



# St Benedict's Catholic College Newsletter

Vol 6, Issue 6 3 May 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome Back to Term 2. I trust that everyone had a wonderful break. We are now in the Easter "Season" and the days in which the Risen Lord has shown himself to his disciples, leading them to full faith in him, are coming to an end – 'I am going away, and shall return'. The disciples have come to recognise that faith in what God has done for the world in Christ brings a daunting task: 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you'; 'By this love you have for one another everyone will know that you are my disciples'. Centuries later, Benedict's instructions to his own followers were clear: in each of the people that come to our door, there is Jesus. In our Easter Season let us 'welcome the stranger'.

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This year, on ANZAC Day we commemorated the 100 year anniversary of the largest military offensives of WW1 that took place on the fields of northern France. The biggest military offensives occurred in July and August of 1916 in what would become known as the Battle of the Somme. During this major offensive to push the Germans out of France, Australians were involved in two important subsidiary battles – one at a place called Fromelles (July 19-20, 1916) and another at a place called Pozieres (July 23, 1916). Many of our students represented the College at the annual Camden Anzac Day march and proudly wore their grandfathers medals, some earned in these very places. At our assembly on Tuesday our HSIE teaching team prepared and presented a very moving and solemn commemoration focusing on remembering these two battles that took more Australian lives than the Gallipoli campaign and which have been forgotten by many. The story of the battle and the stories of men who died reminded us of the need for peace, something we can all contribute to each and every day.

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At the end of last term our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze awardees completed the last of their "Adventurous Journeys" whilst "Racing Around Sydney": taking them to seldom seen areas in the CBD, then overnighting on Cockatoo Island. Trekking the justifiably famous Spit-Manly walk around the harbour foreshores was a spectacular final day finish. Congratulations to the Year 10 students and to Mrs Isbister and Miss Riedel whom I was privileged to share the experience with over the 2 days.

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Enrolments for Year 7, 2017 have now closed. There are 83 siblings amongst the nearly 300 applications so a huge thank you to our current families for your continued support. Interviews have commenced and will run over the next 3 weeks. Our combined site now hosts over 1500 students with St Justin's the largest Primary school in the Diocese and our own numbers heading towards 800 for 2017 as our sixth stream moves into Year 9.

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Students would have been confronted on their return to school with a much larger sense of how large the St Benedict's block is with the removal of all the clean fill and building waste from the north eastern end of the school. This is in preparation for the new Oval that will stretch along the (newly named) Hollows Rd and Catherine Park Drive. Although not ideal, turf will be laid at the end of this month hoping for winter rains to bed it in ready for a first cut in Spring.

Elsewhere on the site the classroom block has been completed and furniture has begun to arrive for classes to move in over the next few weeks. The concrete retaining walls and paths have been poured around the Library, and the entrance boulevard from the Cloister to the Office is nearly complete. We are hoping to move into the Library this month.

The *next* stage of building - 18 classrooms, to be built between the Science labs and the new E Block, commences construction at the beginning of June.

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Parent Teacher Student interviews were held last week for Years 7 & 11 following the transition school reports that were distributed at the end of last term. These were important meetings as both groups of students have begun a period of education that represents a significant change in expectations and commitment. It was wonderful to meet many of our new Year 7 families on the evening. For Year 11 parents this was a chance to understand the new subjects their children were studying and hear the expectations outlined for each of them. The next meeting with Year 11 parents, held after the Preliminary Course Examinations at the end of Term 3, bookends our feedback to parents. Teachers are already commenting about how both groups have made a very positive start to their new "environments".

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Parents will have noticed the new traffic lights on Oran Park Drive. Very soon there will be a host of new changes to traffic management around the perimeter of the College beginning with the widening of Oran Park Drive to fill in the missing link between Harrington Parkway and Forest Grove Drive. The removal of the pedestrian crossing will also mean the students now crossing at the lighted crossing, a much (!) safer option for all pedestrians in both schools.

The opening of Hollows Rd also means St Benedict's permanent bus bay will open later this year and the shared arrangement with St Justin's will cease. With our buses now loading facing Catherine Park this will make student movement to and from the College a lot faster.

Once the widening of the road is finished (6-9 months) and the Catherine Park streets opened (this month) there only remains the internal missing link between the current bus bay and the car park which we anticipate also building this year. I know that is something you will all be looking forward to!

A full and comprehensive map and details of the arrangements will be forwarded home as a separate letter and email when we have exact start dates from the developers.

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The College offers its congratulations to Fr David Catterall and his team at St Mary of the Cross McKillop Parish on the imminent opening of the new church (we have been jokingly calling it the St Benedict's basilica!). The finishing touches are going on this week and it promises to be a wonderful worship space for our parishioners. The first Mass is scheduled for Mothers Day. The College looks forward to celebrating the Eucharist in Year Groups with Fr David in the new sacred space.

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Speaking of Mothers Day, it is Mothers Day before our next newsletter and we wish all our Mums a wonderful day.

### **A Litany for Mothers**

*Eve our first mother – thank you for stepping out and being the first to understand the complexities of life.*

*Sarah, Hannah and Elizabeth – thank you for your patience and courage in waiting for a miracle. May all people longing for children be strengthened by your stories and comforted in their pain.*

*Hagar – thank you for your resolve in the face of exile. May all mothers who are forced to flee or are forgotten be given hope in you.*

*Rebecca – thank you for your flexibility. Let us remember all mothers who have to raise their children in a different country or far from their relatives and who feel isolated.*

*Rachel – you carried the burden of grief and wept for your children. Hold the hands of all those mothers who weep for their children – children who have gone missing, who have died or are lost to them in other ways.*

*Jochebed – you used wisdom and insight to protect your children. Give to all mothers this wisdom and insight in the bringing up of their children, especially in vulnerable times.*

*Naomi and Ruth – you showed that love can conquer all trials. Help all mothers to love constantly when life seems impossible and despair weighs hard upon their souls.*

*Mary – the new Eve whose 'yes' to God changed our world forever. Thank you for sheltering the Holy One all those years ago, for your faithful love and tender care of God's most precious Son. May we never forget that in your giving is our greatest receiving – of the gift of life wrapped in a manger and in a tomb.*

*May we know the true cost of relationship  
our hearts as you once held him deep within*

*by holding our faith in Christ deep within  
your womb.*



Wishing you the  
very best this  
Mother's Day!

## COLLEGE MISSION AND VISION

Pope Francis recently released 'Amoris laetitia' (which is Latin for *The Joy of Love*) which is a post-synodal apostolic exhortation, and it follows the Synods on the Family held in 2014 and 2015. It covers many topics and issues that are relevant to today's society in regards to the family and love. I would recommend to any interested families to have a look at this document. It can be easily downloaded at the Vatican website:

[https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20160319\\_amoris-laetitia.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20160319_amoris-laetitia.html)

I include a section below of this document. In this section, Pope Francis talks about the value and the importance that Family prayer can have in the life of the family. I also include a prayer for the Holy family, which is a part of *Amoris laetitia*.

*(318) Family prayer is a special way of express-ing and strengthening this paschal faith. A few minutes can be found each day to come together before the living God, to tell him our worries, to ask for the needs of our family, to pray for someone experiencing difficulty, to ask for help in showing love, to give thanks for life and for its blessings, and to ask Our Lady to protect us beneath her maternal mantle. With a few simple words, this moment of prayer can do immense good for our families. The various expressions of popular piety are a treasure of spirituality for many families. The family's communal journey of prayer culminates by sharing together in the Eucharist, especially in the context of the Sun-day rest. Jesus knocks on the door of families, to share with them the Eucharistic supper (cf. Rev 3:20).*

### *Prayer to the Holy Family*

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate  
the splendour of true love;  
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
grant that our families too  
may be places of communion and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel  
and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may families never again experience  
violence, rejection and division;  
may all who have been hurt or scandalized  
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
make us once more mindful  
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
Graciously hear our prayer.

Amen.

David Costin  
Director of Mission and Vision

### CATECHISTS NEEDED FOR ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH

- Every Tuesday and Wednesday during school terms SRE is taught by parishioners from St Mary MacKillop parish to Catholic students in the 4 government schools in the parish boundary - Leppington PS, Rossmore PS, Harrington Park PS and Oran Park PS. The children receive 30 minutes of instruction per week. Sometimes this is the only connection they have with their faith. While we are blessed to have a great team of men and women (including some young people from St Benedict's College) who currently serve in this special ministry, as the number of Catholic children attending the 4 state schools in the parish increases we are appealing for more parishioners to come forward to be trained as catechists. If you are able to provide an hour of your time once a week on a Tuesday or Wednesday morning, would you please contact St Mary MacKillop parish catechist coordinator Mr Kevin Wright c/o parish office - Phone: 46482226 or email: [oranpark@dow.org.au](mailto:oranpark@dow.org.au) (Photo: CCD Wollongong website)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MAY

**Thurs 5** College Photo Day  
**Fri 6** St Benedict's Day  
**Mon 9** Year 11 U-Turn the Wheel  
**Tues 10** NAPLAN Testing Years 7 & 9  
**Wed 11** NAPLAN Testing Years 7 & 9  
HSC Half Yearly Reports distributed  
**Thurs 12** NAPLAN Testing Years 7 & 9  
**Mon 23** Yrs 9 & 10 Semester 1 Exams start  
**Tues 24** P & F Meeting 7pm @ the College  
**Fri 27** Yrs 9 & 10 Semester 1 Exams end

### JUNE

**Fri 10** Staff Development Day-Pupil Free  
**Mon 13** Queen's Birthday Public Holiday  
**Wed 15** Parenting Teens Evening Part 1  
Vaccinations #2 (Year 7)  
**Wed 22** Parenting Teens Evening Part 2  
**Fri 24** Year 7 Science Excursion  
**Thurs 30** Yrs 8-10 Parent Teacher Evening

### JULY

**Fri 1** Yrs 8-10 Parent Teacher Day  
**Last Day of Term 2**

### P&F Meeting

**Tuesday 24 May**

**7:00pm**

**at the College**

Reminder:

**NAPLAN testing**

for Years 7 and 9

Tuesday 10 May—Thursday 12 May

### Photo reminder

A reminder that school photos are primarily for College records. They are not for glamour shots of your child. Students are to follow the College Uniform Policy for the full winter uniform, particularly in regard to hair and makeup.

If paying by cash, please ensure that the correct change is included in the envelope as **NO CHANGE** will be given.

## Celebrate St Benedict's Day Friday 6 May

Parents and carers are invited to join with us in celebrating Mass at the College, commencing at 9:00am in the COLA. Morning tea following the Mass will be provided by the St Benedict's P&F. If you are able to attend could you please RSVP to the invitation below, issued by the P&F, for catering purposes.



The P&F invites parents and carers to a

**Morning Tea**

on

**St Benedict's Feast Day**

at

St Benedict's Catholic College

on

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

Following the morning Mass

RSVP: Clare-Ann 0401 199 635

### P&F Morning Tea – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May

Thank you to all the parents who have kindly offered to bake for this Friday's Morning Tea. It would be appreciated if all baked goods could be left in the Food Tech room on Friday morning. I will be there between 7.45am and 8.30am.

Thanks  
Clare-Ann Taylor

### Photo Day—order your photos online



School photography day is Thursday, 5 May. Group and portrait photographs can be purchased by following the link and code listed below or by using the envelope.

Important Information:

- School photos purchased online DO NOT require envelopes returned to school\*
- Don't forget to order your sibling photos now
- **Late fees/additional charges will be applied for purchases after photo day**
- Photos will be returned to your school for distribution approximately six weeks after photos are taken

\*Sibling photographs must be ordered either online or by order envelope prior to the day of photography. A photograph will not be taken without an order. Sibling photographs only apply to children enrolled at the school.

enquiries@advancedlife.com.au  
Online Order Code: 8A9 6V4 L53

## ANZAC DAY MARCH IN CAMDEN



St Benedict's was well represented by both staff and students at the recent ANZAC Day March.

Year 7: Chelsea Azzopardi, Gabrielle Coleman, Grace Cremen, Althea-Faith De la Cruz, Riley Hinton, William Milgate, Paris Murray, Logan Jones, Gabrielle Patterson, Isabella Quinlan, Benjamin Waights

Year 8: Brielle Brown, Olivia Dowling, Haleigh Foster, Cooper Judge, Madelyn Manny, Alyssa Nash, Ashlee Stevens, Alyssia Thompson

Year 9: Alanna Azzopardi

Year 10: Lewis Azzopardi, Elyse Stevens

Year 12: Ebony Billett, Lachlan Haidle

Representing community groups:

Army Cadets: Deacon Natsia (Year 10), Julian Di Giovanni (Year 8)

Air Force Cadets: Jack Kelly (Year 11)

Narellan Jets: Thomas Haidle

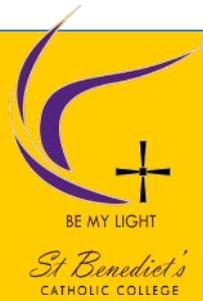


## EQUESTRIAN TEAM REPORT

On Thursday 7 April members of the Interschool Equestrian Team attended a behind the scenes tour of the CDI Dressage event held at Sydney International Equestrian Centre. It was very informative and everyone had a great day listening to talks from high level judges, the stable manager as well as one of Australia's best dressage riders and trainers, Brett Parbery. Thank you to Equestrian NSW for inviting the schools and to the people who generously gave up their time to talk to the students.

Sunday the 3rd April saw 5 of the team compete at the Oxley Interschools competition with some great results! Shanae Skye & Bree were awarded in the top 3 places for Dressage, Showjumping, Derby & Sporting. Zara and Allirah placed 4th in their respective dressage tests. Well done girls and thank you to the parents for all their help getting the team to these events.

Mrs Kylie Hill  
Team Manager



## PARENT & FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

**TRIVIA  
NIGHT!**

The P&F Committee presents a  
Christmas in July  
Trivia Night!

**Saturday August 6 2016.**

More details will become  
available closer to the date.

**watch this space!**

### SAVE THE DATE

The P&F is excited to present a Christmas in July Trivia Night on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Further details regarding venue, time and costs will be announced soon.



To ensure the trivia night's success, we are currently seeking volunteers to form a committee. Interested parents would be involved in the preparations and organisation of prizes, decorations, tables etc. The more the merrier and after all, many hands make light work!

If you are interested in volunteering for our trivia night committee, please contact Lucy Bautovich on 0402 221151.

### CAREER NEWS

#### **UTS: Law Undergraduate Information Evening**

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016, 6pm to 8pm, UTS Building 5, Block B, Cnr Quay St and Ultimo Rd, Haymarket

The event is directed at students in years 11 and 12, who are interested in studying law. The evening will include information on various degree options, practice-oriented learning, entry pathways, student life and one-on-one consultations with staff and students.

<http://www.uts.edu.au/about/faculty-law/events/law-undergraduate-info-evening>

#### **Australian Apprenticeships Job Pathways Charts**

These charts illustrate potential career pathways that begin with an Australian apprenticeship.

<http://www.aapathways.com.au/Career-Resources/Job-Pathway-Charts-Link/Job-Pathways-Charts-PDF>

#### **Australian Apprenticeships Government Website**

This website is an invaluable resource providing information on apprenticeship programs, location of apprenticeship centres, government initiatives and recent publications regarding apprentice work force changes.

<http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/>