



## From the Principal

John M Freeman

Issue Two

2021

## Thank You

Thank you to all in our community for the support shown during the state wide five-day circuit breaker action that took effect from 11.59 pm, Friday 12 February 2021, until 11.59 pm on Wednesday 17 February 2021. Face-to-face learning resumed yesterday and it was great to see the students return.

## Marist Theme

Our theme for 2021 is “Breathe the Spirit Life” and I offer the following thoughts on its meaning for us from Tony Clarke, the Director of Mission and Life Formation for the Marists.

In this moment of history we could not be more aware of how connected we are. An unknown virus spread from a largely unheard-of city to affect every human being on the planet. Pope Francis has been repeatedly reminding us that everything is connected (Laudato Si). I think we can say this realisation is now evident.

Perhaps nothing connects us more intimately than our breath. All life depends upon it and the exchange we have with our breathing green planet. With the average person taking an average of 20,000 breaths each day this subconscious activity can be easy to forget – until we can’t do it anymore. It then becomes a powerful symbol of ‘life’.

There are some powerful images in Scripture capturing this image of breath as the source of life. The Book of Genesis describes God breathing into the nostrils of human beings the ‘breath of life’ to make them ‘living’ beings (Gen 2:7). Breath is also used to express the presence of God, and for Elijah, he experienced God in the sound of a gentle breeze or ‘gentle breath’ (1 Kings 19:12 cf. Timothy Radcliffe, ‘Alive in God’, p.266). It is often an evocative image of the Spirit (the Hebrew word for ‘spirit’, ruah is also the word for breath) and it was at Pentecost that Jesus breathed on the disciples saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit”. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit who gives life. It unites, connects and pervades all that is: ‘The Spirit of life dwells in every human creature and calls us into a relationship with the Divine’ (Laudato Si, 88). St Paul speaks of its power and proclaims that it is through Jesus Christ that the Holy Spirit gives life and freedom: “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free” (Rm 8:2).



Creation and the Universe by Sharon Williams

*breathe*  
the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)

*breathe*  
the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)

# PRINCIPAL cont....

Richard Rohr describes the profound intimacy of our breath and the holy. To breathe is to experience the Divine...the ruah of God: "A rabbi taught this prayer to me many years ago. The Jews did not speak God's name but breathed it with an open mouth and throat: inhale-Yah; exhale-weh. By our very breathing, we are speaking the name of God and participating in God's breath. This is our first and our last word as we enter and leave the world (Rohr, On Being, p.65)."

As we breathe-in, we feed and nourish our physical bodies and nurture our inner life. But we can't hold our breath. After being fuelled by the breath of the love of God we are compelled to breathe out, to give life to others and creation (Ezk 37:1-14). We are challenged to take up Pope Francis' invitation to become more consciously guardians of creation, as well as our brothers and sisters in humanity. Perhaps the moment has never been so urgent to take care of our planet and each other as we face together the uncertainty of a growing pandemic and its impact on the deterioration of life through social isolation, chronic loneliness, snowballing anxiety, economic uncertainty, and the loss of livelihood and life: "The virus of social injustice is as big a challenge as the medical response to COVID-19" (Pope Francis, August 19).

So in this year of the Plenary Council let us be conscious of our need to be attentive to the Spirit of life in discerning our way forward to be a source of fresh air as a Church for the world. May it be an opportunity for us to invite the Spirit of Jesus to enliven, energise, empower and unite us: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us! (Lk 4:18). Let us give thanks that we have been breathed to life God and share in Elihu's prayer of gratitude: "The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life." (Job 33:4)

As always, the theme is complemented by an image which is included in this Newsletter. The image is an artwork entitled "Creation and the Universe" by Sharon Williams who is a member of the Santa Teresa community.

## LENT

The season of Lent commenced this week on Wednesday, 17 February, which was Ash Wednesday. Unfortunately, due to the recent state-wide five-day circuit breaker action we could not gather in our usual way for a liturgy. However, students and staff were able to pray and reflect on the meaning and purpose of Ash Wednesday thanks to the material made available on SIMON by Robyn Rebbechi our Assistant Principal Catholic Identity and Mission.

As part of the reflection material Robyn explains that Lent is a time for reflection on how we are living our lives and a time of preparation for the greatest celebration in the Church's year, Easter.

I have also attached Bishop Greg Bennett's Lenten Letter to community of the Diocese of Sale, which provides a reflection on the meaning of Lent.

## Staff News

We welcome Susan Farrugia to the College this week. Susan will be our receptionist on the Kildare Campus.

At the end of last year our Year 8 Coordinator, Brett Scholtes, left the College for a role at another school. Consequently, we advertised the position to current staff and I am delighted to advise that Meaghan Ambrose was the successful applicant for the position.

*breathe*  
the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)

Families with children at the Kildare campus know Meaghan as our Mackillop Head of House. Therefore, her appointment created the opportunity for colleagues to apply for that important role and I am pleased to advise that Shane Reid is the appointee.

Thank you to both Shane and Meaghan as well as the other applicants for their willingness to support the students in our care.

After almost 9 years serving as the College Counsellor at St Paul's campus we farewell Jo Slater, who will be commencing a new job soon, based in Frankston. Jo has been a great support to all members of the community, particularly the students which she worked with at the St Paul's campus. Those who know and work with Jo appreciate her calm demeanour, considered approach and constant care for all involved with the issues where she has given support. We wish Jo the best of success in her new job.

Jo's departure has meant that we needed to find a replacement and I am pleased that Megan Marks, who primarily provides counselling support on the Kildare campus will now be based at St Paul's campus. Thank you as well to Bel Gathercole and Bec McMahon for their support in adjusting their days and time at the College to ensure we have suitable staffing in this area.

## After School Study sessions ON the Kildare Campus

We will be recommencing After School study sessions for Years 10 to 12 students at the Kildare campus next week. Students will be able to work, study, read and collaborate in the Library at the Kildare campus between 3.15pm and 5.30pm on Monday to Thursday.

Any students remaining at school to study after 3.15pm should be in the Library not in other classrooms or spaces unless involved in a tutorial or similar with direct supervision by a teacher.

Thank you to Jeananne Brown and the library staff for their work with this initiative.

## CONDOLENCES

Finally, can I please ask that you keep the following people who have passed away as well as their families and friends in your prayers:

- Maria-Concetta (Connie) Falzon, grandmother of Georgia Noon (Year 10) and Ryan (2019)
- Derek Rice, grandfather to Benjamin (Year 7) & Sally (Year 9)

*Eternal rest grant unto them,  
O Lord, and let perpetual light  
shine upon them. May the souls  
of the faithful departed, through  
the mercy of God, rest in peace.  
Amen*







# *breathe*

## *the Spirit of life* (Rm 8:2)

**Artwork:** Creation and the Universe

**Artist:** Sharon Williams (Santa Teresa, NT)

Creation is bigger than just our planet earth. Creation is about everything in the universe – everything *Ngkarte* (God) has put there and all those things have *Ngkartele Utnenge* (God's Spirit) in them. That's why we look after them and care for them.

The sun, the stars, the meteors, the big animals and the smallest flower that feeds the bees, and us – we are all part of what we call 'creation' – we are all connected because we all have *Ngkartele Utnenge* in us.

We humans are very blest because we are able to share in *Ngkarte's* creating – when I paint, it is *Ngkartele Utnenge* who guides me to create something that has never been before, and then *Ngkartele Utnenge* is that painting. When I care for my children in our families and help them grow – that is being part of *Ngkarte's* creating too. It is very precious to be able to share in *Ngkarte's* creating in our Universe.

Phonetic pronunciation of *Ngkartele Utnenge*:  
**Ung-gar-dala ud-nung-a**



# STUDENT WELLBEING & OPERATIONS



**DOUG DOHERTY**  
**Deputy Principal**  
**Student Wellbeing & Operations**

## Mobile Phone Policy REVIEW 2020 - Findings

Towards the end of the last academic year, 2020; the College held a review of our mobile phone policy and procedure. The current policy allowed students to have their phones with them at all times and access their phones when not in class. After a year of trialling this and a review of behavioural data and views from representatives of students, staff and parents/guardians; the policy has been updated.

The outcome was very clear- mobile phones are a serious distraction to student learning in the classroom as well as creating an unsafe environment throughout the school.

### Mobile Phone Policy 2021 - What will change:

Lavalla Catholic College will now align with all other Victorian secondary schools by banning the use of mobile phones in school.

### What does this mean:

Mobile phones must be left in the student's locker (at their own risk) from 8:40 am until 3:15pm. A student may briefly check their phone at recess or lunch at the locker.

If a student disobeys this directive there will be a four stage action:

- **First infringement** – the phone will be confiscated and the student will need to collect it at the end of the day. This will be recorded on SIMON.
- **Second infringement** - the phone will be confiscated and the student will need to collect it at the end of the day. Parents/guardians will be informed. This will be recorded on SIMON.
- **Third infringement** - the phone will be confiscated and the parents/guardians will need to collect it at the end of the day from a senior member of staff such as Well-Being Leader or Head of House. This will be recorded on SIMON.
- **Fourth infringement**- the phone will be confiscated and the parents/guardians will meet with a Deputy Principal to discuss further action. This will be recorded on SIMON.

### Camps and Excursions:

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used in any learning environment, e.g. camps and excursions, unless otherwise directed by the camp or excursion organiser.

### *Parent/Guardians who wish to contact their child at school or excursion:*

- If a parent/guardian wishes to contact their child during the day in school, they must contact the College reception who will either pass on a message or arrange for a call to be taken.
- If your child is on excursion, there will be a College mobile phone number that you can contact which will be supervised by the teacher in charge.



# STAFF NEWS



**CLAIRE FABRIS**  
Assistant Principal  
Staff Wellbeing & Development

Congratulations to all of our staff members who completed further study last year



**ROD WILLIAMS**  
Master of Clinical  
Teaching



**LISA WILLIAMS**  
Master of Clinical  
Teaching



**ALEX RATHBONE**  
Master of Clinical  
Teaching



**JASMINE  
SANTAMARIA**  
Master of Clinical  
Teaching



**LISA TEMPLETON**  
Master of Clinical  
Teaching



**RACHEL  
VANDERKOOGH**  
Master of Evidence  
Based Teaching



**JANNET TAYLOR**  
Master of Education  
(Teacher  
Librarianship)



**CARMEN WEAVER**  
Graduate Certificate  
in Career  
Development  
Practice



**JENNI HOWARD**  
Graduate Certificate in  
Career Development  
Practice



**MICHAEL McKENNA**  
Masters of  
Instructional  
Leadership

*breathe*  
the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)





**BRETT VAN BERKEL**  
**Deputy Principal**  
**Learning & Teaching**

## The importance of feedback in assessment

Over the next two to three weeks, you will start to see feedback on your PAM account on your child's progress to date. As a College in 2021, we will be moving to a continuous feedback model. The main benefit of continuous reporting versus a six weekly reporting model is the timely manner in which you are informed of your child's achievements. It was often seen as 'too late' at the end of the six-week cycle for you as a parent/guardian to be formally notified of how your child is performing.

The SIMON Learning Management System integrated into the Parent Access Module (PAM) provides timely results and feedback at your fingertips. It is just a matter of clicking on the results in PAMs to bring up a combination of formal feedback, rubric outlines, and further details of the assessment. This allows you to discuss the results in real-time with your child to set goals and strategies for continued improvement.

In recent years there has been a fundamental change in the way schools think about the role and nature of assessment and the vital role feedback plays in significantly improving learning outcomes for all students.

The driver of this change has been the overwhelming weight of evidence and research from international experts such as Professor John Hattie, who have shown how learning outcomes significantly improve when teachers use assessment to provide 'feedback information' about aspects of a learner's performance or understanding. Feedback, Hattie states "fills a gap between what is understood (How am I going?) and what is aimed to be understood (Where am I going?)."

We are consistently asked 'how best to utilise the feedback given and how to discuss it with my child?' Below are some essential points in making the most of the feedback provided by your child's teacher.

## Types of feedback used with learners

Feedback is one of the most effective teaching and learning strategies and has an immediate impact on each child's learning progress. This feedback can be a teacher to learner, learner to teacher, self-assessment and feedback to and from peers.

## The importance of descriptive feedback

Whilst grades/marks are given for tests, assignments, Common Assessment Task's (CATs) and School Assessed Classwork (SACs), descriptive feedback is typically provided on a day to day basis by teachers in their interactions with students. They can be provided but not limited to a comment, rubric or verbal feedback.



# CURRICULUM NEWS

Descriptive feedback can emphasise the strengths of the child's work and areas that they may need to work on and what they need to do next. We use the SIT (Strength, Improvement, Target), model. It is important that parents and guardians support the importance of descriptive feedback and not focus only on the grades.

## How to support feedback given to your child

You can support teachers' feedback to your child by regularly talking with them about specific pieces of work that their teacher has provided feedback on. Some guiding questions could include:

- What do you think you did well?
- What do you think you need to improve on?
- What do you think your teacher wants you to work further on?
- What did you learn?

Start by establishing that your child understands what is being discussed. Do encourage your child to note down any questions they may have about the feedback given, and encourage them to follow up with questions for their teacher in a timely fashion.

If your child feels that they are making mistakes, do not understand or can't do something immediately, remember to reinforce that making mistakes, or struggling to understand or do something, is a normal part of the learning process. Stay positive about your child's learning. It is important to remember that each child is different; some will find elements of their learning program more challenging than others.

Let the College or your child's teacher know if you have any questions about what your child is learning and how they are progressing. Some questions that may be useful could include:

- How well is my child doing?
- What are my child's strengths and what do they need to work further on?
- What progress have they made?
- What do they need to do now?
- How can I best help my child with their learning?

Adapted from [http://www.insight.vic.edu.au/parents/parents\\_feedback](http://www.insight.vic.edu.au/parents/parents_feedback)



# CATHOLIC IDENTITY & MISSION



**ROBYN REBBECHI**  
Assistant Principal  
Catholic Identity & Mission

One of the most ancient rituals in the Christian church is the marking of the sign of the cross in Ash on Ash Wednesday. In ancient times, people who had broken their relationship with God and who were sorry for their sins marked their skin with ash, to show they were sorry. Usually on Ash Wednesday Christians receive the sign of the cross on their foreheads in ash, to remind them of the need to work on their lives, and to try to be better people, in the preparation time of Lent.

Already this year we have been challenged to re-invent the way in which we celebrate who we are as a Catholic school. Our plans for Ash Wednesday liturgies on each campus were of course unable to be fulfilled due to the snap lockdown called in Victoria. Instead of gathering together in smaller groups, we were separated from each other in our own homes, yet we were still invited to pray as a community, for the good of ourselves and others, as we began the Christian season of Lent.

Lent is an ancient Christian tradition which has been practiced for hundreds of years, and it provides us with an opportunity to make our lives new. We can re-examine our relationships with others and with God and, following Jesus' example, we can pray and fast and give to others, because we are called to a life of love and compassion.

A short reflection on the season of Lent as experienced in the time of global pandemic is included (right). This is a thought provoking look at the idea of sacrifice and how we have incorporated it into our everyday routines.

God of justice and peace.

Today we have made a new beginning  
Be with us and bless us as we begin the  
journey to Easter.

Help us to remember that this season  
of reflection is an invitation to a more  
loving relationship with you and with  
others.

Help us throughout this time of Lent  
to continue our efforts to build a more  
hopeful, fairer world.

Give us the strength to turn away from  
selfishness and to be faithful to your  
Gospel message.

AMEN.



With the arrival of Lent, we enter into a natural time of reflection. For 40 days, Jesus entered the desert, fasting and praying before beginning his public ministry. For 40 days, we model his behaviour. We observe a time of introspection and of self-emptying, of prayer and of sacrifice. We push our own desires aside to make room for God's will.

This Lent is starting differently. As we begin our second Lent with COVID, we are still enduring, as many people have termed it, a "long Lent" that began last Ash Wednesday and, thanks to the pandemic, just kept going.

For nearly a year, we have been living a life of significant sacrifice. For the good of our neighbour, we have abstained from social events and strapped on masks for any and every outing. We have skipped vacations and have altered routines. And we have endured the kind of mental, emotional and spiritual fatigue that comes with months of uncertainty and anxiety.

For these reasons, it is somewhat natural to be at a loss for how to engage in Lent this year. As one influential Catholic voice on Twitter asked recently: "How does one prepare for a new Lent when last year's Lent doesn't seem to have ended yet?"

Editorial, Our Sunday Visitor: [FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

*breathe*  
the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)



This week we marked the start of our Lenten Journey with Ash Wednesday. This day also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

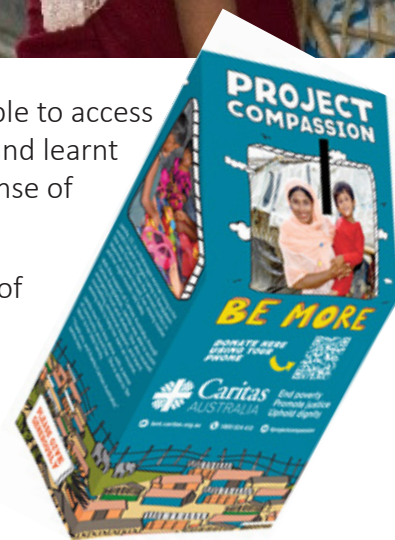
We encourage you to put your compassion into action this Lent through your prayer, fasting and almsgiving by supporting Project Compassion. Each Homeroom will receive a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes for their donations or you can donate online via the Caritas Australia [WEBSITE](#)

Saint Oscar Romero is our inspiration for Project Compassion 2021, so in his words let's "Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

We begin our annual Lenten Project Compassion journey by learning about the story of Jamila and her family. Jamila, 22, is a Rohingya woman, living in the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. A single mother, she fled armed conflict in Myanmar to save herself, her elderly mother and eight-month-old baby.

With the support of Caritas Australia, through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila was able to access emergency food and shelter. She also received counselling, emotional support and learnt sewing skills, to help her earn an income. Jamila now feels less alone, with a sense of community around her. She is able to 'Be More' to her little family.

- 860,494 people remain in the densely populated camps, in desperate need of humanitarian assistance, especially due to COVID-19. (UNHCR)



# UNIFORM NEWS

The Lavalla **Catholic College Second-hand Uniform** shop will be removing some items for sale over the next few years as they are phased out and no longer sellable.

If you have items for sale in the Second-hand Uniform Shop and would like to be contacted now and in the future to collect your items before they are discarded, please contact us immediately at [groucat1@lavalla.vic.edu.au](mailto:groucat1@lavalla.vic.edu.au).

The Second-hand Uniform shop will no longer be accepting Rugby Tops and the Spray Jacket for sale, as they will be removed from circulation at the end of this year. Both these items have been replaced by the Soft-Shell Spray Jacket.

During the last few years the College has been working to improve and update the uniform. We are continuing this process in 2021.

In recent years we have introduced women's trousers for the winter months, new tracksuit pants (monogrammed) and the soft shell jacket (monogrammed) for the PE uniform, and we have just seen the arrival of the new PE polo shirt.

The gold polo shirt may still be worn until the end of 2023.

A reminder that the older style spray jacket and rugby top will be phased out at the end of 2021 (the end of our three-year transition period) and cannot be worn once the 2022 school year commences.

The older style tracksuit pants (navy with the gold stripe) will be phased out at the end of 2022.



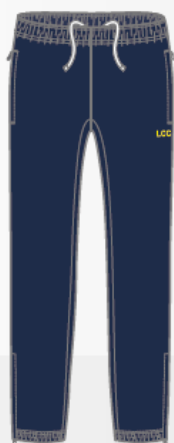
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WATER/WIND RESISTANT  
W/ VELCRO ON CUFF



SUBLIMATED SPORT POLO  
INK NAVY / GOLD / WHITE



**LAVALLA**  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE



SPORT SOCKS 97906  
- WHITE



SPORT SHORT 79020  
NAVY BODY  
W/ EMB

**LCC**

**LCC**



# MUSIC NEWS



**SHANE LEBBE**

Director of Music & Liturgy

It has been wonderful to start the year with the resumption of our morning ensemble rehearsals. Since the beginning of term our musicians have been eager to kick the school days off with morning rehearsals as members of our Concert Band, Choirs or Jazz Ensembles. Our instrumental music lessons are also in full swing with tutors glad to be delivering onsite music lessons to our students.

It is not too late for our year seven and eight students to take up instrumental music lessons and get involved with our band program. In the coming week all of our year seven students will have the opportunity to experience a trial lesson with one of our wonderful instrumental tutors on an instrument of their choice. This opportunity will give students the chance to meet our tutors and gain a sense of what lessons are like, should they choose to join our program. Students will also learn a little bit about their chosen instrument, as well as how to produce a sound on it.

If you would like any further information about our Music Program or would like to know how to get enrolled in lessons, please contact us on [music@lavalla.vic.edu.au](mailto:music@lavalla.vic.edu.au) or the College Website [HERE](#)



*breathe*  
the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Event

## Date

Year 8 Team Building Day	Tuesday 23rd February
St Paul's Swimming Sports	Thursday 25th February
Kildare Swimming Sports	Friday 26th February
Labour Day Public Holiday	Monday 8th March
Commissioning Liturgy	Thursday 11th March
St Paul's Wellbeing Day	Wednesday 17th
Yr 7 Immunisation	Tuesday 23rd March
St Paul's Open Evening	Wednesday 24th March
Year 8 Retreat	Tuesday 30th March
Year 8 Retreat	Wednesday 31st March
Last Day Term 1	Thursday 1st April
Good Friday	Friday 2nd April

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school Calendar can be viewed [HERE](#) to keep up to date with activities happening at the College.

The [SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SHOP](#) is open by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**, please contact the school on 5174 7355 to make an appointment. Please click the link for further details on days open and stock available.



# After School Study Sessions

ALL YEAR 10, YEAR 11  
and YEAR 12 students

The Kildare Library will be open after school for anyone who wants to study or read, on the following days.

MON, TUES, WED, THUR

3:15pm – 5:30pm





Dear Friends in Christ,

Warmest blessings at the commencement of the liturgical season of Lent.

One of the most privileged moments in my life was to be able stand very close to Michelangelo's sculpture *The Pietà* which is housed in St Peter's Basilica. The sculpture depicts Mary, the Mother of God, embracing the lifeless body of her son. The statue is translucent and Michelangelo has carved in marble, as if human flesh, this moment of profound grief of a mother for her son; Mary Our Mother in holding her Son holds all of us.

In Michelangelo's image Mary sits cradling the draped body of Jesus. She holds him closely to herself in a gesture of intense pain and at the same time, she holds him toward the observer as pure and utter gift. She holds Jesus and at the same time she holds us too. Her grief is tangible but, in the echo of the rich scriptural tradition, she also holds the gift of the promise of God in whom she has placed her trust. Her son, who once proclaimed the Kingdom of God, who healed, reconciled, forgave, liberated, nourished, prayed, summoned followers and washed their feet, is now lifeless. The crucified Son of God is silent, his life outpoured. The *Pietà* moves many to tears as they ponder the magnificent masterpiece which both invites them into the mystery of the death of Christ and into their own memories of deep loss and grief. In faith we know that this silent grief will be transformed by the promise of resurrection.



As we enter the liturgical season of Lent, we begin anew the journey of personal conversion through prayer, fasting and charity. We know the story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, not as some historical event but as one we recognise in our own lives, in the story we bear, we live, and we breathe. We undertake this same journey each year with the hope of our renewal as people of faith and followers of Jesus. As we approach these holy forty days, we dare to embark on this spiritual journey which allows us to centre our lives more fully on Jesus and to commit ourselves to the mission of the Good News entrusted to us.

**MOST REVEREND GREGORY BENNET BISHOP OF SALE**

PO Box 1410, Warragul, Vic 3820, Australia P +612 5622 6690 E [bishop@sale.catholic.org.au](mailto:bishop@sale.catholic.org.au)

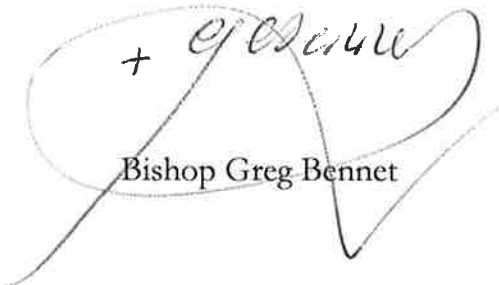
[www.cdsale.org.au](http://www.cdsale.org.au)



As we reflect upon the Word of God during this time we become acutely aware of the call of the desert places, mountains, and valleys of our lives. In finding time to pray, to be still, we bring our experience before the Word which enlightens, transforms and interprets our lived experience through the lens of the life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Through our fasting we hunger more fully for One who truly satisfies our hearts and in our sharing, we learn more fully to receive.

As we embark on our Lenten journey this year, mindful of all we have experienced throughout the pandemic, we might be asking ourselves: what am I going to do, or what haven't I done enough of and need to seek penance for this year? Perhaps we might set a time each day to pray, to sit with the Word of God and to be still. Rather than "giving something up" we might choose to "take something up" like visiting those we have not seen, writing a letter or email to those who are alone or giving someone a call. Through our fasting and acts of charity we may ensure that others may experience joy and have their lives enriched by kindness. Our mindfulness of those in need, so beautifully expressed through Caritas Project Compassion, is one pathway to strengthen the lives of others. In so many creative ways we can participate in the mission of the Church to go beyond ourselves in order to see others as our brothers and sisters united in our common humanity.

Lent commences with the sprinkling of ashes upon us, symbolising the love to which we are called. A love which purifies, refines and calls us to new birth through the waters of baptism. Michelangelo allowed the work of his hands, his prayer and his faith to create the *Pietà* through which we behold the vision of the Son of God who assumed our humanity, humbling himself to the point of death on a cross, and who has been exalted by God and given the name above all other names (Philippians 2:9). May this Lenten time enable us to come close to him and allow him to transform our dying into life.

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Bishop Greg Bennet