



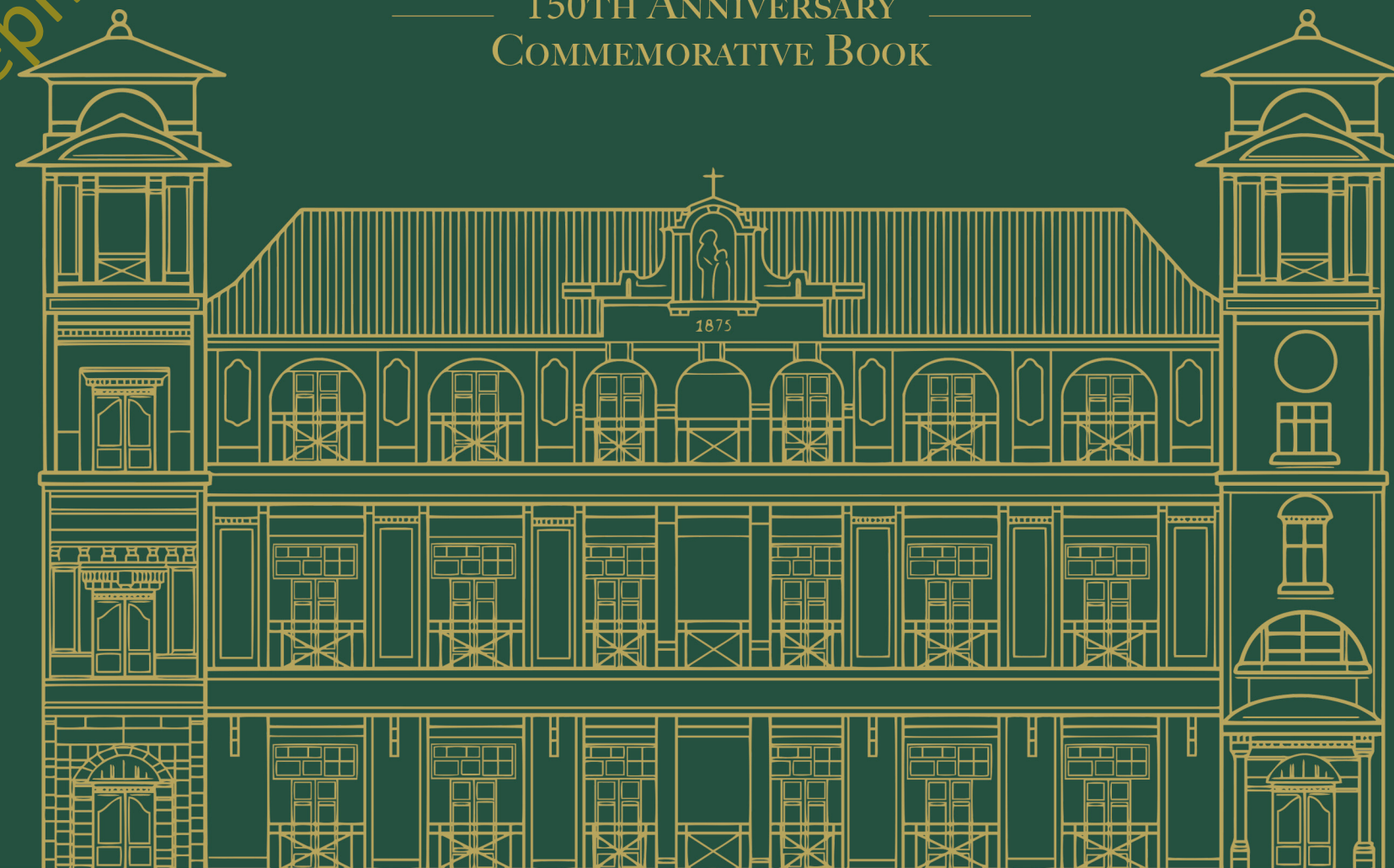
*HONOUR OUR MISSION
FORWARD WITH COURAGE*



SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
150th Anniversary Commemorative Book



150TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE BOOK



St. Joseph’s College

School Rally

– Alma Mater’s Call

Alma Mater’s Call, an empowering and iconic School Rally, resonates deeply within the Josephian spirit. This timeless piece was adapted from an early 19th-century Irish march tune composed by Joseph Haliday, a notable figure from Carrick-On-Suir, County Tipperary, Ireland. Haliday, who also patented the keyed bugle in 1810, originally composed this as a martial tune for the Cavan Militia.

The melody was later transformed by Michael Joseph McCann in 1843, who provided it with stirring lyrics published as *The Clan Connell War Song* in *The Nation*, an Irish weekly Newspaper. Known popularly as *O’Donnell Abu*, the song echoed the valorous deeds of Irish lords during the Nine Years War, serving as a call-to-arms during Ireland’s tumultuous resistance against British rule.

Brother Marcian James Cullen, a revered figure in the history of St. Joseph’s College, adopted this melody for the School Rally during his tenure as principal in the early 1910s. Composed in the key of C Major, often associated with earnestness or spiritual reflection, and enriched by the deep timbre of Josephian voices, the rally transcends mere melody to become a rallying cry for courage and righteousness.

Brother Cullen’s lyrics, imbued with the core values of justice and valour, challenge all Josephians to live honourably and uphold the spirit of service to God through their actions. *Alma Mater’s Call* is not just a song; it is a masterpiece that instils pride and calls upon every Josephian to faithfully embody the spirit of their alma mater. Brother Cullen’s legacy continues to inspire, with one of St. Joseph Institution’s current four fraternities named in his honour, ensuring that his impact and the loyal Josephian spirit live on forever.

SCHOOL RALLY

All through our College a voice is resounding;
Promptly respond to your duty’s clear call;
Harken you all for the trumpet is sounding:
Your Mater’s proclaiming her watchward to all.

(Chorus)

Forward, nor flinch nor fear, ever with hearts sincere,
Render with joy to your Mater her due;
All that is vile reject; heaven will e’er protect,
Sons of St. Joseph’s valiant and true.

“Labour and Virtue” your motto still bearing,
Forward with courage in ways that are just;
True to your standard be doing and daring,
As faithful Josephians in Heaven you trust.

(Repeat Chorus)

Onward and upward in life’s earnest battle,
Joyously bearing the brunt of the fight,
Nobly forgiving for aught that may pain you,
And bravely defending the cause of the right.

(Repeat Chorus)

Lift up your hearts for a Kingdom awaits you,
Honour and virtue with courage defend;
Serve Him in life who in death can reward you,
And vow to be faithful and true to the end.

(Repeat Chorus)

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Honour our mission
Forward with courage

TIMELINE

Buxey Lodge c.1880s

1858-1875 Founding Days

1858

Fathers of the Foreign Mission of Milan first arrived in Hong Kong

1860

Father Timoleone Raimondi set up a school for European students on Staunton Street

1860s

1864

1870s

1874

Father Raimondi was made Bishop of Acanthus and Vicar-Apostolic of Hong Kong

1875-1918 Establishment of St. Joseph's College

1875

Six de La Salle Brothers left Marseilles and after 42 days, reached Hong Kong on 7 November 1875

1876

The school was found to be too small and a larger premise was sought. Bishop Raimondi, in June 1876, bought the property on 19 Caine Road (the site of Sir H.N. Mody's Buxey Lodge till 1981 and present 99 Caine Road)



1878

A class was opened for 30 Chinese boys who wanted to learn English conversation and correspondence

1880

Founded the school football team, one of the earliest in China

1880s

1874

• Bishop Raimondi (right) appealed to Brother Philip (left), the Superior General of the Institute of Brothers of the Christian Schools



• A calamitous typhoon swept over Macau in 1874 where hundreds of Portuguese families were made destitute and took refuge in Hong Kong. In order to meet this sudden increase of applicants, St. Saviour's College had to refuse the entry of Chinese students temporarily

1875

• Brother Hidulphe-Marie, sent by the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, renamed St. Saviour's College, placing it under the protection of St. Joseph, special patron of the Institute of the Brothers. Henceforth St. Saviour's College was renamed as St. Joseph's College

• Brother Hidulphe-Marie became the first Director of St. Joseph's College on 8 November 1875; initial enrolment was 75 students



1879

The school became the first Catholic school to come under the grant-in-aid scheme brought about by Governor Sir John Pope Hennessy. 200 Portuguese and 56 Chinese boys attended the College

1880

Brother Cyprian arrived in Hong Kong on 18 February and he was to replace Brother Hidulphe-Marie as Director



1884

• Brother Louis arrived in Hong Kong on 15 June 1884, and he introduced the publication of a fortnightly literary journal "Our Boys", the foundation of a Library, a Library Club, and Debating Society



• Brother Louis took over from Brother Cyprian in 1884 was Director until his departure in 1889

1884

382 students enrolled, of whom 90 were Chinese

1898

A third storey was added to the original two storey structure to accommodate boarders

1901

The Wings were added to the school building



1903

Two more blocks were built with part of the expenses donated by the Government

1905

A fire broke out but was extinguished by the Brothers and boarders

1906

On 3 November, Silver Jubilee, His Lordship Bishop Pozzoni held a Thanksgiving Mass at the College and a special service in the Cathedral to mark the 25 years of establishment of St. Joseph's College on Robinson Road



1906

Almost all students wore traditional Chinese clothes with the Manchu queue



1881 1884 1889

1890s

1898 1899

1900s

1901 1903

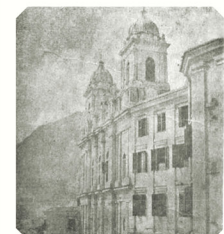
1905

1906 1907

1908 1909

1864

Father Raimondi established a school for boys, which he renamed St. Saviour's College, on the junction of Pottinger Street and Wellington Street. The old Catholic Cathedral (left) and The 1st "Mission House" (right) housed members of the Portuguese community, establishing a connection between the Portuguese and the Catholic Mission in Hong Kong



1881

The Brothers bought a piece of land in Glenealy below Robinson Road in March to cater for the needs of the fast-growing school; the foundation stone of the new building was laid by Governor Hennessy and the school was officially opened in November; 190 boys were admitted



1889

Brother Abban Gendreau, Uncle of Brother Cyprian took over as Director and formed proper academic standards and concentrated on sound character formation



1899

Josephians sat for the Oxford University Examination and headed the results list

1903

• Brother Marcian Cullen, who became the principal in 1921, composed our school rally

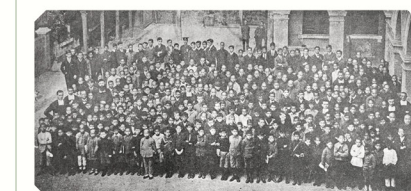


• Brother Stephen Buckley arrived in 1903 and later became the Director of the College from 1936-1937. He was responsible for the laurels conquered by our boys at the annual examinations



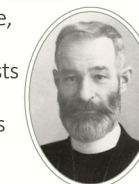
1907

In the year 1907, it was reported that the maximum monthly enrolment was 379



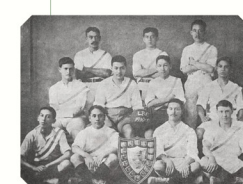
1907

Brothr Paul O'Connell arrived in Hong Kong in 1907 and at St. Joseph's College, he was assigned many different posts as teacher and Prefect of Boarders



1908-1909

School Football Team won both the First and Junior Team trophy; First Grand Slam. On 26 March 1908, The College boys won 19 prizes at the Inter-School Sports Competition



St. Joseph's College

Directors / Principals

The list of Directors/ Principals from past to present are as follows:

Bro. Hidulphe Nicolas	(1875-1879)	Bro. Aimar Sauron	(1923-1931)
Bro. Bernard Dunne	(1879-1880)	Bro. Mattias Linehan	(1931-1936)
Bro. Cyprian Gendreau	(1880-1884)	Bro. Stephen Buckley	(1936-1937)
Bro. Louis Gaubert	(1884-1889)	Bro. John Lynam	(1937-1949)
Bro. Abban Gendreau	(1889-1894)	Bro. Raphael Egan	(1949-1958)
Bro. Osmind McGrath	(1894-1895)	Bro. Brendan Dunne	(1958-1964)
Bro. James O'Keefe	(1895-1899)	Bro. James Dooley	(1964-1970)
Bro. Julian Lafrasse	(1899-1903)	Bro. Alphonsus Breen	(1970-1974)
Bro. Joshua Barré	(1903-1904)	Bro. Patrick Tierney	(1974-1986)
Bro. Sylvester McGrath	(1904-1908)	Bro. Thomas Favier	(1986-2002)
Bro. Christian Lennon	(1908-1913)	Mr C.H. Leung	(2002-2010)
Bro. Adrian McDonald	(1913-1914)	Ms Caroline Chan	(2010-2016)
Bro. Peter Close	(1914-1914)	Mr K.B. Ching	(2016-2020)
Bro. Aimar Sauron	(1914-1921)	Ms Y.F. Wong	(2020-2024)
Bro. Marcian Cullen	(1921-1922)	Mr T.M. Kwok	(2024-present)
Bro. Michael Noctor	(1922-1923)		

SCHOOL HISTORY



SJC Teachers and students c.1907

Introduction



Portrait of St. John Baptist de La Salle

St. Joseph's College is one of the oldest institutions and secondary schools in Hong Kong to have witnessed the trials and tribulations of this City. St. Joseph's College has undergone many changes since its establishment in 1875 and has had a long-standing history of a hundred and fifty years, which we trace back to the humble beginnings of the Catholic Church in Hong Kong as well as the of setting up of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

The Founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, St. John Baptist de La Salle (1651-1719) was a priest and a man of surprises. He formed the Institute where all members were to be called Brothers and here began the notion of the Brotherhood, and to be a Brother is a vocation as well as a profession. The first schools run by the Brothers were established in the north of France in the 1680s and they became so popular due to the fact they maintained good discipline and taught religion systematically, and provided quality education. Such as their popularity grew, they soon spread throughout the country and in 1702, La Salle sent two Brothers, Gabriel Drolin and his brother, Gerard Drolin, to Rome to establish the first school there, outside of France.

The mission, as St. John Baptist de La Salle saw it, was to provide a human and Christian education to the young, poor and needy and this became the founding principles of what would become the Lasallian family of schools in the world. As a very practical man, St. John Baptist de La Salle instilled the belief that the key to success lay with finding and forming good teachers as he believed good teachers make good schools and good schools make good men. So throughout his life, he worked tirelessly to establish quality Christian schools, in the spirit of Faith, Service and Community, which have been carried through St. Joseph's College and the Lasallian community centuries later.

This development of a missionary policy was far beyond anything which La Salle and the first generation of Brothers could have ever envisaged. In 1810, the 160 Brothers in France and Italy grew to become over 14,000 Brothers by the end of the 19th century.

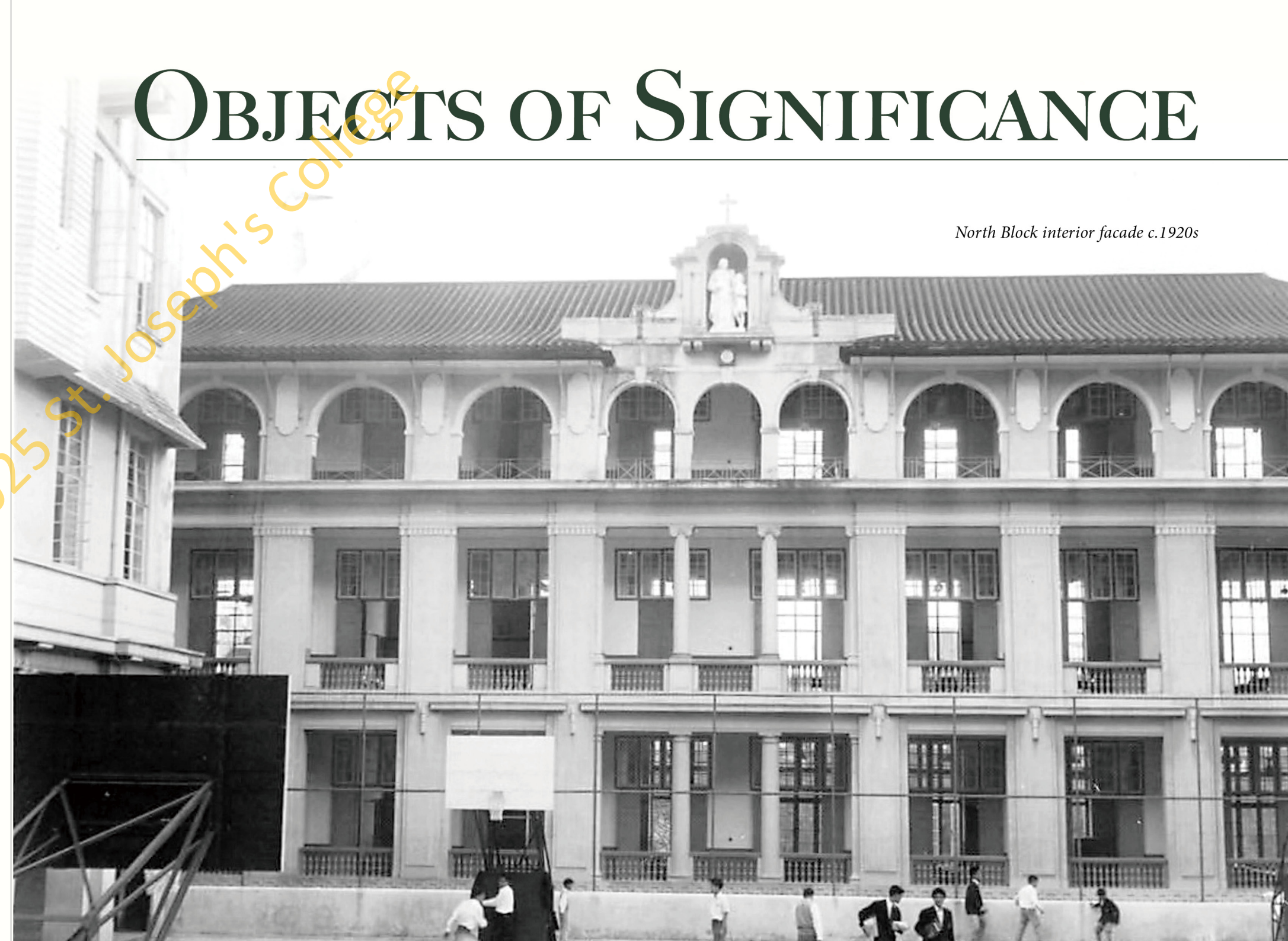


The first Roman Catholic Cathedral (named Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception) at the junction of Wellington Street and Pottinger Street c.1860s



OBJECTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

North Block interior facade c.1920s



The Foundation Stones of St. Joseph's College (Former Robinson Road Campus)

Material: Granite

Dimensions: Left stone - 55 cm x 85 cm x 15cm; Right stone - 65 cm x 90 cm x 25cm

Inscriptions: Left stone - "This foundation stone was laid by His Lordship D. Pozzoni, Vicar Apostolic of Hong Kong"; Right stone - "This stone was laid by His Excellency Sir John Pope Hennessy, K.C.M.G., Governor of Hong Kong, 3rd November, 1881"



Foundation Stones at the school main entrance

These granite blocks serve as the foundation stones from the erstwhile Robinson Road campus of St. Joseph's College. The right stone, clearly dated November 3, 1881, and laid by Sir John Pope Hennessy KCMG, Governor of Hong Kong from 1877 to 1882, marks a significant milestone in the school's expansion. The left stone, attributed to Bishop Dominico Pozzoni, Vicar Apostolic of Hong Kong between 1905 and 1924, although undated, is believed to have been placed contemporaneously with the right stone.

The acquisition of the Glenealy property, overseen by Bishop Raimondi, was a strategic expansion to accommodate the growing student population. This new site was designated to host both the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph's College, thus forming a central educational and spiritual hub on the island. The foundation stones commemorate the inauguration of this significant construction project, which was notably supported by a \$6000 donation from Governor Hennessy.

These stones, with their inscriptions meticulously executed in golden lettering, not only commemorate the initiation of significant construction efforts but also embody the collaborative endeavours between ecclesiastical leaders and local governance in enhancing educational infrastructure. As enduring symbols of the school's historical and educational heritage, they continue to inspire and educate current and future generations about the foundational moments of St. Joseph's College.

Acknowledgments & Credits

St. Joseph's College celebrates its sesquicentennial, marking a tradition and heritage of 150 years in the making. This commemorative book is the culmination of work from various dedicated and passionate groups of people. We extend a very special thanks and note of appreciation to all the teachers, staff and students who have contributed to making this publication possible.

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Forward with courage

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