EASTER LITURGY

This week we celebrated the Easter season by taking a journey through the Stations of the Cross. The Stations are a 14-step “mini-pilgrimage” which commemorates Jesus’ last day on Earth. Each station focuses on a specific event leading up to Jesus’ death and his interment in the tomb. The liturgy group assisted by Year 8 Drama and the Performing Arts students presented a moving and deeply reflective interpretation of the Stations. Using movement, music and prayer we reflected on how Jesus responded during each specific event. For example, during the first Station, “When Jesus is condemned to death” we were asked to reflect on Jesus’ response to the unfair judgement and criticism that come his way from authorities and the people he ministered to; people who only the week before were celebrating him. How did he respond? With love. There was no blame, no accusations, no self-defensiveness. Jesus stood firm and resolute to what he believed, did not harden his heart to his accusers, and accepted, with some trepidation, what was to come.

As we move through the Stations we hear that Jesus prayed, he was fearful, he was supported by others, he accepts help, he stumbles and falls, he is humiliated by others. The Stations lead us through some of the trials and experiences of our own human conditions. Jesus’ human experience during the events leading to his death, and his response out of love, provide a model for our responses to the trials and experiences of our own lives. As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the three holiest days of our Christian calendar, how do we use the events from a time long past to understand our experiences of our own human conditions and the place of love in our interactions, our praying, our response to the other. Let us respond from a place of love, and follow in Jesus’ way.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

One of the best attributes of this wonderful community here at Marian is the diversity of our student population and the way this diversity is celebrated and embraced. The best showcase of this multi-cultural pride takes place at the Cultural Diversity Evening each year. Student groups proudly and confidently share dance as one of the elements of every culture that gives expression to celebration, tradition, values and community. This year was no exception and students shared their dances to a packed lunchtime concert for Marian students and then a full house of community guests for the evening performance.

A wonderful culmination to the evening was the way that the girls came together at the end of the show to sing the Marian College school song, united in their diversity, by the community that is Marian. So while we acknowledge and celebrate the differences that create our rich human culture, we also recognise the ties that bind and bring us closer together – in our little part of West Sunshine, that is Marian College.

HAPPY EASTER

As we move into the term break we wish everyone a happy and safe holiday. We pray that the coming Easter season is a time of prayer, celebration and family as we recall the hope that comes from Christ’s resurrection.

Rita Grima and Raymond Pisani - Co-Principals
This week we commenced the most important period in the Catholic Church, with Holy Week. It started with Palm Sunday which commemorated Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, yet within a week he had been put to death. On Thursday there is a celebration of the Last Supper recalling Jesus breaking bread with his friends, from there Jesus is betrayed, taken, arrested and sentenced to death. Friday or as it is known, Good Friday, is the day in which Jesus died on the cross. Three days later on Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus brought hope into the world, a knowledge of God’s everlasting love in the form of the risen Christ. Pope Francis in his Easter message says ‘Dear Brothers and Sisters, a Happy and Holy Easter! The Church throughout the world echoes the angel’s message to the women: “Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised… Come, see the place where he lay” (Matt. 28:5-6).This is the culmination of the Gospel, it is the Good News par excellence: Jesus, who was crucified, is risen! This event is the basis of our faith and our hope…The message which Christians bring to the world is this: Jesus, Love incarnate, died on the cross for our sins, but God the Father raised him and made him the Lord of life and death. In Jesus, love has triumphed over hatred, mercy over sinfulness, goodness over evil, truth over falsehood, life over death. That is why we tell everyone: “Come and see!” In every human situation, marked by frailty, sin and death, the Good News is no mere matter of words, but a testimony to unconditional and faithful love: it is about leaving ourselves behind and encountering others, being close to those crushed by life’s troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast… “Come and see!”: Love is more powerful, love gives life, love makes hope blossom in the wilderness. With this joyful certainty in our hearts, today we turn to you, risen Lord!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS LITURGY
On Wednesday the 23rd of March the College participated in a Stations of the Cross Liturgy. It was a time to reflect on the last days of Jesus’ life and how his life impacts on, or can impact on our lives. Jesus suffered, experiencing shame and humiliation, being stripped and beaten. We reflected on how our experiences of ridicule, being laughed at and bullied by other people. Do we also feel shame and humiliation? Jesus suffered, seeing his friends and family under threat. How do we feel seeing others in trouble, feeling fearful because of things that have happened in their lives. Jesus came into the world to show that there is love, the love of God, that love can change us, our community and world.

REFUGEES
On Palm Sunday there was an opportunity to show our support for the vulnerable in our community with supporting the ‘Walk for Justice Refugees 2016’ in the city. Here are a group of people that are vulnerable under threat for no reason except that they want to live in peace and be given opportunities for their children to experience a better future. May the love of God be present in their lives.

YEAR 11 REFLECTION DAY
On Wednesday the 16th of March the Year 11 students had the opportunity to attend a Reflection Day. We had presenters from Catholic Care speak to the students about the influences of the media, mental health, relationships and being a woman. It was a very informative day with a number of activities for the students to participate in.

Mary-Louise Towns - Assistant to the Co-Principal - Faith and Mission
In the last edition of the Marian News we wrote about the roll-out of the SEQTA Parent Portal called Engage.

We would like to remind all parents about some key dates and events related to this roll-out. On Monday 11 April, all students will receive a letter outlining the processes that we have planned. On Tuesday 12 April, all parents who have provided email addresses, will receive an email with information about setting up their username and password for the parent portal (Engage).

If you have not yet provided your email address, we request that you do so, as this is the simplest and most effective way to provision your access to the portal. Please note that a letter requesting an email address was given to all students for whom we did not have a parent email on Tuesday, 22 March. This should be returned to the College no later than Monday, 11 April. It is also important that you provide updates to your email address should it change.

As indicated last time, to support parents with the effective use of this very important tool, we will be running a number of Engage Parent Information Sessions. These have been scheduled for Term 2. At each Information Session parents will log-in to the parent portal and be guided through all of the different sources of information that are available. The dates and times for these sessions are:

- Monday 18 April 3.00 pm
- Wednesday 20 April 6.30 pm
- Wednesday 27 April 11.30 am
- Thursday April 28 10.30 am

We look forward to seeing you at one of these sessions and to exploring the many benefits of the parent portal together.

REPORTING TO PARENTS AND PARENT-TEACHER- STUDENT INTERVIEWS

Interim Reports will be available on the existing Synergetic Parent Portal, accessed via the College Website, on Thursday 24 March. The username and password have been supplied to all Year 7 and other new students in 2016 in a letter given to the students. For continuing students, the log-in details remain unchanged from last year. This will be the last time that the reports will be posted on Synergetic for parents as we transition to SEQTA Engage.

The Interim Report (as well as previous reports) are also available on SEQTA Learn, the student portal. Once SEQTA Engage opens on 12 April, parents will be able to access copies of all student reports there.

The Interim Report provides a brief snapshot of your daughter’s learning this term and are complemented by subject-based Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews to be held on 19 April from 2.00 pm until 8.00 pm. Letters outlining the details of these interviews will be mailed home in the second week of the holidays and bookings open on Monday 11 April. Bookings close at 11.00 am on Tuesday 19 April.

All parents should attend these interviews, with their daughters, so that you are able to discuss her learning in more detail. Students should bring their laptop computers to these interviews.

Please note that there will be no classes for the students on Tuesday 19 April as the staff are participating in a professional learning program, prior to the Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews.

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

CAREERS & PATHWAYS PROGRAM – PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CAREERS DAY PRESENTATIONS

WED 22ND OR THURS 23RD JUNE

We are seeking parent volunteers who would be willing to speak to the girls in year 10 about either of the following:

- Your career and the path that you have followed to get there.
- If you are a small business owner you could talk to our students about what you look for when you are employing staff.
- You may know of any other industry professionals from the area who would like to participate.

For further details and to volunteer for this event please email jheaney@mariansw.catholic.edu.au
UNIFORM REMINDERS
With us entering the cooler months of the year we now remind all families that at the beginning of second term students are required to change into the winter uniform.

We have alerted students in the daily bulletin over the course of this week about this change and we emphasise the following:

- Students have the option of wearing the winter skirt or pants
- White collared shirt – long or short sleeve
- School tie must be worn with the shirt
- Blue tights or long white socks can be worn with the skirt

We thank those families who have attended the uniform shop over the course of the last few weeks to ensure that their daughters are ready to start term two with the correct uniform.

The uniform shop will be open during the school holidays on Campus at Maian College on Wednesday & Friday from 10:00am - 1:30pm.

OFFICE REMINDERS
Please note that if students need to leave during the course of the school day then they are required to bring a note from home and present it to their Homeroom teacher at the start of the day.

If students become unwell over the course of the day they should not be ringing parents directly themselves to come and collect them. They are to report to the First Aid Room at Student Reception and Office staff will organise for someone to come and collect them.

No student will be able to leave the school grounds, whether they are unwell or have an appointment, without being collected by a parent or designated guardian.

We thank all parents for their support with this process and ask our students to follow the school procedures in relation to leaving school over the course of the day.

ARCHBISHOP’S CONVERSATION WITH STUDENT LEADERS
On Friday 11th March our four Year 12 Leaders – Sachini, Elisa, Tiana and Tanya attended a gathering of over 50 Melbourne metropolitan schools with the Archbishop of Melbourne – Denis Hart at St. Bernard’s College in Essendon.

Our leaders had the opportunity to meet other young leaders from other Catholic schools, both co-educational and single sex schools, to discuss the issues that concern them as members of the Catholic community and how the church may be addressing some of their concerns moving forward.

Our girls enjoyed the experience of representing Marian in such a public forum and discussing these issues with the Archbishop.

WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING
As part of our ongoing work in the Wellbeing area this year we will develop a whole school approach to both Mental Health and Wellbeing using a tool developed by the government called Mind Matters. Our parents may be familiar with this from Primary school where many schools use Kid Matters.

In keeping with developing a more proactive approach to wellbeing we have been encouraged to form an Action Team – that will have representation from our three main stakeholders – staff, parents and students.

I will be chairing the Team and I look forward to inviting other staff, such as the counselling department, and our student representatives who will be chosen from our SRC – one member from the Junior, Middle and Senior part of the school.

Any parent who may be interested in joining the Team as a representative of our community are asked to contact me on our school number. We would be anticipating to have between 2-3 parent members on our Team. We look forward to beginning the work of this team early in Term 2.

Kerrie Williams - Assistant to the Co-Principals – Student Wellbeing
The Cultural Diversity Evening was held on Monday the 21st of March, coinciding with Harmony Day. The evening consisted of 9 different performances from some of the diverse cultural groups in the Marian College community.

This included dances from India, Africa, Italy, Vietnam and Islander communities. The dancers looked gorgeous in their costumes and after many lunchtime and after school rehearsals, with staff and senior students leading these, the dances performed were beautiful.

We are putting together a DVD of the night to hopefully get to all students who were involved in the evening.

Congratulations to all students and staff who assisted in making Cultural Diversity Evening such a success!

Nine JDF students attended an overnight Justice Seminar with a number of other representatives from Brigidine Schools. The students, accompanied by Ms Scott and Ms Piccione were great ambassadors for the school. We heard a number of inspirational justice speakers who have been moved to be the voices for the voiceless. One of these people was a young teacher by the name of Jessica Hackett. The students were particularly impressed with her story as she was moved to walk from Melbourne to Canberra in January this year to deliver a Welcome Petition to the Immigration Minister asking for refugees to be welcomed to Australia rather than demonised. Here are some of the words from the Welcome Petition:

“As a student at Killester, I, Jessica Hackett, learned that Strength and Kindliness are not mere words: they are truths to live by. We should all have the moral strength and courage to be true to who we are and to be welcoming to others. Strength and kindness means speaking for those who can’t speak; standing for those who can’t stand; walking freely for those who are not free to walk. I am planning to hand deliver a petition to the House of Representatives in regards to the rights of asylum seekers in the hope that they can finally be treated with dignity and respect. And I plan to walk. I want to show our Parliament - our government - that the people of Australia are kind and strong. That we are strong enough and kind enough to give welcome to those who most need it. To do this I will be walking from Melbourne to Canberra to deliver this petition, obtaining as many signatures as I can along the way.”

Following on from this a group of staff and students from Marian attended the Palm Sunday Justice March on Sunday 20 March. The walk was a mere stroll down Swanston Street. It was a beautiful autumn day and we were able to join with many others to show that we are not happy with the way our Government is treating refugees.

This term has been a busy term for JDF.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter.

Susan Scott - JDF Co Ordinator
Science

YEAR 12 CHEMISTRY

Unit 3 Chemistry students are currently involved in completing a range of practical experiments as a part of their School Assessed Coursework. In the Extended Experimental Investigation students are analysing fertiliser for its percentage composition of Nitrogen, Sulfur and Phosphorus. Two of the analysis experiments, as can be seen in the photos, involve a volumetric titration and colorimetry. The students are spending a lot of time completing these activities and are really enjoying seeing the end results!

Frances, Tanya, Brittany and Teresa are a part of the Year 12 Chemistry class for 2016. Well done with completing a successful Term One and only three to go!

*Donna Gaudiano (Yr 12 Chemistry Teacher)*

SCIENTISTS AND MATHEMATICIANS IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Recently, I had the absolute privilege of meeting Dr. Mary Familiar at the Melbourne Brain Centre, The University of Melbourne. Dr. Familiar, is a Lecturer and Director of First Year Studies in Biology, in the Department of Zoology at the University of Melbourne. Her research interests include the study of embryos and stem cells and more recently, the scholarship of teaching. Her passion for her work and science in general is incredible!!

Dr Familiar will be working with Marian College science staff and students as part of the SMiS and ICTiS Partnership Networking program (where scientists and mathematicians work in schools bringing real science, mathematics and ICT into the classroom). Through this SMiS partnership we will be able to engage with scientists and other STEM professionals and give our girls an amazing opportunity to be exposed to a variety of experiences in Science. We look forward to an amazing year ahead.

*Suzanne Matejin - Learning Leader*
Performing Arts

CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC AND DRAMA PROGRAMS

What a term! Instrumental lessons are in full swing, and we have spaces for new enrolments for term 2 (see image). All our ensembles are in full swing, and we welcome the new Year 7 Vocal Ensemble, led by Mr. Keelan. It’s been a lot of fun, and we finished with many of our classes contributing to the Easter Liturgy - Stations of the Cross, RE Music, Year 12 Music, Year 8 Drama, Yr 7 Vocal Ensemble and Gospel Choir all contributed to the liturgy, and we couldn’t be happier to see the classes and co-curricular programs working together to celebrate the Catholic heritage of the College.

We wish everyone a happy and meaningful Easter, and our students a restful holiday.

Courtney Gatt (and Alyssa Tuddenham) - Performing Arts Curriculum Co-Captains

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 2333

www.creativemusic.com.au
Bike Club

Bike club has started off with a bang this year. After gaining a grant late last year from the TAC we were able to purchase another nine bikes from Bicycle Direct in Hoppers Crossing. We now have 29 bikes available each week for Friday rides. Our numbers have also stayed steady with 69 students who have joined this year.

The highlight of last year was the Bike Club Camp to Bright in December. Sixteen students took up the opportunity to ride along the Rail Trail between Bright and Beechworth. Over three days they participated in a range of experiences such as camping in tents, playing lawn bowls and the obvious challenges of riding 35 – 40 km each day. All of which they did very well and they should be very proud of their achievements. On the 20th March we had a BBQ at Bunnings in Sunshine as a fund raiser for the next camp in 2017.

Besides the weekly rides each Friday, the next major ride will be the annual Term 1 holiday ride to Hoppers Crossing on the Federation Bike Trail. Hopefully we will have another big turnout.

Any student is most welcome to join Bike Club. Bikes and helmets are provided and it’s a great way to keep fit and make new friends in a variety of year levels.

*Chris Fenech - Bike Club Teacher*

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Community News

**Combined Reunion**

for Marlan College students who graduated in the years 


Saturday 10th September 1-4pm 
Marian College 

*enter at gate 3*

Enquiries & RSVP: 9363 1711 
jheaney@marlansw.catholic.edu.au
4 Course Meal
$25 per person*
*Family discount available

Bookings 9363 1711