



From the Principal

John M Freeman

ISSUE FIVE

2021

Easter

This is the last newsletter for the term and the last before Easter.

We are now in the period of time the Church recognises as Holy Week, which is the last week of Lent. It commenced on Palm Sunday, 28 March, and will conclude with the Triduum, which begins at sundown on Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, continues with Good Friday and concludes with Easter evening prayer at sundown on Easter Sunday: its high point is the celebration of the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening.

Today at each campus we celebrated liturgies as part of our preparation for Easter Sunday, the most important feast of the liturgical year, where we celebrate the foundation of our faith, Christ's resurrection. During these liturgies our students, each in their own way, reflected an understanding of what it is for us to call ourselves an Easter people, those that live in the victory and hope of the resurrection and not the despair of crucifixion and darkness of a tomb.

Well done to all involved, but particular thanks to Robyn Rebbeschi and Alex Rathbone for their work preparing the students who led us in these liturgies.

May the risen Christ of Easter, the one united fully in the life and love of God, who invites us to share this life and love with him, fill our hearts this Easter – and in leading us to a richer appreciation of life and love help us to radiate the peace and joy of life to others. May our world become a more peaceful and loving place as a result of the effects of Easter on all people of good will.

Also, please find attached to this newsletter, Bishop Greg Bennett's Easter message.

Open Evening

Thank you to all the staff and students involved in our Open Evening last night. This was a wonderful success and it was great to meet potential new members of our community.

I am particularly grateful for the work that the Transition Team, led by Doug Doherty, undertook to ensure the evening was welcoming, safe and informative.

Year 8 Retreat

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week our Year 8s participated in their Retreat. By all accounts these days were enjoyed by all involved. I particularly thank Monica Justin for all her work in preparing this experience. Thank you as well to the staff and Year 12 students who assisted on the two days.



breathe
the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)



Laps for Caritas

After a couple of postponements due to wet weather, we were finally able to run the Laps for Caritas at lunchtime on Monday 29th March, at both the St Paul's and Kildare campuses.

The purpose of Laps for Caritas is to highlight to our community the reality that in developing countries, the walk for water can be long, and some people walk up to 7km each day just to find water.

Often, the people doing the walking are children, and their education suffers as a result.

Often, the water collected is unclean, and the health of entire families suffers.

This fundraising event added to the money we have already collected during Lent and will help to improve access to clean water for vulnerable families around the world.

Thank you to Georgie Robertson for her organisation and leadership and thank you to all the staff and students who participated.

Staff News

Congratulations to Kim Widrich who recently became a grandmother to Thomas Abel.

We wish every happiness to Karina Taylor and her fiancée Leroy Cassar on their wedding today.

Congratulations to Katie Lee on her engagement to David Stinear.

GOD OF EASTER

God of Good Friday and God of Easter,
as again we sing that joyous and explosive greeting, 'Christ has risen',
may we take into our hearts the beautiful but harsh truth
that our faith in you does not cut us off from the world but immerses us in it;

That you have called us to act in solidarity with the hopes and joys,
the anxieties and sorrows of men and women everywhere;
And that, like Jesus, you have sent us to bring good news to the poor,
to heal the contrite of heart, to seek and save what is lost.

Good Friday God, give us your peace,
God of Easter, journey with us now.

For Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed!
Alleluia!

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the Spirit of life

CURRICULUM NEWS



BRETT VAN BERKEL
Deputy Principal
Learning & Teaching

Please find below an outline of my speech delivered at our open evening on Wednesday 31 March.
Thank you for taking the time to explore the learning opportunities available to you at Lavalla Catholic College.

When choosing a school, you need to decide how well the school can cater to your child's individual needs.
We believe Lavalla Catholic College does that better than any other school in Latrobe Valley.

Our Marist ethos guide the teaching philosophy at the College. We about inclusive, not exclusive education.

We commit to a six-year journey with you and your child to help them achieve their chosen pathway.
Our focus is upon;

- Every student, every day, engaged in learning opportunities that allow them to improve to make wise choices for themselves.

The strategies that we have put in place to achieve our focus of every student everyday centres on three main areas

1. Knowing our students

- Building and maintaining relationships to ensuring that every student is named and known.
- The feedback provided by current students and parents is that our teachers and support staff make our student feel safe and supported.
- The relationships are developed upon mutual respect.

Knowing our students by being evidence informed. Starting where the student are at;

- Our inclusive education looks to cater to all students.
- As part of this, we need to understand where your child sits on the learning continuum.
- Learning is a journey and each child may start their journey from different points. Having evidence to understand this is vitally important.
- We identify where your child is on this journey and will help support and stretch them as they need.

2. Assess appropriately-

- Teacher observations and assessments form a crucial part of the learning journey.
- Through observation and feedback on assessments, we can make adjustments to ensure each child can grow and succeed no matter their level.
- Your child may need to be stretched in a particular subject but supported in another.
- In knowing our students, we can make this discernment and adjust assessments accordingly.

3. Know our impact-

- In measuring growth the focus is upon the individual student doing their best no matter their starting point.
- We also have a specific focus on ensuring there are numerous opportunities for extension across all subjects.

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CURRICULUM NEWS

How do we achieve this?

- Pathways to meet the requirements of every child.
- Cater for students wanting to do medicine to gaining an apprenticeship

Year 7 and 8 - the foundation years – Specific programs aimed at continuing to build students' literacy and numeracy capacity.

- For example, our Renaissance reading program and Maths Pathway program assist in doing this.
- Students will also have a wide range of subjects to participate in, such as Religious Education, Science, Health and PE, Humanities, Technology (in the new technology centre), Music, Italian and Arts

Year 9 & 10 - provides numerous electives to start to explore pathways.

- The Careers team offers the support and guidance to assist your child in making this decision as they move in the senior years.
- VCE Enhancement opportunities- we currently have over 50 students doing a VCE or VET subject in Year 10.

VCE - Year 11 & 12-

- We have the greatest choice of VCE & VET subjects in Latrobe Valley.
- Catering to University and TAFE pathways
- In 2020 we had a student achieve a 99.6 ATAR (equal best in Gippsland), and over 13 students achieve above a 90 plus ATAR
- 92% of students received a first-round university offer in 2020

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)

- The VCAL program focuses on students who want to gain an apprenticeship, job or go to TAFE.
- In 2021 28 students gained an apprenticeship across a large number of trades.
- The Lavalla Catholic College VCAL program is a multiple state award-winning VCAL program. One of the best in Latrobe Valley.

We also focus upon developing the whole student via extra curricula- through RE retreats and immersions, Music programs, sporting opportunities and the sports enrichment program.

Working in partnership with parents

Working together to achieve success is vitally important.

We can keep you informed of your child's progress via a continuous feedback model. You can check your child's progress anytime as we use a Continuous feedback model. This is done via a Parent Access Module (PAM) You can see upcoming tasks, overdue tasks, task results, calendar events, excursion permission and attendance all in one place. Formal Semester Reports are provided twice per year. There are two Parent, Student, Teacher interviews one each semester. We also encourage your feedback to help us support your child's progress.

Finally, I would encourage you to speak to the student guides as they are our school's best advertisement.

Wishing you and your family a safe and happy Easter.

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STUDENT WELLBEING & OPERATIONS



DOUG DOHERTY
Deputy Principal
Student Wellbeing & Operations

Happy Easter everyone! I love this quote as it helps us to understand that our faith journey is one of invitation by God and just like our young people's education journey, we hope it is one of positive surprises and glorious outcomes.

Open Evening:

Term One is now complete and has been filled with many exciting activities and successes as mentioned throughout the previous newsletters. The term finished with our very successful Open Evening for the prospective families for 2022. We had over 240 families and 560 visitors who gave extremely positive feedback and great suggestions for future events. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and students involved. The work of over 130 students and 160 staff allowed us to conduct such an engaging and welcoming event.

I would also like to particularly thank the Transition Team (Alli Foster, Tina Weston, Nat Macpherson) and Megan Stewart-North (Student Leadership Leader) for their amazing organisational skills; as well as Belinda Plunkett, Kellyann Armstrong and Mel Zimora for their administrative support.

Enrolment Process

Great News – Enrolments are now open and will be completed on-line.

Here are the Key Dates for enrolments:

31st March	Enrolments for Year 7 2022 open
30th April	Enrolments for Year 7 2022 close, <i>(all applications after this date will incur the full \$200 application fee)</i>
17th – 21st May	Enrolment interviews held
4th June	Letters of offer sent out
25th June	Closing date for return of paperwork for acceptance

Orientation Day to be confirmed.

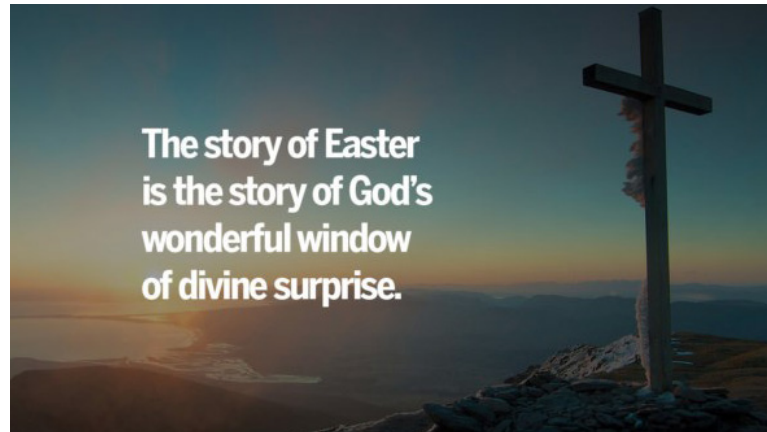
TERM 2

Uniform

Tuesday 20th April until Friday 30th April – Transition to Winter Uniform.

This means that students can wear either winter or summer uniform during this time. However, from Monday 3rd May all students must wear the full winter uniform.

Please be aware that we will be placing a special emphasis on enforcing our College uniform policy from the beginning of term 2. Please ensure that all your children are wearing the correct uniform and adhering to the requirements around facial hair for boys, facial piercings, etc. Please check the Uniform Policy on the College website and in your Child's Planner if you have any queries.



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STUDENT WELLBEING & OPERATIONS

Mobile Phones

Tuesday 20th April will be the start of our Mobile Phone Policy and Procedures, in line with every other school in Victoria. In short, mobile phones must be kept in a student's locked locker during the school day. A student may check their phone very briefly during recess and lunch at their locker.

If a student is found using their mobile phone outside of these times and places, the procedures will be implemented. Mobile Phone Procedures:

If a student is caught with their phone in class, at a College gathering or in the yard between 8.45am and 3.15pm, the phone will be confiscated by the staff member and handed to Reception at either Campus. The mobile phone must be placed in a sealed envelope and locked in the safe. Reception staff will record this by making an entry on SIMON.

1. The first time this occurs, the student can collect the phone at the end of the school day. The student must sign out the return of their phone in the Mobile Phone log book.
2. The second time this occurs, the student can collect the phone at the end of the school day and parents will be notified by SMS. The student must sign out the return of their phone in the Mobile Phone log book.
3. The third time this occurs, parents / guardians will be notified by the Wellbeing Leader / Head of House and a parent / guardian will be required to collect the phone at their earliest convenience.
4. The fourth time this occurs, parents / guardians will be notified by the Wellbeing Leader / Head of House and a parent / guardian will be required to attend a meeting with the Wellbeing Leader / Head of House to discuss their child's breach of the Policy and collect the phone. Additional consequences may be discussed at the meeting.

If a student is caught:

- Photographing, filming or streaming people without their knowledge or express permission or the consent of the College;
- Uploading or sharing any photos or video files to social media sites which bring the College or any College community member into disrepute or which may cause emotional or psychological harm;
- Sending harassing or threatening messages

The student's phone will be confiscated immediately and a fact finding process will be undertaken by the College. The College will apply appropriate consequences and pass information and the phone over to the police if the nature of the matter is illegal or if requested to do so by the police.

If, on any occasion, a student refuses to hand over their mobile phone when requested by a staff member, the staff member will request assistance from a senior member of staff. If a student still refuses to comply, parents / guardians will be contacted and required to collect their student from the College and make an appointment to resolve the issue.

Wishing all our families a Happy and Holy Easter – Please take the time to join an Easter celebration at one of your local churches.

Thanks and God Bless
Mr Doug Doherty

CATHOLIC IDENTITY & MISSION



ROBYN REBBECHI
Assistant Principal
Catholic Identity & Mission

Holy Week

One of the interesting things that happens in our world sometimes is that the events of Holy Week, the highpoint in the religious calendar for Christians, are often either limited to Good Friday and the tragedy of that day, or to Easter Sunday, with lots of talk about Easter eggs, but no reference to any other events. It is good to remember that, just like in life, the events of Holy Week moved from joy and triumph, the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to a moment of community and service, the shared meal at the Last Supper and the washing of the feet, to tragedy and sadness on Good Friday, and then to joy and hope on the day of the Resurrection, Easter Sunday.

As a College we commemorated the events of Holy Week this morning with liturgies on each campus. Students from the Year 12 Youth Ministry class, under the leadership of Mr Rathbone, prepared the liturgy for the Kildare campus, with Year 9 volunteer students leading the St Paul's campus in prayer. It was a lovely, prayerful way to farewell this first busy term, and I thank all those who took the time to prepare the liturgies for our students.



Year 8 Retreats

Two successful days of Year 8 Retreats were held this week, planned and led by Mrs Monica Justin. Further information about the retreat days will follow next term, however it is important to say how energetic the Year 8s were as they entered into the spirit of the day's activities, and how well they were led by the Year 12 Youth Ministry students.

Sincere thanks to all Yr 8RE and Homeroom teachers for your work with the students, and to Mrs Justin for the care and preparation which goes into such days. A lovely link was made at the end of the Retreats to the story of Jesus at the last supper, and his action of washing the feet as a way of serving his disciples. It was a clear message that love involves service, and that as friends to one another, we have a duty to care for one another.

Laps for Caritas

A very brief mention of the College's inaugural 'Laps for Caritas' events, held this week on both campuses, and organised by Mrs Georgie Robertson. Georgie will write more about this event, however I take this opportunity to thank her, and all of our students, who enthusiastically walked or ran around the College ovals, as a way of raising funds for Caritas, the overseas aid organisation of the Catholic Church. If we consider our actions to speak louder than our words, then the 408km walked by our students speaks loudly about our community's intention to care for those in need of our support.

Wishing you and your family a blessed and peaceful Easter, and some time of rejuvenation- (new life!) over the holidays.

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HOLOCAUST CENTRE



LISA TEMPLETON

English Leader

In the week of 22 March, Lavalla Year 10 English classes participated in a Zoom meeting with the Melbourne Holocaust Centre.

The students were able to use this opportunity to understand the background of the texts that they would be studying in term 2. The staff and volunteers of the Centre presented a virtual tour of the museum and the students were able to listen to the story and ask questions of a survivor of the Holocaust.

Thank-you to the staff and students for making this presentation such a powerful learning experience. Below are some of the students' responses to the meeting:

Some of my favourite and most memorable parts the of the day were when Joe told his story about him surviving the horrible treatment he experienced and made me think about how loved and well treated I am now.

Abbey Alkemade

It was a very interesting zoom call I found it very sad when the poor survivor Joe was talking about his past life and he was separated from his family and how he watched all his friends basically get murdered right in front of him, but he was extremely grateful that he and his 3 sisters were survivors.

Mia Buckton

We learnt about how after the war there were orphanages set up just for Jews as 6 million Jews were killed which left a lot of children parentless.

Joshua Dalton

This shows Joe and the Holocaust Team had a great message to send and wanted to make sure there is no other Hitler to ever exist. They had great words of advice and wanted to influence others to do the right thing and be better people throughout the world.

Cohen Campbell

To hear what he had to go through at such a young age, normalising death around him, losing his family for years and how the only way to survive was purely based on luck. But to hear his view on it now, that he doesn't blame the Germans, or hate, just because he knows that hate can only bring war and that all he wants is the new generation to know this, despite all he went through and what they did to him and his family, he still cannot hate them is a view everyone should have. The experience of this presentation was really once in a life time experience, to hear the words of a real survivor.

Keely Jones

HOLOCAUST CENTRE

But my favourite part of the presentation was when the Survivor talked to us about his story, his name was Joe Szczeberg, born in Poland and experienced a number of horrifying events throughout his childhood.

Faith Farmer

Joe's story also had some heart-warming parts including when Joe talked about hate, and how no one should ever hate because it is hatred that causes these outrages and massacres like the holocaust.

Ethan Jarvis

I learnt so much about the Holocaust and how discriminated and dehumanized the Jews were. It made me want to learn more about the holocaust because I thought it was incredibly interesting and it was beautiful to hear what it was like from someone who actually experienced it. Overall, I think it was a great experience and I think we were very lucky to have that opportunity.

Scarlet Lear

Joe was a sweetheart and had expressed he doesn't hate anyone not even the Germans for what they had done to him and his family, he showed us that hate just brings bad things and wants us not to hate.

Katarina Politakis

I really enjoyed learning deeper into the Holocaust and I would like to learn more about it another time.

Oliver Saliba

It was also heartbreaking when I heard that Joe had to watch his brothers get shot, and his mother die in one of the ghettos. I was also very inspired at the fact that he said that he does not hate anyone, even after what they did to him. I think that that takes a very strong and brave person. Overall, I enjoyed the presentation and found it interesting and heartbreaking, from the story of Joe to the artifacts at the museum.

Danae Sawers

I enjoyed was how interactive this presentation was instead of just being fed information and writing it down we were able to answer questions and ask them too. Lastly I was very happy to be a part of this presentation and am extremely grateful.

John Marcou

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the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)



LISA WILLIAMS
Science Leader

Term 1 Round Up

Despite a short, 5 day lockdown, it was otherwise exciting to see the full complement of scientific experiments running in classes this term. Year 7's learned how to use the Bunsen burner and how to separate mixtures using chemistry. The culmination of this will come next term when they will be challenged to separate all the components of a mystery sample by designing their own procedure. The year 8's investigated the rock cycle in Geology, growing crystals and creating multimedia presentations to communicate the rock cycle. In year 9 electricity was the topic. Students explored circuits by moving through a self-directed booklet of inquiry activities and using our new 'Good Science' text book to consolidate this knowledge.

Senior students also hit the laboratory. For example, looking at the reactivity of metals (chemistry) the inheritance of genes (biology) and how CO₂ traps heat (Enviro science). Our Environmental science students were also treated to an incursion organised by Ms McAllister where they learned about future technologies for managing CO₂ emissions.

Our future students were also treated to a sample of these experiments, at the Lavalla open evening on Wednesday 31st March. Our science teachers enthusiastically encouraged all budding scientists to try out the activities and look at what science means at Lavalla.



MUSIC NEWS



SHANE LEBBE
Dir. Music & Liturgy



With Term 1 coming to a close, we are really glad that we have been able to again offer our musicians some stability with face to face music lessons and a return to our morning ensemble rehearsals. We also bid our woodwind teacher, Aimee Bridgman, farewell as she finishes up with us after a little over four and a half years to pursue some exciting new career opportunities. We thank Aimee for the care she has always taken with her teaching and approach to building positive and supportive relationships with students, helping them to grow as musicians and value the work they do. We wish you well Aimee.

Members of our 2021 Training Band met this week over a cheeseburger lunch to plan for their first band rehearsal next term. These will commence weekly from Week 1 of Term 2 on Thursday mornings from 7:40am in our St Paul's Music rooms. Students were eager to meet one another and excited to be forming a community to rehearse and perform together at a variety of events throughout the year. It is not too late for year 7 and 8 students to get enrolled in lessons and become part of this fun and vibrant ensemble.

Our College's 2021 Open Evening, held on Wednesday the 31st of March, provided the ideal stage for our Concert Band, Jazz Band and Senior Jazz Combo to hold their first performance for the year. This was a fantastic opportunity to showcase to our families and prospective parents both the hard work of our musicians and rewarding experiences students can be a part of, as members of our music program. Our students represented our College outstandingly as everyone was excited to be back performing after a year of restrictions. Thank you to all involved, have a safe and happy Easter break and keep up the practice!



EQUESTRIAN

Congratulations to Charlotte Kanavan on her recent results at the Interschool Dressage Summer Championships. Charlotte travelled to Boneo Equestrian Centre to represent Lavalla in this state level competition, against some very tough competition. Charlotte prepared and rode beautifully to come home with 1st, 3rd and reserve champion on Prince Bobby and 2nd and 4th on Monaco. Congratulations Charlotte it is wonderful to see all of your hard work pay off.



SPORTS ENRICHMENT

It has been fantastic to be back in the gym and having morning Sports Enrichment trainings this term. We have had Tuesday morning core and recovery sessions, Wednesday morning skills and shooting basketball sessions, and Thursday morning strength and conditioning sessions. These sessions have been well attended and they have allowed us to build up a bond and a network of like-minded, determined athletes.

On the 15th of March the SEP students had the opportunity to attend a Sports Psychology incursion to refocus on their goals and their own training regime.

During this Sports Psychology sessions the focus of the day was to find their “WHY”. Why do you want to be an elite athlete? What drives them to succeed? What gives you purpose, motivation, determination, discipline...? Your “WHY” has to be powerful, deep and intrinsic. Developing a WHY is the best way to ensure you are making progress towards your goals and avoiding setbacks towards said goal.



As well as defining and writing down their “why” the athletes also revisited their goals and their plans to achieve them. They participated in activities to look at and develop their leadership skills.

Year 9 and 8 athletes also had an opportunity to attend Gippsland TAFE where they had access to jump pads, VO2 max machines, timing gates, virtual reality activities and video skill analysis.

KEY DATES

APRIL

Monday 19th April

Tuesday 20th April

Wednesday 21st April

Thursday 22nd April

Friday 23rd April

Thursday 29th April

Student Free Day – Catholic Identity

First day term 2

Year 10 Retreat – Mackillop and Nagle

Year 10 Retreat – Champagnat and Delaney

Year 10 Immunisation

ANZAC Day Ceremonies

Parent Teacher Interviews (Virtual)

MAY

3rd May

10th May

11 – 13th May

19th May

20th May

Year 9 Retreat (Group 1)

Full Winter Uniform

Year 9 Retreat (Group 2)

NALAN (Year 7 and 9)

St Paul's School Photos

Kildare School Photos

JUNE

8th June

9th June

10th June

11th June

14th June

17 – 25th June

21 – 24th June

21 – 23rd June

25th June

Champagnat Mass

General Achievement Test (GAT)

Year 12 English Oral Presentations

Year 9 English and Maths Exams

Student Free Day – Professional Practice

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Year 10 and 11 Exams

Year 11 VCAL Work Placement

Year 9 Exams

Year 12 Retreats

Last day of Term 2

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname _____

First name _____

Address _____

Town/suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Contact number _____

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - - **OR**

☐ Foster parent* **OR** ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

Child's surname	Child's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DHHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____



EASTER MESSAGE 2021

Christ Is Risen!

Recently one of our beloved priests died. I was blessed to pray with him and his closest friends on that day. It was a sad, but beautiful occasion. As we sat around his bed, his friends shared their stories of how he had touched their lives; It was clear they loved him dearly and were grateful that he had been part of their family for so many years. It was clear to me he had loved them too and their presence brought him enormous reassurance.

As we talked, I could not help but think of the reality of the Paschal Mystery – dying and rising.

I reflected on this priest's life and wondered at all the Holy Thursdays, Good Fridays and Easter days he had celebrated. Just as I was about to leave he awoke unexpectedly! He gave me a huge smile and gave me his blessing – it was if heaven and earth met for those few minutes. He was ready and peaceful. He awaited that final breath when he would see God face-to-face.

It is no mistake that we see the reality of the paschal mystery all around us! The pattern of dying and rising. We see this across our beautiful diocese marked in the beauty of autumn and as we fast approach the cold winter – we do so in the knowledge of Spring days and Summer harvest. We experience this too in our lives – dying and rising – loving and letting go – remembering and living.

We are mindful of the suffering of those who have lived through the torrential rains and flooding waters and losses they face. Once again we see the goodness of so many who quickly come to the aide of friend and stranger with such compassion.

Our news reminds of us the deep yearning for peace in Myanmar and other countries where people live in turmoil. There are tragic stories of individuals whose lives are beset by the violence and whose vulnerability is exploited by others.

St Paul uses a beautiful ancient hymn in his Letter to the Philippians:

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
Did not count his equality with God something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
Coming in human likeness.
And being found in human form he humbled himself
And became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.
(St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-8)

MOST REVEREND GREGORY BENNET BISHOP OF SALE

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www.cdsale.org.au

We will soon commence our spiritual journey through these three holy days of 2021, remembering that God came among us in his most perfect self-expression in his son, Jesus. A God who assumed our human condition in all things, but sin. A God whose face has been revealed in Jesus. A God who enters our human story and our suffering bringing healing, compassion, mercy and draws us into the communion of love. We enter these Holy Days of the Triduum not only to remember, but to live the reality of the love of Jesus who emptied himself in order that we would be filled with his love, forgiveness and salvation. He has died that we might rise.

Our spiritual journey commences as we enter:

Holy Thursday recalling the Last Supper and the call to service in the washing of the feet.

Good Friday we will remember the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. We will witness one another place our sufferings and prayer at the foot of the cross.

Easter Night we will gather around the fire recalling that the Risen Christ has conquered the darkness of sin and death.

Each year we celebrate this great Feast, we know the story, yet we hear it differently through the lens of our experience.

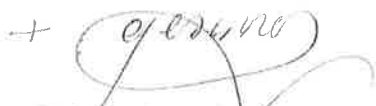
We remember our personal call to service as followers of Jesus and his enduring presence to us as we gather for Eucharist;

We remember our sorrows and painful losses;

We remember that our dying leads to life.

May the joy of Easter shine forth in us – may it illumine the darkness – may comfort in our sorrow – may it be our gift in our dying.

Christ is Risen, alleluia!


Bishop Greg Bennet
Bishop of Sale