

# MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK



## NEWSLETTER

Number 7  
May 4th 2011

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends,

I am beginning to wonder if the Catholic Church in Australia is dying a slow death. Ever since I began working full-time in Catholic education in 1985 I have seen the number of students and their families involved in the Church outside of the school steadily decline. It has now declined to the point that the majority of kids in Catholic schools, aside from their baptism, first communion, and confirmation – and perhaps the odd Christmas Mass and a family wedding or funeral – have never been involved in a Catholic parish. The same could probably be said of the kids in our schools from other Christian religions. And yet 278 people have applied for one of the 170 places at Marcellin College in Year 7 for 2012. When the 170 arrive at Marcellin, and for the six years that follow, they will engage cooperatively, and often enthusiastically, in Religious Education classes, prayers, Masses, reflections days, retreats, and social justice activities. Our school, like thousands of other Catholic schools in the country is a thriving, effective work of the Church. So why aren't most people involved in the life of the Church outside the school?

Once upon a time I asked this question with an edge of accusation. That is - I'm involved, you aren't, you should be, and therefore I'm better than you. Today I ask the question from a different standpoint. It is a view that finds its expression in a belief and a plea; a belief that the Church is a very significant means by which we can come to know God, and a plea to get involved. It is a humbler view that recognises that there is much about our Church that needs attention and even fixing, but it cannot improve without all of the People of God – without YOU.

Perhaps the most frequently proffered reason as to why people have drifted away from the Church is that it no longer speaks in the way it did to our modern world. In other words, the Church is not contemporary enough. In some instances, perhaps too many, this is true. Bishop Michael Putney, the Bishop of Townsville put it this way:

"The entry point for the Christian Gospel to find its home in the culture of Australian young people in a way that is truly contemporary and yet authentically the gospel as it has been transmitted to us is not easily discernable. The Church needs to find doorways through which contemporary Australians can enter."<sup>1</sup>

But the Church will never find these contemporary doorways without YOU. Without me. Without each of us. Many people involved in the Church, and particularly those involved in decision making - including me - are getting too old to know what is contemporary and how to make the Gospel of Jesus speak to the minds and hearts of the people of our modern sophisticated society. The Church needs younger people to give it back some life and energy, to challenge its thinking, to make it relevant - to let it speak to our world so that the Reign of God might be realised in our time and place.

*The true Gospel is  
always fresh air and  
spacious breathing room.*

*Richard Rohr*

The much acclaimed Canadian priest and theologian, Bernard Lonnergan SJ, in reflecting on the need for the Church to be more contemporary, once said: "The Church inevitably arrives on the scene, late and a little out of breath."<sup>2</sup> It's not that the Church hasn't got something valuable to say - in fact what the Church often has to offer is invaluable - but it's all too often seen as being behind the mark and speaking in a tired old language that alienates rather than challenges or inspires. But the only way the Church can be more contemporary, arrive on the scene on time, and speak in a way that is uplifting and energetic is if all the People of God – including YOU and me, join in, get involved; contribute.

"But they won't listen," is often the response to the plea to get involved and contribute. THEY, being the people with the power to make decisions. And in some cases this is true. Take for instance the new text for the Mass which is about to be introduced into Catholic worship. It remains a controversial issue and one of the key criticisms of the process that has brought us to this new text is that the 'people in the pews', and perhaps many of the priests, weren't listened to. I've only been on the periphery of this issue and so I'm not in a position to confidently assess and comment on the matter, but this issue aside, the Church needs to listen more. The previous President of the Australian Bishops Conference, Archbishop Francis Carroll, in speaking of a Church that needs to become more Marian, more like a mother, said in a homily to his brother bishops: "The loving mother always has time to listen to her children. The Church must be ready to listen to her own, to other Christians and to the voice of humanity. She must especially listen to the cry of the poor and the pain of the world."<sup>3</sup>

But if we - the People of God - YOU and me, have stopped being involved in the Church we can no longer be in dialogue with it - we can no longer listen and be listened to. I hope I don't sound too simplistic when I say GET INVOLVED in the life of the Church.<sup>4</sup> Participate, do things, have your say - live and speak as if you believe in the privilege and responsibility that comes with your baptism. It won't be an easy task in a Church that tends towards institutionalisation, clericalism and patriarchy, but the Church is more than that, and it will not - cannot - be more than that if all of the People of God do not get involved.

I would gladly welcome your questions or responses to my comments: [principal@marcellin.nsw.edu.au](mailto:principal@marcellin.nsw.edu.au)

With my best wishes,

**Br David Hall FMS**  
Headmaster

<sup>1</sup>Michael Putney, "A New Ecclesial Context for Catholic Schools," in *Catholic Schools: Hope in Uncertain Times*, ed. Anne Benjamin and Dan Riley (Mulgrave, Vic: John Garratt Publishing, 2008), 20-21.

<sup>2</sup>Lonnergan quoted in Leland White, "Romans 1:26-27", in *Sexual Diversity and Catholicism*, ed. Patricia Beating et.al. (Collegeville, MI: The Liturgical Press, 2001), 134.

<sup>3</sup>Francis Carroll, "Homily by Archbishop Francis P. Carroll, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, May 3, 2001," <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/bishops/cc/2001050412.htm>

<sup>4</sup>In a future article I will write more about new ways in which this might happen.

# FROM THE HEADMASTER

## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to all these boys on their Special Achievements. Well done!



**Joshua Dever**  
Year 8

Won 3 Gold medals in the U13 3000m, 1500m and 800m breaking the previous record in each race. Selected in the U13 Little Athletics NSW team.



**Luke Dever**  
Year 8

Won a Silver medal in the U13 800m and a Bronze medal in the 3000m and 1500m. Selected in the U13 Little Athletics NSW team.



**Guy Rowles**  
Year 10

Won the award for Junior Cricketer of the Year in the South Eastern Junior Cricket Association.



**Trent Rutherford**  
Year 7

Recently gained three medals at the NSW Surf Life Saving Age Championships - the Silver Board Rescue, the Bronze U12 Swim Teams and the Bronze U12 Board Relay.



**Anthony Romeo**  
Year 8

Swam in the RSL State Championships representing his zone and won a Gold medal in the Boys 13 year old Medley Relay and a Silver medal in the Boys 13 year old Freestyle Relay.



**Abraham Irhia**  
Year 9

Abraham's animation film entry was a finalist in the Urban Shorts Randwick Youth Film Festival competition and was screened at the Randwick Ritz Cinema.

## TERM 2 CALENDAR EVENTS

**Wednesday 4th May**

- Year 12 Parent Teacher Evening 3.45pm-8.30pm.

**Tuesday 10th May**

- NAPLAN Years 7 & 9 commences. Concludes Thursday 12th May.

**Wednesday 11th May**

- Parent & Son Mass Year 8 to attend - 7.30pm.

**Friday 20th May**

- Year 11 Exams commence. Conclude Wednesday 1st June.

**Monday 23rd May**

- Year 10 Exams commence. Conclude Thursday 26th May.

## LENTEN APPEAL

The tally for the 2011 Lenten Collection has reached \$14,385.90. Home room teachers are still collecting student's money. Could your son please bring in any outstanding money this week.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Once again the College will be conducting a Sacramental Program during Terms 2 and 3. If your son has not completed some or all of the sacraments through your local parish and would like to participate in the program would you please contact Mr Anthony Boys (REC) through the College reception (02) 9398 6355 by Friday 6th May. Marcellin staff will be taking the boys through the program with limited interruptions to the normal school day. Further details will be sent home via letter for those who intend to participate.

*Mr Anthony Boys, Religious Education Coordinator*

## NAPLAN TESTS

In 2011 the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will again take place for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. This program, which has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers, will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools. Years 7 and 9 at Marcellin College will be involved in the NAPLAN testing.

**NAPLAN tests for 2011 will be held from Tuesday 10th May to Thursday 12th May 2011**

Year Level	Tuesday 10th May	Wednesday 11th May	Thursday 12th May
Year 7 and Year 9	Language Conventions* 45 minutes  Writing 40 minutes	Reading 65 minutes	Numeracy** 40 minutes x 2 (80 minutes in total)  Students undertake two numeracy tests. Calculators are permitted to be used in one of these tests only.

\* Language Conventions incorporates spelling, grammar and punctuation.

\*\* Numeracy incorporates number, algebra, function and pattern, space, measurement, chance and data.

# NOTICES AND NEWS

## ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

This year the traditional ANZAC Day ceremony was held on Friday 29th April. Marcellin College students and staff took the time to pause to remember in a very special, personal way, those 31 ex-students of Marcellin who gave their lives in the service of their country. Each of these 31 men has his own story, but they all had this in common - they were all educated at Marcellin by the Marist Brothers. The names of these men are listed on plaques at the base of the memorial statue of Saint Marcellin Champagnat in the courtyard. This statue was erected by the Ex-Student's Association in the late 1940s to honour those sons of Marcellin, who made the supreme sacrifice in war. This year also saw the inclusion of members of the Coogee/Randwick RSL who were guests of the College to help commemorate the sacrifices of local men and women during war time.

The ceremony began with a formal procession led by students carrying the College flag, College candle and a slouch hat, and included prayers, readings, reflection, laying of the wreaths as well as the Last Post.

In addition to the traditional ceremony 31 current students symbolically represented each of the 31 ex-students who gave their lives for their country. The boys are to be congratulated on the great reverence with which the student body participated in the ceremony. Many ex-students present expressed their delight in having the chance to talk with students about their experiences during the morning tea that followed the ceremony.

*Mr Garry McDonald, ANZAC Day Coordinator*



**LEST WE FORGET**

# SPORT AND NEWS

## MARIST BASKETBALL CARNIVAL

The A Grade Basketball team participated in the Australian Marist Basketball carnival at Newcastle from April 3rd to 7th. The carnival is a yearly gathering of Marist schools from all over Australia and is an elite competition that showcases basketball and brings Australian Marist schools together. This year the Marcellin A Grade team was extremely competitive in every game they played. Their behaviour on and off the court was exemplary and the boys entered into the Marist spirit of the carnival at every opportunity they had. After an extremely tough draw, the boys were required to play three games on the first day and five games on the second day. The team won some hard fought battles on day two, however due to a serious ankle injury to one of the dominant rebounding forwards Aldwin Hidajat, the team were a little unlucky and lost some tight encounters late on this second day of play. They missed the championship half of the competition by a percentage point. To their credit the boys bounced back on days 3 and 4 winning their remaining games. The boys were not as highly placed as they had hoped but their enthusiasm and competitive play hold us in good stead for the future. Thomas Payten was awarded the Marcellin College MVP scoring 146 points. Congratulations to the Year 12 members of the team who led so well, including Thomas Payten, Joshua Cogin, John Yacoub and Aldwin Hidajat. Special mention to the Year 9 and 10 members of the team who came to the carnival to gain valuable experience in this elite competition. Each day they faced the challenges of such a tough competition and showed a level of effort and determination that earned the respect of all who saw them play. A special word of thanks to Miss Rachel Thompson who accompanied the team as manager, her support was invaluable.

*Ms Jennifer Dove, Marist Basketball Carnival Coordinator*

## NSWCCC BASKETBALL

Last Friday and Saturday the NSWCCC Basketball competition was held at Hawkesbury. Marcellin entered a Year 7 and 8 Junior team and a Year 9 and 10 Intermediate team. Both teams qualified for the semi finals after performing excellently in the round competition. Unfortunately we narrowly lost both semi finals. I was most impressed with the standard of basketball displayed by the boys. After having to play five games to qualify for the semi-finals the boys remained focussed and showed true grit to fight right down to the final buzzer. Well done to the boys and thank you to Ms Dove, Miss Thompson and Mr Lobo for coaching the boys and giving their time generously especially over the weekend.

## GOLF AND TENNIS

Marcellin Golf and Tennis championships were held at the end of last term. Thank you to all the boys who participated and congratulations to our age group champions listed below. Squads will now be picked for the Tennis and Golf teams and they will compete in the MCC Championships in Week 1 of Term 3.

	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	OPEN
Tennis	Philipp Trupke	Pearse Dolan	Luke Gander	Mitchell Gardner	Nathan Micallef	James Psaila Daniel Hahn
Golf	-	Kell O'Brien	Brendan Barry	Matthew Power	Ruben Sondjaja	Mitchell Scannell



## RUGBY LEAGUE AND SOCCER

The Rugby League and Soccer representative round was held on the last Thursday before the holidays. Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected to represent the combined MCC teams at the NSWCCC competitions: A Grade Soccer: Marko Bozic, Daniel Mifsud and Brayden Sorge; A Grade Rugby League: Lars Roy, Jason Gray, Alexander Thomas, Andrew Norton, Cheyne Whitelaw, Jackson Garlick and Aaron Gray; Under 15 Rugby League: Reece Toto, Joshua Ellison, Joshua Potts and Andres Rossini. Round 2 of the Winter season continues this week against North Shore.

## MCC WINTER SEASON - ROUND 4 RESULTS

A Grade Soccer - Marcellin won 5-2 against Kogarah with James Hamilton receiving player of the match.  
A Grade Rugby - League Marcellin won 52-12 against Kogarah with Cheyne Whitelaw receiving player of the match.  
U15 Rugby League - Marcellin lost 0-1 against Kogarah with Joshua Potts receiving player of the match.  
U13 D2B Rugby League - Marcellin won 32-0 against Lewisham with Martin Wilkins receiving player of the match.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

*Mr Robert Capizzi, Sports Coordinator*

**NAIDOC Week:** Provides awareness on the importance of culture, diversity and respect for others. In support of Koori Kids programs 'Respect bands or packs' can be purchased. For more information contact [director@koorikids.com](mailto:director@koorikids.com)