



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Last Sunday, the Catholic Church celebrated Pentecost the official birthday of the Church. This is the time of the official inauguration of the Christian Church by St. Peter's apostolic preaching, which resulted in the conversion of 3000 Jews to the Christian faith that very day. The Vatican Radio website, <http://en.radiovaticana.va>, has an in-depth liturgical reflection on this solemnity and a summary appears below.

For Christians, Pentecost is a memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues, an event that took place fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus. The Paschal mystery of the Passion, the Death, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of Jesus is completed in the sending of the Holy Spirit by the Father at the request of the Son upon his disciples. The Scripture readings of that day remind us that Pentecost is an event of both the past and the present. The main theme of the readings is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is something to be shared with others. That is, the readings remind us that the gift of the Holy Spirit moves its recipients to action and inspires them to share this gift with others.

The first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-11), described in detail the miraculous transformation that took place during the first Christian Pentecost, thus fulfilling Jesus' promise to his Apostles. There was first "a noise like a strong, driving wind." Then there were "tongues as of fire" resting on the disciples, and each of them was filled with the Holy Spirit. The first manifestation of their reception of the Holy Spirit came when the Apostles rushed out to the street and began to proclaim the good news of Jesus, and everyone there (regardless of their many different native languages), was able to understand them "in his own tongue."



The Jews in the crowds came from sixteen different geographical regions. Later, the Acts of the Apostles describes how the Holy Spirit empowered the early Christians to bear witness to Christ by sharing their love and strong faith. This "anointing by the Holy Spirit" also strengthened the early Christian martyrs during the period of brutal persecution that followed.

In the second reading (1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13), St. Paul explains how the sharing of the various spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit enriches the Church. He refers to the varieties of gifts given to the Church as coming from the same Spirit who activates all of them in Christians for the common good. They are described as the gifts, fruits and charisms of the Spirit. They may take different forms like prophecy, teaching, administration, acts of charity, healing and speaking in tongues, and they may reside in different persons like Apostles, prophets, teachers, healers and so on. Paul lists the fruits of the Spirit in his Letter to the Galatians "What the Spirit brings is ... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (5:22). He continues, "Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit" (5:25). Paul insists that these spiritual gifts are to be used in the present time for the benefit of others, for the common good and for the building up of the body of Christ.

The gospel related how the risen Jesus gave his Apostles a foretaste of Pentecost on the evening of Easter Sunday by appearing to them and entrusting to them the continuance of the mission given him by his heavenly Father. He then empowered them to do so by breathing upon them and saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit." On the day of Pentecost, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send the Advocate or Paraclete. The gift of the Spirit would also enable them to fulfill Jesus' commission to preach the gospel to all nations.

Mr Ray Martin
Principal

There was first "a noise like a strong, driving wind." Then there were "tongues as of fire" resting on the disciples, and each of them was filled with the Holy Spirit.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

IMPORTANCE OF GETTING INVOLVED AT SCHOOL

School days are often referred to as the best time of your life (once you have left). Recently I have received invitations to school reunions. They have been wonderful opportunities to reminisce, laugh, and celebrate. As adults we often speak about those events at school that were most memorable, especially the extra-curricular activities that were both fun and challenging. As parents we should encourage our children to get involved in the life of the school. That is both inside and outside the classroom. Our wonderful community at MCCP is very much entrenched in Celebration and our Vision for Learning encourages all our young people to get involved. Each week we are proud of our students who represent our College at sport, debating, public speaking, music, academic competitions, social justice initiatives and many more activities. Allowing your child to get involved in extracurricular activities at school is a wise choice, and it can be very important in helping them to develop many working skills, people skills, and much more.

Here are a few of **The Benefits of Getting Involved at School:**

Benefit #1 – Learning Time Management and Prioritising: One great benefit of your child being involved in extra-curricular activities is that they will learn about time management and prioritising things in their life. As adults we get very used to juggling a variety of different tasks and commitments. Our children need to learn how to do this as well, and getting involved in these activities can give them some practice at it.

Benefit #2 – Getting Involved in Diverse Interests: Getting involved in extracurricular activities also allows students to get involved in diverse interests. It is important for your child to be very diverse in their interests. These activities allow them to explore various interests that they may have.

Benefit #3 – Learning about Long Term Commitments: Students learn about long term commitments when they are involved in extra-curricular activities as well, which is another excellent benefit. When they join one of the activities or initiatives they commit themselves to that activity for a period of time. If they don't hold up to their end of the deal, no doubt they'll hear about it from their parents and perhaps even teachers. Learning to take on commitments is important, and these activities can teach your child this important lesson.

Benefit #4 – Making a Contribution to MCCP: Extra-curricular activities allows your child to make a contribution in some way. It shows that they are getting away from just thinking about themselves and contributing to something else. This is important in their growth as a person.

Benefit #5 – Raises Self Esteem: Many times, being involved in extracurricular activities helps to raise the self-esteem of teenagers. Everyone wants to find something that they really enjoy or are good at, and extra-curricular activities provide them with a way that they can get involved in something and really shine, giving their self-esteem a boost.

Benefit #6 – Building Solid Relationship Skills: Your children will have the benefit of building solid relationship skills as well when they get involved in extra-curricular activities. Teenagers need to get involved in social activities and learn how to appropriately act in social situations and these activities give them a chance outside of school to do this, while they are still being supervised by teachers/adults.

Benefit #7 – Looks Great on College Reports: Yet another benefit of allowing /convincing your child to get involved in extra-curricular activities is that it looks great on college reports. Most employers not only look at grades, but they take a look at extra-curricular activities that students are involved in while they are in secondary school. They want to see that students are getting out there and doing more than just school work. The activities that teenagers are involved in reveal a lot about them, and definitely will say something to the employer.

One of the highlights of being in a Marist school is celebrating Champagnat day/week. During this week the students will learn about the Life of St Marcellin Champagnat in their Religion classes and as a community on June 6 we will celebrate our first Mass in the open air in our own Champagnat village. (Pray for good weather). Throughout the week the students will have the opportunity to get involved in many activities: Champagnat Quiz, Staff vs Students sporting events, Pensfest – portait and film competition and on Friday 10th June the whole school will be celebrating at Luna Park. The College has organised its own train that will transport the students from Mortdale to Milsons Point. We are all looking forward to this week and encourage all our students to get involved. These are the events that will be most memorable in the lives of our students and that they will remember when they leave school.

Mrs Carmelina Eussen
Assistant Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon 23 May	Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews	Mon 6 June	Year 11 Parent/Teacher Interviews 3.30pm-8pm
Wed 25 May	P & F Meeting 6.30pm Penshurst Parents 7:15pm La Valla Centre	Fri 10 June	Champagnat Day Celebrations Luna Park - Whole School
Fri 3 June	Staff Development Day	Mon 27 June	Year 7-10 Parent/Teacher Interviews 2pm-8pm
Mon 6 June	Champagnat Day Champagnat Mass 10am	Tues 28 June	Year 7-10 Parent/Teacher Interviews 10am-3pm

WELLBEING

MCCP AWARD SYSTEM

The MCCP award system is a program designed to encourage and foster positive behaviours in our students both in their studies and their interactions with the community. The most common way for students to engage with this system is through earning merits in their diary from staff. These may be awarded for a variety of reasons such as excellence or effort in class work, volunteering, exemplary behaviour, leadership or living up to the high expectations of our College. Merits are tallied each week by the student's pastoral teacher and a Merit Award is allocated for every three merits. Once a student receives five Merit Awards these can be handed over to the Leader of Wellbeing and a Bronze award will be issued and students can begin to climb the Award system – see below. Congratulations to all the award recipients so far this year and keep up the great effort!

Mr Jon Cullerton - Yr 7 Leader of Wellbeing



DIVERSE LEARNING NEWS

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) on School Students with Disability

In May 2013, all Education Ministers from Commonwealth, State and Territory governments endorsed the implementation of a nationally consistent collection of data on school students with medical and or educational needs in all Australian schools (government, independent and Catholic).

The nationally consistent approach to data collection will provide all Australian schools, education authorities and the community with a clear picture of the number of students with medical and educational needs in schools and the adjustments they are provided to enable them to participate in education on the same basis as other students.

In 2016, all Australian schools participated in the NCCD, with the first comprehensive collection occurring in August. The annual data collection, will provide information to the Federal Government about the level of support and individual adjustments schools make for students with medical and or educational needs. This information will enable the Federal Government to make informed decisions regarding future planning to assist schools in their support of these students.

The information will not identify individual students (subsection 58A(3) of the Regulation); no information that could reasonably enable the Department of Education to identify individual students will be provided by approved authorities to the Department of Education and Training. The State and Territory government agency will further de-identify school level data, and may aggregate the data at the state and territory level, before providing the data to the department.

In 2016 our school, like all schools, must meet the individual needs of these students and work with allied professionals and government agencies to ensure these students are well supported. The unidentified annual student data collection process will provide the department with valuable information for future planning. Should you not wish your child's data to be collected, please write to the school office and inform them of your decision within 10 days.

Mr Ray Martin - Principal

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS



Hugo Babakian has recently qualified for the Discovery Open, which is an international tennis tournament for junior players which will be held in Florida USA. Hugo will spend a week of training with young tennis players from around the world before competing in the tournament. Later this year Hugo will be attending Rafael Nadal's Tennis Academy in Spain to further develop his skills. Good Luck Hugo!!

BLESSING & OPENING OF NEW BUILDINGS

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS - MR RAY MARTIN

Marist Catholic College Penshurst offers young women and men the environment and opportunities to achieve personal excellence in all areas of school life. It provides quality Catholic education in the rich traditions of service in education through the charism of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. The College is privileged to still have a religious brother working in our community. Our thanks goes to Br Tony Butler. Brother Tony is also the author of Our Journey... section in the Blessing and Opening booklet.

The establishment of a fully co-educational College requires the development of a major building program to accommodate for the spiritual, educational, sporting and recreational needs of our students. These first facilities are the beginning of a three-stage building program that commenced in 2014. These new facilities are valued at over \$9 million and the College acknowledges the generous support of Sydney Catholic Schools Office grants and our local community for taking on loans to cover these costs.

The design and construction of these facilities was enhanced by the input of a number of College Staff working collaboratively with the Architects, Builders and Project Managers. The College appreciates and thanks the significant contribution of these many individuals in bringing this quality project to fruition. These state-of-the-art facilities have prepared the College to continue to meet the educational challenges of the 21st Century. We would like to sincerely thank:

Our Architects: Munns Sly Moore Architects
Our Builders: Reitsma Constructions
Our Project Manager: APP Corporation Pty Ltd
Our SCS Project Officer: Mr Alan Sewel

At Penshurst a commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is at the core of our identity. This commitment is permeated through being an Australian Catholic School in the Marist tradition. This is reflected each time we pray, by finishing our prayers with:

Mary our Good Mother. Pray for Us
St Mary of the Cross Pray for Us
St Marcellin Champagnat. . . Pray for Us and Bless our School

Our chapel continues this theme with icons of St Mary of the Cross, Mary our Good Mother and St Marcellin Champagnat going to be proudly on display. The College has received the St Mary of the Cross icon, a beautiful image of our first Australian saint and it has been blessed today. The naming of our new spaces further emphasises this theme and daily connects the students with their faith. The chapel is the 'Saint Mary MacKillop Chapel'. Our Ministry Centre is the 'Champagnat Ministry Centre'. This building is the La Valla Centre. La Valla was the first parish St Marcellin was appointed to following his ordination in July 1816. The Walk Bridge above is known as 'The Way of Mary'. The Way of Mary is one of the pillars of the Marist Charism. We see Mary as a perfect model of the Marist educator – an exemplar of Christian life, as mother, as one who praised God. We see Mary as a woman on a faith journey.

The community of Marist Catholic College Penshurst is blessed with wonderful students and staff. It receives great support from our partners in education – pastors, parents and the Sydney Catholic Schools Office. We acknowledge that we are part of the faith journey of our feeder parish communities and that this journey will continue well into the future under the continued guidance of our pastors. Thank you to Fr John Crothers from St Declan's Parish, Penshurst and Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst Parish and also Fr Paul Smithers from Regina Coeli Parish, Beverley Hills. The extraordinary support and spiritual guidance given to staff and students of the College by these pastors typifies their commitment and dedication.



The College appreciates the support and involvement of the parent community. This strong partnership between home and school is pivotal in improving students' learning outcomes and providing the best education for all students.

On behalf of our school community, I offer a vote of thanks to the Sydney Catholic Schools Office for their vision to establish a Year 7 to 12 co-educational High School in Mortdale, the first coeducational Catholic High School in the Eastern Region and for ongoing human and financial resources to make it a reality. To Dr Dan White, Executive Director, Archdiocese of Sydney and Mrs Elizabeth O'Carrigan, Director of the Eastern Region for their work in the establishment of this College. Mrs O'Carrigan you must be so pleased with this community as we celebrate being a Year 7 to 12 College for the first time, and continuing our journey towards coeducation for all secondary years. Thank you also to Dr Frank Malloy, Regional Director of Marist Schools Australia for your continued support of the College.

BLESSING & OPENING OF NEW BUILDINGS

VICE-CAPTAINS ADDRESS - RYAN MORGAN

Good morning special guests, members of the executive and my fellow peers. My name is Ryan Morgan and I am the Vice-Captain. Before I begin today I would just like to thank Dr Dan White, our Executive Director of Sydney Catholic Schools for joining us in this special celebration and to Mrs Elizabeth O’Carrigan who is no stranger to this community and has supported us and guided us in the vision and development of this great school. As a community we come together to bless these new buildings and the 30 state of the art new learning spaces, that support our vision for learning to aspire to be inspired and remind us of our commitment to the Marist Charism through hard work, presence, simplicity, family spirit and the way of Mary.



Vice-Captain Ryan Morgan with College Captain Sam Mattheos

Not only is today a day to celebrate, but to also appreciate. We come together to thank our teachers for all the hard work that goes into our lessons and for their support during this massive transition over the past couple of years. As a Year 12 student, we are deeply grateful and thankful that we are lucky enough to have the honour of being the first Year 12 cohort at this school. We work hard and promise to do our best.

While we celebrate we must also appreciate how lucky we are with these new learning spaces, a beautiful chapel, library and admin block, these facilities will aid in our smooth transition from a small 7-10 boys school to a great 7-12 coeducational College and they will assist in continuing to provide fine education to every student that walks through those gates. I look forward to returning in the future and advocating the wonderful education this school offers.

The past, present and future of this school has always built on strength. Special thanks to all the previous Principals who worked hard to articulate a clear vision for this community. Special mention to the founding principal Mr John Finneran and to Mr Tony Duncan for their hard work, presence and leadership. Mr Martin we also thank you and your leadership team for their hard work and dedication. Thank you once again to Sydney Catholic Schools for identifying the capacity for this school to become one of the greatest schools in the area and moreover in NSW and provide us with the ability to change and become something bigger and better. Thank you to all our special guests for making the time to celebrate our new buildings. And finally thank you to all the students - boys and girls. What a privilege it is to have a coeducational community. We are all proud of our school!





PENSHURST PARENTS

A forum for partnership, communication & information

'Coping & Succeeding with Senior School and the HSC'

with Special Guest

ROCKY BIASI

Wednesday 25 May 7:15pm

Dear Parents & Friends,

You are warmly invited to the first Penshurst Parents for 2016. On this evening Rocky Biasi, Counsellor & Workshop Presenter from 'Human Connections' www.humanconnections.com.au, will be our special guest to work with parents on supporting your child through the senior school experience. Assisting our children through the pressure and stress of Senior School and the HSC is receiving more and more media attention. The presentation "Coping & Succeeding with Senior School and the HSC", will explore 7 critical aspects in supporting, and motivating our children to achieve their academic potential and be at their best during this time.

1. DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY OF ADOLESCENCE
2. THEY WON'T LISTEN! INFLUENCE VERSUS CONTROL
3. HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD STAY FOCUSED AND MOTIVATED
4. CREATING A STUDY- FRIENDLY HOME
5. HOW TO MOTIVATE YOUR CHILD – CREATING A SUCCESS MINDSET
6. HOW YOUR CHILD CAN BECOME UNMOTIVATED
7. WHEN THE RESULTS COME IN.

Parents of current senior students are particularly encouraged to attend, although Rocky's expertise and practical advice is relevant for all students in high school today. Subsequent evenings this year and their topics will be communicated via the college newsletter and website. I encourage as many parents and friends of the College to attend as we continue to seek opportunities to improve the learning outcomes for all our students at the College.

Please RSVP your attendance with the number of people attending via email to: brian.vanetempest@syd.catholic.edu.au by Friday 20 May, 2016.

With Regards,

Mr Brian Vane-Tempest
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNICATION

COLLEGE WEBSITE - <http://www.maristpenshurst.catholic.edu.au/>



The new College website is now live! Over the coming weeks the newsletter will highlight various aspects of the new site. The website has been created with a 'responsive design' to accommodate the various mobile devices that will access the site. It is hoped that the new website streamlines and enhances the communication between the College and parents. Some important features to highlight include:

KEY DATES

The Key Dates red flag appears on every page of the website. This feature links to a calendar of College events and allows you to display a week, month or agenda view. As this is created in Google you are able to add this to your own calendars if this is convenient for you. It also means that the calendar is live and up to date with what is happening at the College.

MENU

You are able to navigate the website via the menu symbol located in the top right corner of every page. The menu is your 'one stop' place to view what's on the entire site. This menu function has been designed to eliminate any drop down or pull out lists and means you are only one click away from the relevant page you wish to visit. This feature ensures that when you are on a page you can either use your back arrow to return to where you were, or simply click the menu symbol to view all pages at once.

PORTAL

The portal symbol will send you to a page that gives students, parents and teachers the appropriate link to Sentral or the Staff Intranet. When students and parents click the Sentral symbol you will be prompted to login to access the portal – use the same login details as per the previous website.

Mr Brian Vane-Tempest
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNICATION

WYD WORLD YOUTH DAY FORMATION DAY 2016

On Tuesday 17th of May our Year 11 pilgrims travelling to World Youth Day in Krakow, Marcus Barsoum and Alex Michaelis, attended the formation day at Holy Cross College Ryde. Organised by Sydney Catholic Schools Ministry team, the day allowed for students to hear the beautiful singing of Steve Angrisano and the wise words of Jason Evett. The pilgrims also met with our bus groups. Marcus and Alex will be travelling on bus group 14 and will join students from St Patrick's College, Sutherland, and St Aquinas College, Menai. The day proved to be very beneficial and now the excitement is building as all roads lead to Krakow. The boys will travel along with Miss Thornton to Italy first on the 16th of July and will journey to the City of Mercy, Krakow for the World Youth Day festival from July 25th -29th 2016. As part of their fundraising for the pilgrimage the boys are hosting a tea/ coffee morning following 11am mass on Sunday the 29th May at St Declan's Church, Penshurst. Thank you to Fr John Crothers for allowing this to happen. We hope to see you there!



Ms Orla Thornton - Teacher, Marcus Barsoum & Alexander Michaelis Year 11 Students

CBSA/SCC CROSS COUNTRY 2016

Last Friday, our College Cross Country squad competed in the CBSA/SCC Cross Country Championships at Queens Park, Centennial Parklands. There were some outstanding individual performances on the day.

CBSA Competition:

U/15's Jamie Lawler 1st & CBSA U15 Age Champion.

An outstanding effort!

Tyler Hull 3rd

Brock Myers 5th

U/14's Joseph Sartor 3rd

U/13's Patrick Brown 5th

U/12's Joshua Keedle-Ortiz 3rd

Angus Riitano 4th

SCC Competition:

U/12's Leila Szczepanik 1st & SCC U12 Age Champion

What a performance!

Mia Szczepanik 2nd

Kristen De Stefano 3rd

U/13's Zoe Pitkethley 4th

U/14's Alicia Langley 2nd

Katie Schwarzel 3rd

Jacinta Dahdah 5th

All these runners have been selected in the CBSA/SCC squads to compete at the NSWCCC Cross Country Championships at Eastern Creek on the 17th June. Congratulations to all of you!

Our overall success in this Cross Country competition is determined by the results of all our runners in each division: Junior; Intermediate; and Senior. It is therefore a team effort. As a result, MCCP tied with Rosebank College for the SCC Junior Aggregate Trophy. Well done, girls! Our College also came 2nd in the CBSA Junior Aggregate, 3rd in the CBSA Intermediate Aggregate and 3rd in the CBSA Senior Aggregate. Once again, a great effort! I'd like to thank all of you for your commitment and excellent behaviour on the day. You all did the College proud. Thanks to Mr Urquhart, Mr Lloyd and Mr Falzon for their help and support, and to those parents who came and supported the team on the day.

Mr Paul Burg - Director of Sport

SCC NETBALL

The Year 7 Junior Netball team have been working hard since the beginning of the term. Congratulations to the girls who have represented our college with pride and commitment.

Results so far have been very positive:

Week 1 – MCCP def St Charbel's 21 – 1

Week 2 – MSJ def MCCP 20 – 8

Week 3 – MCCP def Rosebank 26 – 18

Week 4 – MCCP def Bethany 18 – 15

Last week I challenged the girls to work hard on their intercepts. They all tried very hard. Special mention to Zoe Pitkethley who was a standout and demonstrated exceptional skill on the court. Well Done! The girls are enjoying the competition and we are all looking forward to future games.

Mrs Carmelina Eussen - Coach

This year MCCP has their first Intermediate Netball Team participating in the SCC Netball competition against other teams from across Sydney. Intermediate teams are comprised of girls in Years 8 and 9, so our team have been playing older, taller, more experienced players. Despite this, the season has gotten off to a great start, with the team building on the skills and the teamwork established last year through our Thursday morning training sessions and workshops with unofficial coach, Patrick Allison. The Intermediate Netball team are: Jacinta Dahdah, Olivia Donnelly, Raket Gunaidi, Abbie Hayes, Sophie Luo, Lyric Parcarey, Selena Rowen, Laura Sullivan, Mia Sunk and Mia Young.

Our first two games against Mount Saint Joseph's, Milperra and Holy Spirit College, Lakemba were unsuccessful, although the scores did not reflect our team's possession of the ball, enthusiasm or the effort they put into each game. In Week 3, we had an awesome win against Casimir Catholic College, with a new energy and flow running through the team. Abbie played an incredible game in WD, and Jacinta, Raket and Selena kept the pressure on in GD and GK. An unexpected fiery force came from Mia Sunk in C, who dominated the court with intercepts and firm passes. With Lyric in GA, Sophie and Olivia in GS, and strong attacking from Laura and Mia Young in WA, we managed a convincing final score of 15-3. The girls celebrated with ice-creams and cartwheels! Week 4 saw another difficult game against Bethany, with the rivalry between the two teams as heated as ever. Unfortunately we did not come away with a win, but the team are to be congratulated on their 'never give up' attitude and sportswomanship. We look forward to the next few rounds of netball and developing on our great start.

Miss Analise Emmerick - Coach

