



LETTER FROM SCS (Sydney Catholic Schools)

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has illustrated to all in our community the importance of ensuring allegations of abuse against children and young people are heard, reported, and acted upon appropriately. Sydney Catholic Schools takes this responsibility very seriously and responds to each and every issue that is brought to its attention, irrespective of historically when the event occurred.

As a Catholic community we acknowledge that in the past many victims of child sexual abuse were not believed when they should have been, and this has caused a devastating and ongoing impact on the lives of the victims and their families. For this, we are deeply sorry.

Earlier this week, some students and parents may have seen a man outside your college with a placard which referred to a previous teacher, Robert 'Dolly' Dunn, in the late 1970s and 1980s when the school was under the governance of the Marist Brothers Order. As previously reported in the media, the late Robert 'Dolly' Dunn had a long history of abusing a number of male students whilst he taught within the Marist Brothers' Order during this period, and he was jailed for his grievous offences. As a community, we recognise that alleged victims of historical child sexual abuse display emotion in various ways, and so we request your patience and understanding in this matter.

Sydney Catholic Schools is absolutely committed to upholding the values and practices that create safe learning environments for students. If any students or parents have concerns relating to these matters, please contact the Principal, Mr Ray Martin.

Yours faithfully

Dr Dan White
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SYDNEY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

In last Sunday's gospel, Jesus wants to highlight God's unfailing justice and bountiful compassion. He takes the radically contrasting example of an unjust judge, who eventually accedes to a widow's persistent appeals for his intervention on her behalf. He does not care for the woman, but only wants to be rid of her continual pestering. God, on the other hand, is infinitely good and just, and listens attentively and responds generously with compassion to her plight.

Jesus' point is that our prayers and supplications never fall on deaf ears. God hears our cries. So don't lose heart, Jesus exhorts us. Hold on, hold out, hold fast, no matter how hard the situation. God does not desert us. But notice that Jesus also exhorts us to pray always and not just sometimes, not just at certain dedicated times or in certain places, or only when times are tough and we have urgent requests to make of God.

But what does it mean to pray always? Jesus himself exemplifies what it means. Through him, we see that to pray always means to live in such a way that our whole life, all that we do, indeed all that we are, becomes a prayer. It means that we are so attuned to the presence of God in our lives, so attentive and responsive to God's beckonings and subtle promptings, that God's will for us becomes second nature to us and shapes the very way we live our daily lives.

This indeed is the life of grace. It is what we see so clearly in Jesus and what we glimpse in the lives of holy people, and what is indeed promised to each and every one of us. It is God the trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, abiding in us and we, little by little, becoming ever more God-like, as we grow ever more closely into God's image. In the process, we come to see, understand and love the world and all the people in it – if but dimly – as God sees, understands, loves it and cares for it. And the fruit of this grace-fuelled process in our lives is good works, works for the coming of the Kingdom, God-works, works of compassion, hospitality and love.

So to pray always does not mean spending our lives on our knees. This life of praying always, this prayer that is our whole life, is necessarily nourished and sustained by times specifically devoted to God in prayer, be it kneeling or otherwise. Those dedicated prayer times will include set prayers, the prayers of the Church, most precious among them the prayer that Jesus himself taught us, the Our Father. But it will also include time for spontaneous unrehearsed conversation with God, when we open our hearts and commune with God. And not necessarily with words.

Emeritus Professor Anne Hunt OAM

Mr Ray Martin - Principal

CULTURAL TOUR TO ITALY

During the holidays 19 students had the privilege of travelling to Italy to experience the wonders, history and amazing churches. A special thank you to Mrs Lucy Pelosi for organising this trip. Mr Akkawy and myself had the privilege accompanying the students and Mrs Pelosi and we are impressed with the outstanding behaviour and resilience of this group of students from Years 9, 10, and 11. It was great fun with wonderful learnings.

Mrs Carmelina Eussen - Assistant Principal



La Bella Italia – a country of endless beauty, fabulous food and a myriad of tourist attractions waiting to be discovered... and last holidays, the scene for an unforgettable adventure for 19 of our MCCP students. This trip of a lifetime, began in Rome with five glorious days in the Eternal city. Here we ate our weight in gelato and pizza; visited countless monuments and churches; had afternoon tea at the Marist Brothers Headquarters and even attended school for a day.

From Rome we made our way around Italy visiting Pompei, Capri, Assisi, Florence, Siena, San Gimignano, the Ferrari museum in Maranello, Verona, Venice and Milan. With so many stories to tell and so many precious memories created, perhaps it is best that we let our photos do the talking (See our blog!). Without a doubt, this cultural tour provided our students with the opportunity to learn about another country and culture, however, it also allowed them to learn so much about themselves, to make new friends and to gain a greater appreciation for this incredible world we live in.

I would like to thank all tour participants for their enthusiasm, for their wonderful sense of humour and for taking this incredible journey with us. Particular thanks to Mrs Eussen and Mr Akkawy – the mamma and the papà of the tour. Our community is blessed to have teachers who are so generous with their time and who have such a zest for life!

Ms Lucy Pelosi - Italian Teacher



LEADERSHIP FORUM

On the 12th October Thomas Hui, Jarrod Maloney, Cooper Cheney and Nikolas Pazanin accompanied by Ms Thornton attended a Year 12 leadership forum at St Mary's Cathedral College. Run by Sydney Catholic Schools, the day involved a variety of group discussions with leaders from other schools, giving us an indepth view into how leadership works within their schools, providing ideas for our leadership team and what more we can do. With the discussions closed, His Grace Archbishop Anthony Fisher addressed the gathering with motivating words of wisdom. Following the address and questions, the students moved into the St Mary's Cathedral for a small liturgy followed by a blessing of the candles which were gifted to each school. All in all, the leadership forum was a productive day for everyone involved and we are all thankful to be given the opportunity to attend. Finally, we would like to thank Ms Thornton for accompanying us on our endeavours throughout the day.



Thomas Hui, Jarrod Maloney, Cooper Cheney and Nikolas Pazanin- Year 12, 2017 Leaders

YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY EXCURSION

On the 17th of October, Year 7 visited Bicentennial Park as part of their study of Wetlands. A highly successful day, below are some reflections from the students:

My favourite part was when we were learning about how the flora and fauna have adapted to the salinity and turbidity of the water in the wetlands. Such as with the Grey Mangrove it has adapted to the water so that when these trees absorb the salt from the water they excrete it through their leaves. - **Dylan Antao**

One of my many highlights of this day, was walking deep into the mangroves, and investigating the mangrove environment. In groups, we were given a snail, leaf, sediment and a pneumatophore (mangrove stem). We were to investigate each of these, writing notes about what they look, smell and feel like. As well as participating in this activity, we were given a leaf, which we had the choice to lick. This was to see which side of the leaf had the most salt. - **Isabella Condon**



I particularly enjoyed doing the water and sediment pH tests. . If the colour of the water or sediment was green that meant that it was neutral. If the colour was red, the sediment or water was very acidic. If the colour was purple, the sediment or water was very Alkaline. I also enjoyed testing the air; humidity, air temperature and wind movement. - **Gabriela Shashati**



Mr Robert Reilly - Acting HSIE Coordinator

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PEDAGOGY

Term 4 Study and Yearly Exams in Years 7 to 10

This term, it is important that all students maintain their effort and application in all their subjects in order to achieve the grades they deserve in their yearly report. Grades will be awarded based on their assessment tasks, meeting the course outcomes and the ability they display through completing set work. Students are encouraged to begin working on the assessment tasks they have received so far. Students have access to an assessment calendar showing the assessment tasks they have this term and when these assessments will occur. The assessment calendar can be accessed at <https://sites.google.com/a/sydstu.catholic.edu.au/mcp-students/>. Please discuss the assessment calendar with your children and together create a study plan to complete assessment tasks and study for subjects in which a yearly exam is scheduled.

The exam period is as follows:

- **Year 10: Exam week begins on Thursday 3rd November and will conclude on Wednesday 9th November.**
- **Years 7 to 9: Sit any exams that they have in their classes during the term.**

I would like to congratulate all students on their effort thus far. Many students have begun asking their teachers for revision and questions about their yearly exams. This shows the commitment our students at Marist Catholic College Penshurst have to their studies and their keenness to achieve and succeed. I wish all students the best and hope they all receive a yearly report that reflects their hard work this year.

Mr. Akkawy - Director of Pedagogy and Administration

**Mrs Angelo D'Angelo - Sydney Morning Herald Article
Angela D'Angelo says growth mindset will encourage more girls studying maths**

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS



Joshua Keedle-Ortiz of Year 7 came 1st in the 400m at the NSW All School Track & Field Competition. Congratulations Joshua!



Adrian Natoli from the year 12 Music class has received a nomination for Encore. Encore is a concert where the exemplary performances and compositions from the HSC exams are showcased. Congratulations Adrian!

SCC - INTERMEDIATE TOUCH FOOTBALL

Round 1: MCCP 2 vs St Charbel's 5 Round 2: MCCP 3 vs Rosebank 1

The team: Alicia Langley (c), Mia Sunk (c), Demi Zissis, Lyric Parcarey, Rakel Gunaidi, Melissa Novevski, Selena Rowen, Hannah Graetz, Charlie Riley, Laura Sullivan, Katie Schwarzel, Olivia Donnelly, Annamarie Gurabiovska

Tries awarded in rounds 1 and 2: Laura (1), Selena (2), Mia (1), Annamarie (1)

A tentative start to the season, with a few errors in game, and the result was an unfortunate loss against St Charbel's. The girls were up in the first half, however the game quickly turned early in the second half and we were unable to pull the win back. During training this week, we focused on a few lax areas of our game which the girls successfully implemented in their game against Rosebank College for their first win. Instead of running sideways, the girls ran forwards, gaining a lot of metres, and putting a lot of stress on the opposition's defensive line. Our defense was also a lot tighter, with the girls communicating with each other more effectively, sliding along their line, allowing no gaps for the opposition. Congratulations to Alicia Langley and Mia Sunk who will be co-captains this season. These girls have been chosen for both their leadership and communication skills.

Ms Rachel Thompson - Coach

MATER DEI CHURCH, BLAKEHURST- 60TH ANNIVERSARY

This year Mater Dei Church, Blakehurst is celebrating its 60th year since opening.

On Sunday, 30 October 2016 the Parish will be holding a Celebration Mass at 10:00 AM with Most Rev Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP as the Chief Celebrant.

The Mass will be followed by BBQ and light refreshments in Parish Grounds and Michael Kennedy Centre on the campus. It would be wonderful to see current and former parishioners in our weekend of festivities attending this special event.

For more information, please contact Parish Office on ph:9546 2605 or email: admin@materdei-straphael.org.au

IMPORTANT DATES

23-30 Oct	Father John Farewell Events <i>For information please find the details on our website/linked here</i>
Thurs 27 Oct Fri 4th Nov	Sport & Special Photo Day Year 11 Awards Presentation & Report Distribution
Thurs 3rd Nov - Thurs 10 Nov	Year 10 Exam Block
Mon 14 Nov	Year 7, 2017 Parent Evening
Wed 16 Nov	P & F Meeting / Penshurst Parents