



From the Principal

John M Freeman

ISSUE FOURTEEN

2021

Victorian Bishops' Statement on Afghanistan

Attached to this Newsletter is a statement from the Victorian Bishops on Afghanistan. I encourage you to read it.

I also received earlier this week a request from the Most Reverend Greg Bennett, Bishop of Sale to bring to the attention of our community an on-line initiative from the National Council of Churches in response to the crisis in Afghanistan. Which you can read below:

The Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service, and Bishops Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-religious Dialogue, have given their support to the initiative and have invited us to join with other Christians in calling for a special intake of Afghan refugees. Christians from across the Church, alongside a wider public movement, are being moved to speak boldly to our national government leaders to provide urgent action for the wellbeing of Afghan refugees. This is a moment which calls for solidarity by the Australian Church as one.

The call is simple:

We, the Australian Church, are calling on the Federal Government to welcome a special intake of an additional 20,000 Afghan refugees, and support the ongoing well-being of all Afghan refugees and their families.

Sign the urgent call

This is a loud and urgent call from Christians across all walks of life and perspectives, united in concern for the well-being of the Afghan community.

You are invited to take the simple step to sign up your to this call today, and show solidarity for this important issue.

It is the hope that as we unite as the Church, and show our government that we believe we are called to reach out and care for the vulnerable, that they will respond with a just and compassionate commitment to help the most vulnerable Afghan refugees.

I encourage you to review the website and to bring this invitation to the attention of our people.

With every peace,
MOST REVEREND GREG BENNETT
BISHOP OF SALE

PRINCIPAL cont....

National Child Protection Week

September 6th-12th marks National Child Protection Week. The theme for 2021 is: Every child, in every community, needs a fair go. To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family and community has what kids need to thrive and be healthy.

This is a national week of awareness-raising regarding the importance of keeping every child safe. Our young people today face very different challenges to those that we as parents experienced growing up. Challenges such as navigating social media, cyber safety, the impact of the pandemic and young people being exposed to family violence. We want our young people to have the best opportunities available. At the core of this hope is support of family along with the significant influence of peers and connection and success at school.

Lavalla Catholic College has an ongoing commitment to ensure the safety of every child is maintained at the highest levels possible.

If you are interested in exploring webinars on such themes as: Building communities that keep children safe from domestic and family violence or eSafety's guide to online sexual harassment and image-based abuse for Parents, the following link will provide you with that opportunity to engage- [HERE](#)

Student News

We congratulate two of our former students Emily Beecroft (Class of 2018) and Ruby Storm, who was a student here until Year 8 (2017) on their terrific performances in the pool as members of the Australian Paralympics Team in Tokyo. Their efforts and success are testimony to the enormous amount of work they commit to training, continuously striving to improve and the ongoing support they receive from their families.

Follow this [LINK](#) to an article recently published on the ABC News website on Emily Beecroft. It describes the commitment and sacrifices she has made as well as how Emily's family have worked hard to give her every opportunity to succeed.

On the last Friday before we re-entered Remote Learning our Training Band and Junior Jazz Ensemble performed at the Yarram Eisteddfod. Both of our ensembles took away first place in their respective sections. This was our Training Band's first ever performance and the Junior Jazz Ensemble's first performance since 2019. Congratulations to both groups and thank you to Shane Lebbe and all the music staff for their efforts in preparing the students and providing this opportunity.

Staff News

We welcome Corrine Evans as an Educational Support Officer.

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:

- Aaron Wright, father of Casey (Year 9), Cameron (2021), Dylan (2019) and husband of Karen.
- Maria Zimora, who recently turned 100 in January this year, passed away peacefully recently. She is the Grandmother of staff member Mel Zimora's husband and Great Grandmother (Babcia) of Lani Zimora (Year 11).
- Helen D'Souza, mother of Rita Nainie.

KEEPING CHILDREN
SAFE AND WELL
IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Together we can
help every child thrive

We can all...

...speak up if we see something that is
not safe for children

...talk respectfully with children and value
and act on their ideas

...help children thrive by supporting
families

...create places where children feel
safe to live, play and learn

For more information about how to play your part, visit www.napcan.org.au

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
6th-12th September 2020

SUPPORTED BY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

NAPCAN
www.napcan.org.au

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.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY & MISSION



ROBYN REBBECHI

Assistant Principal
Catholic Identity & Mission

The world news at the moment is full of challenging images, and we do our best with our students to try and raise issues which are important to humanity, without overwhelming them with the sadness of the world. This past couple of weeks, as well as dealing with the news of the increasing dangers of the Coronavirus pandemic, the screens of the world have been showing images of the people of Afghanistan, as their lives turned upside down again.

Bishop Vincent Long, in a recent edition of the magazine 'Eureka Street', published by the Jesuits, writes of his own experience as a refugee from war and chaos, and points out to us that our duty as 'people of faith, and Australians more broadly' is to 'stand for social and moral issues, because this is the only way that we can build the world we want to see in the future'.

Bishop Vincent writes:

I was one of the boat people who escaped from South Vietnam. The escape happened after South Vietnam had fallen to the Vietnamese communist forces in 1975, and my world descended into total chaos ... My siblings and I grew up in a world of poverty, isolation, oppression and constant fear of what might happen to us or our loved ones.

My Catholic faith compels me to try to address these kinds of injustices, ones that remind me of what I and my loved ones experienced in Vietnam. I believe in the universal and inclusive love of God, a love that seeks to embrace all people, most especially those at the periphery, who are experiencing poverty and injustice. (Eureka Street 30 August 2021 [Article](#))

The Australian Catholic Bishops have come together to call for Australia's compassionate response to the Afghanistan crisis. Rightly, they remind us of the place which many Afghan-born people have come to hold in Australia, and the rich contribution they have made to our community. A quote from the Bishops statement is below, but you may like to read the full statement [HERE](#)

We hold the people of Afghanistan in our prayers, and express a commitment to compassionate outreach for them throughout the world and here in Victoria.

We recognise the pain of family separation, and are deeply concerned for those who are living in safety in Australia while their homeland experiences such rapid and devastating changes.

While we recognise the limitations of the role that Australia can play in the context of this international crisis, and the complexity of the situation, we affirm that a just and compassionate response should guide our Government's decision making...Families being able to be together safely should be a priority at this time.

Although we are working and learning remotely once again, College staff gathered online this week to come together and pray for the people of Afghanistan, and more broadly, for the welfare of all those struggling in the world at the moment. I invite you to add your prayerful support to this cause, and pray for all people, all families in the world, particularly those who are facing danger, homelessness or separation from their loved ones.

Prayer:

For world leaders: that promises made to the Afghani people will be upheld by the international community.

For conversion of mind and heart: that all people of good will overcome hatred and division.

For Afghani women and girls: that hard-fought-for freedoms will endure, and courage be placed in their hearts.

For Afghani staff who have supported Australian personnel since 2001: that security and safety be extended to them in practical solidarity.

For people in all world trouble spots, including Yemen, Haiti, and countries most impacted by Covid-19.

For people of all faith traditions: that they will put aside differences and seek justice and peace together.
We pray: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

(Source: [ACSJC](#))

LEARNING & TEACHING



BRETT VANBERKEL

Deputy Principal
Learning & Teaching

We understand that this is a difficult time for many families, so we encourage you to support your child to maintain a routine for the next two weeks. Students should log in to Microsoft Teams classes when scheduled. This is a critical part of the support teachers can offer during Remote Learning. We are here to support your child's ongoing development. Reassure them that teachers understand the challenges faced at this time and will slow down if required. Students are encouraged to continue engaging with their Homeroom and Learner Advisors on Tuesdays and Thursdays who are keen to provide additional support.

To our Year 12 students and families, I can assure you that we are working towards providing whatever support we can to assist during this time. Every Victorian VCE Units 3 & 4 will be assessed through the Consideration of Educational Disadvantage process. VCE scores will be adjusted as necessary to account for any impact the pandemic has on students results. These adjusted scores will also be used to determine the ATAR. The Consideration of Educational Disadvantage (CED) process is being undertaken this week. It will factor in the interruptions to student learning, and adjustments will be considered for both Unit 3 and Unit 4 results. Further, we will be asking all Unit 3 & 4 students seeking an ATAR this year to apply for special consideration concerning the interruptions caused due to the Traralgon floods. We will continue to update information regarding the VCAA VCE exams and the Lavalla Catholic College trial exam as they come to hand.

General Achievement Test (GAT)

The GAT has been rescheduled and will take place on **Tuesday, 5 October**. More information regarding the procedures for completing the GAT will be provided closer to the date.



An arrow can only be
released by first pulling
it back. When life pulls
you back, it simply means
you're launching into
something amazing.

MUSIC NEWS



SHANE LEBBE

Dir of Music

With the current lockdown, our musicians might be looking for some fun events to get involved in outside of school. Monash University is hosting a free virtual Woodwind Day and our Flute, Oboe, Clarinet and Saxophone students might be interested in tuning in on Sunday 12th Sep to see what all the excitement is about and to pick up some great playing tips! Note that registration is free, but closes next Wednesday 8th of September. Students will hear from some outstanding professional musicians who specialise in these instrument groups and also get to see some student performances being work-shopped by these musicians.

If you are interested, you can get more information and register [HERE](#)

Please get in touch with us on music@lavalla.vic.edu.au if you would like any more information and our Brass and Percussion students should stay tuned for any upcoming events.



HEALTH CORNER



ASHLEIGH THAIN

School Nurse



BEING Body Kind

September is Body Kind Awareness month.

Finding ways to like, accept, love or even feel positive about your body can be challenging but we can all try to be a little kinder to ourselves and to each other. Whatever your size, shape, weight or appearance, every person can enjoy and deserves a positive body image.

A positive body image is essential to physical and mental wellbeing. With a balanced approach to nutrition and exercise you can build a healthy and positive body image.

Having a positive body image can improve:

- Self-esteem: how a person feels about themselves
- Self-acceptance: when a person feels comfortable with their appearance they are less likely to be impacted by societal and media pressures to look a certain way.

For more information, visit the [Butterfly Foundation](https://www.butterflyfoundation.org.au) or call them on 1800 334 673

Be **BodyKind** to your
body and to others

This September

BodyKind
SCHOOLS



"DON'T LET YOUR MIND
BULLY YOUR BODY."

— JUNE TOMASO WOOD

breathe
the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)

**Nobody is perfect.
I just don't believe in
perfection. But I do
believe in saying, 'This is
who I am and look at
me not being perfect!'
I'm proud of that.**

|
Kate Winslet