



Joyous Christmas
blessings from all of
us at
Kildare Ministries

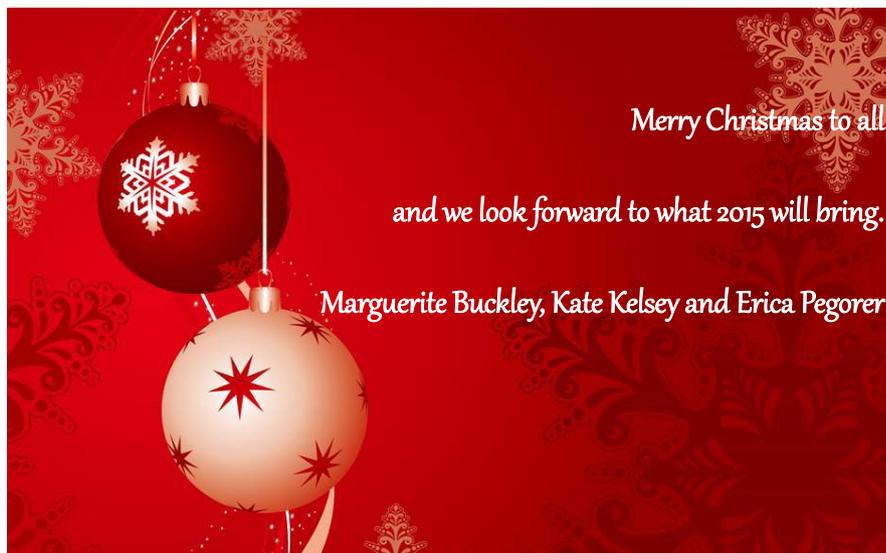


As Catholic educators we can bring God's blessings to all in our world, even those who have no time for our Church and not much interest in our God. Remember how Pope Francis ended his address to the journalists in Rome with a blessing with a difference. He said:

I told you I was cordially imparting my blessing. Since many of you are not members of the Catholic Church, and others are not believers, I cordially give this blessing silently, to each of you, respecting the conscience of each, but in the knowledge that each of you is a child of God. May God bless you!

Now that's what I call a real blessing for journalists – and not a word of Vaticanese. Respect for the conscience of every person, regardless of their religious beliefs; silence in the face of difference; affirmation of the dignity and blessedness of every person; offering not coercing; suggesting not dictating; leaving room for gracious acceptance. These are all good pointers for those of us who are Catholic educators helping to form the Church of the 21st century holding the treasure of tradition and ritual in trust for all the people of God, including the next generation who are our students, as we discern how best to make a home for God in our lives and in our world, assured that the Spirit of God has made her home with us. As Catholic educators, our first task is to enter the world of mystery of those children entrusted to our care.

In fact, these pointers are relevant to all of us regardless of our work. When we encounter others, either socially or professionally; whether as family, friends, colleagues or strangers and our hearts are open to who they are then we have a true encounter. Marguerite, Kate and I wish for you all a special encounter with Christmas this year and may you find in your hearts an abundance of joy, grace and hope. We thank you too for your support of us this year and for the spirit with which you entered this new adventure.



Inaugural Meeting of Leaders in Kildare Ministries



Against an inviting backdrop of Port Phillip Bay and a warm and pleasant day, leaders in Kildare Ministries met each other for the first time at the Brigidine Ministry Centre on the 10th October 2014. The Trustees hosted the inaugural meeting of the Members' Council, Principals of Colleges, Managers of Community Works and the Chairs of Boards and Stewardship Councils. The day began in the graced and sacred space of our traditions and histories and, in the telling of the journey we heard something of each Ministry and its significance in the development of Kildare Ministries.

The remainder of the day was led by **Annette Schmiede** and **Maree Marsh** as co-chairs of the Trustees where they addressed questions that the participants posed before the meeting. Significant and thoughtful questions fell into the following categories:

Vision

Relationships

Governance

Finance

Formation

At the end of the meeting each of the participants was commissioned by the Trustees with a plaque (pictured below) that captured a significant prayer from the launch ceremony earlier in the year. The feedback from the day was very positive and it would seem that all enjoyed the opportunity to gather, to get to know each and to share a meal but also to learn more about the work of Kildare Ministries and how each ministry contributes to this great enterprise. Some feedback comments include:-

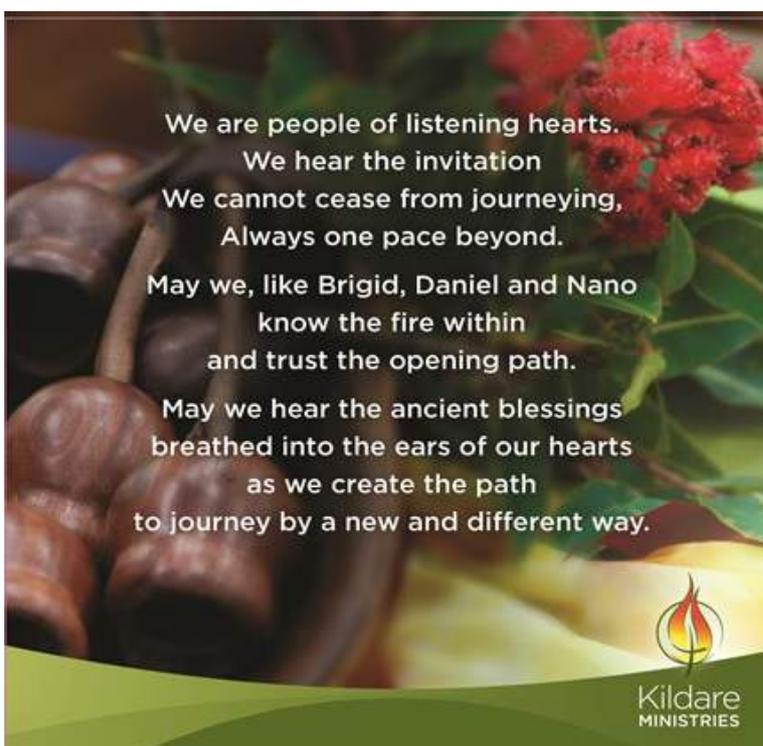
A sense of togetherness was fortified today

The table discussions helped to identify a common identity through each ministry

Essential to talk to each leader individually and to learn about each ministry

Looking forward to the future and how it might unfold. It was enormously worthwhile to connect with others

The Trustees were very appreciative of the effort that everyone made to come together, some needing to take a day of recreational leave from their work in order to be present. The Trustees take this opportunity to thank each and every one for their enormous spirit of generosity in the way they contributed to the energy and work of the day.



Annette Schmiede



Marguerite Buckley & Anne Young



Kathleen Donnellon and Louise Cleary

Blessing and Opening of the Brigidine Ministry Centre

54 Beaconsfield Parade, Albert Park

24 October, 2014

Many people gathered for the blessing and opening of the Brigidine Ministry Centre. The ritual acknowledged the 109 years of history in the building known previously as Kilbride. Many and varied ministries had responded to the needs of the times over the years here. As part of the ritual, each group now engaged in ministry at this refurbished centre, went forward and blessed their work areas:

ACRATH, Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project, Kildare Ministries and Other Community Ministries

The final prayer of the ritual and the official opening of the doors encapsulates the vision we have for the centre as a community for mission.

May this building always be our reminder of a rich legacy and its doors be a symbol to all who cross its threshold to contribute their gifts and life giving experiences. As the old passes away and the future now opens before us, may this centre become a place of depth, blessings and support, one for the other.

Let us all process through the open doors into a new beginning, mindful that we enter into the inheritance of all that has preceded us, bearing within us stories of hope, inspiration and faith in a new dream. The world awaits for those who will carry the dream forward into a new day. It waits for us.



Margaret Fyfe csb and Margaret Hill csb opening the doors as part of the ritual



Bernadette Jess, Jane Keogh csb, Anita Murray csb



Angela Ryan csb and Brigid Arthur csb



Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project



Kildare Ministries' Leaders bless their room

Jude Caldwell csb and Anne Boyd csb



Mary Myers csb, Maryanne Confoy rsc, Anne Hill csb

Wellsprings for Women's

Fundraising Dinner

Wellsprings for Women Inc held its Annual Fundraising Dinner on the evening of October 24. More than 200 people gathered at the Freccia Azzuro Club in Melbourne's south east for an evening of "funraising" and to celebrate Wellsprings' 20th Birthday. Board Chair, Anne Astin welcomed Councillors Angela Long, Roz Blades and Matthew Kirwan and Mark Doubleday, Executive Director for Community Development from the City of Greater Dandenong who spoke of the valuable work done by Wellsprings for the local community. She also thanked the many supporters, volunteers, participants, Board and staff for their contribution to a successful event. Trustees and staff of Kildare Ministries, staff from Iona College in Queensland, Kilbreda College in Mentone and Margaret Daniels csb from the Board of Brigidine College, St Ives mingled with the family of the founder of Wellsprings, Ann Halpin' pbvm (RIP), Presentation sisters and representatives from local parishes and schools. The highlights of the evening were the stories of three participants' experiences at Wellsprings spanning two decades, beautifully told by the Manager, Veronica Hassett, the Afghan male dancers, and the Wellsprings Choir. A certificate was presented to Mr Andrew Walsh, Principal of St John's Regional College in appreciation for the \$10,000 donated by Year 12 students from their Making a Difference (MAD) Day. The profits raised from the dinner and its activities was approximately \$17,000 which will be utilised in Wellsprings Outreach programs.



Maree Marsh
csb Trustee
Veronica Hassett,
Manager



Celebrations at
the Fundraising
Dinner



Wellsprings held its General Meeting on 11th September, 2014 with about 60 people attending. The Chairperson, Anne Astin presented the Annual Report and Manager, Veronica Hassett delivered the Operational Report. Sr Bernadette Keating pbvm, Leader of the Congregation, Presentation Sisters Victoria spoke about the history of the Presentation Sisters and the partnership between the Brigidine Sisters Australia and Presentation Sisters, Victoria.

Transitions in Leadership



Board Chair, Brigidine College St Ives

Anne Garvan, Board Chair of Brigidine College, St Ives, has concluded her term in leadership. The community of Kildare Ministries thanks Anne for her generosity and commitment, both as a member of the Implementation Committee prior to the launch of Kildare Ministries and as Board Chair of Brigidine College St Ives. Anne brought her extensive experience in educational leadership as principal, Catholic Education Office consultant and Trustee in EREA, her appreciation of Brigidine values and her wise and thoughtful mind and heart to the many tasks she graciously undertook. We warmly thank you Anne and wish you well for the unfolding journey ahead!



Kitty Guerin will take up her role as Chair of the Board of Brigidine St Ives in 2015. Kitty's extensive career in education includes teaching roles in State, Catholic and Independent schools in Australia, England and Nigeria. Kitty was the first 'lay' principal at two Catholic, independent girls schools, firstly at St Clare's College Waverly and then at Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta. In leadership, Kitty has ensured that the colleges have kept a strong tradition for providing excellence in education for girls, coupled with involvement in social action and advocacy. Kitty was introduced to Brigidine spirituality through her teaching at Brigidine College Randwick in the mid-seventies. We warmly welcome you Kitty to the role of Board Chair at Brigidine College St Ives.



Kate Fogarty leaves St Joseph's College Echuca to take up a position as Principal at Assumption College Kilmore. In her time at St Joseph's Kate has been committed to leading the school in embracing contemporary learning. She has supported wholeheartedly the whole school use of technology to support learning. Kate has inspired staff to develop a wide range of innovative programs to address student learning needs. She has introduced ground breaking approaches to furnishing learning spaces that support these programs. Kate has overseen a good deal of refurbishment of the library and other classrooms as well as the renovation of Cill Dara and the building of the Oak Centre.

Kate's deep commitment to her faith has been lived out in her involvement in the life of the local parish and that of the Sandhurst diocese. She has brought this dedication to all her dealings with all members of the St Joseph's community. The community of Kildare Ministries congratulates you Kate on your appointment and wish you well in this new challenge.



Michael Delaney has been Principal at Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College, Leongatha since July 1999. Prior to that he held leadership roles of Deputy Principal at Mary MacKillop College, Year 9 & 10 Coordinator, Year 11 & 12 Coordinator and VCE Coordinator at St Joseph's College, Ferntree Gully. Michael's teaching areas include Religious Education, Mathematics, ICT and Science. He and his wife, Shauna have three children, the youngest of whom has just completed Year 12. Michael and Shauna are excited to be moving to Echuca and settling into a new community. Michael is looking forward to working with the St. Joseph's College Echuca community to continue providing quality Catholic education to the students entrusted to its care. The community of Kildare Ministries congratulates you Michael on your appointment and wish you every success as you embark on the role of leading St Joseph's College through the next phase of development.



John Crowley leaves Marian College Ararat to take up the position of Principal at St Patrick's College Ballarat. Since 2009 John has been an energetic and purposeful steward, adopting the Core Values of a Brigidine education to inform his vision for the school. John's dealings with staff, students and families have been marked by his commitment to his faith and his deep compassion for the other. He has always had the needs of the students at the centre of all that he has undertaken at the school. His leadership has been marked by a significant growth in student numbers. To accommodate this John has overseen a comprehensive building and refurbishment program as well as the purchase of land that sees the school fully able to provide students from this central goldfields region of Victoria with a contemporary and relevant educational setting. John's use of the mantra "*Honour the learning*" has ensured that students are at the centre of all decisions made at the school. He has touched all aspects of life at Marian in a most positive way and leaves the college with solid foundations for future growth. The community of Kildare Ministries congratulates you John on your appointment and wish you well in your new challenge.



Carmel Barker is already well known at Marian College, having begun her employment there in 2012 as *Head of Learning and Teaching* and a member of the College Leadership Team. Her exceptional skills in leading the Learning and Teaching agenda will hold her in good stead as she assumes the role of principal. Prior to joining Marian College, Carmel held leadership positions in Queensland where she also taught for 15 years. Carmel holds qualifications in Leadership, Management and Theology and is a teacher of English and Literature. She is married to Russell and they have two children, and one grand-daughter. Carmel is excited about the challenge of continuing the agenda of improving Learning and Teaching and providing even more opportunities for the students of Marian College. The community of Kildare Ministries congratulates you Carmel on your appointment and wish you every success as you embark on this new chapter for Marian College.

Brigidine Leaders Meeting:

Pat Dimeck, Margaret Daniels, Margaret Fyfe, Louise Cleary, Margaret Hill, Chanel Sugden, Sue Chambers, Dorothy Costigan
Seated: Doris Testa, Ann Harrison, Claire Griffin, Trish Buckley



Congratulations to the newly appointed leadership team for the Presentation Congregation Victoria.

Helen Carboon, Joan Power, the new Congregational Leader- Maria Lazzaro; and Nola Vanderfeen.

Kildare Ministries Principals hosted at the Presentation Family Centre in Balraring 5-6 November 2014

Presentation Family Centre was the venue for this year's Kildare Ministries Principals' retreat and reflection days during 5-6 November. The Principals were made to feel very welcome by **Ishti Griffiths**, the Centre Manager and **Rod Harding**, the Chair of the Board. The Principals enjoyed a very informative presentation by Ishti, Rod and Joan Power pbvm and Mary Keogh pbvm. The Principals were very grateful for the warm and gracious hospitality and spirit of welcome that embraced them and they listened attentively to the presentations, making links with their schools and how this relationship could be mutually beneficial. There were lots of exchange of details and promises made for continued support. That evening, the group was joined by Board members and enjoyed an exquisite meal at Lazzars Winery.

Dr Rose-Marie Prosser (KM Trustee) led an enthralling conversation about Pope Francis and his recent work, *The Joy of the Gospel*. Rose-Marie has a gift of being able to demystify our Church and its inherent rules and teaching. Her approach to theology is to free the hearer and encourage fresh insights into our faith leadership.

Joe McCarthy led the second day and shared with us his insights into the demands, challenges and inspirations of lay leadership for the mission of the Church. Having worked for many years as a Marist lay leader, he talked about the 'evangelising pulse' for formation programmes and the need to identify and belong to a 'spiritual family'. In terms of the development of Kildare Ministries' spirituality, he challenged us by asking, "What do we have to do to look into the future without fear? The answer? ..."Suspend disbelief and engage in the mystery!"

KM Principals would like to extend their thanks and appreciations to Ishti and Rod for being such welcoming hosts and for the organisation involved and also to Dr Prosser and Joe McCarthy for the generous sharing of their experiences and insights.



Justice and Democracy Forum

The final student seminar day for the Justice and Democracy Forum was held in October, before senior students finished school to prepare for their end of year exams. We gathered at the Kildara Centre in Malvern and were delighted to welcome students from Star of the Sea College Brighton to this gathering. We enjoyed a guided reflection on the legacy of Brigid of Kildare, Nano Nagle and Daniel Delany. The mood of the group was very open to this exploration, with teachers sharing stories of these significant founding people. This led the group into considering the theme for this year's work: *Taking Responsibility for Justice*. This has been a rich theme, offering students a broad horizon from which to delve into issues of injustice in our world today.

Students from each school shared highlights of their year. We enjoyed presentations from each school that was present and heard about a huge variety of activities that have been undertaken this year. From winter sleep-outs to hosting a visit from the UN Youth Ambassador of the Year, Laura John (ex Kilbreda College); from holding events designed to teach students about Fair Trade to learning more about human trafficking; from supporting asylum seekers with material goods to making paper boats for display

throughout school corridors, our students have explored issues of injustice in a myriad of ways. Kildare College even helped to organise a student social justice conference which was hugely successful. To see students from 7 Adelaide schools stand together, claim that a current issue was burning in each of them and decide to take particular action was a moment of true inspiration for all the teachers who were present.

All of this has required students to learn about issues and share this knowledge with others. Ultimately this has led them to embark on appropriate action which has been purposeful and effective.

At this day, we were also privileged to have Christine Carolan, executive officer of ACRATH, as a guest speaker. She spoke of the impact of advocacy and what members of ACRATH have been able to achieve via the democratic process. This helped students see that there can be very real achievements when striving to bring about justice in our world. The day capped off a great year for the Forum in schools.



Brigidine College Indooroopilly Justice & Democracy students completed the year with our peaceful protest walking the borders of the G20 summit. Placing over 300 boats made by Brigidine students on designated borders around the G20 border, signifying the fragility of life for refugee peoples and the arbitrary nature of sovereign borders.

Kildare Education Ministries Business Managers Meeting Kildare College, Holden Hill, Adelaide, September 5th

Business Managers from the seven colleges that now operate under the sponsorship of Kildare Education Ministries are continuing their long held practice of meeting twice in each year with the most recent meeting held in Adelaide.

Key items on the agenda included:

- Organisation of a consolidated Somerset financial analysis report that covers all seven schools within the one reporting document. This report will be in addition to an existing benchmarking document, administered annually, that covers key performance indicators relating to school finances.
- Commencement of a process to conduct an annual audit of insurances held by each school.
- Lengthy discussion and revision of the Manual of Delegations document. This document outlines the authorities held by key people within the overall structure of Kildare Ministries and Kildare Education Ministries. An important revision to this document is the requirement for a school budget to be referred to Kildare Education Ministries if a school fee increase of over 5% is proposed, or if cash reserves are forecast to fall lower than three fortnightly salary payments. Apart from this requirement, budgets are approved by local Stewardship Councils. The delegations document also stipulates situations that require the approval of the Trustees of Kildare Ministries, for example borrowing for capital projects.
- Preliminary discussion about the context for establishing 2015 school budgets including government grant increases and salary increases.
- Discussion of strategies to ease the burden of complying with Occupational Health and Safety requirements.

An important part of the gathering of Business Managers was the inspection of the extensive and impressive refurbishment works at Kildare College .



Official Opening and Blessing of The Oak Centre St Joseph's College Echuca

The Oak Centre includes an Allied Health Trade Skills Centre , full sized basketball court, music centre, open plan learning spaces and a covered outdoor learning area. A current student was successful in naming the building from a competition that was conducted within the college. The centre resides near the big Oak tree within the front yard.

The Opening of the new centre will be in conjunction with our Students Awards Evening, on Monday 15 December, commencing at 6pm with tours, and the official opening commencing at 7pm. The Hon. Dr Sharman Stone MP, Member for Murray, will conduct the official opening.

The Oak Centre, Classrooms and Gymnasium Project was partly funded by the Australian Government under the Capital Grants Program and the St Joseph's College Community. The Trade Skills Centre, Allied Health Project was provided by the Australian Government.





Brigidine College St Ives, Remembrance Day



Clonard College Geelong, Spelling Bee



Killester College student's winning entry in 'Best Representation of Communities' photo competition



Star of the Sea College, Inter Faith Program



Kilbreda College Mentone, 'Hidey' selected for the "Archibull" finals



Kildare College Holden Hill, Brigidine Day Celebrations



Presentation Family Centre



Marian College Sunshine West Resource Centre



St Joseph's College Echuca, Year 10 Outdoor Ed Camp



Wellsprings for Women Fundraiser, Veronica Hassett and Anne Astin

**Kildare Ministries Schools
and Community Works**



Brigidine College Indooroopilly Choir



Marian College Ararat, Window Gallery

KILDARE MINISTRIES TRUSTEES MEETINGS

No	Date
1	Wednesday 4 February
2	Saturday 28 March- Tuesday 31 March
3	Wednesday 6 May
4	Wednesday 10 June
5	Wednesday 22 July
6	Wednesday 2 September
7	Wednesday 14 October
8	Wednesday 25 November



Justice and Democracy Forum– students

No	Date
1	Monday 23 –Tuesday 24 February
2	Wednesday 17 June
3	Tuesday 20 October

JDF– Coordinators

No	Date
1	Monday 11 May
2	Friday 4 December

Kildare Ministries– All Principals

Number	Date
1	Friday 8 May
2	Monday 3 August- Tuesday 4 August

Kildare Ministries Leaders– Principals and Managers of Works

No	Date
1	Friday 6 March
2	Monday 26 October

Religious Education & Faith Leaders

No	Date
1	Monday 16 March
2	Friday 5 June
3	Tuesday 18 August
4	Thursday 19 November

Kildare Ministries Staff Induction

Number	Date
1	Monday 27 April
2	Friday 21 August

Seminar Days– Leadership Members, RECs and other potential leaders

Number	Date
1	Thursday 21 May
2	Tuesday 28 July
3	Tuesday 1 December

Pilgrimage Briefing– 2015 Pilgrims

Number	Date
1	Thursday 7 May
2	Monday 31 August