FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of Marcellin,

Sede vacante — the seat of St Peter is vacant. And it has been vacated in a somewhat spectacular way with Pope Benedict XVI being only the 10th pope to resign out of 265 and the first to do so in 600 years. Spectacular departures are not new to the papacy: 14 popes were martyred while in office, defending the faith; another 6 were murdered; and yet another 13 are alleged to have been murdered. But in more recent times, particularly since the late 1800s where the papacy has had much less to do as a temporal authority, and hence less direct involvement in the politics of Europe, the desire to murder or force a pope out of office has dissipated significantly. So why did this one resign?

In his own words: “In today’s world, subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith, in order to govern the barque of Saint Peter and proclaim the gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognise my incapacity to adequately fulfil the ministry entrusted to me.” The resignation created a flurry of media interest for a few days, fascinated as people can be by the machinations of the Catholic hierarchy, and it sent shock waves through the Catholic Church.

Relevance, or the lack of it has now been formally put on the Church’s agenda by the Pope. It is a topic many Church authorities have been reluctant and even resistant to engage in and in some ways I can understand. The question of relevance has plagued the education agenda for decades. If the relevance regime had its way, History would be out in and in some ways I can understand. The question of relevance has plagued the education agenda for decades. If the relevance regime had its way, History would be out of the curriculum and so would Algebra and any number of other areas of learning not seen to be immediately relevant to everyday life. The push to make schools vocational training centres alone, with the prime task of preparing young people for the workforce, should be resisted at all costs. Schooling is more than that; it is about developing the body, the mind, the heart and the soul. It is about the development of character as much is about the development of skills and knowledge.

So I agree that the Church should not determine its emphasis purely around the criteria of what seems to be immediately relevant, but the Church must also ‘speak to the world’. It must capture the minds and hearts of women and men and help them to be better workers, partners, parents, friends and neighbours. It seems that for many, the Church has become impervious, refusing to dialogue with the world and responding to challenges by becoming more strident and unrelenting in its teaching and the interpretation of this in the real lives of the faithful.

I have quoted previously in this column the words of the Canadian theologian Bernard Lonnergan: “The Church invariably arrives on the scene, late and a little out of breath.” Lonnergan’s comment from some four decades ago was echoed last year by Cardinal Carlo Martini of Italy, who just prior to his death boldly announced that the Church was behind the times, perhaps 200 years behind he suggested! In the same interview he went on to say: “Catholics lacked confidence in the Church. Our culture has grown old, our churches are big and empty and the church bureaucracy rises up, our religious rites and the vestments we wear are pompous.” Unless the Church adopted a more generous attitude towards divorced persons, it will lose the allegiance of future generations, the cardinal added. The question, he said, is not whether divorced couples can receive holy communion, but how the Church can help complex family situations. And the advice he leaves behind to conquer the tiredness of the Church was a “radical transformation, beginning with the Pope and his bishops”.

Some commentators are interpreting Benedict’s resignation in the light of comments like Cardinal Martini’s. So let’s hope that the Cardinals now gathered in Rome, and only days away from the secret confines of conclave, take heed of Martini’s comments – comments echoed across the world by so many others – and choose a man prepared to address the issue of a Church that no longer speaks in the light of comments like Cardinal Martini’s. So let’s hope that the Cardinals now gathered in Rome, and only days away from the secret confines of conclave, take heed of Martini’s comments – comments echoed across the world by so many others – and choose a man prepared to address the issue of a Church that no longer speaks in the way it could to the hearts and minds of the faithful.

But the reforms will not come without the direct participation of the faithful – YOU AND ME! What I’m pleading for here is more active and regular participation of people like us in the life of the Church. It’s no good to be ambivalent about it all, or to be ‘throwing eggs from the sidelines’, the Church’s hierarchy needs renewal and so does the understanding of what it means to be a baptised Catholic on the part of thousands of people who have had little or no association with the Church since they made their First Communion. Yes, it’s a bit like the ‘chicken and the egg’ (how can Lay people be more involved in a Church that hierarchically keeps them out of decision making), and I don’t want to trivialise the deep hurt that some have felt from the abuse of power by ordained ministers and religious, but the Church’s hierarchy cannot renew itself.

(cont.)
FROM THE HEADMASTER

I know from both national and international experience of our Marist endeavour that our quest for our charism to remain relevant could not have happened if the Brothers alone had been responsible for our renewal. As Brothers we bring one lens, a useful one, but it’s not enough. Our Marist education vision document, In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat, speaks of the different yet complementary roles of Brothers and Lay Marists. It describes the specificity of each of these roles, and then it concludes: We inspire one another to deeper fidelity to the charism, discovering new insights into its spiritual richness and into its dynamic expression in ministry. The women among us, especially, bring a fresh perspective to Marcellin’s charism and reveal new facets of it for all of us today. (Article #41)

As the 114 cardinals prepare for the conclave – all men- we are acutely conscious of a Church in need of reform. But the reform will not come while Lay baptised Catholics remain absent or blindly obedient. We need more Catholics on the spectrum in between absence and blind obedience. We need YOU!

Br David Hall FMS
Headmaster

FROM THE DEPUTY HEADMASTER

Thank you and well done to the vast majority of students for the way in which they have presented themselves so far this year. I expect students to continue to wear their uniform with pride, particularly when travelling to and from school. A reminder also that when students travel on a public bus they must offer their seat to any adult that is standing.

Can I ask parents to make sure that you 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 your son is telling you that he has little or no homework on a regular occasion, I would suggest you contact his Homeroom Teacher to discuss the issue.

A thought from Boys Education expert Andrew Fuller - Handy Hints for Improving Learning

No.2 Organising a Learning Space for Your Child

As your child grows and develops, there will need to be somewhere set up for them to study and do projects. Some kids just can’t get themselves organised and may need a parent to take care of the practical aspects of setting up a home study area. The parent may also need to be responsible for keeping it neat. It’s ok for parents to assist by thinking of ways to better organise notes as well.

From "Help Your Child Succeed at School" by Andrew Fuller www.andrewfuller.com.au

Mr Peter Buxton
Deputy Headmaster

WINTER UNIFORM

All boys in Years 7-12 are to be fully attired in Winter uniform from Day 1 Term 2. Blazers are a compulsory item from this date so please ensure all blazers are marked with your son’s name for easy identification. Please purchase Junior Blazers early to ensure correct size and avoid queues.

UNIFORM SHOP

Track suits have arrived for Year 7.
If you still need to purchase the blazer for Year 7 please purchase these at the same time.
Track top $78, track pants $59, blazer $166 - $170.

TERM 1 CALENDAR EVENTS

Wednesday 13 March Year 7 Parent Feedback Meeting
Sunday 17 March Year 12 Retreat Week concludes Friday 22 March
Thursday 21 March MCC Swimming Carnival
Friday 29 March Good Friday (Public Holiday)
Monday 1 April Easter Monday (Public Holiday)
Friday 12 April Last Day of Term
On Wednesday 27 February the College opened its doors to the public for our annual Open Day. The afternoon was a another great showcase of all that Marcellin has to offer, with a steady stream of visitors moving about the College grounds meeting staff, students and parents of the MCR community.

Of particular note, as this year we celebrate 90 years, a special display was featured with commemorative boards tracing each decade of College history. Many Old Boys of the College joined us on the day for a trip down memory lane. I would like to thank all staff and parents for all the preparations and work on the day, your support is very much appreciated. Once again our Year 7 boys as tour guides were exemplary in their conduct and wonderful ambassadors for the College and our musicians kept us all entertained and setting the tone for a very enjoyable and affirming experience.

Mr Brian Vane-Tempest
Director of Development & Communications
YEAR 12 BIOLOGY EXCURSION

Lung Cancer, Diabetes, Bacteria, Influenza, all very unpleasant sounding words... but not for the Museum of Human Disease, in UNSW, Randwick. Students of the Year 12 Biology classes travelled to the Museum and came into the presence of a resource rich environment with examples of scientifically donated infected body parts, with the oldest being donated during the 1900s. Students were provided with a booklet to complete through investigating the samples and historical contexts of the developments in the fields of research into specific diseases.

Student Josh Bonador summed the day up as “A fun-filled crash course about diseases, and 10/10, would visit it again!” Indeed it was, although gruesome at times, it seemed a rather popular venue for high school excursions, evident by the presence of the girls of St George. Overall, the day was enjoyable and productive, not in the usual bounds of an excursion where you’d be guided, and told to do this and do that, but instead, do what you’d like to do, in whatever order you like. Lung Cancer, Diabetes, Bacteria and Influenza don’t seem so bad once you have an appreciation for it.

Ms Jeannie Scevity, Science Coordinator

DEBATING

Marcellin College hosted Round 1 of the Catholic Schools Debating Association (CDSA) Public Speaking competition on Friday 22 February 2013. Eleven other Catholic high schools from the area enjoyed the outstanding hospitality extended by the thirty boys who volunteered as ushers, timers, chairmen and supporters. Br David and Mr Peter Buxton who were in attendance with many generous staff who saw that things run smoothly, were proud to receive an overwhelming amount of complements from visiting schools and parents about how welcoming, courteous and professional all of the boys were on the night.

Due to the hard work and dedication of students from Years 7 to Senior, we were able to field a team of twelve students which included:

Year 7  Thomas Stellino and John Licitra
Year 8  Alex Krikorian and Harrison Dearling
Year 9  Tim Barron and Daniel Bassil
Year 10 Josh Ricamara and Thomas Waller
Senior  Kosta Bostikos, James Bassil, Tim Nichols and Carlos Hernandez-Quintero.

The Zone Final (semi final for the competition) was held at St Mary’s Cathedral College on Friday 1 March. Tim Nichols and Alex Krikorian have made it through to the grand finals at St Ignatius, Riverview this Friday 8 March from 6.45pm. The Marcellin community is invited to come along and support these two skilled and confident representatives.

Miss Naleen-Helen Greenwood, Debating Coordinator
A large part of the Industrial Technology course is about utilising the materials, processes and techniques found in industry. The theory covered in class and the experience of constructing practical projects gives students much of what is required, the remainder is provided through the Industry Study and the study of a particular business within the focus area.

On Tuesday 19 February the Year 11 Industrial Technology class went on an excursion to DisplayWise in Taren Point. DisplayWise is a business which designs and manufactures custom sales displays. The excursion was designed to assist the students with their first assessment task and allowed them to see and experience firsthand many of the processes, materials and equipment used by companies in the manufacturing industry.

The students were addressed by employees in all departments of the company including the Director of the company about what the company does and how it operates, graphic designers responsible for the designing of all the componentry that goes into making large displays, the Warehouse Manager whose role it is to trial assemble all displays, pack and transport displays to their required location, as well as organising the storage of displays in the warehouse. The Construction Manager demonstrated the use of a computer controlled point to point router and the Print Manager explained and demonstrated the process of printing large panels with an overhead printer.

Mr Paul McGee
Year 11 Industrial Technology Teacher
SPORTS REPORT

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball trials and training are well underway at this point, with the U15s and Opens competing at the MCC championships on Thursday 14 March (Week 7). I wish both the teams and their coaches the best of luck in their upcoming competitions.

CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

Earlier this term in Week 2, the College Cross Country carnival was held at both Heffron Park and Coral Sea Park. Boys competed in all age groups from U12 to U16 over distances of 2 or 3 kilometres. It was Champagnat House that proved to be the strongest long-distance running team with a fairly close victory over Ignatius in second place. A preliminary Cross Country squad has been chosen and has already begun preparing for the defence of the MCC title, which will take place in Week 10.

CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

1st - Champagnat (908 points)
2nd - Ignatius (820 points)
3rd – Fallon (652 points)
4th – Anselm (454 points)

SUMMER SPORTS GRAND FINALS

The Summer sport grand finals were held on Thursday 21 February. Twelve grand finals were contested on the day, with Marcellin represented in eight of those. This proved to be another very successful day with the boys taking out the Premiership in seven age groups. We collected trophies with victory in U15, B Grade and A Grade Basketball, U15 and A Grade Touch, and U16 and A Grade Cricket. In winning over half the premierships on offer and taking the Aggregate trophy in these three sports as well, Marcellin was clearly the dominant school of the summer season.

Each of the teams were well supported by many parents, boys and staff who went along as spectators to cheer them on. My congratulations to all players and coaches who were involved in the 2012/2013 Summer season. Your efforts towards preparation and performance have contributed to another very successful season.

Mr Luke MacNamara, Sports Coordinator
Congratulations to our Champions!

These teams, and the A Grade Cricket team are our 2013 Premiers
Thanks to the support team!

MCC SUMMER SEASON - FINALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>A Grade</th>
<th>B Grade</th>
<th>Under 15</th>
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<td>Ashfield</td>
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<td>W: 22-6</td>
<td>W: 46-24</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Jonni Mei-Edwards</td>
<td>Luke Dever</td>
<td>Derek Daquel</td>
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<td>Under 14s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
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<td>Kogarah</td>
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<td>W: 4/133 to 104</td>
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<td>Jack Erickson</td>
<td>Ankit Patel</td>
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<th>B Grade</th>
<th>Under 15</th>
<th>Under 14</th>
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<td>Lewisham</td>
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<td>L: 3-4</td>
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<td>Giuseppe Giuffre</td>
<td>Jayden Azzopardi</td>
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