From the Headmaster

Sede vacante: Latin for ‘the seat is vacant’. I hadn’t imagined I would be commencing a second editorial within twelve months with these words. Last time, it was in relation to the Pope. This time, it refers to the vacant bishopric created by the departure of Cardinal George Pell for Rome as the Prefect for the newly created Secretariat of the Economy. Never in my lifetime has the departure of an Australian bishop aroused such media interest and commentary, with varying views being expressed on one of the most influential churchmen in the history of Catholicism in this country. It is not my place to enter into the commentary, at least not in this forum, but today I do offer some thoughts on what the future might hold.

You may well have heard of the oft-used phrase in countries where monarchies prevail: “The King is dead. Long live the King.” It acknowledges the passing of authority and power from the previous ruler to the new one. While many are yearning for a more democratic institution, the Catholic Church remains essentially monarchically structured and so the appointment of a bishop is a significant event. They are significant people; influential people.

We see this being played out in the Vatican at the present time where the arrival of a new Pope only a year ago has seen changes some have only ever dreamed of and many never thought possible. Benedict departed, Francis arrived and things have changed – noticeably and quickly. The fact that the changes seem to be lauded more than they are being criticised indicates, among other things, that they are in-tune with the aspirations of many within, and indeed outside, the Church.

So what might be some of the aspirations we have as the baptised of the Archdiocese of Sydney? In trying to get my head around this question I was challenged by an article that appeared in my favourite Catholic newspaper, The Tablet. Joanna Moorhead’s article was titled ‘Never have laypeople been as different from the leadership as now’. Moorhead’s article finds its impetus in the Extraordinary Synod on the Family that Pope Francis has called for that will take place in Rome in October this year. A Synod elevates a matter to one of high importance and it would seem that the Pope is keen to make sure that the Church is addressing the challenges of contemporary family life. He wants to listen to the problems and expectations of the range of families today, in the hope that the Church might have something to offer in helping shape stronger, more resilient and harmonious families that can contribute to the building up of society.

Moorhead is of the opinion that the gap between the magisterium – the Church’s doctrinal and teaching authority – and the views and lives of ordinary Catholics has never been greater...
leadership so out-of-touch that people have lost interest in what they have to say?” Moorhead takes these issues head-on and states: “Ordinary lay Catholics have always been the vanguard of change in the Catholic Church, but never before have laypeople been quite as different from the leadership as they are now. What is most interesting is that ordinary Catholics canvassed by the German and Swiss bishops still want to be Catholics; what comes through very clearly in the documents is how strongly Catholic-spirited they are.”

My hunch is that the situation is not all that different in Australia. For example, a number of people in our own area are becoming Catholic to get their kids into Catholic schools. They like the Catholic-spirit but I imagine many are not all that wedded to some of the detail of Catholic teaching. Similarly, lots of people baptised as Catholics as infants have stopped participating in the life of the Church outside of the Catholic school. Part of this has to do with the perception that some Church teachings, and the way they are interpreted and emphasised, no longer sufficiently match our modern reality.

Perhaps what has been missing in the discernment about the ‘what’ and ‘how’ of Church teaching is the voice of lay Catholics, and most particularly the broad range of voices that reflect the rich fabric of people who wish to bring about the reign of God in our world. Moorhead concludes: “Perhaps the time really has come for an acknowledgement that the voice of God, the will of God, could be as well discerned if laypeople were involved in the process, as when only male prelates make the call. It is a radical thought, but maybe, just maybe, it is an idea whose time has come.”

In my reckoning, the Catholic Church has much to offer our wider society and it will be all the richer if more lay Catholics find a place to have their voice.

Warm regards

Br David Hall FMS
HEADMASTER

1 The Tablet, 15 February 2014, p.5.

From the Deputy Headmaster

I’m happy to say that each afternoon as I say goodbye to students at the gates I am very pleased with what I see! What I have seen of late are very well groomed young men, very well-mannered young men and I have had pleasant conversations with respectful young men. I highlight this because it’s the little things in life that are so important in the bigger picture.

I’ve been wandering around each day, visiting classrooms as I’m interested to see the learning that takes place in all of the rooms. I must say that it’s nice to see boys not only engaged in their learning, but also taking their learning very seriously. Not everyone can achieve the highest mark in the class, but no matter who you are, everyone can achieve an A for effort. To the boys who are A grade for effort, I say well done and keep it up. To those who are not, I say hurry up and lift your game. If you attend to the little things, the bigger things will start to fall in to place.

I would ask parents to check and sign your son’s diary every week. The expectation is that students have homework every night and this is to be recorded in their diary. Students should also spend some time on study and revision each night. If parents feel that they need some support or advice with their son’s organisation at home, please send his Homeroom teacher an email to seek this support.

Have a nice week.

Mr Peter Buxton
Deputy Headmaster
The Lenten period has arrived and is a time for giving and making sacrifices. In Mr Buxton’s address to the students at the Ash Wednesday Liturgy he asked all students to write three goals for how they can help their family over the Lenten period.

We have collections for money every Tuesday and Fridays Homeroom during lent. I ask all students to give as much as you can to the Lenten appeal. The 3 organisations we will be supporting are:

- Marist Solidarity
- Caritas Project Compassion
- The St Vincent de Paul Society

The work of Marist Solidarity aims to identify and engage with young people on the margins of life. It is centred on thirteen Asian and Pacific Island countries. The projects we will be supporting will be discussed in detail in upcoming Pastoral Care lessons.

As a member of the wider Marist Family, we have a responsibility to become aware of both the scope and importance of what Marist means today; in the words of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, “every diocese of the world is our concern”.

Mr Damian Chase
Solidarity Coordinator

TERM 1 CALENDAR EVENTS

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<td>3-12 March</td>
<td>Year 12 Examinations</td>
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<td>16-21 March</td>
<td>Year 12 Retreat</td>
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<td>Friday, 28 March</td>
<td>Staff Development Day - student free day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 9 April</td>
<td>Year 12 Parent/ Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 11 April</td>
<td>Term 1 concludes</td>
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Marcellin College Students Showcased at Catholic Education Conference

On Friday, 28 February four of our Year 9 Newman Stream students showcased their Downforce Racers enrichment project at the Catholic Education Big Day Out Conference. The boys presented their project to an audience of around 200 adults fielding questions and explaining the physics and design features of the Downforce Racer Project undertaken as part of the Newman Stream Enrichment Program. Dr Dan White, Executive Director of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Sydney, personally invited our students to be part of the conference as he had been impressed with the presentation at the Marcellin College Newman Stream Symposium.

Joshua Hong, Cormac Murray, Joshua Najdzion and Lucas Leung were outstanding representatives for Marcellin College engaging their audience and showcasing the higher order tasks required to design and build the Downforce racing cars. A special word of thanks to Miss Katherine Toohey, Ms Peta Bourke and Ms Gillian Clarke who coordinated the project.

Ms Jenny Dove
Diverse Learning Needs Coordinator

Assessment Schedules

As our HSC Year 12 students sit their Half Yearly Exam, it is timely to remind Parents that all Assessment Schedules are posted on the College’s website, within the particular Year Group site. Schedules are also accessible via the student’s M-Learning portal.

Please note that each Assessment Schedule has a calendar with the Tasks included. Please encourage your son to engage with this tool to assist in organising their study schedule. My suggestion to the boys is, where possible, print the pages and display them in a prominent place.

On Friday, 28 March all teaching staff will be involved an inservice centred on sharing our experiences with the Newman Stream Project. The Newman Stream project is a Research and Development Project funded by the Sydney Catholic Education Office (CEO) targeting Gifted and Talented students. Our staff involved in the project have been receiving directed professional development in areas such as differentiation, pre-testing and curriculum compacting. Through Faculty guidance, this expertise will be shared with other staff, helping to sharpen and improve our teaching practice across all classes, Years 7-12.

Mr Chris Shields
Director of Teaching & M-Learning

2013 College Magazine

Available for collection from College Office for 2013 Graduating Class.

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

All blazers and winter stock now available.
Special opening: Saturday, 5 April
8.30 - 10.30am
Tuesdays 8.00am - 11.00am
Thursdays 8.00am - 1.00pm
The annual Ex-Students v Current Students Basketball match will be played in the Marist Centre next Tuesday, 11 March at 4.30pm.

This year, the trophy awarded to the winning team will be named in memory of Daniel Romeo. Marian Romeo and her sons will be attending and we invite all to come along and support the event.

Daniel Romeo Memorial Cup

The 2014 Annual Ex-Students v Current Students Basketball Match

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Support for Marcellin College Trivia Night – 30th May 2014

On Friday 30th May, 2014 Marcellin College is holding a major fundraiser to support the College Financial Hardship Bursary and we would be most grateful for your support. We are seeking donations to auction and raffle from individuals and businesses. If you are able to assist with a donation for one of our major or minor prizes, it would be greatly appreciated.

All monies raised on this evening will go towards a Financial Hardship Bursary supported by the Marcellin Parents & Friends and Ex Students Association, supporting students from families experiencing financial hardships.

At our last Trivia Night we had over 300 guests and we are expecting an even greater response this year. We will be more than happy to promote your business/product on the night and throughout our advertising campaign.

Donations can be left at the Marcellin College Office or pick-ups can be arranged by emailing mcr-secretary@syd.catholic.edu.au

We thank you for your consideration of our request and if you can assist us by donating services or product, it would be greatly appreciated.

Marian Romeo
President
Marcellin College Parents & Friends

Br David Hall FMS
Headmaster

Marian College
Randwick

195 Alison Road, Randwick NSW 2031

January 2014

Telephone (02) 9398 6555 Facsimile (02) 9398 9049
www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au
Pearse Dolan - Tennis

Pearse was selected into the NSWCCC team for 2014 after successfully competing this week representing Marcellin College.

He came first and also won the NSWCCC gold medal, which is determined by the number of sets won. Pearse played 6 matches and dropped only two games. We wish Pearse well as he will now play on 24-25 March competing for NSW All Schools selection.

Tom Waller - Lion’s Club Youth of Year finalist

Tom recently participated in the Lions Club Youth of the Year Quest. He competed against three Year 12 students from other schools.

The contest required a 45 minute interview, with specific questions on their community service, two impromptu questions, each with a 2 minute time limit answered in front of the audience, and a 5 minute oratory presentation. Congratulations Tom for making it through to the final four!

Careers

The Year 12’s have now entered their half yearly exams and the senior boys are now looking very carefully at their options after school. If your son needs any assistance in finding courses at various universities or ATAR requirements please send him to see me.

Year 10 are beginning to finalise their work experience placements for their two week long blocks (4-8 August and 24-28 November). If your son has not started looking into this, now is the time. Please refer to this College website link for potential placement.

Mr John Cuthbertson - VET & Careers Coordinator
2014 Marcellin College Open Day

The College was open to visitors from the public on Wednesday, 26 February for Open Day 2014. Hundreds of families and prospective students were engaged in conversations with our staff, students and parents as well as participating in a range of educational activities.

Thankfully the threatening rain held off as our wonderfully talented musicians entertained our visitors as they passed through the College campus. Many thanks to all in the MCR community for another informative and enjoyable afternoon.

Particular thanks to our Year 7 boys who acted as tour guides for our visitors. We have much to be proud of and celebrate in showcasing our College to the broader community. More photos can be seen on our website.

Mr Brian Vane-Tempest
Director of Development & Communications
From the Sports Coordinator

MCC SUMMER SEASON

Our MCC teams have continued the strong tradition this College has in performing well in the summer season. Seven teams represented Marcellin in the Grand Finals on Thursday, 27 February. Our A Grade Cricket team posted a strong score against Kogarah, but unfortunately the match was called off because of rain. Due to being the higher ranked team, our boys were awarded the Premiership.

Both our A & B Grade Basketball teams were up against North Shore. In tight contests, both teams were victorious and brought home ‘the senior double’ for the second consecutive year. All four Touch teams were in action which was a great achievement in itself. In a fantastic day on the field, the U14s, U15s and B Grade won their matches, while the A Grade lost in extra time to Ryde. All in all we claimed six premierships from the twelve competitions contested.

Congratulations to all MCC representatives and coaches for their efforts and excellent results throughout the season. All results will be on the College website.

GOLF & TENNIS

The College Golf & Tennis Championships were held on Thursday, 6 March (results included below). Large numbers of boys turned up to contest these events which was very pleasing to see. From these Championships, the College representative teams will be selected to compete at the MCC Championships on Thursday, 13 March. Congratulations to all age group winners on the day.

Golf
U12 – Sam Hoffman & Harrison More
U13 – Joshua Bell
U14 – Campbell Garlick
U15 – Tommy Evans
U16 – Max Poche
U17 – Matthew Power
Opens – Andrew Cinelli

Tennis
U12 – Marco Rossman
U13 – Jacob Dela Torre
U14 – Rory Dolan
U15 – Philipp Trupke
U16 – Pearse Dolan
Opens – Ashley Burton

SWIMMING

Our Swimming squad competed at the North Shore Invitational Carnival on Tuesday, 4 March at North Sydney Pool. We competed against Marist North Shore, St Gregory’s College Campbelltown and Champagnat Catholic College Pagewood. Once again our swimmers proved too strong for their opposition and took out the aggregate trophy for the fourth consecutive year. These boys have been training hard for a number of weeks and are in good form with the MCC carnival just two weeks away. Well done to our swimming squad and their coach.

Mr Luke MacNamara
Sports Coordinator

Above: Congratulations to our successful basketball and cricket teams in the MCC Summer Season.