

# Lavalla Catholic College

ISSUE 11  
August 24  
2012

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## From the Principal

Dear members of the Lavalla Community

It is a pleasure to share with you the good news that Mr Marco DiCesare, Campus Director of Kildare Campus has been newly appointed as Principal of Caroline Chisholm Catholic College in Braybrook to commence in 2013. Over his 18 years at the College, Mr DiCesare has been a significant member of staff and has made the Kildare Campus a better place for his leadership, stewardship and care for the community. In his time with us he has been instrumental in the implementation of VET, has been innovative in his approach to Learning Technologies and has been a caring, passionate and visionary leader of the Kildare Campus. We will surely miss him, especially his keen sense of humour, his positive and energetic presence and his practical advice and support of our families. Mr DiCesare is well qualified, experienced and faith filled and he will no doubt continue to be passionate about Catholic Education. We wish him and his family all the very best for a bright and successful future ahead.

### **Pastoral Letter on the Victorian Government Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and other Non-Government Organisations**

The Bishops of Victoria together with the Leaders of Catholic Religious Australia and Catholic Religious Victoria have issued a Pastoral letter about the Parliamentary Inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other non-government organisations. In the letter the Church Leaders state that they respect the parliamentary process and will cooperate fully with the Inquiry. The letter includes a Prayer for Healing which can be used for individual or group prayer. Copies of the Pastoral Letter are available on our webpage and the extended article is also published in this edition.

### **Preparation for 2013**

The College has been in preparation gear since the beginning of term three. All students have almost completed their subject selections for next year and we are in the processes of organising what classes we will be able to offer in 2013. It is crucial that these decisions are made with as much accuracy as possible and I urge you to ensure that all the required data has been submitted accurately and punctually. Also if you know of families that are intending to enrol their student at Lavalla and have not done so, then please advise them that this is urgent now. Once class numbers have been decided then late enrolments are placed on a waiting list. Knowing this might avoid disappointment later.

### **Mission Assembly**

Last week, Ms Lee McKenzie and I attending a gathering of Marist educators in Mittagong. The Assembly was called to help discern the future direction of our Marist Works. Together we established the priorities for the New Australian Province under the following headings: Formation; Co-Responsibility; Solidarity; Marist Vocational Life and Young Marist and Our Future. We came away from the Assembly buoyed by Br John Klein (General Councillor from USA) comments that such discussions would not be possible in the USA. Brothers in Australia have been trail blazers for the Institute in opening up such dialogues.

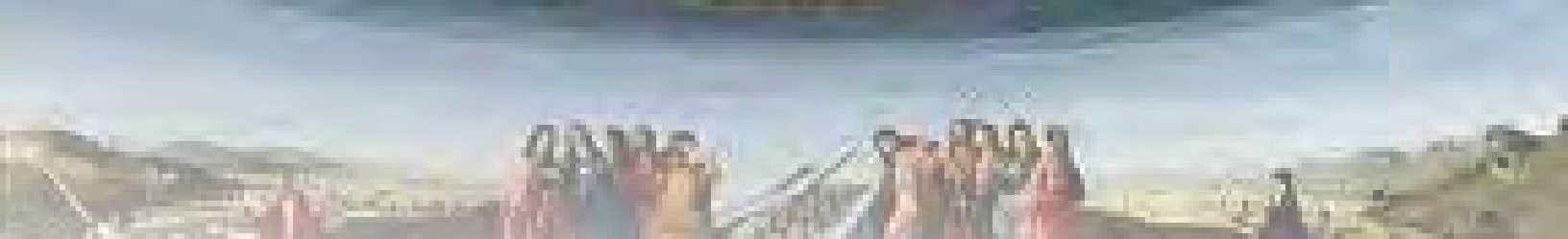
Have a good week

Yours Faithfully

Ms Erica Pegorer  
Principal

## Year of Grace National Prayer

Gracious God,  
You have blessed this  
ancient land with many gifts,  
especially its people.  
We thank you for the Year of  
Grace,  
a time to start afresh from  
Christ.  
You invite us to contemplate  
the face of Jesus your son,  
that we may experience a  
new wave of grace,  
and that the light of Christ  
may burn more brightly in  
our lives.  
Attune our hearts and minds  
to the presence of your Holy  
Spirit, that our Church may be  
transformed,  
our relationships be healed,  
and our nation grow in  
compassion and justice.  
With the intercession of St  
Mary MacKillop,  
who showed us new ways of  
living the Gospel, we make  
our prayer through Christ our  
Lord. Amen.  
Mary, Help of Christians,  
pray for us.



## St Paul's Campus Update

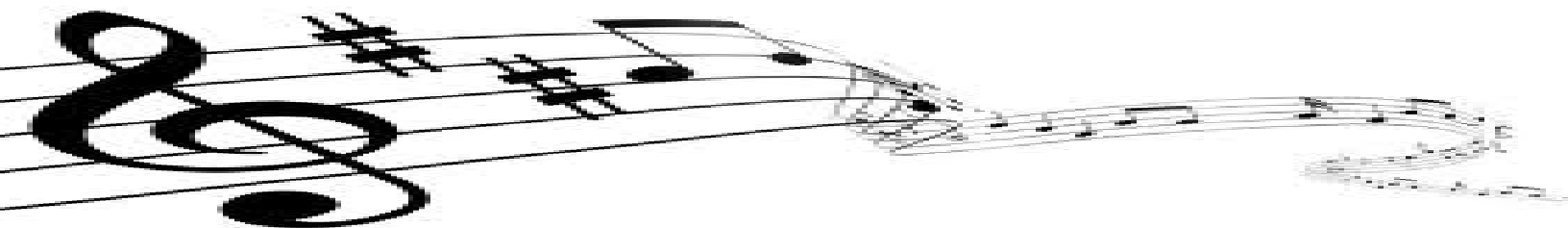
Andy Martin - Campus Director

I am mindful, as we pass through the second half of the third term and the weather begins to fine up with the coming of Spring, that new life and rebirth are evident all around us. For Lavalla Catholic College, a sign of that life was evident last Thursday, when each campus of the College celebrated a major Marist feast day on the Assumption.

We celebrate the Assumption, because Mary is our patron saint and a guiding spirit for Marcellin Champagnat in his works. For us, today, Mary is a focal point of us as a symbol of persistence, dogged perseverance and hope in our lives. One would be hard pressed to find a more authentic role model in a world that often promotes flawed characters as idols to be adored.

At Lavalla, we are surrounded by men and women who are authentic role models and faithful servants of the 'Marist Way', putting the needs, aspirations and opportunities of their students ahead of their personal needs. Consequently, our students have their lives enriched in marvellous fashion.

This weekend past, our Music teachers, Mr Shane Reid and Mr Matthew Harris spent the whole weekend with the intermediate band students, tempering their performance skills in the fire of serious competition in Melbourne. We have a rich and applauded musical history precisely because we have excellent teachers and mentors who love their craft and more importantly share their joy and passion, imparting the gifts and secrets of creating and playing to a high standard. Excellence in their students is a just reward, but, we all bask in the light of their success. I look forward to reporting on their success in competition as the second part of this year progresses.



**Second Hand  
Uniform Shop**

**NEXT OPEN:**

Thursday 18th October

Thursday 1st November

3.30pm – 6.00pm

**Shop located at:**

St. Paul's Campus

**Payment options:**

Cash, Cheque or EFTPOS

(Please note Kilts/Skirts  
must be tried on. They  
are not sized)



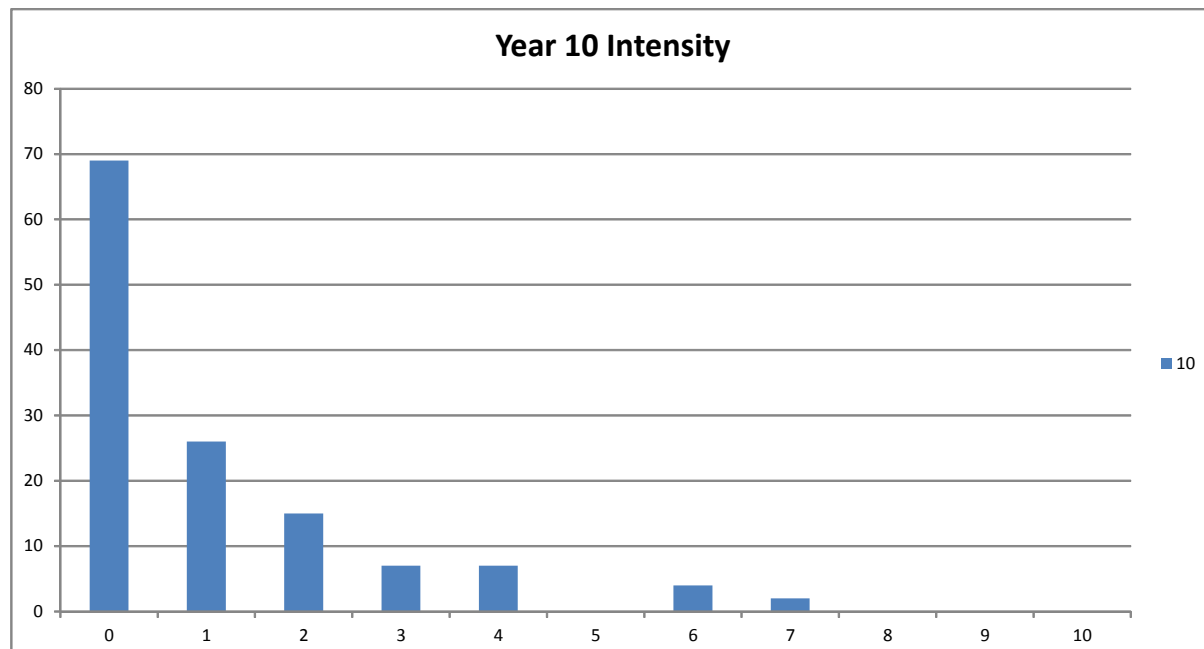
# Safety matters

## **Kildare Update** Marco DiCesare - Campus Director

Students have remained focussed on their planning for 2013. This is an important time of the year for all students as they work towards the goals they have set with their Learner Advisors. This week our Year 11 students indicated their subject preferences for 2013. This occurred with their Learner Advisor after receiving confirmation from parents. Emails or other contact will occur over the next few days. Please work through your child to ensure that you receive confirmation from your child's Learner Advisor. Year 10 Learner Advisor sessions in the coming week will see parents, students and LA's complete this task together.

### Safe Schools Survey

Each year the Kildare Campus organises a Safe Schools Survey for all Year 10s. I am pleased to report that once again these surveys demonstrated a positive environment where students feel supported and safe. I have included some of the information gained from these surveys.



### GippsWebs for Business Winners

The Gippswebs for Business is a competition that builds a real working website based upon the client's requirements. Teams from various Gippsland schools enter the competition.

We congratulate Erin Lawn, Ellie Bowtell and Lachlan Kincaid who were selected as finalists for the competition. They developed a website for the Latrobe Valley Sustainability Group (LVSG).

These talented students were shortlisted and required to present their working website and give a 5 minute presentation to showcase their final website and speak of their experiences with their client. After all of the presentations, Ellie, Lachlan and Erin were announced the overall winner of the competition. Congratulations to the team and also to Mr John Wilkie, our VCE VET Interactive Digital Media teacher. The website will be online soon at [www.latrobevalleysg.com](http://www.latrobevalleysg.com).



### **Upcoming Reunions**

#### **SCHOOL REUNION LOURDES COLLEGE - YEAR 11 CLASS OF 1982**

10 years since last reunion

**When:** Saturday 13th October, 2012

**Where:** Upstairs Function Room of Grand Junction Hotel Traralgon - corner Princes Highway & Franklin St

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Cost:** \$10 pp

**RSVP.** Deb Fletcher ( Answerth) on 0427 740304 / [d.fletcher5@bigpond.com](mailto:d.fletcher5@bigpond.com) or Jen Watson (Morris) on 0439 070 292.

Please pass this on to anyone that attended Lourdes in 1982 as a Year 11 student as we would love as many to attend as possible.

#### **SCHOOL REUNION PRESENTATION REGIONAL COLLEGE - .....**

**When:**

**Where:**

**Time:**

**Cost:** \$30pp

**RSVP.**

Please pass this on to anyone that attended Presentation Regional College .....



## Presentation Campus Update

Tamsin McCormack - Campus Director



IT'S NOT OK  
TO BE AWAY

This week parents have received letters regarding those students who have fallen below the 85% attendance required by the College. The notification has been made at this time, as it enables parents to monitor via the Family Connect Portal their child's attendance. The timing also means that students still have time to improve their attendance prior to the end of the semester.

The State Government runs an initiative known as "It's Not OK to Be Away". While this initiative may be aimed at Government Schools, it is just as relevant to Lavalla Catholic College.

"It's Not OK to Be Away is an initiative aimed at building a school and community approach to the issue of student attendance. The initiative is designed to change community and student attitudes to school attendance. It requires the support of both parents and the community if student attendance is to be successfully addressed.

It's Not OK to Be Away promotes two key messages:

- Student attendance is the responsibility of everyone in the community
- Effective Schools monitor, communicate and implement strategies to improve regular school attendance, as this is a prerequisite for improving educational outcomes.

### Information for parents/guardians

What is my responsibility as a parent/caregiver?

Make sure your child:

- attends school on ALL school days
- is on time every day

Make sure you:

- provide the school with an explanation if your child is away
- contact the school if your child does not want to go to school
- arrange doctor and dentist appointments out of school hours
- arrange personal shopping trips with your son/daughter or birthday celebrations out of school hours
- do not allow your child to stay at home for minor reasons.

### Is regular attendance at school important?

Yes - from the first day. If your child misses the basic skills in primary school they can experience difficulties with their learning. Regular attendance is essential to make sure learning is not disrupted. Regular learning provides building blocks for the future.

Schools help children to develop important social skills, such as friendship building, teamwork, communication skills and a healthy self-esteem." [http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/stuman/wellbeing/Not\\_OK\\_brochure\\_parents.pdf](http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/stuman/wellbeing/Not_OK_brochure_parents.pdf)

If parents are concerned about their child's attendance they can access the Family Connect portal or contact the College.

To those parents who have already checked their child's attendance and are working on improving it, thank you for your vigilance.

## Anti-bullying Reflection

The below story was written by one of our talented Kildare students, Tess Jenkins, and was recently published in the Marist Advent Booklet that was sent worldwide electronically. It is a touching and personal account and we congratulate Tess on sharing her story.

*Hi my name is Tessa, I am 17 and I live with my parents and my older brother in Moe Victoria, Australia. I go to a nearby Marist catholic school called Lavalla Catholic College in Traralgon, Victoria, Australia. I have cerebral palsy and epilepsy. When I came to this school I discovered one of my classes is down at the very back of the school and my locker and homeroom are at the front. I also found that the ladies toilets are upstairs. The reason why it's so hard for me to go to the toilets upstairs is because of my cerebral palsy. I find it hard because one side of my body is weaker than the other. My strong side is the only side I can really use so climbing stairs is really difficult. There is a lot more walking and that also goes for my classes all around the school. The toilet problem is fixed because I can use the year 12 toilets or the extra toilets around the school.*

*I find Maths hard because it is difficult to concentrate with the extra noises in the class. But I can go to 'The Hub' where I have teacher's aides who can help me with any subjects, homework or study.*

*Even though I get ignored sometimes and I barely have any friends at the school, I don't let that get me down. I like to be involved in anyway I can. I am in the Remar group at school, doing my Red Crossing. I do Riding for the Disabled every Tuesday. I also do singing lessons and swimming. At school, I am in the Liturgical choir singing with the sopranos. I mostly hang around with the music people because they are all my friends.*

*People sometimes put me down because they don't think I can do certain stuff. But I don't take any notice of them anymore. I spent my grade six year having to play with the prep kids because my peers would not accept me. As long as believe I can do it, that's the most important thing.*

*Because I know what it is like to be bullied I thought of an anti-bullying play and decided to perform it with some friends of mine from the music group and Remar. We performed for some junior classes and the play was a great hit.*

*At home I put myself down so much that I don't bother going outside because of how many sports and leisure activities I can't do. My normal day at home is Facebook and playing Sims 3 or watching TV.*

*At school, I am given a lot of opportunities by my teachers, aides and friends. I wouldn't swap any school for this school.*

Back Row L-R: Liam Murphy, Jacob Hector, Stephen Pigott, Mitchell Cameron, Coby Gregg.

Middle L-R: Aaron Wall-Rickwood, Tessa Jenkins, Tod Domotor, Emily Henwood.

Bottom L-R: Meg Beggs, Ryley Reid.







## **Novella - Gifted Writing Day**

On Thursday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, gifted and talented students at St Paul's campus took part in a "Gifted Day" organised by students and their teacher, Ms Zahra.

This day was spent well by students for all four periods of the day spent in the library, where students took part in numerous higher-order thinking activities. For most of the day, these students focused on writing a story for their entries into the Somerset Novella competition, a competition young story writers can enter from all over Australia.

This was a very productive day for students, as students had a whole day to focus on adding to and improving their writing. It was great for us to be able to do something we enjoy with others, because we could share our interests and ideas productively.

Overall, this day was a great success, and hopefully we will be able to do something similar very soon. A big thank you goes out, from all students involved, to Miss Couling for making such a great day possible.

Congratulations to Gloria Zahra who recently attended the Gifted and Talented Symposium with the CEO Melbourne and as a result has been invited to participate in the Melbourne CEO Gifted and Talented Think Tank with Dr Susan Nikakis. Well done Gloria and all the best for your upcoming meetings with some of the most highly recognised people in the field of Gifted Ed!

## **Spirit of Kokoda Lecture**

On August 8th 2012, a group of year nine students travelled to the Shrine of Remembrance to hear journalist/writer Patrick Lindsay speak about the Kokoda Campaign. This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Kokoda.

Students learned about the courage and mateship which symbolised the 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion and their struggle against overwhelming odds. Students met Kokoda veterans and were lucky enough to meet Lambis Englezos MA whose dedication helped recover the remains of World War II allied soldiers near Fromelles, France. Students were given a guided tour of the Shrine and watched as Governor General Quentin Bryce arrived to take part in the official ceremony.





# 2012 YEAR 7 ON SHOW



## INVITATION

*Dear Parents,  
We are pleased to invite you  
to our*

**'YEAR 7 ON SHOW'**

*View class museums, science  
projects and art and technology  
displays*



**Monday**

**3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2012**

**5pm–7pm**

*Cake stall to support the  
Marist Blue Day Syria Appeal*

**Year 7 Centre**

**St Paul's Campus**

**Grey Street, Traralgon**



*Please feel free to bring along any  
interested friends and relatives*





Below is the reflection given at the Kildare Campus during the liturgy to mark the Feast of Mary's Assumption into Heaven celebrated on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Assumption Reflection**

I sat for a long time in my study wondering what I would say today about this special feast day of Mary, Our Good Mother.

I put on my favourite music ... the soundtrack from 'The Tree of Life' starring Brad Pitt and scored by Alexandre Desplat, the same composer who did the soundtrack for the Harry Potter movies.

I looked up into my bookshelf for inspiration, running my eyes over title after title hoping to remember something in one of them that would trigger a response in me that I could then relate to you.

I had another cup of coffee and jiggled the keyboard waiting for inspiration. What could I say to the young adults of Traralgon at this moment of celebration as the world says adieu to the glory of the Olympic dream?

Quietly a thought came to me ... what we celebrate here today is like the peak experience of the Olympic athletes. I heard that the Australian women's hurdler, Sally Pearson, was inspired to excellence by watching Cathy Freeman run at the Sydney Olympics. Sally saw the vision of what is possible if she could keep the dream alive... run the race and do her very best.

So like Sally Pearson who saw the vision of her own future in Cathy Freeman, when we look to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, we glimpse our future with God.

We will one day be with the Divine presence, body and soul, just like Mary is. Today we celebrate that the Mother of Jesus, and so our mother, our 'Good Mother' as Saint Marcellin Champagnat called her... our Good Mother, is already there.. she has run the race... she kept the dream and promise of Jesus alive... she did her best. She has won everlasting glory.

Mary is the inspiration and model of our own destiny in the Lord. There is great hope in the fact that, like Mary, we too will one day be with God.

As we run the race and clear the last hurdle our ultimate human destiny is heaven!

## Upcoming Events

**Monday, August 27**

**Student Free Day**

**Tuesday, August 28**

LA parent interviews begin

**Friday, August 31**

Yr 10-11 drama excursion

**Monday, September 3**

Diocesan youth gathering

Year 7 on show

**Wednesday, September 5**

Gppspell Final

**Monday, September 10**

Yr 12 physics excursion

OES 2 Bushwalk

**Tuesday, September 11**

College Music Concert

**Wednesday, September 12**

Yr 7 immunisations



## School-holiday camp: Camp Micah 6:8

Camp Micah 6:8 is a two-night retreat experience for teenagers that challenges young people to use Micah 6:8 as a framework for weaving the Gospel values of humility, kindness, and love for justice into our way of thinking and our way of life. And of course, no youth camp is complete without a good dollop of fun and games and Camp Micah 6:8 is guaranteed to deliver just that!

**When:** 7pm October 1st - 2.30pm October 3rd

**Where:** Forest Edge Christian Youth Camp,  
405 McKenzie Rd, Neerim East

**Cost:** \$50 per person

**RSVP:** 20 September 2012

**Registrations:** Contact Jess on 5622 6693 or [jessd@sale.catholic.org.au](mailto:jessd@sale.catholic.org.au) for a registration pack.

**Volunteers:** If you are interested in volunteering as small group leader please contact Jess.



## *ARE YOU EX NAVY, ARMY, OR AIR FORCE ?*

Then Carry On (Victoria) may be able to help you with education costs if you meet our eligibility criteria.

If you have served in the Australian Defence Forces or Allied Forces and you wish to apply for a Secondary Education Grant for 2013, **please telephone Carry On on (03) 9629 2648 to establish eligibility and request an application form.**

Carry On (Victoria) assists Secondary School students in Years 7-12 with grants for expenses such as fees, books, uniforms, excursions etc. For those students going on to Tertiary Education a grant may also be available.

Children whose Parent/s or Legal Guardian/s have a need for financial assistance and comply with our eligibility criteria may apply. All grants are income tested and the **closing date for applications is 23 October 2012.**

MARCELLIN HOUSE  
(ADMINISTRATION)  
Coster Circle TRARALGON  
Ph. (03) 5174 5272  
Fax. (03) 5174 9235

KILDARE CAMPUS  
Kosciuszko Street TRARALGON  
Ph. (03) 5174 8111  
Fax. (03) 5174 0783

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS  
Grey Street TRARALGON  
Ph. (03) 5174 7355  
Fax. (03) 5174 1827

PRESENTATION CAMPUS  
John Field Drive NEWBOROUGH  
Ph. (03) 5127 1311  
Fax. (03) 5127 7110



# Pastoral Letter

## on the

### Victorian Government Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and other Non-Government Organisations

Tuesday 21 August 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Over the last thirty years our society has become increasingly aware of the extent of sexual abuse of children, and of its terrible consequences. We know that the impact of abuse on children and their families can be devastating and lasting. The January 2012 Report on Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children (the Cummins Report) indicates the extent to which the abuse and neglect of children is a significant community issue and concern.

The suffering and trauma endured by some children who have been in the Church's care, and the effect on their family members, is a matter of continuing shame and dismay to all Catholics.

Let us be very clear. The sexual abuse of a child was, is and always will be a crime, and is contrary to all we believe in.

We know that parents especially feel an intense betrayal of trust, that even one child could have been so grievously hurt by people whose call it is to serve others.

The Church has apologised for these failures. Today we renew this apology to victims and their families.

We are deeply sorry.

## *A Prayer For Healing*

*God of endless love,  
ever caring, ever strong,  
always present, always just:  
You gave your only Son  
to save us by the blood of his cross.*

*Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,  
join to your own suffering the pain of all  
who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit  
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.*

*Hear our cries as we agonize  
over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.  
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,  
soothe restless hearts with hope,  
steady shaken spirits with faith:  
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,  
enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.*

*Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
heal your people's wounds  
and transform our brokenness.  
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,  
so that we may act with justice  
and find peace in you.*

*We ask this through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.*



We promise you that we will act on our apology by continuing to take decisive action to protect our children and to respond when abuse has occurred. From the late 1980s the Church in Australia began developing procedures for responding to complaints of abuse, culminating in 1996 with the Melbourne Response and Towards Healing as formal protocols to deal with allegations of abuse. These processes continue to be refined, and have as a central element the encouragement of victims and their families to report criminal matters to the police.

In April the Victorian Government announced a Parliamentary Inquiry into the processes by which religious and other non-government organisations respond to the criminal abuse of children.

The Church respects the Parliamentary process and will co-operate fully with the Inquiry.

It will be a challenging and difficult period for victims and their families, for us as a Church, and for other religious and non-government organisations who work with children across our community. During the Inquiry you may hear disturbing reports of cases in our past when Church processes to prevent and respond to abuse failed the children in our care. We need to learn from these failures to continue to ensure we do everything in our power to protect children.

#### **For further information:**

Information about the Inquiry may be found at [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/fcdc](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/fcdc) or by calling on (03) 8682 - 2843

Information about Towards Healing may be found at [www.catholic.org.au](http://www.catholic.org.au) and follow links to Professional Standards or call the National Committee for Professional Standards on (02) 9669 - 6218

Information about The Melbourne Response may be found at [www.cam.org.au/Melbourne-Response](http://www.cam.org.au/Melbourne-Response) or by calling (03) 9225 - 7979

#### **Acknowledgement**

A Prayer for Healing: +Bishop John F Kinney, St Cloud, USA

Much good work is being done across our Church – in our parishes, education, health and welfare agencies – and in the careful implementation of policies and practices to provide the best possible protection for children in our community.

In this ‘Year of Grace’ for the Church in Australia let us all use this opportunity to be renewed in our concern for the suffering of others.

Yours sincerely in Christ

**Archbishop Denis Hart DD**

Archdiocese of Melbourne

**Bishop Peter Connors DD**

Diocese of Ballarat

**Bishop Christopher Prowse DD**

Diocese of Sale

**Bishop Leslie Tomlinson DD**

Diocese of Sandhurst

**Sister Annette Cunliffe RSC**

President, Catholic Religious Australia

**Sister Helen Toohey CSB**

President, Catholic Religious Victoria