

THE COLLEGE HISTORY

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The Beginnings

On the 6th of January 1892, six months before his death, Archbishop Bonjean posted a letter to the Catholics of the Archdioceses pointing out the great dangers of an education from which Religion was excluded and he suggested the need for a Catholic College. In answer to this appeal a public meeting of the Catholics was convened on the 2nd April 1892 and a sum of Rs.18,500 was subscribed.

A suitable site was next considered and the historic "Uplands" in Mutwal was purchased for Rs.137,000 with a loan from the Superior-General of the oblates of Mary Immaculate. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, before the building could have been taken in hand the Government required the "Uplands". Protracted negotiations in which the Rev. Father Lytton took a prominent part ensued resulting in the Government giving a very liberal compensation for purchase of the "Uplands". The present site was then chosen and this was certainly a very judicious selection, for its central position renders it easily accessible to Catholics residing in all parts of the town and it also benefited from the close proximity to the chief railway stations of the Metropolis.

The foundation stone of St. Joseph's College was laid by His Excellency Mgr. Ladislaus Zaleski, Delegate Apostolic, on the 15th of December 1894. Two years later in 1896 the main building of the College was opened to students and will forever remain a monument of the arduous labours of the Catholic clergy, who took such infinite pains and who sacrificed so much to promote the spiritual interests of those entrusted to their care.

PAST RECTORS

1 - Rev Fr. Charles Collin	(1896 - 1910)
2 - Rev Fr Charles Lytton	(1910 - 1912)
3 - Rev Fr Emil Nicholas	(1912 - 1919)
4 - Rev Father Maurice Legoc	(1919 - 1940)
5 - Rev Fr Peter Pillai	(1940 - 1961)
6 - Rev Fr W.L.A.Don Peter	(1961 - 1971)
7 - Rev Fr Mervyn Weerakkody	(1971 - 1974)
8 - Rev Fr Quintus Fernando	(1974 - 1979)
9 - Rev Fr Neville Emmanuel	(1979 - 1983)
10- Rev Fr Stanley Abeysekara	(1983 - 1996)
11- Rev Fr Victor Silva	(1996 - 2005)
12- Rev Fr Sylvester Ranasinghe	(2005 – current)