

## RE Matters!

Friday 16 February, was National Day against Bullying and Violence. The Prime Minister has called on students and schools to imagine a world which is free from bullying. The Gospel imperative calls each of us to treat others with respect and dignity, and in return, receive the same respect and dignity. As a Catholic College we look to Jesus as the great includer who provides the model and guide for us all; at least to attempt, to emulate. Fail as we might, we must not avoid our responsibility in answering the call to the Gospel. As a College we attempt to educate about bullying. This is a proactive and preventative approach. This happens through the formal curriculum in subjects such as PDHPE and Religious Education specifically, but also in all subjects, through the study of media, literature, history and the like.

To foster and maintain an inclusive community, we run whole days for students to form and develop relationships across year groups and strengthen those within their cohort. In the last fortnight year 8 took part in their Formation Day *Who Am I* and Year 10 *Launch into the Deep* Formation Day. The College hosted St Bernard's and St Mary's Year 2 Reconciliation Day. The CSYMA (Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia) Team ran the Day supporting our combined school's pathways.

Fr. Steven Bevans SVD said the church "is a mission with a community, not a community with a mission". The mission comes first. The community serves the mission. It is not a community that creates a mission for itself. Bringing God's love and the Good News of Jesus into the world is the mission; it is why we exist as a community. Our CSYMA students realise that: first – there is a mission. Second – there is a community. Then – there is the call to lead that community. The gifts the Lord has bestowed on them, that they have chosen to respond to develop, mean they bring something to this mission our community has judged valuable and admirable.

Watching these young leaders facilitate the Year 8 Formation Day and the Reconciliation Day was a credit to the College, themselves and their families. Their maturity and commitment to each activity was praised by our visiting teachers and parents. My hope is for these students to continue to grow in their awareness of the many graces granted to them as they serve the community this year. That their gifts and insights enrich us all.

As we journey into this fifth week of Lent Pope Francis suggests:

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others...

Fast from grudges and be reconciled...

Fr. Francis Carroll ... *Pray for Us*  
Live Jesus in our Hearts ... *Forever*

Mrs. Charlotte Nicoletti  
Coordinator of Religious Education and Faith Formation

# Year 8







## Dates for Your Diary

**Each Friday in Lent** - Meat (including chicken) will not be sold at the College Canteen

*Historically, flesh meat was eaten only occasionally and associated with feasting and rejoicing. Since Jesus sacrificed his flesh for us on Good Friday, we refrain from eating flesh meat in his honour on Friday's during Lent.*

**Thursday 29 March:** College Easter Service

## Parish Connect

St Bernard's Parish, Batehaven

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: 21<sup>st</sup> March at 5pm**

All are welcome to join with the children celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Wednesday. As we all prepare for Holy Week and Easter all are encouraged to receive Reconciliation at this time.

**Easter Mass Times:**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> @ 5pm: Reconciliation  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm: Palm Sunday Vigil Mass  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> @ 9am: Palm Sunday Mass  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> @ 10am: Stations of the Cross in the Church  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> @ 7pm: Easter Vigil Mass  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April @ 9am: Easter Sunday Mass  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April @ 11am: Easter Sunday Mass

**Stations of the Cross:** In this season of Lent we are invited to "walk the way of the cross" individually or together in a group on Friday mornings at 9am in the church. All are welcome.

**Weekly Lenten Programme:** Every Wednesday 9.30am or 7pm in the church meeting room. Please join at any time throughout the Lenten season.