

Golden Jubilee





THE GOLDEN MILESTONE

JMC – The incredible journey

*On the solid rock of Aravalli
She stands with grace and dignity*

*Knowledge and compassion light up her face
Among the houses of learning she holds pride of place*

*Jesus and Mary guide her in her mission
As she fulfils Mother Claudine's noble vision*

*In her garden are myriad flowers
Young buds she nurtures and empowers*

*Of JMC is the song I sing
With the love of generations does it ring*

*A glorious 50 years turns she
A jubilee golden as gold can be*

*So God Almighty bless her from above
For 50 golden years of service with love*

– Dolly Kapoor

Assistant Professor, Department of English

Inaugurating the Golden Jubilee

By Nidhi Verma (English Hons 3rd year)



On 20 September, 2017, Jesus and Mary College triumphantly commemorated the inauguration of its Golden Jubilee Celebrations. The day was marked by a plethora of events and presence of eminent guests to honour the college for completing 50 years. The day was most significantly graced by the presence of the Honourable President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind and his speech.

The day began by the President's arrival and his tour around the college and the stalls which showcased a few vignettes of college's achievements like blood donations camps. The President was accompanied by the Principal of the college, Dr. Sr Rosily T.L. r.j.m. All the esteemed guests then took their seats in the Multi Purpose Hall of the college which was beautifully decorated to present several cultural performances that reflected the vibrant and diverse talent of the college.

The event began with the singing of the National Anthem. The first cultural performance was given by the Ethnic Eight, the North-eastern society of the college, who presented the very the Cheraw or the Bamboo Dance,. This was followed by a gymnastics and yoga performance which showcased the expertise of the college students in such difficult performing arts. The cultural events ended by a medley of folk dances of India, performed by Nrityanjali- The Indian Dance Society.

The esteemed guests were then invited to be seated on the stage and Dr. Rosily welcomed the guests that included the President, the Chairman of UGC, Dr. V.S. Chauhan and the Vice Chancellor of Delhi University, Professor Yogesh K Tyagi and the Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Delhi , Fr. Anil José Tomas Couto. The President was presented with a shawl and other gifts as a small token of appreciation by the college and was then invited to deliver his speech.



On Performing Cheraw Dance for the President

By Ruth Lallianpuii

Cheraw is one of the traditional dance of the people of Mizoram. It is the most famous and oldest dance in Mizoram performed with the help of bamboo shafts from which the name "Bamboo Dance" was popularised.

The colorful and distinctive dance seems to have existed way back in the 1st Century A.D., while the Mizos were still somewhere in the Yunnan Province of China, before their migration into the Chin Hills in the 13th Century A.D.

Cheraw is performed with great care and elegance. The bamboo shafts are kept in horizontal and cross position supported by two bases. The male dancers sitting face to face tapping long pairs of bamboo shafts producing beats which forms the rhythm of the dance and indicates the timing. The female dancers with a perfect sense of timings dance stepping in and out of the horizontally and crossed shafts. The dance is usually accompanied by beating *Darkhuang* (Gong) and *Khuang* (Drum) to match the beat of the bamboo shafts. Today modern music are also played to compliment the dance.

Cheraw is usually performed by a few select members who display outstanding skills, adorned with beautiful and vivid costumes such as *Kawrchei*, *Vakiria*, *Puanchei* and *Thihna*. The dance is now performed on almost all the festive occasions. The movement of the dance seems to have been inspired by Nature itself; the swaying of trees, the movement of birds or other things which has represented the culture of the people.

On the inauguration of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of our college, I had the privilege to participate in the Bamboo Dance presented by the members of the Ethnic Eight Society. The honorable President Of India , Shri Ram Nath Kovind graced us with his presence and the programme was live telecasted by D.D National which made it a significant milestone for me. One of the key point necessary for the perfect projection of the dance was a perfect coordination between the performers. It was a difficult task which we could barely achieve through numerous back breaking practices. For me, it proved to be a test of patience and endurance, practicing till late in the evening sacrificing the little free time we got. It was a great lesson for me reminding me repeatedly of the much needed guidance of God.

A surreal experience for all of us to be performing in front of The Honorable President of India, a lifetime experience and a wonderful godsend opportunity. It was an experience I had never imagined. The thrill, excitement and the nervous tension pushed me to try and give my level best and make most of the wonderful opportunity. Along with the experience, the situation helped me understand the need of utmost dedication and hard work in order to succeed or achieve anything. It helped me gain a firsthand experience of the importance of Unity.

Performing Cheraw and portraying a part of our culture in front of such a large audience gave me a sense of pride and a memory to cherish for a long time.

My Tenure as President for the Golden Jubilee Year

By Raavi Kumar Jotwani

Becoming a part of the students' council is a roller coaster journey of bringing and keeping together the myriad talents and diverse cultures of students of JMC. I was the holder of the thread that unites the college.

A successful and benchmark Academic year is more than just a demand of our position. It is our way to represent the excellence of Jesus and Mary College across the university and more importantly, to positively impact the experience of each student in college. The year started on a high note with Ms. Neha Dhupia walking the aisle of the MPH. It has always been an extremely important aspect to reunite with our alumni from various walks of life and this sort of was the first step in that direction. The year started with welcoming freshers and the Freshers party was nothing short of a huge event with Freshers dancing their way through the day. As we were moving out of the music of Freshers party, I was met with the task of PTSA, the highlight of the year being the chief guest for the day Smt. Meira Kumar. Her address left an imprint on my and everyone else's heart who had the chance of listening to her. Our faculty is really special to us and therefore, preparing for a cultural show on Teacher's Day was one very exciting job. Dr. Rekha Dayal and all other senior teacher's speeches touched the hearts of all the students.

This year as college moved into its golden jubilee year, I was thrilled and excited to ensure that the college is kept lively and active throughout the year to ensure an unprecedented experience. The inaugural ceremony with Hon'ble President of India was an experience of a lifetime. It was a matter of great pride and privilege to have him preside over our function. I still remember standing back stage in that white sari thinking to myself that it's finally being done as I watched Nriyjanjali perform for the chief guest.

For me, the year remain incomplete without Superior General Sister Monica's visit. It's JMC's own little festival when she visits the college and this time it had to be big as she came in with 51 other sisters from the congregation as a part of the bicentennial celebration of the Congregation of J&M. Sister Monica truly renews the spirit in all of us to work harder and achieve better.

The foremost duty of the council is considered to organize Montage and this year, the montage team took the challenge to make "Montage of Memories" a benchmark festival which the students will remember with pride and happiness. We worked hard day and night for a happening Montage as well as all it's pre events. The festival season kick started with a very successful drive on 10th of February wherein the montage team supported its annual social cause "War on Tuberculosis" and achieved huge success on 16th and 17th February as well. Ms. Smita Gupta and her team of teachers were the backbone of the festival who held our hands through all the highs and lows of the festival. Their support and guidance has been a blessing. Montage is one activity that I can never get tired of, I've been a part of 3 montages, and if given a choice I could organize it for the rest of life. That's the kind of attachment and endearment I hold in my heart and soul for Montage.

Working for college has made us cherish the bond that we share with it since the day we become a part of it. I entered JMC with a give-and-take relation but over these three years it has deepened and transformed into a feeling of belongingness and unity. From students to teaching and non-teaching staff, everyone here is a family which never parts no matter where we ascend after graduation.

All my efforts and hard work is tribute to everything that JMC has blessed us with. My sincere thank you to all my co-students for being so cooperative and enthusiastic about all the little and all the big things. With a heavy heart, I face the reality that it's time for me to pass on the baton and only one thing is what I will always preach that responsibilities of a council member goes beyond organizing events, annual days etc. it seeks the connection that we draw with each student and stand with them in the hour of the need. My gratitude to Jesus and Mary College family shall always grow manifold and it will be the home that I'll look back to!



Knowing our Principals

By Sameera Chawla and Anjana Jolly (English Hons 2nd year) with contributions from Dolly Kapoor (Faculty, English Department)



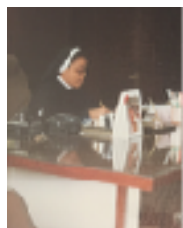
Sr. Aquinas Vagas (1972 - 1977)

Under her direction, the college joined NCC and formed the PTSA, both in 1974. A centre for the NCWEB was also



Sr. Dorothy Rodrigues (1987 - 1992)

She was the Acting Principal for five years. Jesus and Mary College steadily extended its educational reach in her time. In 1987, an Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) centre was opened in the college,



Sr. Guilhermina (1995 - 1996)

She joined as Acting Principal in 1995, before which she had been teaching in the Mathematics Department of the college. The College won the Vice Chancellor's Trophy for sports for the first time this year and was declared the best college of the University in women's sports competitions.



Sr. (Dr.) Marina John (1998 - 2016)

She is the longest serving Principal of JMC. The college achieved a number of important milestones because of her vision and tireless efforts. The placement cell was initiated in 1998. The road facing the college was renamed "Jesus and Mary Marg" on 3rd February 2000. The Multi-Purpose Hall was inaugurated under her guidance in the year 2006. Extensive renovation and maintenance activity was also undertaken during her tenure. JMC took rapid strides in providing quality education, seeking accreditation for the first time, and in 2014 was awarded an 'A' Grade in the first cycle of accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Sr. Marina John superannuated in 2016 and the college bid her a loving farewell.



Sr. M. Peter Claver (1968 - 1972)

She was the first Principal of JMC and had previously been Principal of St. Bede's College, Shimla. There were eight teachers in JMC at this time. The college was affiliated to NSS in 1970 under her guidance.



Sr. Agatha McLoughlin (1977 - 1987)

Her time in office is often lauded to be the golden age of JMC. Under her leadership, JMC developed rapidly, expanding the number of seats from around 700 to more than 2000. With her encouragement, the college held its first All-India cultural festival, Montage, in 1980.



Sr. Melba Rodrigues (1992 - 1995)

Her years in office saw the construction of a new floor on the academic block and the celebration of JMC's Silver Jubilee in 1993.



Sr. (Dr.) Colette (1996 - 1998)

Before taking over as Principal she had been teaching in the English Department. She keenly felt the need to protect the environment and raised awareness about the damaging effects of plastics. Special efforts to beautify the college were executed under



Sr. (Dr.) Rosily T.L. (2016 – Present)

She took over as the Officiating Principal after Sr. Marina's superannuation, and is ensuring that the expansion work of the college building is completed on time. Having taught as Faculty in the B.El.Ed Department, Sr. Rosily has been a member of the JMC family and understands the pulse of the college. The College is celebrating its Golden Jubilee in 2018 under her guidance.



Message from Sister Fabian



Hearty Congratulations to Jesus and Mary College on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee! May you celebrate many more glorious years ahead!

On this special occasion, my heart overflows with gratitude to Almighty God, who allowed me to be part of the first group of students of this prestigious institution. It was a humble beginning, but with a great vision for the future.

At that time it was impossible to imagine that one day this small group of students would increase manifold and the college would attain the strength it has today. May God be praised!

I thank the many RJM sisters who have contributed in different capacities through the college's journey and growth. I would especially like to mention sisters Felix Pritchard, De Sales, M.Peter Claver, Stanislaus, Wilfred, and the dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff. May God bless and reward each one!

The college started with the administrative block and one double-storied block of class rooms. The whole compound was covered with stones, thorny bushes, dry land, looking as though nothing worthwhile would grow there. Today it has turned into a Garden of Eden! Thanks and felicitations to all of you who have given, and continue to contribute a part of your life for this wonderful Apostolate.

One of my most special memories of those early years is of the wonderful familial spirit that existed among the students and between the students and the staff. We were not the outstanding students of Delhi schools. On the contrary, we were among the 'leftovers' of the schools. At that time Jesus and Mary College was a new college and did not offer many subjects. But our Principal, teaching staff and the students worked hard, helped each other to raise the standard and bring good results. Today, the college attracts the cream of the country and is counted amongst the premier institutions offering quality education.

At present, I am a missionary in Bolivia where I have been since 1981. I don't have any direct contact with my JMC batch mates, but I am sure all are **doing well, and carrying forward the values that the College instilled in us.**

May Jesus and Mary help us to be instruments of peace and harmony in a world where there is so much of violence, hatred and destruction of our mother earth, "casa comun". This is the message I would like to give to JMC, in keeping with the spirit of St. Claudine Thevenet! May God bless each one!

Congratulations once again and thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts and memories. Long live Jesus and Mary College, New Delhi!

Sr. Fabian Kottamkompil RJM, Bolivia



Letter from Priyanka Gandhi



Dearest JMC,

I walked through your gates, one morning in the summer of 1989 after having been confined by strict security and home schooling for five years. I was 17 years old and it had been years since I had encountered as many women my age at one go as I did that morning. There were groups of senior girls sitting in the gardens around the side gate, another bunch sat under a large tree on the left of the building and many others milled about the entrance. I felt quite terrified and overwhelmed trying to dance, sing and perform outlandish tasks as part of the curiosity and friendly "ragging" that peppered my way to the classroom assigned to Psychology students. I don't recall even getting there on the first day in fact!

But what followed for me were perhaps the happiest two years of my life. I have JMC to thank for some of the most beautiful memories and the closest friends I made. We were a group of five mischievous girls who spent as much time gossiping and fomenting trouble in the gardens (or eating plate-loads of Chole Bhature) as we did in our class rooms. We were notorious for practical jokes too; often being at the receiving end of fond admonitions from our lecturers, this is not to say that we did not get serious when exam time came along. I remember our teachers and ever-helpful lab assistant, Francis with fondness and regard.

As life has taken me through its journey, my introduction to the subject of Psychology at JMC has proved useful in the most unlikely situations and I am deeply grateful to our teachers for the grace and generosity with which they educated us. In my third year of college, my father was assassinated and my life altered irrevocably. My teachers, fellow students and the Principal of the college, Sister Melba were an invaluable source of strength and comfort to me through the labyrinth of my grief. I will always remember JMC as a place of warmth, sunshine and youthful hope. I wish all the students and faculty members the very best on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee. I hope they make as many beautiful memories as we did during our years there.

Love

Priyanka G. Vadra



To JMC, With Love



Dearest JMC,

I first walked into your gates in August 2017, knowing that I would be spending three years here. When you think about it, three years isn't too long a time. But as you step into your 50th year and I read these letters written from people now in their fifties, I realize what a significant role you have played in their lives, for they remember you with fondness going beyond the three years they spent here. They may not remember all the moments they have spent in and outside their classrooms or even the faces of all their teachers and friends, but they remember you. Just look how they talk about how much you've changed and grown and how much you matter. These 50 years aren't about the names you've sent out in the world or the lists you've made to, it's about the love you've given. You JMC, form a part of us and though I have known you for the least amount of time, I believe that 50 years hence when someone calls me for a letter, I'd offer them my heart for that's where you'd be.

Love
Kunalika Gautam
(Batch of 2017-2020)



Dear JMC,

Thank you for being such an important milestone of my life. You took me in as a girl and transformed me into the woman I am today. You gave me the opportunity to make my time with you count for something. JMC is where I made lifelong friends. And oh, the memories, in the 3 years I spent with you, I have enough memories to fill 100 photo albums and stories that could last me a lifetime.

And now, as you complete 50 years, this time of celebration will not simply be an occasion to be nostalgic about the past but we have as much to look forward to, with confidence and hope as we have to look back on, with pride on being called JMCites.

So here's to you, JMC. Here's to letting me win, fail, laugh and cry. Here's to letting me discover who I am and who I have the power to be. Here's to changing my life in more ways than I can ever say.

Yours Sincerely



Dearest JMC,

I just thought we were having fun, little did I realize that we were creating memories – memories to be cherished forever. Memories of days bygone – joining the English department as a student in 1977 and as a lecturer in 1982. Reading an article published in the JMC annual magazine brought home again the part of a lifetime passed in the hallowed beautiful precinct of JMC – the contest with the world outside.

Those were the days when we climbed over and across rocks to go to the canteen – to eat the only snack available- bread pakoras. Much has changed. Those were the days when we knew every staff member and every student of our class and other departments, too. Much has changed. Those were the days we would walk down to Bapu Dham to catch the bus if we missed the specials at 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm. Much has changed. Those were the days when our will o' wisp figures would listen intently to every teacher or be told, "Leave the class. You are physically present but mentally absent."

Yet nothing has changed. The coming to JMC every day of the work week, the excitement of my own lectures given to attentive students, meeting friendly faces, from the guards at the gate to the "floor managers" to the colleagues from all the departments.

Proud of being a JMCite.

Love
Amrita Bhalla



To My Dear Alma Mater,

Thirty Seven years ago, when I walked into the portals of this college, seeking to mould myself into a significant and spectacular adult, I was then, a teenage, naive and yet "know it all" girl. College was my ticket to freedom, to being finally counted as an Adult. I look back with great fondness to the three years that I spent here. I gained a wealth of knowledge, learnt to think in more complex ways, and came into my own, as a young adult. I learnt firsthand of love, friendship, honesty, and being a part of something greater. Treasures that I still carry in my heart.

College education is "schooling for life". The choice of college and the subjects chosen, shape our lives more than most other things. My personal belief is that your mind shapes you the most, your thoughts make you what you are and what you become, but the values direct the path you take. Often in our pursuit of 'more', one doesn't remember to live with the values that were taught to us as children and young adults, which are critical to our development as individuals, as a generation and as a people - the learning of how to live your life, how to be true and honest to yourself, to your potential and to people around you.

College is where you actually begin to shape your future by being conscious of your surroundings, of your readings, of the people in your life and of course, your goals. JMC gave me the most amazing three years that will last a lifetime. There are too many moments that I have frozen in time, to play back or recount here, suffice it to quote Yeats who said, "Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire."

As you celebrate your golden jubilee, I join generations of grateful women, who like me, would like to say, THANK YOU. Thank you for contributing towards the making of a better world, of shaping innumerable young minds into thinking, humane and spectacular women over the fifty years of your existence. Thank you for helping building strong foundations of generations past and present.

Keep on lighting a million fires.

Rini Simon Khanna

English Hons (1981-1984)

Dear JMC,

My association with you began in the year 1998 when I joined the Institution and continues till date. I have been privileged to be part of you, Jesus and Mary College for nearly two decades and have seen you grow from strength to strength.

In the years that I was the head of this Institution, I took it as my responsibility to update and enhance the infrastructure of the College, teaching and learning techniques and administrative tools. I am proud to say that we have increased the number of classrooms, laboratories and other facilities of the college and have a Multi-purpose Hall with state of the art technology and equipment. The long awaited accreditation of the College took place in 2014 with the efforts of students, teaching and non-teaching staff and Jesus and Mary College was awarded an A grade by National Accreditation and Assessment Council.

At this juncture we recognise the need to enhance the culture of research in the College among our Staff and students to attain greater excellence in the sphere of Education. It is also the need of the hour that we introduce new courses which are relevant and contemporary in order to widen our horizon and break the stereotype of the conservative model of education.

Though I have superannuated from the college my heart is still with Jesus and Mary College and my prayer and best wishes are always with Jesus and Mary College family.

My dream is to see the Institution becoming one of the best in the country and recognised internationally as one of the finest Institution imparting value based Education. There are undoubtedly many challenges and hurdles but I am sure that together we can overcome them and make Jesus and Mary College a shining star in the firmament of Education.

God Bless you!
Sr (Dr) Marina John
Former principal of JMC



Dear JMC,

You, my alma mater, bring out in me such warm fuzzy feeling. Your thought fills my heart with gratitude and love. I have many reasons to thank you, foremost of which is the privilege you bestowed upon me to be taught by Delhi University's best Psychology faculty.

I cherish so many memories that I created in the three years I spent with you. The one I cannot forget is my fondness for the food at the canteen. I think I have never tasted the same *kadhi chawal* anywhere else since then. Like the beautiful moments you gave me, the taste of the *kadhi chawal* still lingers on my taste buds. How can I not remember the morning assemblies, hours and hours of sitting in the lush green gardens, basking in the sun in between classes, and of course, bunking college to go to Chanakya theatre.

The most important gift that you've given me JMC was the space to make lifelong friends, who have been such an integral part of my personal journey. We recently celebrated our friendship of 30 years by taking a holiday together. Today who I am professionally, my success as Managing Director of Maple Bear South Asia, my zeal to give back to the community by becoming the President of YWCA of Delhi and many other achievements, I owe all of this to you, my alma mater. Words are not enough to express my appreciation and gratitude for you, JMC. You have molded me into the person I am today. Thank you and I wish the very best to the entire JMC family at this very special and joyous milestone of the Golden Jubilee year.

Hazel (Samuel) Siromoni

Psychology Hons (1986-1989)

Dearest JMC,

I joined Jesus and Mary College in the year 1994. It was one of the best colleges in Delhi offering multiple courses. I studied Psychology Honors. I was blessed to get admission in such a wonderful college which had one of the best faculty.

During our breaks between the lectures we used to go to the library, read and issue books. Sometimes we used to spend some time in the canteen. As Priyanka Gandhi was our senior, our college was one of the safest place to be. We had tight security and gunmen all over the college. We used to have morning assembly every day and retreats at least once a year wherein we used to stay back in college with our friends, enjoy, pray and the rooms were converted to bedrooms during retreats. During this time I learned a lot about prayers and the importance of thanking God for all his blessings he's showered upon us.

After completing my education I became the Assistant Professor in Jesus and Mary College for Psychology honors. It was a blessing in disguise to actually graduate and teach in the same college and interact with all my colleagues who once were my teachers and follow their footsteps.

The experience in Jesus and Mary College has been wonderful I've made many friends and a lot of memories. It was a pleasure to be a part of Jesus and Mary family.

Lots of Love
Ann Jenny Thomas
Psychology Hons (1994-1997)



Dear JMC,

It was in 1991 that I first walked through your doors. I still remember it was Ms. Meenakshi Mitra who got me to the college and Sister Melva who gave me permission to set up my stall. I have been selling Bhel Puri and Sev Puri ever since.

I have seen the college change in its structure, popularity and the way it functions, yet I and my Bhel have remained just as they were 27 years ago! I have served Bhel Puri to mothers and then their daughters, to Priyanka Gandhi and even Neha Dhupia. The highlight of this journey has been that they remember me even after all these years - Neha Dhupia does! Some even call me to set up a stall at their parties.

I have witnessed the Silver Jubilee of the college and now the Golden Jubilee. I wish to continue working here and serving my food. I am really happy at JMC and wish the very best for it.

Lots of love
"Sev Wale Bhaiyaa"
Mitelesh Jha





Notes from Retired Faculty



Ms. Lakshmi Subramanyam, Associate Professor (retd.), English

I joined college in 1969- when it had only two honours departments and a pass course. When I began teaching at the college, it was only a year old!

Fondest memory- Without a doubt, the fantastic community of people that I worked with and the close and intimate interaction I shared with my students. I am extremely proud of each student I taught! The college values an ethos of interaction between students and teachers, which is truly heartening.

My first day- Oh, I was so overwhelmed! I was completely filled with trepidation. I started teaching right after the completion of my MA degree, and really had to find my feet.

Message for the students- The college may have been physically away from the University but our students never really missed campus life. There was never any dearth of activities and each ensured that the students graduated, not just with a degree, but with a holistic perspective that would help them in their future careers and lives.

JMC makes its own University life- unique from any other college. It has a vibrant environment that gives students a total, holistic view of things. You must embrace this active college life, students- and be accountable for the roles you undertake in this

Dr. Pamela Bhatia, Associate Professor (retd.), Political Science

There are countless fond memories of JMC, I find myself at a loss to describe just how wonderful my experience at this college has been.

My first day- I definitely have mixed feelings about my first day. Of course I was ecstatic to have secured a teaching position at one of the best colleges in Delhi University but I was nervous too. The lectures to be taken on the first day meant one had to talk sense for almost three hours straight! From being a student- whose job was to listen, I had to transform into a serious academic. It was a total role reversal, and it certainly took me a while to come to terms with that reality!

One word to describe JMC- I.N.C.R.E.D.I.B.L.E.

I'm proud of- So many moments! But one that stands out is when I had the chance to organise a street play staged by an NGO which was based on pantomime theatrical skills with a social message- first of its kind. It drew many students to join it, and some even went abroad as a part of the theatre troupe!

Message for the students- Please continue to dream big, and be sure that this amazing college always helps you fulfill them!



Dr. Sunita Garg, Associate Professor (retd.), Psychology

I always maintain that the happiest day of my life was when I got to know when I was selected to teach in the college. I felt on top of the world!

One word to describe JMC- Discipline for sure. The college is such a disciplined space, wherein young women can explore their full potential with dedication and commitment. It keeps students on the right path.

I'm proud of- I was particularly proud when the honourable President of India came for the Golden Jubilee inaugural function. It was fantastic to be recognised by the highest in the land, and it was truly an honour.

Dr. Preeti Singh- Retired Professor of Commerce

To be honest, I still feel like a part of the college! It feels like I never left JMC- I am very attached to the institution, and feel very glad to have taught here.

My first day- I remember it just like it was yesterday- I was newly married- I joined just two days after my wedding! I was wearing a sparkling gold saree. As I made the walk to the Principal's office, I recall feeling very anxious and nervous. It was the start of a brand new life in more ways than one!

One word to describe JMC- The only word I can associate with JMC is- amazing. It's a simple, all encompassing term for all the wonderful experiences that this institution grants you.

Message for the students- There's no place like JMC! I can't commend it enough, cherish all your moments and enjoy to the fullest.



Dr. Kamla Jain, Associate Professor (retd.), Philosophy

I joined the college in 1969, right after its foundation year. I remember everything fondly- the staff, the students, life in the college- I had a wonderful 35-36 years of teaching here, and I loved my time thoroughly.

My first day- I was very cautious on my first day. It was raining cats and dogs, and I was knee deep in water; yet I knew I couldn't miss it for anything, or even arrive late. I received explicit instructions from the principal- "rain or no rain, we have to be in college on time." This really encapsulates the dedication and commitment that this college is built on.

I'm proud of- All the events I've been a part of in my tenure at JMC. No event was too small- be it the extra curricular activities, giving farewells to the students, etc. I especially remember the farewell show we put on for the second batch ever to graduate the college- it was so special, because they were pleasantly surprised to see a different side to their teachers and it was a warm moment of togetherness, happy and content in our experience.

Message for the students- JMC boasts of good academics and good moral values. If you stick to the values given to you by your family and this institution, it will hold you in good stead for the rest of your life.



Ms. Mrinalini Sardesai, Associate Professor (retd.), Sociology

It's been an absolute pleasure to have served at JMC. I was elated to have secured this college as a permanent assignment. I'd always been comfortable working in a convent, and I adapted to JMC very easily as well. I admired the discipline and commitment embodied by the institution and that feeling endured in my 33 year

tenure at the college.

My first day- Oh I had butterflies in my stomach, and they stayed with me all throughout in my interactions with students and teachers alike. I was also skittish because I'd recently had a baby, and was nervous about leaving my child at home. Mother's anxiety and teacher's anxiety alike!

I'm proud of- The respect and appreciation of my students is a matter of pride I will cherish forever.

One word to describe JMC- A top college!

Message for the students- Never stop working hard. Feel lucky to be in the best college, and make the most of your time!

Ms. Kamal Kumar, Associate Professor (retd.), BA Programme

I've created some beautiful memories at this college. I loved the disciplined atmosphere fused with vibrant energy that was so uniquely JMC!

My first day- My first day was in 1972, I was very young when I started. I felt very afraid at first. I decided from the very first day not to shout at kids and help them with all they need- and I followed through with that decision till the very end. I truly believe that a classroom must have a happy atmosphere, and my students are like my family!

My fondest memory- Kids used to run out of class as soon as time was up, and attendance was often taken via shouts from the window!

One word to describe JMC- Absolutely superb.

Message for the students- Keep the tradition of the college alive and never forget the purpose you came with. Grow from strength to strength.

Notes From Our Sports Alumni



My name is Pratima Singh, I was admitted in 2006 into the university and I chose the B.A. (P) in philosophy and psychology. If you talk about sports in JMC the first thing that comes to mind will definitely be Anju Luthra ma'am and Manmohan Ma'am! They are the stars of the university and must be noted for being so. Without the support they gave the sports department and me and other athletes a lot of our achievements would have been unachievable. They deserve a lot of credit.

I used to go for tournaments and national camps fairly regularly. The two of them always guided me so that I was allowed to fulfill my potential in all areas and did not let my grades slip while I was out playing on the court. A lot of people in the sporting world- male and female athletes- in India suffer because not enough support and guidance that is needed to develop into rounded human beings and that requires space to accomplish on the court as well as off it. At JMC I could focus on sports and as well as studies. That is not the case everywhere.

The relationship between player and coach is a very crucial one. I am fortunate that one of my coaches was my sister Divya Singh, our relationship as sisters is actually stronger because we had the opportunity to work together as player and coach. Apart from that I am in touch with my other coaches as well; Ashok Sharma Sir and Nehra Sir often contact me to discuss the team, coaching etc. People you play with are your friends for life. We don't see each other on a daily basis but we are in touch, all of us, and it's always wonderful whenever we get to relive our memories of playing together. Manauti Harry and I still hang out and we love to stroll down memory lane.

A lot of doors opened for me after I left JMC!

I continued to play for the Indian basketball team, I finished my Bachelors in Physical Education and then a Masters in Physical Education. I then did a Masters in Philosophy and became a NEI-qualified physical educator. I also got a Diploma in Sports Coaching from NSNIS. I am currently working as a sports officer in Bennett University.

JMC has always been special because it was around the time that I was studying here that I got selected for the very first time to play Senior Nationals for the country. While this was going on I came back once from one of my camps and it was already February. We had our exams in March and of course I had no friends because I could not attend classes much and the other few were in different departments. As always the teachers were so supportive in the classes they asked, "Now, Pratima is here who will help her for the exams preparations?" It took 0.00001 seconds for a girl to raise her hand that same girl later surprisingly became the topper of the class in the first year and then she topped the university later. It was Sonia Ahuja; I often meet my JMC friends Tanya, Nancy and of course Sonia.

Another special moment for me was when we won the Gold Medal for JMC in the inter college tournament. Anju ma'am and Manmohan ma'am along with the sports committee were so happy that they called Dhol Wala and then everybody danced! It was such a memorable celebration.

Thank you JMC for the amazing memories and for being a ladder to my future. I hope you will continue to be this same ladder so for many more young athletes of all genders in the decades to come.



My name is Raagini Malhotra. I joined JMC in the year 1991. I did MA Hindi from JMC. It provided a plethora of opportunities for playing at different platforms. These served as stepping stones for my career and I went on to play for Ranji trophy and for the Railways. The unwavering determination of my coaches and support of my teachers was commendable.

I talk to both Anju ma'am and Manohar ma'am on a daily basis. They are very social and congenial. In my final year, I was the captain of the cricket team and teammates were very determined and cooperative. With their consolidated efforts we bagged the first position.

JMC offered me the opportunity to be the cricket coach and gladly accepted the opportunity. We used to practice in the cricket field for hours and then the whole entire team went to the canteen. It's still fresh in my mind how we used to drool over bhel puri and masala dosa.

I started my cricket academy in JMC. I feel very fortunate to say that I am still a part of the JMC family.



My name is Priyanka Sisodia and I was in JMC from 2001 to 2004 in B.A.(P)Eco-Ent batch. I played cricket, football and softball. After graduating from JMC I did my professional teaching course in Physical Education. After that I began teaching in DPS Curgaon and I am currently teaching in Modern School Barakhamba road. I am also a fitness trainer. JMC is one of the best colleges in DU AND it helped in my all round development. From dressing up to grooming my personality, it prepared me in many ways. Because of this grooming and the support of my coaches I played for the Ranji trophy, represented North Zone in cricket and also bagged an Internship in BCCI India Camp. The coaches were understanding and compassionate. I shared a very intimate relationship with them. My Economics teacher was extremely helpful, she made sure I had all the notes and came forward to clear my concepts. Raagini Malhotra, who was my cricket coach, guided me to become a fitness trainer and has helped me to come so far in life. We used to stay back in college for at least two hours to practice. Nothing can equate the incredible feeling of winning a game after endless hours of practice with my teammates and the guidance and determination of our teachers. The college days in JMC were a golden phase in my life and it was emotional/hard to bid adieu to the institution.



My name is Poonam Goswami. I was in JMC from the year 2001 to 2003. Even though I took part in a number of sports, my main focus was Basketball. I was in Indraprastha College in my first year and shifted to JMC for my second and third year specifically due to the excellence of its sports department. One thing that JMC has is excellent coaches. Such friendly coaches and understanding environment can not be found in any other DU College. The college has excellent facilities for all the sports, whether it be basketball, archery, yoga etc. My relation with my coaches was one of mutual understanding and support. I'm still in touch with my coaches. One of the best thing about the coaches was that they were supportive of academics too. My teammates and I share a close and unbreakable bond. I played basketball at the college and the national level with some of the best people I've ever known. Since I was the Sports president, I was in touch with almost all the players in the college. After JMC, I got my MA in Physical Education and started working in Amity. Currently, I'm a teacher in the American Embassy School. The most special moment that I associate with JMC is the time we won the Inter-College Basketball Championship. It was always a tough competition and winning was a matter of great pride. The euphoria of winning that championship cup with wonderful teammates and exceptional coaches was a moment I would cherish for life.



My name is Sunita Yadav. I joined JMC in the year 2000 and I passed out in 2003. I chose BA Programme Sociology-Political science combination. I played Basketball at the inter-college level and played against LSR, SRCC, and IP College. I, even, got shortlisted for Asian games to play basketball but unfortunately I couldn't play as my leg got fractured. Then I joined Indigo as a flight attendant and worked there for 7-8 years. The coaches were very helpful and motivating. They always encouraged me to polish my skills and achieve greater heights. Both the coaches, Anju Ma'am and Manmohan Ma'am, took a lot of pain to prepare us for various competitions. They helped me to identify my potential and worked hard all day long to polish my skills. I can never thank them enough for all that they have done for me. They were very approachable and open they are like a family to me. Teachers, too, left no stone unturned to bring out the perfection in us. As for my teammates, I shared a very special bond with all of them, JMC was like our second home. We were all really close and there was never a hitch in our friendship. We are still in touch through social media.

Notes From Retired Non-Teaching Faculty

by Bipasha Roy

Once upon a time, 1968 to be precise, an intrepid group of people decided to start that most hallowed of institutions, a college called Jesus and Mary. Trials and tribulations were aplenty, some people were lost but more joined the merry band, and in the end, they kept striving till the tree that is our college, had grown large enough that it now shelters more than 3500 students. 2018 being our Golden Jubilee Year, it was decided that the time was ripe to go on a quest in search of the lost ones. Wading through faulty numbers and miscommunications, we finally reached a few of the erstwhile gardeners of this great tree and here are a few tales of derring-do.



Mr Pritam Das - Ex Section Officer (Accounts)

When he started working at the college in 1969, there was only one building – the administration block and only two courses - English (Hons) and B.A. (Pass) Course. Forget air-conditioned offices, as he says, “In my time, there were no computers”. But that certainly does not mean that in an age of infrastructural development and technological proficiency, the value of hard work has gone down. In fact, “The college has developed because everyone worked from the heart. Even though the work of the office staff has increased, they’ve responded by working even harder”.



Mr Peter D'Cruz - Ex Library Attendant

Having joined in 1971, with few students and even fewer members of staff, the library composed of only a classroom and not its own building, in addition to working in the library, his work consisted of delivered messages for the Principal and other Sisters, but the staff culture made it work. Instead of just the professionalism present today, they were friends, had fun, and learnt from each other, as well as from the students.



Mr R Bhalla - Ex Administrative Office

He joined the JMC family in 1968 and while the college might have been near the Diplomatic Enclave, the forests, jackals, and 3 mile on-foot commutes made everything a challenge. Yet a “nice, friendly environment and close relations with everyone”, from the 7-8 staff members to the steadily dwindling number of students, made up for it. Despite being retired for 15 years, Mr Bhalla is still proud that “our college was the first to offer B. El. Ed” and of students like Kavita Bhambani, Miss India 1969. He has fond memories of how one staff member would guide a student through the entirety of a query, not simply their part of it, and though it might be more efficient, he still regrets that the “interactions have decreased”. Still, the college has maintained its standards, and he still has a close relation to the place.



Ms Rajeshwari Tripathi - Ex Senior Assistant

“I’m still so attached to the college that I come at least once a month. I remember every lawn, the library, my office, it feels like it is still my own.” She came to the college in 1974, with a two year old son that she could entrust to the college crèche for care and education, and when the time came, Sr Magdalen had Ms. Tripathi’s son admitted into Mount St Mary’s School. The college gave her a “second life”, one that made walking from Dhaula Kuan or Moti Bagh worthwhile, though Sr Sharda’s efforts to start a College Special bus made things easier. She knew all the students by name and vice versa, and though she doesn’t see “that type of attachment” between staff and students anymore, the “people are still good” and she still loves the college.



Ms Tabitha John - Ex Administrative Officer

Having joined in April, 1974, she was there for the first Montage, and won the first Table Tennis Tournament. From one building, she has watched the college grow to have three and become differently abled friendly. She’s watched the college progress from NCC, NSS and Sports to Non-compulsory societies and celebrations of festivals. In her own words, “There were few students and teachers, and we were also new, so it was a learning curve. But we had a very good English Department.” Despite all the hardships associated with the setting up of a new institution, “the atmosphere was very cordial”, something she still remembers.

A Visual History of the JMC Architecture

“God is within her; she will not fail”
- Psalm 46:5

Jesus and Mary College was established by the Congregation of Jesus and Mary in 1968. The story of the establishment of the college is as fascinating as what ensued in the years to come. To students of our generation, our college has come to stand for change because of its constantly changing visage and facades. This is our attempt to tell the story of that change but also a story of how JMC withstood all change to emerge the premiere institution it is.

Six Sisters of the Order, founded by Saint Claudine Thevenet in France in 1818, came to India in 1842 and established the first institution, St. Patrick's School in Agra. In 1904, the first women's college, St. Bede's, was established in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. When Mother Del Rosaria, Superior General of the Congregation of Religious of Jesus and Mary College, visited India in 1955, she initiated the journey towards opening new paths for Higher education for girls from all social strata and Delhi was seen as the ideal location to fulfill this goal.

Fr. Loesch S.J. helped Sr. Felix Pritchard to look for the perfect spot when Sister chose the 15 acre plot in Chanakyapuri on the boundary of Diplomatic Enclave, where our college stands today. In 1962, the official permission to open a new women's college was received along with the right to a grant from UGC.



In 1963, His Grace, Archbishop Joseph Fernandes blesses the site of the new college in the presence of Rev. Mother Felix, Provincial, Mother Jarlath and Rev. Fr. Loesch S.J. The foundation stone was laid on 7 January 1967 by Reverend Dr. J. Fernandes Archbishop of Delhi in the presence of Reverend Mother Superioress General.



The building of the college was designed by Pawar & Pawar (Northern Construction Company) and here we see Mr and Mrs Pawar with the foundation stone and



The building of the college stands on solid rock of the Aravalli Range clearly visible in this picture. The college opened on 16 July 1968 with 116 enrolled students. In this is striking shot, we see the first batch of students of JMC making their way to class through the parts of the campus still under construction; a situation that today's JMC students are also familiar with.



Here, we see the original college building in the process of being built. It has undergone many subsequent changes, evolving into the imposing façade that today's students have come to know and love.





JMC students always knew that "All work and no play make Jane a dull girl." This is some of them spending time leisurely in the first and the oldest Common Room. Behind them is the natural rock structure of the Aravalli from which we are told natural water springs trickled down, an urban legend for the contemporary JMC students.



When we acknowledge and recognize the architectural beauty of JMC, it is hard to forget the library. One of the most well-stocked in the University of Delhi with three floors filled with shelves dedicated to our education, our library is a safe space for students to expand their boundaries of knowledge. And here we see the library staff hard at work. Alumni might recognize familiar faces like Mrs. Siddiqui, Mr. Pandey, Mrs. Nathi Jain, Mr. Prakash and Mr. Peter.



The construction over and the building complete and students of JMC can be seen hanging around after, before or who knows maybe during class hours. We also see the first glimpses of the maintained grounds and greenery that our college has become famous for.

It is then of utmost importance to remember those who were the forerunners in the upkeep of the college buildings, office, grounds and gardens.



Here Sister Aquinas is with the Class III Non-Teaching Staff.



Sister Aquinas with the Class IV Non-Teaching Staff.



Serving delicious and warm food to everyone to come to its door, the canteen is an important aspect of every JMCite's life. This photograph shows Sr. Agatha serving the students in the college canteen, which looks very different from its present, revamped form, as Sr. Alma Abraham looks on.



Here we see the healing touch of Sr. Doreen- Mary, who managed the infirmary, tending to a student's injury.



The statue of infant Jesus and Mother Mary, whose names the college proudly bears, once stood at the entrance to the college, watching over it, as it were, and bestowing warmth and grace on all who enter here. Now she waits for the construction to end to be restored to her original position at the entrance.

The picturesque view visitors to the college encountered, proved beyond doubt that the rocky terrain only served to teach one *the flower that blooms in adversity is the most beautiful*, much like the women who are trained within these hallowed halls.



This is what college looked like before it changed into what we know JMC to look like.



On 3 February 2000, the road in front of college was renamed 'Jesus and Mary Marg'. The then Chief Minister of Delhi, Ms. Sheila Dixit, had graced the occasion and His grace Alan de Lastic, Archbishop of Delhi blessed the road and all present there.

By Poorabi Goswami and Angela Abraham with contributions from Dolly Kapoor



On 1 March 2002, the foundation stone of the Multipurpose Hall was laid by Dr. Hari Gautam, the Chairman of University Grants Commission and blessed by His Grace Most Reverend Vincent N. Concessao, Archbishop of Delhi.



In 2006, a fully equipped State-of-the-art MPH was inaugurated and blessed by Archbishop Vincent N. Concessao.



In 2017, at JMC, we opened a state-of-the-art gym complete with equipment.

This brings us to the end of our JMC architecture journey until the next chapter is completed. And so, as this prestigious institution completes 50 glorious years, we remember each and every person who helped create this college, not only through their ideals and guidance, but also with the brick and mortar that has laid the foundation of where we stand now.

REPRINTS FROM THE PAST



1984

Compiled by
Sameera Chaudhary
Anjana Jali

1985



1992



1989

1991



1998

1997



1999



1995



1993



2005



2004



2011



2000



2014



2013



2010



2009



2016

Down Memory Lane



Sports team with Sister Agatha

*Memories in
Black and
White*



Dance performance by non-teaching staff



First Mass, 1968



First Communion, 1968

Silver Jubilee Celebrations



Inauguration



Mudra performance



Nrityanjali performance



*Launching the
silver jubilee
stamp*



*Silver
Jubilee
Plaque*

Famous People at JMC



Manmohan Singh



Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar'



Milkha Singh



Birju Maharaj and Shubha Mudgal



Indira Gandhi



Yuvraj Singh



Kiran Bedi

Sports Day Nostalgia



