

## AN ODE TO A HUNDRED YEARS GSC LEGACY GALA 2024

**G**ood Shepherd **A**lumni **A**ssociation with the support and guidance of Sr Annie Thomas, Principal, Sr Aruna, Correspondent and Sr Sabina Pathrose, Alumni Coordinator, set out to hold an event that would bring many batches of students, sisters and teachers, both retired and currently working, all together at the Centenary Legacy Gala. The Alumni Reunion was held on August 10th 2024 with an attendance of close to 700 alumni of which about 15 were old Boys of the school. As Sr. Sabina put it – it was a Homecoming for all.



With strings of fairy lights hung over the driveway inducing a magical quality to the evening and familiar marching tunes of yesteryears playing in the background, the grounds overflowed with students reliving their past overcome with sweet nostalgia. An array of sandwiches, cookies, ice lollies and canteen treats added to the air of fun and fantasy. The Campus Rides on Buggies covered the favourite nooks and secret places that dotted the grounds while everyone enjoyed recalling their various escapades.



heartwarming to listen to the past students from the 1940's and the pride in the voice of a great grandfather as he witnessed his great granddaughter graduate from Good Shepherd.

In their special address Sr Aruna and Sr Annie highlighted the work of the Good Shepherd Sisters in India and the changes that have taken place over the last hundred years were also pinpointed in their very informative presentation. A special mention was made about the launch of the new co-educational ICSE Centenary School, where once again boys would be welcomed into the Good Shepherd Campus. Graciously Past Principal Sr. Mercy George, teachers and non teaching staff, both who had retired and those who are currently working for twenty years and more were honoured and felicitated. A deep sense of love and gratitude toward the teachers and to the Alma Mater which had nurtured them permeated palpably among the audience.



Ms Praveena Rai launched the Alumni website. Ms Radhika Sunderaj and Ms Susan James were the key people who worked along with Omnex International to make this website come alive. Ms Anu Menon, also the MC, who had kept the audience in splits with her witty comments had a fun filled interactive session with the audience. Ms Anu Menon, an alumna, is very popular on social media and was the first female stand-up comedian on Amazon Prime.



The formal function in the Auditorium began with readings from the Bible, the Gita and the Koran. Sr Sabina, as she led the group in prayer, highlighted the Good Shepherd policy of upholding the self-worth and dignity of every person, treading the path of our foundress, St Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, who valued every person more precious than the whole world. Ms Sheeba Ninan, President of the Alumni Association, warmly welcomed the gathering. Shrimathi M.K. Kanimozhi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, the Chief Guest, spoke on what we owe to the Christian Missionaries and regarding empowerment of women today. Alumni Luminaries who also shared the stage were Padma Bhushan awardee, Dr Sudha Ragnathan – reputed Carnatic singer, Ms Praveena Rai, COO NPCI, responsible for taking digitalization to the remotest villages in India and Filmfare award winning singer Ms. Shwetha Mohan.



The function came to a close with the vote of thanks by Ms Ramona Viswanathan, Secretary of the Association. A fine dinner beautifully served under white canopies was enjoyed by all attendees. Music and dancing and gaiety ended this evening of celebrations. Everyone went back home with a beautiful souvenir – a classy keychain with an impressive medallion bearing the Good Shepherd School emblem and with their hearts overflowing with happy memories.

