



St Benedict's Catholic College Newsletter

Vol 6, Issue 11 26 July 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

Wed 10	Last day for Japanese visitors
Mon 15	CSSA Trial HSC exams finish Feast of the Assumption
Tues 16	Year 8 Elective presentation morning P&F Meeting
Wed 17	Year 8 into 9 Elective Information evening Diocesan Athletics Carnival
Thurs 18	Bennies Bring a Blanket
Fri 19	Staff Development Day-Pupil Free
Wed 24	Parenting Teens Evening Session 1 Year 7 Maths Incursion
Fri 26	Year 8 Reflection Day
Wed 31	Parenting Teens Evening-Part 2

SEPTEMBER

Fri 9	Year 7 Reflection Day
Wed 14	Leaders Induction
Thurs 15	Year 9 Reflection Day
Fri 16	Year 8 Pastoral Day
Mon 19	Final Preliminary Exams commence
Wed 21	Year 12 Final Breakfast, Assembly & Beach Day
Thurs 22	Year 12 Graduation Mass
Fri 23	Last Day of Term 3

October

Mon 10	First day of Term 4
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Year 8 Parents

Information Evening

for elective subjects

for Year 8 into 9

Surnames A-L 6:45pm

Surnames M-Z 7:45pm

at the College

Wednesday 17 August

Dear Parents

This weeks Gospel reading is about banking and saving. It must seem at times for parents, that young men and women of high school age (and older!) have no sense of "saving for a rainy day". The amount of "free money" through credit and being able to borrow at historically low interest rates is a temptation for many young people to live on what was once described as "the never-never". There are many grandparents out there who find this type of thinking baffling.

Jesus speaks to us about the importance of banking our treasures for heaven. These treasures are the good works that we do every day for those close to us and for the wider community. I am reminded of that wonderful line from St Paul that faith without good works is dead. So much of College life is tied to good works. In recent times our Senior students have started doing "good works" in the local community each Tuesday, our juniors support innumerable good works through Catholic Mission and Caritas amongst others. It is notable that our Senior Retreat also has as its theme "For where your treasure is there your heart will be also".

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Our Japanese visitors began their immersion this week with families across the College providing valuable insights into Australian life. It is a credit to the school community that our Japanese students are sitting at lunchtime and enjoying the company of the friendship groups of the host children.

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In the last week we have had a number of complaints from parents about crowded morning buses. The bus companies have responded to the issue by noting that a significant number of students do not have an Opal Card on any given day and they can only provide buses for "official numbers". I strongly urge parents to ensure their child has a Card in their wallet. In this day and age, you cannot travel anywhere without one, so it needs to become an integral part of getting ready for school or work.

Michael Hanratty

Principal

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STAND UP AND BE COUNTED: MARK YOUR RELIGION ON THE 2016 CENSUS

What you believe in matters, so stand up and be counted by marking your religion on the 2016 Census.

Religious faith is growing right around the world and what we believe remains a vital part of the life, culture, thinking and behaviour of Australians in our religiously diverse nation. Identifying your religious belief gives

OPAL CARDS

The bus companies have asked us to remind students that they are to tap their OPAL cards when getting **on and off** the bus.

Another reason to back up regularly:

In accordance with the Assessment Policy, technology failure will not be grounds for a student to gain an extension or appeal for illness/ Misadventure in any assessment of HSC Major Work.

P&F Meeting

Tuesday 16 August

7pm at the College

All welcome

Reminder

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Pupil Free

FRIDAY 19 AUGUST

Are you trying to come to grips with having a teenager in the house?

PARENTING TEENS EVENINGS

Wednesday 24 & 31 August

(Parents to attend both sessions.)

See the attached flyer for more details.

School Bus

There will be a bus assembly on Friday for Sport and for all afternoon buses as the new bus bay opens next Monday 15 August. General traffic arrangements will remain in place.

Please note there is a one way system in operation in the school grounds, drop off is beside the school buildings and exiting via the far fence parallel to Oran Park Drive. Parking is only permitted in parking bays and not at the drop off / pick up zone.

important information for future planning for resourcing of things like education, healthcare and social services to which Religious organisations make a massive contribution.

Just as important, it provides a snapshot of who we are, and what drives our attitudes and behaviour. Saying Yes to Religion will also highlight the importance of maintaining religious freedoms in our multi-faith nation. Stand up and be counted, and be sure to mark 'your Religion' on the 2016 Census on Tuesday August 9.

Facebook: share Bishop Peter's FB post:

<http://dow.sh/CensusStandUp>

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Year 12's High Tea

The Social Action Group wanted to provide the College's first Year 12's with a care package going into their trials. This was to show the students that the whole school was supporting the next chapter of their journey. In deciding this, we thought a Surprise High Tea lunch would be the perfect way for Year 12 to receive their packages. The Social Action Group along with Bennies would like to wish the Year 12's the best in their exams and their future journey.



Stand up and be counted

YOUR **YES**
IN THIS
CENSUS
MATTERS



Mark *your religion* on the 2016 census

Faith is not in decline around the world. Religious affiliation is growing and faith remains a vital part of the life, culture, thinking and behaviour of individuals in Australia, positively impacting society and culture in many and varied ways.

In our multi-faith and multicultural country, religious freedom is an essential basic human right. People of faith and the organisations that have grown out of our faith traditions make a massive contribution to things such as education, healthcare, aged care and an array of social services in our nation.

It is important that people of faith – those who are regularly connected to organised religion, and those who simply regard themselves as believers – mark the faith they identify with when participating in the National Census.

Saying “yes” to your belief matters because it:

1. Allows people of faith, their religious leaders and government representatives to credibly and confidently **contribute to the public discourse** on a variety of issues such as the economy, education, healthcare and social services.
2. Helps to underline the importance of **freedom of belief** in Australia and also enables leaders to understand the proportional breakdown of beliefs so as to best nurture interfaith harmony that is a feature of our multicultural nation.
3. Provides decision makers with vital information for effectively **planning for the future of our nation** such as the location of places of worship and the many ‘good works’ done by people of faith across religious traditions.
4. Provides a **snapshot of who we are**, including what we value and what drives us. For so many Australians, their values and reasons for the way they act stem from their religious beliefs.
5. Can be used as a future determinant of the **allocation of roles and government resourcing and co-funding** with faith groups who make a massive contribution to society in education, healthcare and social services.

***Stand up and be counted* when you participate in the Census this Tuesday 9 August 2016.**

Produced by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong for all faith traditions and people of goodwill.





CATHOLIC MISSION AND VISION

I was watching some reports on World Youth Day recently and I was impressed with so many young people gathered in one place, for the same reason – to express and experience their faith. It is estimated that 2.5 million pilgrims celebrated the event and this included people from all around the world. With a focus on the Year of Mercy, pilgrims experienced a range of activities, from music and concerts, to Catechesis and the week concluded with a pilgrimage, celebrating mass with Pope Francis. It is inspiring to see so many young people together celebrating their faith. It was very fitting that the event was held in Poland, as St John Paul II, who was born, raised, ordained, ministered and consecrated Bishop in Poland, had initiated World Youth Day during his Pontificate. The Pope entrusted the World Youth Day cross and icon to young people over the world. This has become an important aspect of the pilgrimage for youth. At the conclusion of this year's mass, Pope Francis announced that Panama City will host World Youth Day in 2019. In summing up World Youth Day, Pope Francis stated "These days have given you a spiritual 'breath of fresh air' that will help you live lives of mercy once you return to your own countries and communities,".

(source: <https://cruxnow.com/world-youth-day-panama/2016/07/31/francis-announces-panama-wyd-venue-2019/>)

Recently, Pope Francis was visiting Assisi, where he was talking about the importance of mercy and forgiveness in our lives. I have included some of the pontiff's comments here:

"Too many people are caught up in resentment and harbor hatred because they are incapable of forgiving. They ruin their own lives and the lives of those around them rather than finding the joy of serenity and peace," the pope said Aug. 4 during an afternoon visit to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels.

"Forgiveness - pardon - is surely our direct route to that place in heaven" that Jesus promised his followers, the pope said. "What a great gift the Lord has given us in teaching us to forgive and, in this way, to touch the Father's mercy!"

(Source: <https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2016/08/05/forgive-others-find-peace-pope-says-assisii/>)

Our Year 8 students are busily preparing for the Diocesan Literacy Task. This is a task with 2 sections. Part A is a common test with all Diocesan schools, and tests the year 7 and 8 curriculum. Recently in class, students have been revising the many things they have learnt in Religious Education since their time at the College and I am confident that we are well prepared for this task. Additionally, part B requires students to complete a hand in component, which doubles as a school assessment task. Good luck to year 8 students in this year's assessment.

The Social Action group has again been busy with the Hospitality focus for the start of this term. A beautiful 'High Tea' was organised for our Year 12 students, along with a care package for the trial HSC examinations. This was an important way for our students to wish the Year 12's luck, and to also ensure they felt welcomed and comfortable in our community during the examination period. Additionally, our visiting Japanese students were welcomed to our community and the Social Action group organised a tour of the school as well as a welcome pack. This has been a great opportunity for all of our students to show the Bennies welcome and put into action the virtue of Hospitality.

The Social Action group is also very busy at the moment organizing the annual Bennies Bring a Blanket. This will be held on Thursday 18th August. Permission notes are due on Thursday 11th August. I would encourage all students to attend this wonderful event.

The Sacramental Program came to a conclusion on Wednesday 27 of July with a beautiful mass with Fr David at the worship centre. It was truly heartwarming to see 8 students in our college community make a commitment to their faith by receiving one or all of the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Congratulations to the students involved this year. Any student or family who is interested in receiving one or all of the sacraments can discuss this with me. We would be hoping to run a similar program next year.

Finally, our prayers are with our year 12 students for the examination period. Homerooms have been praying for specific students during the exams and we wish them all good luck.

Mr David Costin

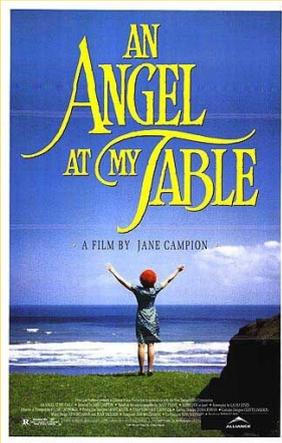
Director of Mission and Vision.



St Benedict's Catholic College Presents

Understanding & Parenting Your Teen

... for first timers and those who don't want to forget!



Ever wondered what
happened to the Angel at
YOUR Table??

Can't work out what's
"got into them"?



St Benedict's Catholic College presents a two night seminar on coming to grips with the teenager in your house.

To be held in an informal and welcoming local setting and whether it's your first teen or fourth, our experienced College Counsellor Gloria Melham, will walk you through some of the struggles of adolescence and the strategies in parenting to assist you in meeting each of the adolescent hurdles as they emerge at different stages.

BE INFORMED!

SHARE YOUR OWN PARENTING STRATEGIES!

VENUE

St Benedict's Catholic College

DATES

Wednesday 24 August 7:00pm—8:30pm
and
Wednesday 31 August 7:00pm—8:30pm

PLEASE NOTE:

Both sessions must be attended. The seminar will start at 7pm **SHARP!**

COST

The seminar is **free** to all parents.
Coffee and tea will be provided.
To **register** your attendance please ring the office on 4631 5300.