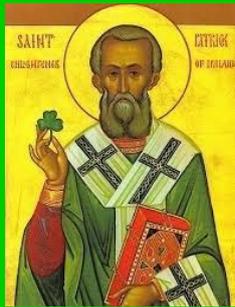


### The Prayer of St. Patrick

I arise today  
Through the strength  
of heaven;  
Light of the sun,  
Splendor of fire,  
Speed of lightning,  
Swiftiness of the wind,  
Depth of the sea,  
Stability of the earth,  
Firmness of the rock.



I arise today  
Through God's strength to pilot me;  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's way to lie before me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's hosts to save me  
Afar and a near,  
Alone or in a multitude.

Christ shield me today  
Against wounding;  
Christ with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit  
down,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of  
me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks  
of me,  
Christ in the eye that sees me,  
Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today  
Through the mighty strength  
Of the Lord of creation.

### Dear Members of the Kildare Ministries community

It feels strange to be welcoming you to a new year when we are mid-way through our Lenten season and Easter is upon us. It speaks of the speed and pace of things to think that the year still feels relatively new. So with all the spirit and energy that the New Year brings, we welcome you to 2015 and wish you every blessing for a fruitful year.

The inspiration for the Kildare Ministries Formation Programme for 2015 came from Pope Francis, when in 2013 he offered a beautiful analogy for educators. *"In educating, a balance must be maintained, your steps must be well balanced, one step on the cornice of safety but the other into the zone of risk. And when the risk becomes safe, the next step must venture into another area of risk. Education cannot be confined to the safety zone."* All of us who belong to Kildare Ministries are being called to hold a daring vision that will transform our Church, while at the same time keeping true to its mission.

Monsignor Eugene Harley, in one of his homilies at his Mosman Parish said: *"The Scriptures disturb us with their message....and are intended to"*. In our contemporary world and within the framework of our traditional Church, discerning the role of the lay people so that their voice and message can be heard, is the real work. We have asked ourselves: in what ways are we being disturbed? What is our safety zone and where is the risk zone? Like others before us, our emphasis is to strengthen our prophetic witness in a world of suffering.

The Brigidine and Presentation sisters have handed on a legacy that disturbs and challenges the status quo and encourages us to work with the marginalised. If their legacy is about witness then Kildare Ministries is called to hold this central *raison d'être* in the palm of our hands. We are called to renew, refresh and redefine this vision into something new and evolving. We draw on our baptismal obligation to lead and to discern how we can better serve today in order to transmit the legacy that has been personally handed on to us.

Through our formation programme of 2015 and beyond, the work of Kildare Ministries Trustees and the Principals, Managers, Chair of Boards and Stewardship Councils and all leaders in our ministries is to articulate the safety zone, that is, the thread that binds us and to be daring enough to enter into the zone of risk, that is, defining the new.

Erica Pegorer  
Executive Officer





## Justice and Democracy Forum Student Seminar

### *Fearless Voices*

Recently students and teachers from Kildare Ministries' schools attended an Educating for Justice Student Seminar in Melbourne. It was wonderful to welcome students from Brigidine College Randwick and their teacher to this event as well, thanks to the generosity of the NSW Brigidine Community. The theme was ***Fearless Voices*** and those gathered heard presentations on the impact of the loss of voice as well as the gift of empowerment that can occur when the voice of the vulnerable is restored. The plight of the Trafficked person, the Asylum Seeker, Aboriginal people, youth in trouble with the law and orphans were exposed in the light of this voicelessness. Students were invited to participate in the creation of eleven artworks under the careful guidance of Ms Cathy Maloney of Kilbreda College. These artworks were gifted to each school during the commissioning of students in the closing ceremony.



### *Our students noted:*

*... we met amazing fearless voices, who taught us so much of how we can alone improve the world with our own fearless voices. But even more importantly, how much more of a difference can be made when we work as a team, bringing all of our skills together.*

*... the information and first hand facts that were given to us, really changed the way we think and how we take certain things for granted. We were very confronted to find out that some of the bigger issues were happening right in our very own country. It was brought to our attention that we all have a voice and that we are all fearless leaders. ... we can be the face of*



**Killester's Opening School Mass** this year took on particular significance as we reflected on and celebrated our **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. Guests including local Principals, Brigidine Sisters, members of Kildare Ministries and Stewardship Council as well as past principals, Sr Helen Toohey and Sr Anne Boyd were in attendance. Reflections focused on themes such as the strong bonds of friendship formed, the spirit of the community and the true meaning of the school motto 'Strength and Kindliness'

## Brigidine presence at the Youth Festival

We note with interest the presence of four prominent Brigidines at the Marist Youth Festival held in Sydney in January 2015. **Brigid Arthur** gave the opening address and spoke passionately and earnestly about Asylum seekers in Australia and her role in the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project; **Laura Jones** was the second guest speaker. As we know, Laura is a graduate from Kilibreda College in Mentone and as her role as the **2014 Australian Youth Representative** to the United Nations was coming to a close, she was able to share not only her experiences at the United Nations but her findings about the key concerns that young Australians across all walks of life have today. **Sally McEniry** greeted people in her green 'organiser' T-Shirt. She is currently leading Marist Youth Ministry across Queensland and Northern NSW and graduated from our own St Joseph's College in Echuca.

She has volunteered in countries like India, the Philippines and Timor Leste. **Kate Fogarty**, former Principal of St Joseph's College Echuca, together with Br Emili Turu, Superior General of the Marist Brothers, closed the Festival. Kate's experience as a social justice advocate and her immersion experiences in Timor Leste motivated and engaged the young people present.

As a participant in the festival, there was an element of pride in seeing so many associated with our Brigidine schools and it gave strong witness to our Justice and Democracy work in our schools. Further, it reinforced that the fearless and courageous voice of social justice cannot be contained! These Brigidine women are only four examples of the hundreds in our Ministries that inspire and motivate others and through their work and in their daily lives bring hope, stir hearts and strengthen compassion.



Brigid Arthur csb & Br Jeff Crowe



Laura John



Brigid Arthur csb & Sally McEniry



Kate Fogarty & participants



Sally McEniry



Laura John

## AROUND THE TRAPS....

We are conscious that the boards of **Brigidine College Indooroopilly** and **St Ives, Star of the Sea College**, the boards of **Wellsprings** and **Presentation Family Centre** are in the process of making changes to their constitutions to reflect the movement from the Congregations to Kildare Ministries. We are aware a lot of work and care goes into these processes and we wish all the boards well as you carefully and sensitively make changes to your governance.



We congratulate Mrs Carmel Barker from **Marian College Ararat** and Mr Michael Delaney from **St Joseph's Echuca** on their recent Commissioning as principals, in their own communities and in their Dioceses.



We celebrate **Nano Nagel Day** on April 26 and wish all the Presentation sisters and our colleagues in Presentation ministries a happy feast day.



*With the help of God,  
we can do a great deal.*  
*Nano Nagel*

The Resource Team was delighted to attend the opening masses for many of our schools. Each celebration was a true reflection of the spirit that lives so obviously in our schools, offering hope and faith in every aspect of life. We congratulate all schools on their work with young people on their journey in faith and this week we keep in mind **St Joseph's Echuca** and **Star of The Sea College**, as they celebrate their Foundation Day on 20 March.

We congratulate **Brigidine College Indooroopilly** for the successful intake of 144 new Year 7 students as well as 77 Year 8 students. Together with 14 new staff members the college has experienced a tremendous growth in its community in 12 months. Congratulations also to Brendan and his Leadership team for a successful transition after many years of careful planning and strategizing.

### Keep in your prayers:

Michael Doyle who is undergoing treatment for illness and the Brigidine Community as they grieve the loss of Catherine Kelly csb.



**Catherine Kelly csb** died peacefully on Thursday 12 March. She had been diagnosed with terminal cancer only 4 weeks previously. Catherine spent much of her 58 years of her Brigidine life in schools as a teacher and school principal. She was also involved in teacher education and lectured at both Christ College and Yarra Theological Union. She was a member of the Brigidine Resource Team and BSSC where she offered specialist help in religious education. A special aspect of this work was in supporting the JDF, a program in each of the Brigidine Victorian and SA schools. In 2001, Catherine became one of the coordinators of BASP and she devoted most of her time since then to working with people coming to Australia seeking protection. Catherine will be sorely missed by many but in particular by many of the asylum seekers she has supported.

*We wish to thank all who have sent expressions of sympathy through emails, cards and flowers*

## Information Sharing:

The article below reflecting the dynamic nature of the work of our Trustees and Boards. I offer a précis for your interest.

### What do your not-for-profit directors want?

Posted on **March 11, 2015** by CompliSpace

The results of the [2014 NFP Governance and Performance Study](#) (the Study) by the Australian Institute of Company Directors have revealed some interesting insights into the priorities and concerns of not-for-profit (NFP) boards. Importantly, NFP directors are pushing for greater reporting of non-financial information, including on whether they have achieved their NFP's mission.

#### Key findings

Some key findings of the Study are that:

- non-executive directors spend 13% of their time on risk oversight and 12% on compliance;
- 40% of directors want more non-financial information, specifically on risk;
- 50% of directors believe board performance is not measured effectively;
- 17% of boards are seeking to change their legal structure. 60% of NFPs are currently incorporated associations, 12% unincorporated associations and 14% are companies limited by guarantee;
- mergers are being discussed by 30% of boards;
- nearly three-quarters of non-executive directors (NEDs) reported that their boards had undertaken one or more forms of formal professional development (PD) in the last year;
- more than 60% of NEDs believe the relationship between their board and their CEO is 'very good or excellent'; and

and an NFP director spends an average of 20 hours a month working for a single NFP.

We elaborate on some of these key findings below.

#### Director contribution is significant

The amount of time a director spends working for an NFP varies between size and sector. Directors in the philanthropy and volunteering sector spend the most time working for their NFP organisation, working an average of 23.6 hours a month. The least amount of hours was spent by directors working in economic development and housing, averaging 17.9 hours per month.

The health sector is the sector with the highest number of paid directors, with 31% being paid, compared to 2% of directors being paid in the culture and recreation sector, **and none being paid in the religious sector.**

#### Directors want more non-financial information

The Study found that approximately 60% of directors want more measures of achievement of their organisation's mission and half want more non-financial performance measures in general.

**About 40% specifically want more information about risk, data on the sector and information on achievement of financial benchmarks.**

Investing in resources and research to measure if an NFP is actually achieving its mission is clearly now recognised by board members as a beneficial investment. The increased transparency that this data can bring to an organisation's operations, can also add important credibility to NFPs.

#### Changing legal structure

The Study showed the continuously 'evolving' state of NFP governance structures. According to the Study *'approximately one third of boards are planning revisions to their organisation's constitution (or equivalent document such as statement of purpose, rules, and articles of association) in the next 12 months'*.

The drive to make these changes was prompted by *'a need to revise outdated procedures; improve organisational agility; or change mission or purpose in response to changing client needs; or in response to changing legal obligations.'*

As a consequence of changing governance structures, organisations will also be reviewing their board structures including their composition.