



**AWAKEN**  
MARISTS 200+

## From the Principal



**Mr John M Freeman**

Welcome back to all from the break.

Thirteen years of formal classes concludes next Thursday, 26 October for our Year 12 students.

There will be a number of celebration next week to appropriately mark this time for these young people, but for now I wish students undertaking exams soon well in their studies. We also have a number of students undertaking VCAL and other pathway options and we wish them every success in their transition into the workplace, apprenticeships, traineeships or further study.

As we move into the celebrations mentioned above, it is important to note that the hard work still needs to continue. Part of this work took place last week with the Unit 3&4 VCE students, mainly Year 12s, completing their trial examinations. Thank you Ms Jeananne Brown for all her effort in regard to this important process. The students are now on the final stages of preparation for their external written exams; other exams have already commenced, including the VCE Italian Oral Examinations, held last Thursday and students undertaking Music Performance and Drama are also completing the performance exams during this time. We wish these students well and pray that they will continue to prepare well, so that they will receive due credit for the work they have undertaken.

### FROM THE MYSTICS

Thomas Merton OCSO  
1915-1968

‘Every moment and every event of every person’s life on earth plants something in their soul!’ ‘The sky is my prayer, the birds are my prayer, the wind in the trees is my prayer, for God is all in all.’



L-R: Lachlan McDonald, Mr John Freeman, Josh Mongta and Mr Doug Doherty

Part of our celebrations to mark the end of secondary education included the acknowledgement of the completion of secondary school for our indigenous students on Thursday, 19 October. Lachlan McDonald and Joshua Mongta were able to attend, but unfortunately Poppy Schembri was an apology. In attendance were the students’ families, staff, representatives from the Catholic Education Office, Koorie Education, Federation University and number of guests representing the Gunnai Kurnai community. It was a most enjoyable evening and my thanks to Mr John De Souza for his organisation.





## Fiji Immersion and New Zealand Trip

**W**elcome back to the staff and students who travelled to New Zealand and also Fiji.

Thank you to Ms Adrianna Bianconi on leading another trip to New Zealand for Year 8 and 9 students in the first week of the term break. The opportunity to visit New Zealand occurs every second year. Thank you as well to the staff who supported this experience: Ms Lis Scott, Mr Chris Rea and Mr Kristiaan Vallak.

The staff and students who participated in the Fiji immersion left on Friday, 6 October and returned early in the morning of Monday, 16 October. This was our fifth trip to join with staff and students at the Marist schools in and around Suva. The group was led by Ms Alice Nelson and Mr Matt Buckland, who were supported by Mr Leigh Winter.

I know both trips provided enriching experiences for the students and new friends and understandings were attained.

## Staff News

**W**elcome to the following staff:

Helen Lynn – Replacing Viv Stuart whilst on Long Service Leave

David Moulton – Replacing Ms Jade Smith for Term 4

Jayne Scott – Replacing Ms Renee Eccles for Term 4

Melissa Currie – Kildare Reception

**Congratulations** to Mrs Renee Eccles and her husband, TJ on the birth of their son, Liam James Eccles on the 19th of October, mum and baby doing well.

**We also congratulate** Ms Stephanie Sola on her engagement to John Aliotta over the term break.

Mrs Jade Smith is already on maternity leave and Mrs Claire Fabris is about to go on maternity. We wish them both the best as they and their husbands await the birth of their first child.



## Sporting Achievements

**W**ell done to our Senior Girls' Basketball Team, coached by Ms Karen Joyce. They competed in the final of the Champions Cup Invitational Basketball Tournament. Whilst they were not able to win the match the team competed with skill, determination and great dignity. The final score was Rowville Secondary College 71 defeated Lavalla Catholic College 58. The team consisted of: Chelsea D'Angelo, Abbey Noblett, Demi Plunket, Millicent Culliver, Joanna Watson, Kristy Jennings, Innika Hodgson, Jade Melbourne, Milly Murphy, Emerson Devenie.

**Congratulations to Darcy Guttridge** (left) on her selection in the first round of the AFL Women's Draft to play for Collingwood. This selection caps off a highly successful year for Darcy who also captained the Vic Country team in the NAB AFLW Under 18 Championships and she was also named All-Australian Under 18 Captain and a member of the TAC Cup Girls Team of the Year in 2017.





We all know how hard Emily Beecroft works to earn the success that she has achieved. However, I would like to share with you an article that Australia Post has just completed on Emily. Emily was part of AusPost's recently launched video series "Unpack your Potential. Whilst the article is part of a promotion for online shopping, it certainly highlights Emily's workload combining training, competing, going to school and being a part of a family. You can read about Emily at <https://auspost.com.au/shopping-offers/unpack-your-potential/emily-beecroft-elite-swimmer>

## Reformation Day Commemoration



**REFORMATION 500**  
**ECUMENICAL COMMEMORATION**  
**OF THE QUINCENTARY OF THE**  
**REFORMATION**

This year, we commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation which started last year on 31 October, when Pope Francis travelled to Sweden to participate with the World Federation of Lutheran Churches in an ecumenical launch of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

The Diocese of Sale is promoting our local ecumenical day of celebrations on Tuesday 31st October in conjunction with the Lutheran Church in Gippsland. Attached to this Newsletter are: a Flyer on Reformation day activities; Joint Statement of the Australian Catholic Bishops and Lutheran Church in Australia on the 500th Anniversary; and the Joint Declaration by Pope Francis & Bishop Munib Yunan, President of the Lutheran World Federation.

You are welcome to attend part of the day or all three ecumenical services and I would like to highlight that our Liturgical Choir will be part of the 12.00 noon Midday Service – Liturgy of Remembrance: St Michael's Catholic Church cnr Church & Kay Sts Traralgon.

## Pastoral Letter from the Victorian Bishops

This week, the Newsletter is accompanied by a Pastoral Letter, written by the Victorian Bishops on the subject of voluntary assisted dying.

This is a highly emotive issue, particularly for those with personal experience of loved ones suffering as they approached death. To accompany loved ones in these situations is difficult, and we can only imagine the hardship of those who suffer serious terminal illness.

The complex question of how we might best care for those who are seriously ill and in pain requires deep consideration, because important issues are at stake. There is no doubt we all want the dying to receive the best possible forms of support. The question the Bishops are proposing in relation to the legislation regarding assisted dying is whether this kind of action is appropriate. In the attached Pastoral Letter, the Bishops remind us that interventions which intentionally cause death are unacceptable, according to Church teaching, since they pose a risk to the overall level respect for human life. Accordingly, in the midst of public debate on assisted dying, I encourage you to read and consider the Bishops' Pastoral Letter.





# Faith & Ministry News

**Mr Chris Roga**

Jesus said very clearly that the kingdom of God belonged to children; joyful, playful, innocent and caring for one another.

Yesterday I watched Jackson Raeburn and Georgia Hutchinson join about 20 of the St Michael's Youth group in preparing for the Youth Mass on Sunday 22 October, from 9.30 – 11.00 am. They were patient, kind, cheerful and they joined in the games and had fun.

I find young people quite inspiring. Though adults often complain about them, they are very generous with their time and energy.

## Youth Mass at St Michael's Church

Traralgon, 22 October, 9.30 am

On Sunday 22 October, the Youth Mass will be celebrated. The Lavalla choir will provide the music for the Mass. Jackson and Georgia will read. It is good to see our young people help out in the parish. I will encourage each of you to attend Mass to support our young people who are contributing to the parish. There is a promise of food after mass and a chance to meet friends. A number of teachers will be present to be with our Lavalla youth.

## Welcome Home Fiji Immersion Team

On Monday the Immersion group returned from Fiji. The only hitch they faced was a five hour delay at Nadi airport. Initial conversations indicate some terrific stories and adventures. We will hear from them in a week or so.

## Year 12 Farewells

The focus for next week is the Farewell for Year 12. There are three ceremonies.

- The whole college assembly is scheduled for Thursday 26th October. The whole college staff and student body will publicly acknowledge the successful completion of the school phase for these young adults. They have spent 13 years getting to this point and it is some achievement.
- On Thursday, in evening at St Michael's Church we will have a Celebratory mass. Father Francis will preside. At the Mass we will give thanks for the young people who are about to step out into the big world. They will be awarded certificates and gifts to commemorate their successful completion of their school journey.
- On Friday, the staff at Kildare will gather to celebrate the Year 12s. We begin with a breakfast, the Year 12 Awards in the hall, the opening of the time capsules written in year 7 and the symbolic planting of the rose bush. The day concludes with the ceremonial sending off through the archway.
- I ask that all of us keep these young people in our prayers as they embark on exams, placement and the next phase of their lives.

## Year 9 Retreat

The Year 9 students are on Retreat as I write at Presentation Campus. Mrs Monica Justin and the staff attending have an exciting day planned for them.





# Student Well-Being & Operations



**Mrs Kelly Murray**

## Uniform Changeover

As if Monday October 23, all students should be in full summer uniform. A number of students have been wearing socks with their summer uniform that include logos. Please be reminded that students are expected to wear plain socks only (white for girls and grey for boys) with the summer uniform. On days when it is a little cooler, students are welcome to wear the school jumper or their blazer, not the spray jacket.

## Student Absences

A number of families have taken holidays during school time recently. Thank you to all of those families who have kept us well informed. If you are planning a family holiday, please notify the school, in writing, before leaving so that this can be recorded and teachers informed. Homework is not provided for students on holiday unless a special request is made.

## Classes for 2018

Wellbeing Leaders are busy working on class groupings for 2018. Many factors go into considering which students should be together in classes, including who your child will work best with. If you have any concerns or considerations that we need to know about, please contact your child's Wellbeing Leader (at St Paul's campus) or Mrs Tamsin McCormack (at Kildare Campus) as soon as possible.



## Year 7 on Show

On Wednesday we hosted our annual Year 7 on Show where every year 7 student has the opportunity to display their work from the year. The highlight, as always, were the models created for Science and Humanities. Thank you to the year 7 Wellbeing Leaders Ms Roma Valentine and Mrs Tina Weston for their organisation of the event, the year 7 teachers for guiding their students through these tasks and the students for all of their hard work. Photos and a report on the event will be available in the next newsletter.

## Risky Behaviour

At the end of today's newsletter, you will find an article from Michael Grose on how to deal with teens and their desire to engage in risky behaviour. Please take the time to read and discuss this with your child/ren, especially the three key questions: Is it safe? Is it fair? Is it smart? We encourage all students to think about these questions when assessing the way they interact in the yard, the way they engage in physical encounters and even how they deal with social media.





# Learning & Teaching - Pathways

Mr Brett Van Berkel

it Doesn't  
matter what  
others are Doing.  
it matters what  
YOU are doing.

## Six Tips to Help Your Child to Study for Exams

With VCE EXAMS Starting on the **1ST NOVEMBER** it is critical to use this time leading up to the Exams to revise and prepare. Some Suggestions below will assist you child to do this.

### MINIMISE DISTRACTIONS

Focus your attention by minimising the distractions in your environment. This includes mobile phones, social media and television. Multi-tasking should also be avoided, where possible. Multi-tasking activates inhibitory networks in the brain, which suggests the brain is rapidly switching between tasks rather than doing them simultaneously. Other research has found that chronic multi-tasking impairs both long-term and working memory.

### USE ACTIVE TESTING OR RECALL

Doing quizzes or forcing yourself to recall information is linked to deeper memory formation than when you passively review notes.

### SPREAD OUT LEARNING

The benefits of spacing out learning have been observed in students from preschool to university. For long-term retention, spacing study sessions apart is far more effective than when information is learned en masse in one long session. Revise regularly, whether it is done weekly or each day.

### MIX THINGS UP

Mixing up the practise of interrelated skills, rather than learning them sequentially in a block, can boost performance in the long run. Known as interleaving, it's long been established that it can improve motor learning, such as for tennis or piano players. A growing body of research is showing that it also has applications in the classroom.

### COMBINE SPOKEN WORD & IMAGES

The brain's visual and auditory centres are located in distinct regions and are activated separately when we see images and hear words. While multi-tasking is detrimental to learning,





# Learning & Teaching - Pathways

research has found that processing images and spoken words simultaneously has no negative effect on how well we remember them. The same cannot be said for images and visual text.

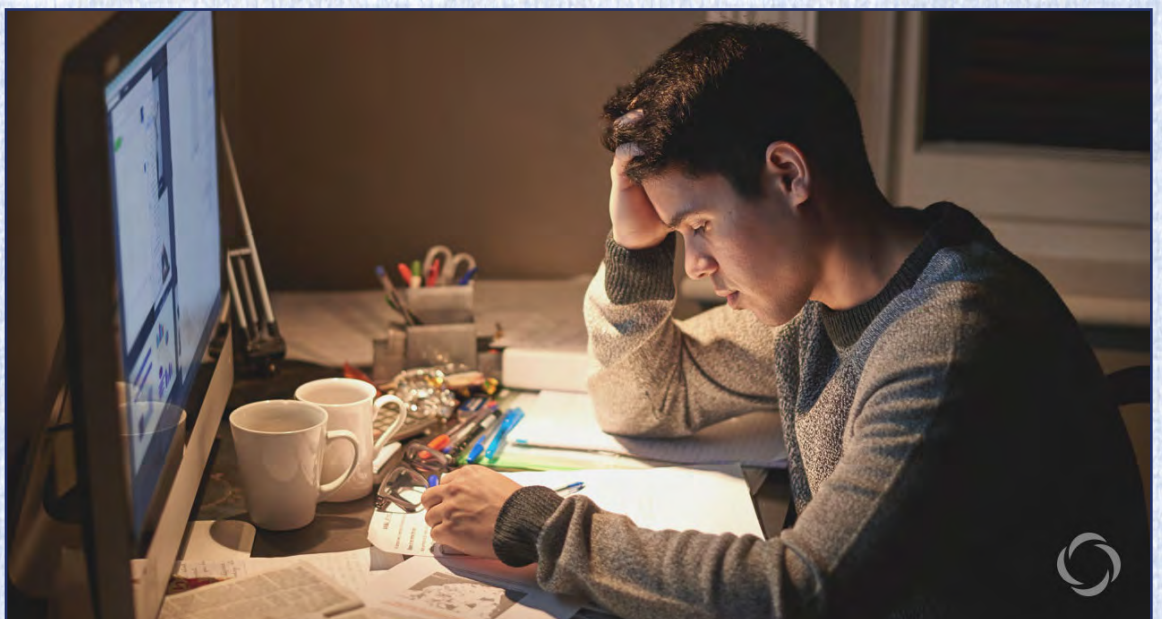
## USE STORIES

How well you remember an abstract concept can be improved by concrete examples or stories. After forming a memory, we need to consolidate it to make it last longer. This is easier when there's context to the information being learned. This is why memory aids — mnemonics (systems for improving and assisting the memory) — are useful when studying.

*This is an edited extract from The Brain: Learning and Memory, The University of Queensland Brain Institute, 2017.*

## Organise your time

- **Fill out a weekly study planner and use it to organise your time.** Cross out the hours when you can't study because of other commitments. Then plan one-hour time slots to use for exam revision.
- **Make use of short study times.** Fifteen minutes can be ideal for revising lecture notes or looking through note cards. Use time spent on the bus or train to review your course materials.
- **Don't study for longer than 50 minutes without a break.** It's better to study for short intense periods with sustained concentration than long blocks of time when you are tired and not working effectively.
- **Work out when you can study most effectively.** Are you more alert in the morning or evening? When in your day can you find quiet time and space? Schedule study times that suit your personal rhythms.
- **Don't study when you're really tired.** It's better to get a solid night's sleep after a short study period, than to push on until 2am. You won't remember much and will be less effective the next day.







# Year 7 On Show

**Ms Roma Valentine**

The Year 7 On Show 2017 was a successful event. Year 7 students were able to guide their families around the classrooms and view samples of work created by every Year 7 student so far this year.



Work on display included Museum models researched and created during the investigation of Ancient Civilisations, depicting ancient World Heritage sites that are of cultural or historical significance. Science models researched and created during the study of sustainability, as well as astronomy posters. Italian animal story books produced during the study of zoo and farm animals, as well as posters of family trees. Simply stunning Art sculptures that are organic, abstract shapes formed using wire, timber and nylon mesh. Religious posters depicting artistic representations of the Holy Spirit (Symbols/gifts/fruits) with biblical references and the saints. Posters of culinary delights created in Food Technology classes were also displayed.



The celebratory atmosphere in the Year 7 Centre reflected the energy and creativity of this learning community as well as the close bonds which have been forged throughout the year. Student community spirit was modelled perfectly on the night by the number of students who brought goods in for the successful cake stall which raised \$216.00. Proceeds will be presented to the St Vincent de Paul's Christmas Appeal when our school presents the hampers donated by each homeroom to St Vincent's at the end of the year. This year's 'Year 7 On Show' evening was the epitome of our College motto; 'Strong Minds, Compassionate Hearts'.

Congratulations to all students and staff who helped make this a wonderful evening.







# Geography Field Trip



**Ms Stephen Erdely**

At the commencement of term 4, the Year 11 Geography class spent 3 days travelling to and from as well as participating in a Geography field trip experience to western Victoria as part of their tourism unit. Accompanied by Mrs Widrich, Mrs McCabe and bus-driver/professional photographer

Mr Reg Gordon, we spent the first night at Port Campbell following a long drive from Gippsland through Geelong and Colac. After distributing business surveys throughout the township and settling into our accommodation we then joined the throngs of tourists clicking cameras and taking selfies of the majestic 12 Apostles basked in the setting sun.

Day 2 focussed on primary data collection as well as sightseeing along the Great Ocean Road. Students immersed themselves in observational tasks, interviews, surveys as well as having the opportunity to listen to Mr Mark Cuthell from the Port Campbell Visitor Information Centre. Later that day, we headed back in-land to spend the evening in Queenscliff on the Bellarine Peninsula. The highlight of our time together was the impromptu 'Master Chef' competition, where students were required to purchase, prepare and present a 3 course dinner to the staff!

Day 3 we woke to a perfect morning and a lovely pancake breakfast. The morning's activities involved students surveying business owners in Queenscliff on the extent and impact of tourism in the town as well as observing environmental change along the coastline from the Observation Tower at the marina. We then boarded the ferry for a relaxing as well as spectacular crossing of the bay to Sorrento. From here it was time to head back to Traralgon and a well earned rest from a wonderful 3 days.







# Sport News



**Mr Dwayne Tibballa**

## Lavalla Runner Up in Champions Cup

Our Lavalla Catholic College senior girls' basketball team travelled to Nunawading Basketball Centre on Sunday, September 24 to take on Rowville Secondary College in the final of Basketball Victoria's Champions Cup.

Despite a strong start to the contest where Lavalla trailed by four points at the end of the first quarter, Rowville's defensive efforts were solid which contributed to Lavalla's lack of production on offence during the second and third periods. Lavalla scored 11 and nine points respectively and it was enough to see our girls trail by as much as 28 points early in the final period.

Chelsea D'Angelo led the way for Lavalla with 24 points, nine rebounds, four assists and three steals. Innika Hodgson offered valuable support with 13 points, seven rebounds and three steals but in general our girls struggled at the offensive end to find a consistent flow.

Rowville were a polished outfit and paced by Leah Santomaggio who led all scorers with 33 points, 23 of which came in the opening half.

Lavalla made a small run during the fourth quarter and scored 11 unanswered points behind the efforts of D'Angelo who scored 15 points in the second half to finish off strong. Lavalla actually outscored Rowville 20-5 in the final period to eventually succumb to a 58-71 loss.

It was a courageous effort for a Country school who don't get the constant match play together like the Metropolitan College's in their numerous competitions the compete in. Our girls should be very proud of what they have been able to achieve and much credit to Ms Karen Joyce and her efforts in preparing the team as best she could around the student athletes' availability to train.







# College Calendar

| DATE            | CAMPUS    | ACTIVITY                                      | NOTES  |
|-----------------|-----------|---|--------|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>  |           |   |        |
| Mon 23rd        | St PAUL's | SSV Gippsland Basketball Boys & Girls         |        |
|                 | BOTH      | SUMMER UNIFORM COMPULSORY                     |        |
|                 | BOTH      | SSV Track & Field- Girls                      |        |
|                 | St PAUL's | ATLAS 9 Urban Camp                            |        |
|                 | St PAUL's | Costal Camp Group 1                           |        |
| Tue 24th        | BOTH      | SSV Basketball 9&10 Boys & Girls              |        |
| Wed 25th        | St PAUL's | Year 7 Immunisations                          |        |
| Thu 26th        | KILDARE   | <b>YEAR 12 - Final School Day 2017</b>        |        |
|                 |           | <b>YEAR 12 - Graduation Mass</b>              | 6.00pm |
| Fri 27th        | KILDARE   | <b>STUDENT FREE DAY - Kildare Campus Only</b> |        |
| Mon 30th        | St PAUL's | SSV Gippsland Basketball Yr 8 Girls & Boys    |        |
|                 | St PAUL's | Costal Camp Group 2                           |        |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> |           |   |        |
| Wed 1st         | KILDARE   | VCE EXAMS- Begin 1st- 24th November           |        |
|                 |           |   |        |

## UNIFORM SHOP

Open 3.30pm- 6.00pm

St Paul's Campus

2nd Nov

16th Nov

7th Nov

## MY REACTION WHEN I SEE



MY QUESTION PAPER

**"What can I get  
for 10 cents?"  
-Ancient  
Australian  
proverb**

☹️  
**Don't Stress.  
Do Your Best.  
Forget the Rest.**

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# St Paul's Canteen

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Potato Cake    | \$1.20 in a roll \$2.20 |
| Hash Brown     | 0.80 or 2 for \$1.50    |
| Chicken Wedges | \$2.00                  |
| Hotdog         | \$3.00                  |
| Pizza toasty   | \$1.50                  |
| Potato gems    | \$1.00                  |
| Sausage Roll   | \$3.00                  |
| Pie /Pastie    | \$4.00                  |



## LUNCH ORDER ITEMS

- Devil fillet Chicken burger-spicy chicken fillet with lettuce, tomato & mayo - \$5.00
- Chicken Burger- burger, lettuce, tomato, cheese & mayo - \$5.00
- Caesar Salad Tub - Cos lettuce, croutons, bacon pieces, parmesan and dressing - \$4.00 add chicken - \$5.00
- Toasted Focaccia 3 fillings - \$5.00
- Salad Roll - \$4.00
- Chicken salad or Ham Salad - \$5.00

\*\*\*\*\*

- Vietnamese Rice paper rolls (2) with dipping sauce \$4.00  
(**Wednesdays only**)



- Sushi (**Thursdays only**)  
– chicken & avocado, tempura vegie, teriyaki chicken or tuna and avocado or honey soy chicken \$3.50 per roll





## A cool tool to reduce teenage risk

by Michael Grose

*Healthy teens generally want more freedom, while parents want to make sure their young people are safe. As young people grow and demonstrate the ability to make smart choices, it's a good idea to allow them more authority over their lives. Increasing independence involves greater freedom to choose, which demonstrates trust and faith in their ability to make good decisions.*

Brain research shows that teenagers in the 13- to 18-year-old age group need help and guidance around decision making. The pleasure-seeking part of their brain tends to dominate the reasoning part of the brain during this stage ... and later as well.

### Safe, fair, smart

Here is a cool tool to prompt young people to make smart decisions, particularly when you are not around. Give your young person these three questions to ask themselves to help them assess the safety and suitability of any activity or behaviour that they are about to participate in:

- 1. Is it safe?** This question helps them to assess risk.
- 2. Is it fair?** This question helps them to be sociable and consider others.
- 3. Is it smart** (and in my long-term best interests)? This question encourages them to think ahead, which isn't a typical teenager's strong point.

The safe, fair, smart tool needs to be used often so that will sink in. My three adult children can now repeat these questions verbatim as they were directed at them often ... regardless of the withering looks, raised eyebrows and shrugged shoulders that came my way.

Promoting independence in our adolescents is hard work for parents as we are always treading a fine line between being too protective and allowing young people more freedom. However, if young people are to learn how to make smart choices, we adults need to equip them with the processes as well as the opportunities to do so.



### Michael Grose

*Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including Thriving! and the best-selling Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It, and his latest release Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children.*





# REFORMATION 500

## ECUMENICAL COMMEMORATION OF THE QUINCENTENARY OF THE REFORMATION

Gathering as Gippsland brothers and sisters in Christ, let us together recall the gifts which Martin Luther brought to the birth of the Reformation, and give thanks for the continuing inspiration which he brings to the life and work of the universal Church.

Matins (Morning Prayer) at The Good Shepherd Church begins this special remembrance of Reformation Day.

The Liturgy of Remembrance at St. Michael's Church has been prepared by the Joint Lutheran/Catholic working group. *After lunch we will be screening 'Luther' the movie film, in the Hall.*

Vespers (Evening Prayer) closes the Day of Remembrance.  
*Come to one of more of the services as you are able.*

*Refreshments served after all services.*

*Please bring a plate to share after the midday liturgy.*

**All are warmly welcome!**

## A DAY OF ECUMENICAL PRAYER

*Repenting  
Remembering  
Reforming  
Rejoicing  
Reconciling*

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>  
October 2017**

**9.30 am Matins**  
Good Shepherd Lutheran  
Church, Kay St Traralgon

**12.00 pm Liturgy of  
Remembrance**  
St. Michael's Catholic  
Church, Kay St Traralgon

**7.30 pm Vespers**  
St. Michael's Catholic  
Church, Kay St Traralgon



## **Joint Declaration for the 500th Anniversary of Reformation**

*“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me”*

(John 15:4).

With thankful hearts

With this Joint Statement, we express joyful gratitude to God for this moment of common prayer in the Cathedral of Lund, as we begin the year commemorating the five hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. Fifty years of sustained and fruitful ecumenical dialogue between Catholics and Lutherans have helped us to overcome many differences, and have deepened our mutual understanding and trust. At the same time, we have drawn closer to one another through joint service to our neighbours – often in circumstances of suffering and persecution. Through dialogue and shared witness we are no longer strangers. Rather, we have learned that what unites us is greater than what divides us.

### ***Moving from conflict to communion***

While we are profoundly thankful for the spiritual and theological gifts received through the Reformation, we also confess and lament before Christ that Lutherans and Catholics have wounded the visible unity of the Church. Theological differences were accompanied by prejudice and conflicts, and religion was instrumentalized for political ends. Our common faith in Jesus Christ and our baptism demand of us a daily conversion, by which we cast off the historical disagreements and conflicts that impede the ministry of reconciliation. While the past cannot be changed, what is remembered and how it is remembered can be transformed. We pray for the healing of our wounds and of the memories that cloud our view of one another. We emphatically reject all hatred and violence, past and present, especially that expressed in the name of religion. Today, we hear God’s command to set aside all conflict. We recognize that we are freed by grace to move towards the communion to which God continually calls us.

### ***Our commitment to common witness***

As we move beyond those episodes in history that burden us, we pledge to witness together to God’s merciful grace, made visible in the crucified and risen Christ. Aware that the way we relate to one another shapes our witness to the Gospel, we commit ourselves to further growth in communion rooted in Baptism, as we seek to remove the remaining



obstacles that hinder us from attaining full unity. Christ desires that we be one, so that the world may believe (cf. John 17:21).

Many members of our communities yearn to receive the Eucharist at one table, as the concrete expression of full unity. We experience the pain of those who share their whole lives, but cannot share God's redeeming presence at the Eucharistic table. We acknowledge our joint pastoral responsibility to respond to the spiritual thirst and hunger of our people to be one in Christ. We long for this wound in the Body of Christ to be healed. This is the goal of our ecumenical endeavours, which we wish to advance, also by renewing our commitment to theological dialogue.

We pray to God that Catholics and Lutherans will be able to witness together to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, inviting humanity to hear and receive the good news of God's redeeming action. We pray to God for inspiration, encouragement and strength so that we may stand together in service, upholding human dignity and rights, especially for the poor, working for justice, and rejecting all forms of violence. God summons us to be close to all those who yearn for dignity, justice, peace and reconciliation. Today in particular, we raise our voices for an end to the violence and extremism which affect so many countries and communities, and countless sisters and brothers in Christ. We urge Lutherans and Catholics to work together to welcome the stranger, to come to the aid of those forced to flee because of war and persecution, and to defend the rights of refugees and those who seek asylum.

More than ever before, we realize that our joint service in this world must extend to God's creation, which suffers exploitation and the effects of insatiable greed. We recognize the right of future generations to enjoy God's world in all its potential and beauty. We pray for a change of hearts and minds that leads to a loving and responsible way to care for creation.

### ***One in Christ***

On this auspicious occasion, we express our gratitude to our brothers and sisters representing the various Christian World Communions and Fellowships who are present and join us in prayer. As we recommit ourselves to move from conflict to communion, we do so as part of the one Body of Christ, into which we are incorporated through Baptism. We invite our ecumenical partners to remind us of our commitments and to encourage us. We ask them to continue to pray for us, to walk with us, to support us in living out the prayerful commitments we express today.



### ***Calling upon Catholics and Lutherans worldwide***

We call upon all Lutheran and Catholic parishes and communities to be bold and creative, joyful and hopeful in their commitment to continue the great journey ahead of us. Rather than conflicts of the past, God's gift of unity among us shall guide cooperation and deepen our solidarity. By drawing close in faith to Christ, by praying together, by listening to one another, by living Christ's love in our relationships, we, Catholics and Lutherans, open ourselves to the power of the Triune God. Rooted in Christ and witnessing to him, we renew our determination to be faithful heralds of God's boundless love for all humanity.



***Pope Francis and Bishop Munib Yunan, President of the Lutheran World Federation, signed the Joint Declaration at the Lutheran Cathedral of Lund, Sweden 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016***



*'Unity is the gift of God' John 17:21*

A statement on the occasion  
of the 500th Anniversary  
of the Reformation



Bishops Commission for Ecumenism  
and Inter-religious Relations



Bishops Commission for Ecumenism  
and Inter-religious Relations





In Wittenberg on 31 October 1517, Martin Luther posted ninety-five theses concerning abuses he saw in the church. The consequences of that action were no doubt unforeseen by him at the time, yet their effect has shaped the religious and cultural history of the west ever since. The date and the event have become symbolic of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. The anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 cannot go unnoticed. While it most directly touches Lutherans and Catholics, it is not without significance for other Christian communions, and indeed for western society. Five hundred years on, even though both the situation of the church and the world situation are very different from the time of Martin Luther, the effects of the Reformation endure.

The Bishops Commission for Ecumenism and Inter-religious Relations of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the bishops of the Lutheran Church of Australia are issuing this joint statement in acknowledgement of this anniversary. There are three dimensions to our commemoration: we are deeply aware of the past and of the damage that was a consequence of conflict and division; we thank God for the healing of the relationship between Catholics and Lutherans that has taken place in recent decades and for the impetus for unity that we share; and we look forward to walking a common path in the future, witnessing together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.

In acknowledging the past, we recognise that the time of the Reformation and the years since have often been marked by animosity towards each other and the conviction that the other was unfaithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ. These attitudes were felt in Australia for several generations, and contributed in some cases to people abandoning the practice of the faith. Despite this, there remain enduring examples of inter-church families who have lived a life of Christian communion. As we commemorate this anniversary we acknowledge the damage done to the witness of the gospel and the pain suffered by many. We pray for forgiveness from God for the sins and errors of the past. We rely on a merciful God who has not abandoned his church, and we open our heart to the Holy Spirit who heals painful memories.

By the grace of God there has been a fresh impetus towards unity during the last half century. The Second Vatican Council not only opened the way for Catholic participation in ecumenical dialogue, but also provided a pathway for renewal. Lutherans in Australia, as elsewhere in the world, responded positively to this opening for dialogue. Catholics and Lutherans have now been engaged internationally in theological dialogue for fifty years. The anniversary of the Reformation is an appropriate time to acknowledge the steps that have been taken to heal the wounds of the past five hundred years. The most important step was the signing of the Joint Declaration on the

Doctrine of Justification by the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation in 1999. The Lutheran reformers regarded justification as the “first and chief article” of Christian faith, and disagreement over the doctrine lay at the heart of division between Lutherans and Roman Catholics in the sixteenth century. At that time both Lutherans, in some of their confessions, and Romans Catholics, at the Council of Trent, condemned each other’s teaching on this doctrine. The consensus reached in the Joint Declaration allowed both Lutherans and Catholics to declare that “the doctrinal condemnations of the sixteenth century, in so far as they relate to the doctrine of justification, appear in a new light: The teaching of the Lutheran churches presented in this Declaration does not fall under the condemnations from the Council of Trent. The condemnations in the Lutheran Confessions do not apply to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church presented in this Declaration” (#41).

The Lutheran–Roman Catholic Dialogue in Australia, which has met continuously since 1975, also studied the doctrine of justification. The resulting agreement stated: “Lutherans and Roman Catholics together see justification as God’s free and saving action in Christ whereby our sin is forgiven and we are both declared and made righteous. Together we confess that it is solely by grace and through faith that we are justified and not through our own merits. Together we say that justification cannot be separated from regeneration, sanctification, and the

renewal of our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Together we affirm that justification, or salvation in Christ, is central and normative to our Christian faith.” (#3)

The Australian dialogue also studied other fundamental doctrines that divided Catholics and Lutherans. Significant convergences, and sometimes agreements, have been achieved. These have included statements on baptism, Eucharist (the Lord’s Supper), church, ministry, Scripture and tradition, the ministry of bishops, and the papacy. While we have not yet arrived at full communion, the Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church of Australia have a growing awareness of the substantial communion that exists among us. As we commemorate the anniversary of the Reformation and note the fruits of more than forty years of dialogue in Australia, we commit ourselves to a more profound reception of those fruits as a way of deepening the communion we already share.

The Catholic Church welcomes the 2013 decision of the Lutheran Church of Australia to change the designation of their presidents to “bishop”, and believes that this opens up possibilities for a new relationship between Catholic

and Lutheran bishops to be a sign and agent of communion within and between our churches. In recognition of this change the Bishops Commission for Ecumenism and Inter-religious Relations of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the bishops of the Lutheran Church of Australia would like to meet together to consider the pastoral challenges and opportunities facing the churches.

For many, the issues that led to division in the sixteenth century seem remote from the concerns of twenty-first century people. Yet when we sift through the many words written at that time we discover a simple desire on both sides, namely that people come to know the justice and mercy of God and experience them in their lives. Seen in this light, the concerns of the sixteenth century are not as foreign as they may have seemed at first, even if their manifestation is different. The question the church faces today and into the future is about how we communicate the truth about God. The anniversary of the Reformation prompts us to reflect together on this question. It will require a renewed commitment to teach God’s word. It will require a re-statement about the saving love of God revealed in Jesus

Christ through the Holy Spirit. It will require fresh imagination about how to speak of God to a diverse society like Australia, characterised as it is by religious pluralism, by scepticism about God and by suspicion of the church. In commemorating this anniversary, we commit ourselves to that on-going renewal that will take us to the heart of the gospel. We commit ourselves to working with our ecumenical partners to re-discover the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for our times.

Unity is the gift of God and the will of Christ for his church (Cf. Jn 17:21; 1 Cor 12:13). Both the Lutheran Church of Australia and the Catholic Church acknowledge the unity we already share, and together we confess the one faith. We encourage all members of the Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church to hear from God a call to be continuously transformed by our encounter with each other and to be living witnesses to the power of the gospel (Cf. Ac 1:8; Rom 1:16).

**Rev John Henderson**

Bishop  
Lutheran Church of Australia

**Archbishop Christopher Prowse**

Chairman, Bishops Commission for  
Ecumenism and Inter-religious Relations  
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

31 October 2017





# A Pastoral Letter to the Catholics of Victoria

## Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017

9 October 2017

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We recently wrote to you sharing our concern at the plan to introduce assisted suicide and euthanasia in Victoria. Since then, leaders of Christian Churches and other religions have united in publicly expressing their opposition to such laws. Indeed the Australian Medical Association and the World Medical Association maintain that doctors should not be involved in either of these practices.

In spite of this, the Victorian Government has now introduced a bill to the parliament that uses the euphemistic term “assisted dying”. We need to be clear: this law will change the criminal code to permit doctors and other health professionals to become actively and deliberately involved in the premature death of patients.

Many proponents of this change in the law are motivated by compassion. While it is never easy to face the end of life of a loved one, assistance in our time of dying is something that we should all want for ourselves and for others. However, this should not involve dispensing and administering medications intended to kill people.

### **Never safe**

No “safeguards” can ever guarantee that all deaths provided for under the proposed laws will be completely voluntary. Whether because of carelessness, error, fraud, coercion or even self-perceived pressure, there will always be a risk. Victoria abolished the death penalty because we

learnt that in spite of our best efforts, our justice system could never guarantee that an innocent person would not be killed by mistake or by false evidence. Our health system, like our justice system, is not perfect. Mistakes happen. To introduce this law presuming everyone will be safe is naïve. We need to consider the safety of those whose ability to speak for themselves is limited by fear, disability, illness or old age.

### **Government endorsed suicide**

Endorsing suicide as a solution to pain or suffering sends the wrong message, especially to the young. Suicide is a tragedy for the person who takes their own life, but it also seriously affects their family and community. It would be plain wrong to legally endorse any form of suicide when governments and community groups are working so hard to persuade others that there are always better options available than taking their own life.

### **More care – not euthanasia and assisted suicide**

This bill comes at a time when not all Victorians have equal access to the highest standards of care that we can provide. The care of our elderly is failing in some critical ways and elder abuse is a growing, although often hidden, phenomenon. Surely these matters – not assisted suicide – should be the focus of our Government’s attention.

There is clear evidence that most people who seek assisted suicide do so from fear of what lies ahead – not because they are experiencing unmanageable

*(Continued overleaf...)*



pain. Anxiety about being a burden influences many people. It will be a tragic injustice if people opt for state-endorsed suicide because access to adequate emotional, psychological, spiritual and physical care is not available. For many people this is the reality.

The Catholic community does so much to care for people through our network of hospices, hospitals, aged care facilities and other services.

We are grateful to the Catholic community and all people of goodwill who serve the frail, elderly, sick and the dying. We ask everyone to continue to journey with those who are dying: visit them, ensure they have appropriate care, support them, offer appropriate pain relief and, most of all, remain close to them.

We ask Victorians to continue to love and care for those who are sick and suffering rather than abandoning them to euthanasia or assisting them to suicide. Our ability to care says much about the strength of our society.

### **The damaging consequences**

We have a window into the consequences of this proposed law when we look to places that have taken this path already. Access to assisted suicide and euthanasia in the jurisdictions with similar laws has seen increasing numbers of people use the option and pleas to expand the eligibility criteria persist. We must, therefore, urge our elected representatives to resist this “first step”.

### **A time for action**

At this critical moment, we ask the Catholics of Victoria to make their voices heard. Our democracy works best when its citizens speak up. We know many of you have contacted your local representatives and we thank you for that. We encourage those of you who have not done so, to write a short letter to your representatives in the next week to courteously, but clearly, share your concern.

While we support many of the positive recommendations recently made about improving end of life care and welcome a healthy discussion of death and dying, given the ethical and practical reasons why this bill will be harmful to all

Victorians we cannot endorse it. We encourage you to earnestly pray, individually, in your families, parishes and associations, both for our politicians and that this bill does not become law.

We agree with the editorial in the *Herald Sun* on Saturday 23 September that endorsed the need for more accessible quality palliative care and urged parliamentarians to vote against the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill.

We make the same recommendations to Victorian politicians of all parties.

For more information on this issue visit [www.cam.org.au/euthanasia](http://www.cam.org.au/euthanasia)

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Rev Denis J Hart DD  
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE



Most Rev Paul Bernard Bird CSSR DD  
BISHOP OF BALLARAT



Most Rev Patrick Michael O'Regan DD  
BISHOP OF SALE



Most Rev Leslie R Tomlinson DD  
BISHOP OF SANDHURST



## Failures in the proposed law include:

1.

There is no way to detect coercion at the time people take the lethal dose. The law envisages people using the dose within one year (and given the inaccuracy of prognosis at 12 months), possibly longer after it is dispensed.

2.

There is no requirement to check that the person designated to return an unused lethal dose is not themselves vulnerable and at risk of using the dose either before or after the person for whom it has been prescribed has died.

3.

The review system cannot stop doctors who apply a loose interpretation of “eligibility” (safeguards) from establishing clinics. Some of the compliance failures will only be referred for review after the patient is dead.

4.

People with mental illness, provided they are otherwise eligible, can access assisted suicide. There is no requirement that they be assessed by a psychiatrist before being prescribed the lethal dose.

5.

Only one of the two doctors involved needs to be a specialist experienced in treating the patient’s illness(es). The other assessment can be made by a doctor who need not have specialist knowledge of the patient’s illness or possible treatment options. The double check mechanism of having two doctors review a patient is not as “safe” as it appears and there is no requirement that the doctors involved have a prior or ongoing therapeutic relationship with the patient.

6.

Detecting and prosecuting misuse and abuse under the law is made almost impossible given the primary witness required to establish the facts is dead, and the public record of death will not disclose the fact that the patient died after taking a lethal dose of drugs.