OPENING MASS 2016

On Friday 19 February Fr Rowan Luza celebrated the opening school mass with the College community. It was a wonderful way to welcome the New Year, give thanks for our life together in community, and recognise what we are called to be and do in this year of Mercy. The Mass was followed by an assembly welcoming back our high-achieving VCE and VCAL students and it was a great opportunity to share the successes and future plans of these young women with their family and friends, as well as all the staff and students at the College. These students are great role models of aspiration, hard-work, commitment and dedication to a dream. Our College VCE Dux and our VCAL high achieving student both thanked the people who had travelled the journey with them, recognising the contribution of their family, friends and faith in supporting them through Year 12. We are stronger when we draw on the strength of others and offer our strength in return.

Below is an excerpt from the Co-Principals’ address, focussing on the Year of Mercy, the role models who inspire us to be merciful, and the simple call to action we are challenged to embrace as merciful people of God.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy Pope Francis calls us to a change in our own lives so that we can be and bring the face of God’s mercy to the world. In our understanding of what it means to be charitable to one another we as Catholic people talk about the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy, which originated from the Tradition of the Church dating back hundreds of years. These works of mercy are meant to be visible signs of God’s mercy and compassion in the world. Where do we see these visible signs – we see them in you and in me – we are, we can be, we should be, the visible signs of God’s mercy and compassion in the world.

The Works of Mercy mean nothing unless we breathe life into them in who we are and what we do for one another, and for those in the wider community. These works of mercy are based on that most beautiful piece of Scripture from the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus teaches what it means to live a fully human life: “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

At this time when government policies seek to exclude the stranger, turn away the most vulnerable and needy, encourage hearts that are closed not open, it is worth reflecting on Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus’ challenge to us “I was a stranger and you welcomed me”. These are not simply words written in an old book – they challenge us to lead our lives in a particular way and for a particular reason.

After a long journey there is often a real sense of relief in simply getting “home” – finally, no matter how wonderful the holiday experience. We all need to have a ‘home’ in our lives. It’s not just a physical building but a place where we feel safe and secure. Being at home is vital for the nourishment of our human soul. Our homes are places of inclusion, where we welcome people “in”. As people formed in the Christian tradition we have always sought to include – to shelter the homeless and give hospitality and a “home” to strangers and refugees. In welcoming the stranger and the homeless, in sheltering them, we want to share the joy and peace of being at “home”, and in doing so show reveal the face of Jesus to them through our action.

It is worth noting that in his later ministry Jesus did not have a home; he lived his life out in the open, sometimes alone and rough at night, relying on the welcome, inclusion, goodness and hospitality of strangers. I was a stranger and you welcomed me – the “homeless” Jesus is still knocking at the door of our hearts asking for shelter – where – in the plight of the thousands of people displaced by civil war, in the homeless people on the streets of our own cities, in those within society struggling with mental health issues, trying to find their place. In our own contexts it’s the girl in your class who tends to spend lunchtimes on her own, or the student who is never actively included in groups; it is our tendency to judge others based on our own standards rather than accepting people for who they are. It is engaging in gossip that excludes and steals another person’s dignity. In being courageous enough to have open hearts, open minds and open hands, we reveal Christ’s face to the other and live out a work of mercy that challenges us to shelter the homeless and welcome the stranger.
From the Co-Principals (continued)

The life of St Brigid of Kildare is a shining example of what is means to offer hospitality, “For I was hungry and you gave me food”. The life of Saint Brigid offers us continued insight into the value of hospitality, the joyful, generous giving of food and shelter. Myths and legends indicate that Brigid’s truest graciousness was in her generosity. At her father’s home, she shocked the household by distributing to the poor most of the food at her disposal. At a time when she returned to a life of slavery in order to help her mother who had become ill, she took over her mother’s work in the dairy. Brigid would divide the butter she had churned into thirteen parts, one for each of the twelve apostles and one larger part for Our Lord, which she would distribute to the poor. In fact, many of the incidents of Brigid’s life involve her being blessed with plenty so that she could give it away. For Brigid, the poor and the hungry were Christ Jesus in the stranger’s guise. This work of mercy calls us to be generous in the sharing of our abundance and our good fortune.

The beginning of the Jubilee Year is always marked by the opening of a Holy Door by the Pope in St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican. For this Jubilee of Mercy Pope Francis also wanted a Door of Mercy in each diocese so that everyone throughout the world may be able to celebrate the Jubilee. As a school community blessed with many gifts how do we bring this “open door” to life, where the works of mercy are the hallmarks of how we live out the Brigidine Core Values in our daily lives. Let us commit ourselves to one small act of mercy each day and notice the difference it makes in our lives and in the lives of others.

Rita Grima and Raymond Pisani - Co-Principals

Faith and Mission

A STUDENT IN 10 CECILIA

Marian College is a Kildare Education Ministries school in the Brigidine Tradition and with links to the Presentation Orders. Both of these Orders came out of Ireland. It is interesting to note that both had light as a symbol, a lamp shining in the darkness. The darkness came from ignorance, a lack of opportunity and a place lacking in the loving mercy of God. Education has overcome that darkness with the guiding light of Jesus Christ and his teaching to “love one another as I have loved you”. Regardless of the person we are encouraged to love them.

In the Opening Mass held on the 19th of February we focussed on the new theme for 2016 “A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just,” a quote from Pope Francis asking us to have compassion for people that are vulnerable and who are struggling within our community. It is easier said, than done!

Within the Marian College community we try to make this real for the students, so that they will act on this statement to be merciful or compassionate to those around them.

An action occurred on the 16th of February when a group of students and staff travelled to St Patrick’s Cathedral to ‘Pray To Let Them Stay’ in solidarity with refugees at St Patrick’s Cathedral, It was headed by Bishop Vincent Long, himself a former refugee. A liturgy service was held in a packed St Patrick’s Cathedral. Bishop Long, the bishops’ spokesman on refugees, re-stated the ACBC’s declaration that “the Catholic Church opposes mandatory detention and offshore detention because these policy responses do not respect the dignity of people seeking our help.” (Media and Communications CEO)

The Rally and the liturgy were specifically commissioned in response to Federal government plans to send 267 people seeking asylum from Australia back to Nauru. A contingent of Catholic school students, teachers, parishioners, service providers and Catholic leaders gathered to show support and solidarity for those affected people now facing an uncertain future. Bishop Long reminded everybody, in his opening prayer, that we are many people, with many names, from many different places, but that ALL people are precious in God’s sight and “no one is more important than another. After his homily, Bishop Long led the assembly in prayers of intercession to God, praying for energy in our struggles for justice and human rights, grieving for sufferings in our world, begging for guidance on the path of healing and reconciliation and, finally, asking for transformation, that we may be “channels of empowerment, especially with the most vulnerable”, to which the congregation responded, “Lord, transform us”.

Bishop Long called upon all people “God, may your Holy Spirit empower all your people – to hear, to assess, to act, to take risks, to be the voice of those people whose voices are silenced by the indifference of the world around them.

“Loving God, you call us to welcome the stranger. Enable us to hear. Inspire us to love. Empower us to act”.

“Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear! We are called to be hope for the hopeless So all hatred and blindness will be no more.”

May we all be empowered to act with more ‘mercy and make the world less cold and more just.’

Mary-Lou Towns - Assistant to the Co-Principal - Faith and Mission
Learning and Teaching

On Monday 15 February Marian College held the Year 10-12 Homeroom Teachers Parent Evening. This was an important opportunity for parents and students to receive useful information regarding the VCE and VCAL programs offered by the College. The evening also provided information to parents and students on Career and Pathway options post year 12. Parents and students also had the opportunity to speak with homeroom teachers and members of the Leadership Team.

On Wednesday, 17 of February the College held the Year 7-9 Homeroom Teachers Parent Evening. This evening provided an opportunity for parents and students to receive useful information regarding the transition to secondary school for year 7 students and parents and covered the comprehensive curriculum provided in year 7 to 9. This included information on our innovative curriculum approach to the year 9 Themes and Unplugged programs where student leadership and confidence is developed. This was also a great opportunity for students in year 7 to 9 to share their learning goals for the year with their parents and homeroom teacher.

Thank you to the many parents and students who attended one or both evenings last week. The feedback from parents and students was very positive and the opportunity provided by the College will assist in further developing parent/school partnerships into the future.

Teaching and Learning is well and truly underway at Marian College with senior students expecting to sit their first assessment tasks within the next few of weeks.

By now, all students should have established a study timetable and settled into a regular homework routine which includes revising material covered in classes during the day. We would encourage parents to ensure that their daughters have an environment that is conducive to study and to monitor homework activities striking a balance between school, work, family and social life.

The College laptops have been provided to all students to be used in classes to extend the learning process and provide students with alternative approaches to research and develop critical thinking skills. We also take this opportunity to remind students that at Marian College, they are to take personal responsibility for the care of the laptop and ensure that the material accessed through the internet is of an educational nature.

Paul Familari & Jane Goddard - Assistants to the Co-Principals - Learning and Teaching

Student Wellbeing

CONVERSATION WITH STUDENT LEADERS

This week saw the first gathering of our Student Representative Council members from Years 8-12 including our Lamp Bearers. Our work this year is very much linked to one of the goals of our School Improvement Plan where we are working to give our student body a greater voice in the decision making process of the school.

Our main goals for the group this year are:

• To revisit and relaunch our Behaviour Management Policy linked to our School Charter. The aim is that we will work towards relaunching the policy at the end of term 2.

• To continue to develop our House Points System and establish a process of collecting points for our House that extends beyond the Athletics Carnival and Brigidine Celebration Day.

• To continue to develop the role description of our House leaders and give them a more prominent role within the Leadership structure at the College.

• To continue to find ways of building School Spirit.

• Be involved in a possible uniform review later in the year.

The work of our student leadership body is very important in our development as a school as we engage with all members of our community in striving to make Marian the best place it can be for all community members.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Our annual Investiture assembly for the recognition of all student leaders will be held next Thursday 3rd March.

We will send an SMS message to invite all of our families to this event as we will recognise over 120 student leaders at this assembly.

Over the last couple of weeks each homeroom has carried out the voting process for election of student homeroom leaders and our Year 7 cohort will carry out this process as part of their camp experience at Phillip Island this week.

At VCE where we elect 7 members from each of the Year 11 and Year 12 cohorts the process will be finalised this week.

We look forward to acknowledging all of our student leaders in the next addition of the Marian News in a fortnight.

continued....
Student Wellbeing (continued)

UNIFORM REMINDERS

Our Year Level Leaders and homeroom teachers have worked very hard over the first four weeks of school to address uniform issues such as the length of the summer dress for all students.

We thank all of those families that have worked with us in addressing this issue and we will continue this process over the course of the year with both our winter skirt and then our summer uniform again in Term 4.

A reminder that if you require any uniform pieces our uniform shop is open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to the end of lunch.

We will continue to follow uniform concerns up over the course of the year.

ATTENDANCE NOTES

We remind all members of our community about the importance of ringing the dedicated phone line to report your daughter’s absence in the morning.

This needs to be followed up by giving your daughter either a written note or doctor’s certificate to explain your daughter’s absence which a government expectation.

We will begin the process of sending out letters next week to students who have already had 5 or more days of absence in the four weeks since school commenced for 2016. This is also a government requirement that was introduced in 2015.

Kerrie Williams - Assistant to the Co-Principals – Student Wellbeing

JDF

“LET THEM STAY” BY MACHOZI M’MUNGA

On Monday the 16th of February a number of JDF students went to Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, East Melbourne to protest about asylum seekers being sent back to Nauru.

We arrived at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral and were met with students and teachers from other schools who were also there to protest against the High Court’s decision to send the asylum seekers back to Nauru. Students from Marian College and Santa Maria College were involved in a performance about how asylum seekers feel and why they want to stay somewhere like Australia. This was performed in front of a large audience. The audience composed of teachers, priests, parents, primary school students and adults who were all there to stand up for asylum seekers.

The asylum seekers in the performance all wore white to represent purity and innocence. Innocence because they have done nothing wrong in coming to Australia to seek a better life. However, the security guards all wore black. The black represented mystery because there are guards out there that want asylum seekers in and others don’t. The performance that was written by Mr David Ellis started with Mr Ellis shouting “Australian’s Afraid!” After Mr Ellis said that, he passed a microphone to each asylum seeker. When an asylum seeker grabbed the microphone she expressed the impact the High Court’s decision had on them. After each asylum seeker spoke, Mr Ellis cut a red ribbon that was tying everyone together. The asylum seekers then tumbled down the steps of Saint Patrick’s Cathedral. The red ribbon represented blood that has been shed and will continue to be shed if Australia allows the Government to send the asylum seekers back to Nauru. After each asylum seeker spoke and tumbled down the steps, the teacher (Ms Scott) and a doctor spoke about how they will not support injustice, discrimination and cruelty of asylum seekers any more. After the teacher and doctor spoke they unveiled a pillow case on top of a number of asylum seekers and walked up to the steps holding hands with the asylum seeker.

Holding hands was very symbolic because it showed to the audience that the Australian population is ready to join hands to support asylum seekers. Waiting at the steps was Bishop Vincent Long, who later gave a speech about asylum seekers and welcomed the audience into the cathedral to celebrate mass.

The performance was very moving and students got a lot out of the experience.

Susan Scott - JDF Co-Ordinator

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE OUR SCHOOL’S PROUD MULTI-CULTURALISM

CULTURAL DIVERSITY NIGHT!

MONDAY, MARCH 21ST
7 P.M.

196 GLENGALA RD, SUNSHINE WEST, VIC

DON’T FORGET TO BUY YOUR TICKETS! FROM TRYBOOKING (TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM 2 MARCH)
Design, Art & Technology

Melbourne is fortunate to have a major exhibition of two of the leading contemporary artists of the 20th and 21st century at the National Gallery of Victoria. On Tuesday 23rd February students in VCE Studio Arts and Visual Communication braved the 38 degree day to view the work of Andy Warhol and Ai Wei Wei.

They attended a lecture prior to the exhibition where many of the students responded thoughtfully to questions posed by the presenter. Both of these artists have created art which is a reflection of the culture and time they live in. Warhol responded to popular culture with repetitive images of soup cans and Ai Wei Wei is a political activist who uses Chinese cultural objects in his artwork and changes the context and original meaning. The exhibition is vast and students were able to move through at their own pace.

Congratulations to all the students for their enthusiasm, excitement and participation. It was a fantastic opportunity to view artworks in a gallery setting which is a vastly different experience to looking at them in books or online, particularly with the size and scale of work such as Ai Wei Wei’s ‘Forever Bicycles’ which takes up the foyer of the National Gallery.

Kelly Deliopoulos - Design, Art & Technology Teacher

STUDENT COMMENTS

‘The Andy Warhol – Ai Wei Wei exhibition was a fantastic once in a lifetime experience to see. The artworks and interactive elements were things anyone could enjoy. I recommend going if you have never been to a gallery before.” - Renee Keo Yr 12 Studio Arts

‘All the artwork presented in the Andy Warhol – Ai Wei Wei exhibition were equally spectacular. I encourage all to experience the immersive artworks from both artists. - Nicole Soulsby Yr 12 Studio Arts

‘In regards to the Andy Warhol – Ai Wei Wei exhibition, it was intriguing, inspiring and immersive. I recommend visiting this art exhibition.’ - Jessica Nguyen Yr 12 Studio Arts

‘It was very juicy, it portrayed a great link with Ai and Warhol and it was mind blowing. I found I was able to open myself and find more inspiration to assist me in my sculpture and my own art work. I saw how the artists used the art elements and materials and techniques. Some of the artworks were whimsical like the Silver Clouds. I was able to get to know the artists I am studying and how their childhood influenced them’. - Vi Nguyen

‘The exhibition extremely was intriguing and fascinating. As I looked at the artworks, especially those by Ai Weiwei, I couldn’t help but to feel touched and inspired by his artworks. I was particularly touched by the artwork ‘4851’ which was in dedication to the 5000 plus children who perished in the Sichuan earthquakes.” - Annonica Mavaega

‘The Andy Warhol and Ai Wei Wei exhibition was a wonderful experience. I got to encounter artworks which were spectacular and it was a great opportunity for VCE students.” - Mele Fifita

“The Andy Warhol and Ai Wei Wei exhibition was an eye opener for students who are currently committed into folio work. Ai Wei Wei’s work showed art students how different experiences (childhood or political) in influence on ones work and expression.” – Jessica Phan

“When polar opposite cultures and societies in a room can exchange dialogue through art, it’s confronting to know that the world really is just that small and interconnected.” – Regina Kong
Performing Arts

Performing Arts has sprung into action with the new year. Students in Dance, Drama, Media and Music are settling well into their classes, and already performances have been prepared and presented. Some performing Arts classes are preparing to contribute to the Stations of the Cross liturgy coming up in just a few short weeks, and we are honored to have the opportunity to be part of this very meaningful liturgy for our College community. Senior students are applying for the various leadership positions that we offer including Curriculum Co-Captains and Technical and Production Co-Captains. These students will work with staff to prepare the programs for the Junior and Senior Performing Arts, and act as MCs for those performances.

Performance is a great way of building confidence in young people. It enables them in many ways beyond the arts, such as presenting for job interviews or tertiary applications. We are looking forward to not just a wonderful year of the performing arts, but of seeing students grow in self-belief.

Mari Eleanor

CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC AND DRAMA PROGRAMS

Creative Music visited Marian College this week to run a series of workshops for all Year 7 classes to introduce them to a range of instruments including bass, guitar, woodwind, strings, piano, and singing. All Year 7s had a chance to try out an instrument. Expression of interest forms have been given out, and can be collected at any time. The returned forms are sent to Creative Music, and our program manager Swee Smart will speak with parents directly to answer questions and organise lessons. There are options for lessons to rotate through the timetable so that students avoid missing the same class, or to have a lesson before or at the end of the school day. Students can learn in pairs, or on their own. Fees are paid upfront for the term, and there is a discount on term 2 fees for students enrolling in this term. In addition there is a bursary available each semester, which gives a discount to the student for their fees for that semester. The student also receives a badge, and a certificate at our Awards Night in November. We would like to congratulate this year’s recipients - Bethanie Hutchins and Sarah Maloney. They have demonstrated commitment to their learning, and have contributed to a number of co-curricular ensembles in Performing Arts.

If you or your daughter have any questions about the instrumental lessons, or any co-curricular programs in the Performing Arts, please contact me at the College, or email meleanor@mariansw.catholic.edu.au

Mari Eleanor -
Music and Drama Programs Co-ordinator

Learn music
here at school

Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, guitar, violin, singing, bass guitar, here at Marian College.

Creative Music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week.

Small group classes or one-to-one lessons of up to 30 minutes give students an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.

Tuition costs from $17.60 per lesson and enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 1, 2016.

Interested parents should call Swee during office hours on 9818 2533
LOTE

INDONESIAN
Salam dari kelas 8,
In year 8 Indonesian, students participate in speaking, reading, listening and writing activities which enhances their learning and provides them with a medium to demonstrate their cultural and language understanding.

This term, our topic is “Sekolah”(school). Students describe their own school, talk about school, subjects and school activities. They also discuss and compare about Indonesian school and Indonesian students activities with their own school.

Salam,
Ibu Trina

ITALIAN
Il Bar, La Salumeria, La Pizzeria, dal Fruttivendolo – these are some of the food stores that our Year 8 Italian students are learning about in our Buon Appetito unit. We are having fun learning about the different coffees that Italians love to drink and the foods that have become ‘gourmet’ delicacies, such as prosciutto crudo, ravioli, pomodori secchi.

In the coming weeks, our students will be working on a ricetta for their first Italian assessment task whereby in a group, they will be filming themselves preparing a meal……ALL IN ITALIANO!

We wish our studentesse a fantastic and memorable time completing this creative task.

Buon lavoro!

Professoressa Fabbian

Careers
A big thank you to all parents who attended the career information sessions at parent teacher interviews last week.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind parents how vital you are in helping your daughter choose her own pathway beyond the Marian Gates.

Two of the biggest things to remember when beginning these conversations:

• When your daughter is choosing her tertiary options she needs to be supported in ensuring she is able to follow her passions and strengths.

• To focus on the journey rather than one destination. Your daughter needs to be encouraged to appreciate and value each experience along the way.

I encourage all students from 10-12 to visits the careers centre regularly and especially for Year 12’s to make an appointment.

Below are three workshops that you may be interested in attending.

Free Parent Workshop- Starting Career Conversations with your child, Melton Library and Learning Hub, Melton

• Event date and time: 02/03/2016 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm
• Free Parent Workshop- Starting Career Conversations with your Child, Caroline Springs Library/ Civic Centre
• Event date and time: 17/03/2016 - 10:00am to 12:00pm
• FREE Parent Webinar- Where are all the jobs going to be in 2025?
• Event date and time: 19/04/2016 - 7:00pm to 8:00pm

All can be booked at www.ceav.vic.edu.au

Lauren Marett - Careers and Pathways Co-ordinator
A big welcome back to the Marian Leos, with another exciting year to look forward to. For Maria Nguyen, Selina Tsang, My Tran and Annonica Mavaega it has started off with a challenge. These four eager candidates participated in the annual Lions Youth of the Year quest, a prestigious international competition run annually by Lions International. The quest is designed to find outstanding young citizens actively engaged in their community with great public speaking skills.

The two day event began with the interviews on Saturday, followed by the much anticipated speeches, held Monday evening. Each participant delivered a speech on a topic of their choice followed up by responses to two questions proposed by the judges.

The judges had a tough decision on their hands as all four participants did exceptionally well. After a lot of deliberation, Annonica Mavaega was selected as our overall winner and awarded Selina Tsang for best public speaking. Annonica will be representing the Brimbank Leos, in the district finals in Spotswood. Best of luck Annonica.

Again congratulations to all the participants, for a job well done, and we look forward to next year’s event.

Csilla Schild
Science

VCE YEAR 11 CHEMISTRY
Currently, all Year 11 VCE Chemistry students are studying the periodic table as an organisational tool to identify patterns and trends. They are also looking at relationships between the structures, including electronic configurations and atomic radii, and properties such as ionisation, metallic and non-metallic character and reactivity of elements. To consolidate these concepts, the girls have been undertaking practical activities in class. The practical activities have been focusing on growing metallic crystals, flame tests of unknown metals to identify the ion present and modifying metals to demonstrate the process of alloying.

Mrs Matejin (Learning Leader and VCE Chemistry teacher)

SCIENCE CLUB
The last two sessions of Science Club has seen well over fifty students attend each fortnight, which is fabulous to see so many enjoying the activities on offer! This year, Science Club members will again have the opportunity to participate in fun, hands-on projects such as making a hover board, scented candles, play-doh, slime, ice-cream; the list goes on. Science Club members will also be participating in this year’s Victorian Crystal Growing Competition, which has seen Marian College receiving a second place in the State championships in 2014. The students will also have other opportunities throughout the year to participate in national and international competitions. We are all looking forward to another great year!

Mrs Matejin (Learning Leader)