack of the preheated oven until no longer pink in the center and the juices run clear, 35 to 45 minutes, depending upon thickness. Move baking dish to the top rack and broil chicken until well browned, about 5 minutes.



PREMALAL DE SILVA, CHITHRAL MUNAWEERA, SRIMEVAN PERERA
AND SHANE BALTHAZAAR WITH REV. FR. EMILLE JOSEPH OSB WARDEN
OF THE ORPHANAGE IN MANSION



OBITUARIES: MAY THEY REST IN PEACE, AMEN

Old Antonians,

Mr. Desmond Perera, Prof. Lakshman Alwis, Mr. John Hubert Landsberger, Mr. Blair Blom, Mr. Nihal Bandara, Mr. A.L.M. Razeek, Mr. J.J. Joseph, Mr. Supun Jayamanne, Mr. Maximen Coonghe, Mr. Kingsley Perera, Mr. Jayantha Udukumbure, Mr. Andrew Nadaraja, Mr. Yohan Wanigasekara, Mr. Fazil, Mr. Gamini Bandara Palipane, Mr. Subaseela, Mr. Chandana Ratnayake, Mr. Franklyn Amarasinghe, Mr. Joseph Gerard Mendis, Mr. Tyrone Rosayro, Mr. Christy Augustine, Mr. R.C. Jayasinghe, Mr. Andree Anthony John, Mr. Bryan Arnolda, Mr. Raja Andree, Mr. Tyronne Rozairo, Mr. Victor Ivan, Mr. Sithanbaran Pillai Nadaraja, Mr. Nirmal Fernando, Mr. Shantha Jayawardena, Ven. Matale Seevali Thero, Mr. Sumith Koangala, Mr. Bryan Offen, Mr. Milhan, Mr. Rohana Wijesundara Ranaweera, Mr. Ryan Silva. Mr. Alan Kelly. Leslie Trevor Curly Fernando (group of '63). Mr. Vijitha Koki-la Hathurusinghe.

Beloved Fathers of Old Antonians,

Mr. Raja, Mohan and Ravi Gabriel, Mr. Gimhan, Sameera and Sachintha Weerabahu, Col. Sampath Bulathgama, Mr. Daminda Kolugala, Mr. Jude Lester Perera, Dr. Aruna and Upul Abeysundara, Rev. Fr. Dushantha Perera O.S.B,

Beloved Mothers of Old Antonians,

Mr. Dilshan Hannan, Mr. Ashok Ariyaratnam, Mr. Rugunathan, Mr. Athula Abeysinghe, Mr. Dexter and Leroy Fonseka, Mr. Palitha Anthony, Rev. Fr. Starret Melder, Dr Godwin Constantine

Beloved Sister of Old Antonian,

Mr. Vijay Vijayakumaran

Belove Brother-in-Law's of Old Antonians,

Mr. Akantha Pandithasekera

Mr. M.S. Fernando

Belove Sister-in-Law of Old Antonian,

Mr. Rohan Wijesinghe

Beloved Spouses of Old Antonians,

Mr. Milan Tharaka Perera, Mr. Suresh Gunatillake, Late Mr. S.A. Constantine

Beloved Fathers-in-law of Old Antonian,

Mr. Amila Munaweera

Former Staff members at College,

Mr. Anil Wijesinghe, Rev. Brother Thomas Joseph Justus, Rev. Brother Lionel Perera O.S.B., Mr. Chandana Seneviratne, Ms. Glenna Pereira,





COLLEGE SPORTS

JANUARY TO JUNE 2025

CRICKET

Our cricketers performed well during the season. At the big Match at Katugastota , the first three-day encounter in the history of the Trinity Antonian, the Eagles bounced back splendidly and prevented Trinity from obtaining an outright victory. Result a tame draw, thanks to an excellent century of 135 by young Kaushika Kumarasinghe who saved college from an embarrassing defeat. Tally as at today... is Played 106, Drawn 72, Trinity has won 23 and St Anthonys has won only 11. Congratulations to the Cricketers, coaching staff and not forgetting the Antonian Cricket Wing for their yeoman tasks and supporting role.



RUGBY

Our Rugby team need to win at least two matches during the balance of the season. Sadly, up to now they lost to Trinity in a knockout game 65 to 5 , and in the ongoing league the college rugby team has lost to DS Senanayake College Colombo, St Peters College Colombo and Wesley College Colombo. We hope the rugby players do well in the balance matches of this season. We appreciate all the dedicated hard work done by the coaching Staff and the Rugby Wing of the college. It's up to the players to perform and win for heavens sake.



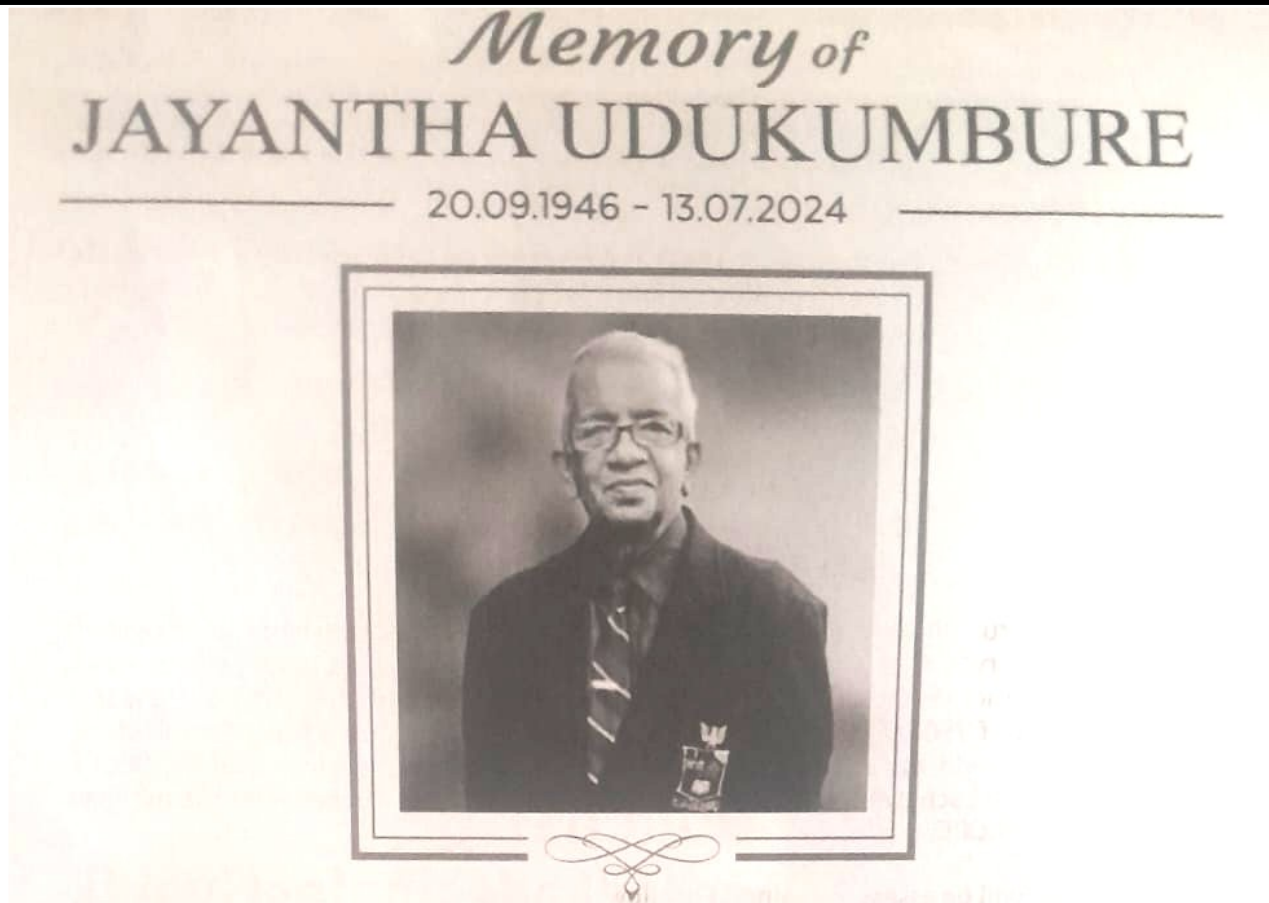
SWIMMING

The 50th Sri Lanka schools swimming tournament took place at the Sugathadasa stadium in mid-June 2025. Two very good swimmers from college namely CJ Niyandgala and AGT De Silva did very well and between them won four silver medals for St Anthonys college Kandy. Well done and heartiest congratulations to you both. Thank you to the Coach and the rest of the swimming team of college for all the good work done. Thanks to Mr M Sivanesan for donating the T shirts to the swimming team of the college. This was a wonderful gesture on your part Mr. Sivanesan. Incidentally, the Colombo Branch hosted a special dinner to the swimming team. Colombo branch has been doing such wonderful services over the years, for college sports teams, when in Colombo.



The college celebrated its 171st birthday, in 2025 (1854 AD to 2025 AD) and celebrated college day on June13th which was the FEAST DAY of our Patron Saint, St Anthony of Padua. Lux De Coelo.

JAYANTHA UDUKUMBURA APPRECIATION



Remembering Jayantha Udukumbure. A wonderful husband to Nirmala, a kind father to Aruni and Ranmini, a gentle father-in-law to Rajitha Heenkenda and Chanaka Unantenne and an entertaining soul to grandchildren Ravindu and Vikum Heenkenda.

Fondly known as “Jayantha Aiya” among his relatives and as “Udu” among his friends, Jayantha was born to Tikiri Banda and Biso Menika Udukumbure with two sisters (late) Mangalika and Rani.

His heydays were certainly tied to his alma mater, St. Anthony’s College Katugastota where he cultivated his passion for cricket. 1966 saw him captaining the school Cricket Team to victories and winning the Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award for his brilliant batting. This also earned him the Antonian Eagle, another proud achievement. For Jayantha, the days spent at school were not limited to cricket as there have been many reminiscing tales and anecdotes of fun and mischief related to numerous friends, school masters, students and the hostel.

From school Jayantha moved on to work at Bank of Ceylon (BoC) and worked across the country, serving at many branches as well as regional offices and the Head Office in various capacities.

After serving the bank for 35 years, he moved his focus to cultivating at his ancestral place where he proudly produced yields of coconuts and spices. He was also a part of the Old Antonian Cricket Wing and served a term as its president, contributing to the development of school cricket. He was instrumental in setting up and supporting the Golden Oldies of St. Anthony’s College Katugastota and was part of SACKOBA as well. He also served as the Secretary of the Senior Citizens Society of Kandy and was involved in many activities.

Popular among peers, friends and relatives alike, Jayantha was a true gentleman, quite witty, loyal and caring.

As the family of Jayantha Udukumbure, we share our heartfelt gratitude to all those who rallied around him during the last few months of his life. This brought him great joy as he was a people’s person and loved the attention he was being given. To his last day, he remained loved and beloved as a husband, father, grandfather, relative and a friend.

While we all miss him, we pray for all merit that will lead him to the *Supreme Bliss on Nibbana*,

Nirmala, Aruni and Ranmini
13. 10. 2024

**THE FABULOUS COLOMBO BRANCH DINNER DANCE AT CINNAMON LIFE CITY OF DREAMS COLOMBO
ON 18TH JANUARY 2025 WAS THE BEST EVER WITH 400 PATRONS**

Sent by Ex Co Member Ladislaus Ghanapragasam



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A COLLECTION OF ANTO OLD BOYS PHOTOS , LEST WE FORGET

1. Visited principal Rev Fr Henry at sick bay 2. Impressive trophy donated by Sackoba DFP , Vice Adm Retd Susith Weerasekera to Principal oba DFP officers at recent Cricket big match. 3. Our very own Hon Secy Sanjaya Sirisena 4. Shirley Wickramasinghe with Ladis Gnanapragasam and friend. 5. Editor with Antonian Lucas Bogstra (group '70). 6. SACKOBA DFP officers at recent Cricket big match. 7. Stalwarts of Colombo Branch. 8. OBA legend Malcolm Dias with his wife Bernie. 9. Sunil Alwis: Birthday bash t his residence.



**A MEMORABLE FOOTBALL ENCOUNTER IN JULY 1960
ST. ANTHONY'S VS. MARADANA CENTRAL
PLAYED AT THE SACK GROUNDS**

By Tilak Pananwala

In 1960, we had a good football team led by Stanley Samarawickrema. Some others in the team were Kanagasabapthy, Vaitilingam, Shanmugam, Hector Fernando, Chandrasekeram, Jayantha Aturupana, Buncho Premaratna, Nallatham, Franko Burke & me. Mr Kanniah was the coach. From 1959 we remained unbeaten. That year Maradana Central College made headlines by beating more fancied teams like St Josephs, St Benedicts, Wesley, Zahira Central etc. They were able to achieve this record mainly due to the individual brilliance of a player from a humble background named P. D. Sirisena. He was a born footballer with all-round skills and went on to represent Ceylon for many years. Apart from him there was one other player in their team who had played for the national side.

We did not have a regular fixture with Maradana Central, but Mr Kanniah was determined to fix a match against them and was successful in his efforts. This was to be a clash of the Titans! Mr Kanniah prepared us well for the encounter. I still recall his talk to the team before the match. He made a very deep statement when he said: *"We have to play every match thinking of how we can be, the best possible version of what we can be!"* In other words, it also meant that *"If you cannot win it, be sure you don't lose it!!"* This pep talk fired our enthusiasm, and we never lost sight of the fact that the competition to follow would be intense.

On that memorable day, a large crowd—including our schoolmates plus people from Katugastota and the vicinity—gathered at the grounds from early afternoon in anticipation of a fine encounter, but especially to see Sirisena in action. If I remember correctly, Mr Burke, a reputed referee and Franco's father, was the referee. Mr Kanniah as usual gave us specific instructions, and I was tasked with covering Sirisena like his shadow and preventing him from having shots at our goal. The match was a ding-dong affair and, in all fairness, Maradana Central had the better of the exchanges and threw everything they had at us, but they were unable to score. United as a team, we displayed great character and energy. At half time it was nil-all, but soon after, a slick forward movement enabled Jayantha Aturupana to post a match-winning goal for us. I can say modestly that I fulfilled the task given to me, covering every angle and thus tied up Sirisena much to his utter frustration. We held onto the lead and thus the unbeaten run of Maradana Central ended. Sirisena was most distressed after this loss. Mr Kanniah, in turn, was gracious enough later to specifically mention my role in this game and included it in the school leaving certificate he gave me.

In later years, Sirisena went on to represent and captain the Saunders Club and the Ceylon team with distinction. He was one of the country's finest products and could have easily shone for an English or European club. On retirement, he became a good coach at club and national level. Our own Tom Deen was a Saunders player during this time. Sirisena's services were well recognized and President Premadasa, himself a Saunders fan, duly rewarded him with a house and named the Price Park Grounds at Maligawatte, the home of the Saunders Club, as the "P. D. Sirisena Stadium."

In later years, as the Command Officer in charge of football in the Air Force, I had occasion to cross swords with Sirisena time and time again in matches against Saunders and the City League. On each occasion, the Air Force team beat Saunders and the City League teams coached by him.

It is very sad to state that Mr. Sirisena passed away in 2017 having been crippled by Parkinson's disease over many years.

May he attain the supreme bliss of Nirvana.



SACKOBA (Colombo Branch) PAST PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES

President	Secretary
C.V. Ranawaka	Louis J. Ariyanayagam
Cyril E. S. Perera	A.C.S.R. Senaratne
D. L. S. P. Abeysekera	Ernest de Silva
L.A. Wijesinghe	D.H. Ambrose
Leon Perera	Emil Elias
Louis J. Ariyanayagam	Francis Perera
D.J. Berenger	A.B.W. Van Reyk
Ashley de Silva	Willie Weerasekera
S.B. Senanayake	Ranjith Samarasekera
W. M. K. Wijetunga	Brian Emmanuel
R.T. Fernando	David Ginger
Willie Weerasekera	Premalal de Silva
Spencer Dias	Dicky Wanasinghe
Tissa Bandaranayake	Spencer Dias
Ranjith Samarasekera	Nishanta Seneviratne
K.D.M.C. Bandara	Enrico Brown
M.S. Fernando	Mark Francis
Nishanta Seneviratne	Christopher Anderson
Thurstan Balasuriya	Malcolm Dias
Gamini Karunaratne	Akantha Pandithasekera
Asoka de Silva	Enrico Brown
Maj. Gen. Saliya Kulatunga	Priyantha Rose
Shirley Wickramasinghe	Priyantha Rose
Priyantha Mendis	Wilhelm Brown
Priyantha Rose	Samantha de Silva
Akantha Pandithasekara	Shane Bailey
Mark Francis	Ladislaus Gnanapragasam
Murshid Maharoof	Pramodth Fernando
Wilhelm Brown	Sanjaya Sirisena
Rohan Wijesinghe	Sanjaya Sirisena
Dimitri Jude Pillai	Sanjaya Sirisena