



St Benedict's Catholic College Newsletter

Vol 5, Issue 9 23 June 2015

Dear Parents

This week saw the release of Pope Francis' Encyclical entitled "Praise Be". In the normal course of events, Papal encyclicals have a tendency to be invisible to the non-Catholic population but because this teaching is directed at the whole world and addresses one of mankind's greatest challenges, it has gained worldwide attention. Benedictine communities have always had *Stewardship of the Environment* as a key plank of their value system and it is a constant message in the College about being good caretakers of all that we have been given in both the natural and (newly) built environments.

The Encyclical is a long (200+ pages), but powerful document, and I thought it would be worthwhile to share some of it with you at this time.

Pope Francis is calling for an "ecological conversion" for the faithful in his Encyclical. Here are some of the key passages people will read closely, everything from climate change and global warming to abortion and population control. The following with thanks to *The Washington Post*.

1) Climate change has grave implications. "Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost forever," he writes.

2) Rich countries are destroying poor ones, and the earth is getting warmer. "The warming caused by huge consumption on the part of some rich countries has repercussions on the poorest areas of the world, especially Africa, where a rise in temperature, together with drought, has proved devastating for farming."

3) Christians have misinterpreted Scripture and "must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God's image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures."

4) The importance of access to safe drinkable water is "a basic and universal human right."

5) Technocratic domination leads to the destruction of nature and the exploitation of people, and "by itself the market cannot guarantee integral human development and social inclusion."

6) Population control does not address the problems of the poor. "In the face of the so-called culture of death, the family is the heart of the culture of life." And, "Since everything is interrelated, concern for the protection of nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion."

7) Gender differences matter, and "valuing one's own body in its femininity or masculinity is necessary if I am going to be able to recognize myself in an encounter with someone who is different."

8) The international community has not acted enough: "recent World Summits on the environment have not lived up to expectations because, due to lack of political will, they were unable to reach truly meaningful and effective global agreements on the environment." He writes, "the Church does not presume to settle scientific questions or to replace politics. But I am concerned to encourage an honest and open debate so that particular interests or ideologies will not prejudice the common good." And, "there is urgent need of a true world political authority, as my predecessor Blessed John XXIII indicated some years ago."

UPCOMING EVENTS

June

- Thurs 25** Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews (3.00pm – 5:30pm and 6:15 – 8:30 pm)
Fri 26 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews (8:15–2:30)
—Pupil Free
Term 2 ends

July

- Mon 13** 1st Day Term 3
Thurs 16 Yr 8 MISA Debating
Mon 20 Diocesan Netball
Fri 24 Yr 8 Reflection Day
Wed 29 Yr 11 2016 Electives Evening

August

- Mon 3** Yr 8 MISA Debating
Thurs 6 College Athletics Carnival
Tues 11 P&F Meeting 7pm @ the College
Wed 12 Yr 9 2016 Elective Evening
Fri 14 Staff Development Day—Pupil Free

Last Day of Term

(Pupil Free)

Friday

26 June

Parent/Teacher

Interviews

8:15am to 2:30pm

Students are to accompany parents to interviews in full winter uniform. (Booking details see page 5.)

9) Individuals must act. “An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness,” he writes. We should also consider taking public transit, car-pooling, planting trees, turning off the lights and recycling.

10) By the way, why are we here on Earth in the first place? “What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?” he writes.

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As you may have seen in the media on Friday, St Benedict’s Catholic College was announced as the fastest growing school in NSW and was chosen by Education Minister Adrian Piccoli to make a most welcome announcement about the restoration of funding to Catholic and Independent Schools in the next State budget. Together with Bishop Peter Ingham, Director of Schools, Mr Peter Turner and the Head of the Association of Independent Schools, Mr Geoff Newcombe, the party toured Stages 1 & 2 and observed Stage 3, some of which opens this week, and Stage 4 where work has begun. The College has doubled in size in 18 months with over 700 students on site next year and 1400 on total Campus with St Justin’s on the adjoining site. There are now significant waiting lists for both schools and any increase in funding to allow the Catholic sector to build to cater for the demand locally is very welcome. As Director Peter Turner commented “We are very aware that our families pay twice”.

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A warm welcome to Fr. David Catterall and congratulations to all our families who now belong to the new Parish of Mary of the Cross McKillop, Oran Park! A brochure will come home this week outlining the arrangements for the Celebration of the Eucharist in the Parish locally and at Leppington. There is also a map of the new Parish boundary for those who are still a little geographically embarrassed. There will be quite a few opportunities to meet Fr David as a Parishoner and we have already made arrangements to welcome him at school level. Exciting times ahead for the local Catholic community.

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We farewell Ms Louise Harriden this week and wish her well on the birth of her first child. Miss Taylor Morley, who has been a regular visitor to the College doing casual relief work, will be replacing Ms Harriden. Mrs Tracee Brown has accepted the position of Year Coordinator for Year 8 for the remainder of the year and we congratulate her on that significant appointment.

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Semester 1 College Reports were distributed yesterday and follow-up Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews will be held this Thursday night and all day Friday for Years 7 to 10. The reporting period is, by necessity, quite different for Years 11 (and 12 next year). Year 11 received a Report at the end of Term1 and will receive another at the end of the Preliminary Course at the end of Term 3. There will be an opportunity for Parent Teacher Interviews at that time. However, should any Year 11 parent wish to see teachers for a progress interview, an appointment can be made through the online booking system.

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Punctuality to school in the morning is an important start to a student’s day. It is during Academic Care that students understand what is going on for the day and connect with their tutors for discussions about homework, assignments and goal setting. Being rushed at the beginning of the day and not knowing how to organise themselves can have a big impact on some children, so punctuality is an important value to model, learn and practice.

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As we move into the Semester break, I wish all our families a safe and happy holiday and I hope it is a time a time to recharge the batteries for your children. A reminder that school returns on Monday 13th July (only State schools have that as a staff development day).

Warm Regards

Michael Hanratty
Principal



Prayer Focus - Stewardship

The Prayer Focus for the College for the last 5 weeks has been on the Benedictine concept of Stewardship.

Stewardship is an important Benedictine value which captures the essence of Benedictine life. On a most basic level, St Benedict talks of care and reverence of material things (*"Regard all utensils as if they were the sacred vessels of the altar". Rule of St Benedict 31.10*).

This means that all things – regardless of their perceived monetary or personal value, are to be taken care of, as all things are God given.

The questions that have been asked of students here at school have revolved around: Are we stewards? Do we take care of ALL things we own and those around us? Do we take care of our School and our environment?

Recently, we held Clean up Bennies Day – which was a great way for students to get involved in caring for our school environment. Over 50 students spent lunchtime picking up rubbish, clearing out the gardens, cleaning windows, sweeping, and ensuring that our school was cared for.

We also participated in the "Jump up and down 4 kids" campaign – which was raising awareness about, and calling for, the freeing of refugee children in detention.

It was great to see so many students involved in both of these campaigns and actively getting involved in being stewards of all things.

CAMPBELLTOWN TERM 3, 2015

BRINGING UP GREAT TEENS

A workshop for parents of teenagers. This program covers connecting with teens, managing conflict, big issues and psychological challenges.

4 Monday Mornings 10am - 12:30pm
20, 27 July, 3 & 10 August 2015

CatholicCare
35a Cordeaux St,
Campbelltown
Workshop Fee: \$15 per session

KEEPING KIDS IN MIND

A post-separation parenting workshop. Learn how to deal more effectively with the emotional & practical issues of parenting after separation. Explores loss & grief in parents and children, power grabs & impact on children.

5 Tuesday Mornings 10am - 12:30pm
14, 21, 28, July, 4 & 11 August 2015
5 Thursday Evenings 6:30—9pm
30 July, 6, 13, 20, 27 August 2015

CatholicCare
35A Cordeaux Street
Campbelltown
Workshop Fee: \$20 per session

SEASONS FOR GROWTH PARENTING

This workshop gives an understanding of divorce/separation from a child's perspective and helps parents to support their children through family change.

2 Tuesday Mornings 10am - 12:30pm
18 & 25 August 2015

CatholicCare
35A Cordeaux St
Campbelltown
Workshop Fee: \$15 per session

WORKSHOP BOOKINGS

Campbelltown 4628 0044



Concessions may apply dependent on financial circumstances.

College Sport — Week 9 Tuesday 16th June

Unfortunately the wet weather meant that some of our Sports had to be cancelled this week, however we were able to accommodate many students in Bodywar, Zumba, F45, Swimming, Crossfit and Bowling.

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated as MVPs for Week 9;

Wet Weather (7A, AFL)	Lukkas Marrapodi & Natasha Camera (7B, Zumba)
Eve Raisin (7D, Swimming)	Wet Weather (7C, Sportsfun)
Jordan Gomes (8A, Sport Clinic)	Wet Weather (8C, Taekwondo)
Wet Weather (8B, NRL)	Hunter Constantine & Courtney Schonnell (9A, Crossfit)
Elysse Stevens (9A, Bowling)	Alex Zappia & Nick Bevan (11, Bodywar)
Wet Weather (10A, Tennis)	Abbygail Petrovski (10B, F45)

MISA Sport

Unfortunately the wet weather also meant that the final round of MISA was a washout. Although we had a lot of disruptions this season, each of our teams played their best week in and week out and represented the College in a manner of which we can all be proud. Whilst the final results have not been released we can congratulate Mr Lo Cascio and the Year 7 Boys Soccer team who were undefeated throughout the season!

A big thank you on behalf of the students to our MISA Coaches, who, in addition to leading the team, take uniforms and jerseys home to be washed each week and assist in the refereeing of matches.

Thank you

Miss Brady & Ms Harriden	Year 10/11 MISA Netball
Mrs Hayden	Year 9 MISA Netball
Mr Lo Cascio	Year 7 MISA Soccer
Mrs Isbister	Year 8/9 MISA Soccer
Mr Costin	Year 10/11 MISA Soccer
Mrs Castelli & Mrs Lemaire	MISA Dance

MISA Softball Premiers

Last Term you might remember hearing that the Year 7-9 MISA Softball team, ably lead by Mr Turton went through the season undefeated to be crowned MISA Champions. This is a fantastic achievement and one that can't go unrecognised. At our recent College Assembly, Mr Hanratty presented the team with their Premiership trophy. This is on display in our Front Office.

Yours in Sport,
Mrs Pereira





Book School Interviews Online

Parent Teacher Interviews 2015

Dear Parents

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held at **3.00pm – 5:30pm** and **6:15 – 8:30 pm** on **Thursday 25th June** and **8.15am – 2.30pm** on **Friday 26th June, 2015.**

You can now book interviews at times that suit **YOUR FAMILY BEST.**
Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.
Please note that you can also access this through a link on the College website.



Enter THIS school event code.
Then follow the 3 simple steps.



When you click **finish**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately.
You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

Parents that don't have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend's house or on their phones, are asked to contact the College office on 4631 5300 to make a booking.

Interviews are strictly 5 minutes long and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: 4631 5300

Please print out a copy of your interview times and bring them with you to ensure you are able to keep to your appointments.

Please Note: Bookings open at 10am on Monday 22 June