



*God of all, in the midst of those things we cannot understand, steady us.
Help us to know that there is a future despite our grief and despair.*

When, along with everything else, our faith is destroyed and you seem far away, may the love of those around us be our strength for the journey ahead.

We offer this prayer for each other and with each other. Amen

(The Age. Prayer by Jim Pilmer)

From the Principal:

Over the difficult first weeks of this term, I thank students, parents and College staff for their generous and co-operative responses to the many changes in procedures. Feedback from the SMS, email and College website messages have been very positive. We believe that online strategies can provide new opportunities for communication which are efficient, cost effective and more reliable. However, if you did not receive an email from us – and we know that some bounced back - please contact Connie Koomen, Registrar so that we can confirm correct contact details.

Here at Mater Christi College we enjoy much support from within our community. Yet not all are so fortunate. Lulu Mitshabu from Project Compassion spoke at Senior School Assembly last week and told us of the danger and difficulties still being endured by women in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In addition to demonstrating how Caritas' funds benefit many local communities, she issued a challenge. Most pertinent in the light of recent International Women's Day celebrations, she invited us to join with these disadvantaged communities, via www.bemore.org.au, commit to

actions, advocate for justice. Through the Be More Challenge, groups are invited to set social justice goals, become empowered and "contribute to an online community where everyone is working together to make the world a better place". "Aspire not to have more, but to be more" was the supporting message from the late Bishop Oscar Romero.... and so who are we not to help, when so much has been given to us in Victoria, in our time of need?

Finally I am pleased to invite you to reflect on the homily of Bishop Tim Costelloe who last week celebrated the College Opening Mass with us. He has graciously agreed to share some of his message with all members of our community via this Newsletter.

"...This Mass marks the beginning of a year which stretches out before us full of promise. It has been a difficult beginning for many, and we want to hold in our prayer today all those who are caught up in the tragedy of the bushfires: they need the support of our prayers.

We don't quite know what this year will bring, and what opportunities and challenges it might present to us. This is always the nature of new beginnings. What we do know, however, and what stands at the heart of our Mass this

morning, is the conviction that whatever comes our way in 2009, we will not face it alone because this school community will be there to help us, and the God who loves us will be there to accompany and support us. We are being called to "tread lightly – and live generously". We are being called to care for the gift of creation, beautiful and fragile as it is, for the gift of life, beautiful and fragile as it is, for the gift of each other, beautiful and fragile as we are. God is inviting us to make the most of all that he gives us. As we begin to celebrate this Eucharist, therefore, I would like to invite you all to commit this year, with all its promise, to the Lord. He is the one who can help us to bring our dreams to fulfillment. He is the one who can help us through the difficult times. He is the one who can bring healing to our brokenness and forgiveness to our sinfulness. Let us begin by entrusting ourselves to his love.

It is often said that you see the best of Australians in times of crisis... But isn't it a shame that so often this goodness and generosity lies hidden until some crisis comes along to bring it

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Ash Wednesday blessing at House Assembly



Funds from Project Compassion benefit villages in Congo





From Page 1

to the surface? Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could somehow allow this deeper, truer dimension of ourselves to be at work in us more of the time? What would our family life, our social life, the life of this school look like, if only this could happen?

Well, it is precisely this deeper dimension of life that this College seeks to develop and bring out in its students, and indeed in its staff and in its families as well. The more you immerse yourself in the rich life of this school the more you will find this deeper dimension of goodness and generosity rising to the surface. This is a Catholic school, one that bases itself on the fundamental values of the gospel of Jesus. He believed that everyone has this deeper dimension within them, and he believed also that it lay very close to the surface. You don't need a crisis to bring it out in the open. You only need to find a way to touch a person's heart for it to begin to flower in that person's life. Education, like life itself, for those who take Jesus as their inspiration, is a matter of the heart. It is all about relationships. Once you touch a person's heart all the good that is hidden within that person begins to come to the surface. When you read the gospels you begin to realize that Jesus respected every person he encountered. He accepted each person at the precise stage of that person's journey in life. But

he also called each person to do more and to be more – to keep traveling along the journey of life, open to whatever God might have in mind for him or her. In all his encounters with people Jesus showed he really believed that everyone was capable of great things, of being a great person.

To parents here this morning, then, I would say this: recognize and respect the goodness that is in your daughter, accept that she is travelling on a journey through life and can only be where she is at this stage of her journey, and believe that she has within her the possibility of being a great person, that is a deeply human, generous, loving person.

To the staff I would say much the same but perhaps I would say it a little differently: believe in the inherent goodness of the students, even when it is not always easy to see and keep asking of them that they be all that they can be.

And to the students, the most important people in this school community, I would say this: you are all capable of great things. Believe in yourselves and allow others to believe in you. Open yourselves to all the possibilities that this year holds for you. Don't be afraid to say "yes" to the challenges which will come along. Each of you has been created by God and given the gift of life: God wants you to reach out and take hold of that gift with both hands and live it to the full.

Don't settle for anything but the best. But remember, and what we have seen in recent days shows this to us, the best person is the most generous one, the most forgiving one, the most patient one, the most persistent and consistent one, the most loving one. The best person is the one who is like the people described in today's gospel: people who offer their love, and their compassion and their concern to everyone, regardless of whether they are friends or not. Be all that God has created you and is calling you to be: this is the way to happiness.

And to all of you, and to myself, I would offer this reminder: that in the end it is God who has created us and this beautiful and fragile world in which we live, it is God who walks with us every day of our lives, and it is God who can enable us to be the people we are meant to be – if we let him. Don't close God out of your lives – because if you do you are closing yourself to life itself.

(Homily, 18 February
Mater Christi College College Mass
Most Rev Tim Costelloe, SDB DD)

So, I encourage us all to "be more", in this season of Lent through prayer, fasting, giving generously and advocating for justice - as a firm sign of our commitment to the God who loves us and to the, many communities who need our help.

Mary Fitz-Gerald Principal

Middle School Swimming Carnival



Academic Reports

Students receive regular feedback about their academic progress. This can take many forms; assessment rubrics, test and assignment grades and teacher comments both written and verbal. Students are also encouraged to discuss all forms of feedback with their teachers and parents.

In addition, we have a cycle of formal reports and progress meetings.

At the end of Terms 1 and 3, each student receives a Progress Statement indicating application and levels of achievement for that term. Following the distribution of this statement, the College provides the opportunity for students and parents to discuss progress with teachers at a scheduled Progress Meeting. The Progress Meeting is an integral part of the reporting process.

At the end of Semester One and Two, students receive a more comprehensive Semester Report for each of their subjects. A Progress Meeting also follows the distribution of the Semester one report.

In summary:

End of Term 1

Progress Statement (Posted in the first week of the Easter break)

Progress Meeting (Thursday, April 23 & Tuesday April 28)

End of Semester 1

Semester Report (Posted June 19)

Progress Meeting (Thursday, June 25 & Friday June 26)

End of Term 3

Progress Statement

Progress Meeting (Tuesday, September 15 [Yr 12] & Thursday, October 8 [Yrs 7-11])

End of Semester 2

Semester Report

The College will introduce an on-line booking procedure for the Progress Evenings. Details about the new booking process will be distributed with the Progress Statements.

Tony Kolb Director of Curriculum



Year 12 students received badges at House Assembly

Sports News

Triathlon

This year we had 13 enthusiastic competitors in the SCSA Triathlon at Geelong. The weather was bright and sunny, offering perfect conditions for a swim, bike ride and run. All girls did exceptionally well to complete the grueling course which was a tremendous effort especially for those students making their triathlon debut. The juniors, intermediates and seniors finished 5th, 4th and 4th respectively. A fun day was had by all. Many thanks to Beth McLeod for her support and leadership of the event.

Middle School Swimming Carnival

The inaugural Middle School Carnival was held at Belgrave Pool at the end of February. While the weather wasn't as favourable as hoped, the day was still a huge success. The girls showed great enthusiasm in and out of the water by competing in both the swimming races and novelty events. The swimming offered plenty of excitement with close finishes and a battle for first place between Blue and Orange House. For those not so confident with swimming the novelty events provided plenty of entertainment and fun.

By the end of the day, it was Blue House who held first place while Purple won the House Spirit Award.

Overall, the day was a great success due to the positive spirit of the students, the wonderful support of the student leaders and the hard work of the staff.

Alana Nelson

AFL Trainee – Sports Department

From the Chair of the College Board:

On behalf of the College Board I wish to acknowledge and commend the work of Mary Fitz-Gerald and the College staff through this extraordinary period of extreme weather conditions and real threats to personal safety.

During these unprecedented conditions which have tested safety procedures across the State, we have witnessed proactive decision-making, clear communication and exemplary leadership and support for the safety, welfare and learning of the students.

I would also like to commend and thank parents and students for their support of the College. Feedback from parents and the mature response of students to the emergency situations have indeed reminded us of the strength of the Mater Christi community.

Terry Stephens

Chair of Mater Christi College Board

Looking ahead...

Following the decision to cancel Co-curricular Week activities, our first priority has been to establish regular school days. Learning Leaders are already considering alternative ways to provide those learning experiences that were key components of the co-curricular week program. Although our options are limited by staffing and venue availability restraints, our commitment remains to provide a diverse range of learning opportunities.

It is our goal to provide information regarding future activities early in Term 2.

Julie Feeney – Head of Senior School
Janine Bauman – Head of Middle School



National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

On May 12, 13 and 14, Year 7 and 9 students across Australia will undertake the NAPLAN Tests. We are very pleased with our 2008 results, with the data on our performance positioning our College well against national standards and performance. Analysis of our results has also helped us to further strengthen our curriculum.



Box Hill Institute

Parent Information Evening on TAFE

When: Wednesday 25 March,
6:00 – 9:00pm

Where: Box Hill Institute
Elgar Auditorium

RSVP: Catrin Harris 9286 9987 or
parents@bhtafe.edu.au



Refresh Your Marriage

Marriage Encounter is a worldwide marriage enrichment programme that offers Marriage Encounter Weekends. The next 3 weekends will be held at Milgrove on 17-19 April and Anglesea on 26-28 June and 14-16 August. Further details:

P Peter & Erika Smith on 9899 0824

E erika@hrpartner.com.au

W www.wwme.org.au



Knox Youth Service Presents

Help. My Child is in VCE.

When: Thursday 19 March 7:30 pm

Where: Knox Civic Centre
511 Burwood Hwy
Wantirna South

RSVP: 9898 8311 by 13 March

Guest presenter Heath McGregor,
founder of VCEhelp.com.au



Attachment to Newsletter

Catholic Education Today
February 2009 Issue

Environment News Sustainability Tips

This week we'd like to suggest some ways that we can all live more sustainably on our earth.

In the shower

1. Before turning the shower on, place an egg timer or clock next to the shower so you can see how long you have been in there. This will stop you from getting distracted and cut down shower time
2. Put a bucket under the shower head while you are waiting for the water to heat up. This water can then be tipped on the garden without breaking water restrictions.
3. Consider switching your shampoo. Many popular brands contain chemicals that are terrible for the environment and greatly impact the river and marine creatures where your shower water runs out to. Environmentally friendly alternatives are often better for your hair too, as their components are more natural.

Lisa Mandeltort Environment Captain



We launch Project Compassion!

The Senior School assembly of March 4 welcomed Sr Margaret Fyfe and Lulu Mitshabu from Caritas who spoke informatively and passionately about the wonderful work of Caritas and of the need to support Project Compassion in 2009. Each Home Group is now challenged to fill the Project box and, as a school, we are hoping to set new fund-raising records. Thank you to all students and their families in anticipation of a truly generous response. Students, remember that in 2009 House Points will be awarded to acknowledge your generosity!

Peter Cahill Social Justice Co-ordinator



Uniform Shop

Extended Hours for Winter Uniform purchasing

Tuesday 17 March 1:00 - 7:00 pm

Wednesday 18 March 3:00 - 7:00pm
(Year 7 & 8 Information Night)

Thursday 19 March 1:00 - 7:00 pm

Important dates

Saturday 14

Year 7 2010 Interviews

Sunday 15

Catholic Education Week Commences

Tuesday 17

St. Patrick's Day

Wednesday 18

MYP Information Evening

Year 7 Parents

Friday 20

Catholic Education Week Concludes

Sunday 22

World Water Day

Friday 27

Year 12 Formal

Saturday 28

Earth Hour 8:30 - 9:30 pm

Friday 3 April

Term 1 Concludes

Canteen Roster

Monday 16 March

HELP NEEDED 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Tuesday 17

Pauline Gibcus

Wednesday 18

HELP NEEDED 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Thursday 19

Brenda Felton

Friday 20

Robyn Carter, Leanne Butler

Monday 23

HELP NEEDED 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Tuesday 24

Kay Murray, Robyn Lynch

Wednesday 25

HELP NEEDED 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Thursday 26

Beverly Crawford

Friday 27

HELP NEEDED 12:30 - 2:00 PM



Contact Employment Privacy Policy Enrolment Enquiries

a good samaritan school for girls

Our College Curriculum Co-curriculum Student Services News and Events

News and Events

Check the News and Events
page on the web-site
www.materchristi.edu.au



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