

Prayer

On this day,
let us say
this is simply the way
love moves
In its ceaseless spiralling,
turning us toward
one another,
then sending us
into what waits for us
with arms open wide to us
in welcome
and in hope.
On this day,
in this place
where you have
poured yourself out,
where you have been
emptied
and filled
and emptied again,
may you be aware
more than ever
of what your heart
has opened to
here,
what it has tended
and welcomed
here,
where it has broken
in love and in grief,
where it has given
and received blessing
in the unfathomable mystery
that moves us,
undoes us,
and remakes us
finally
for joy.
This day
may you know
this joy
in full measure.

(from *This Day We Say Grateful*
© Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com)



Pokémon, excarnation, and human connectedness



virtual placement of Pokémon balls.

This past week while driving to work I noticed a new VicRoads sign. It was another piece of mounting evidence that the world has gone Pokémon mad. On the same day my husband, a teacher, came home exasperated that his yard duty roster had to be reorganised to accommodate for the

I must confess to being a former victim of such virtual insanity. There was a time I was so addicted to Farmville I was setting my alarm to ensure I harvested my crops before they died. I understand the attraction of these games, particularly for young people. Users will defend their popularity on the basis that they are simply harmless fun (although VicRoads seem to think otherwise). But as I watched my 12 year old son play in his first football final on the weekend, I reflected on all the benefits he gains from being part of that team and wondered what impact our heavy and regular online engagement has on our sense of 'real' connectedness.

I recently attended a presentation by William Cavanaugh, Professor of Theology at DePaul University in Chicago. It was the first time I have heard the term 'excarnation', coined by Charles Taylor in his book *'A Secular Age'* to describe the disembodiment of our spiritual lives. As Prof Cavanaugh explained it we are living in an age of rapid consumerism, characterised by the fleeting nature of what satisfies us. This week Pokémon Go is the must-have app, but who knows what might be next? By the time this piece is published the world may well have moved on.

Excarnation in this context refers to a lack of deep personal engagement with the world around us, and an 'easy come easy go' attitude towards the objects which fill our days. This is problematic if it undermines our innate human need for connectedness. As Prof Cavanaugh put it, there is only so much virtual reality our students can take before they need something they can sink their teeth into. Our Christian faith is the antithesis of this; enfleshed in the person of Jesus it is inherently *incarnational*. We long for an embodiment, an enmeshment in our world that fully engages us in all facets of our being – mind, heart, body and soul – such that our very existence is held in a loving embrace.

While I'm only mildly puzzled by the Pokémon craze, I'm deeply troubled by the pain of our world. Each day seems to bring fresh news of horror inflicted by humans on one another; bombings, shootings, acts of senseless terrorism, the rise of civil conflict, state-sanctioned executions and judicial systems which cause more harm than healing, adversarial political contests laced with racism, misogyny and other hurtful forms of bigotry. There is an ever-present air of hatred and fear of 'the other', in whatever form that other may appear. But I am also detecting, like a dandelion appearing through the crack in a footpath, a yearning for re-engagement, a groaning to be held. We live in a world crying out for closer connectedness; deeper and more meaningful relationships which respect, value and indeed love the other. In the words of a well-known song *what the world needs now is love, sweet love*, a love that is deeply, beautifully and mysteriously incarnational. So by all means enjoy chasing those Pokémon balls, but don't forget to look up from time to time to engage with the real world.

Andrea Grant
Mission & Ministry Mission Leader



Clonard College

Geelong

Celebrating 60 Years

60 Year Staff Celebrations - The 60 Year Celebration Dinner held at The Pier in Geelong on Friday 4 March was a wonderful evening. It was very pleasing to see a mix of current and former staff and their partners, Brigidine Sisters and Kildare Ministry guests, past Principals and Stewardship Council members in attendance. See below pictures taken on the evening of the wonderful display of memorabilia, table centrepieces and some Old Collegians enjoying their evening. The table centrepieces visually traced the story of Clonard's charism as well as acknowledging our future as a Kildare Ministries school.



60 Year Celebration Birthday Cake - On Friday 24 June (last day of term 2), students and staff had the opportunity to gather to cut the 60th Birthday cake to finish the term. Whilst it was disappointing to have to postpone our Brigidine Day celebrations due to inclement weather, students participated in the House Choir and Talent Quest during the afternoon. We very much look forward to Brigidine Day which is scheduled for the last day of Term 3 (Friday 16 September).

6 for 60 Campaign - Clonard College is in the midst of a '6 for 60 Campaign' to celebrate our 60 years. As Clonard is a school that aims to grow compassionate and empathetic women, students aim to raise \$6460 to contribute towards the development of an 'all abilities' swing for the Presentation Family Centre. Funds are raised through the young women challenging themselves with things they enjoy and feel passionate about, they ask for sponsorship off family and friends to complete the challenge they have set themselves. The campaign is running over Term 2 and Term 3 allowing the girls to successfully achieve their goal, which is required to be in a multiple of six keeping in the theme of 60 years, i.e. a student may decide to try shooting 60 goals of netball over a season. The campaign can also be completed in teams, for example the Year 12 cohort has challenged themselves to walk six thousand laps of the large grass area in their school grounds amongst their studies. For more information there is a Facebook page called 'Clonard College 6 for 60' Campaign <https://www.facebook.com/Clonard-College-6-For-60>



ST BRIGID'S Chapel - Friday November 4 will be a significant day in Clonard's sixty year history when hours of planning, designing and creating will finally be realised when St. Brigid's Chapel is blessed and opened. Much has gone into designing a spiritual space which respects a multiplicity of worship styles and is a welcome and different environment than experienced in the classroom. Whether in community or individually, there is scope within the space to celebrate the Eucharist, conduct meditations, undertake reflections and conduct appropriate classes. The Tree of Life softly curves around the east corner, a carpet tile inspired by those in St. Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare gives focus to the central space while the altar constructed from recycled Australian timbers dominates the west corner. Suspended from the central well is a beautiful steel and copper lantern inspired by our new story of Kildare Ministries. Wrapping this special space, in detailed stained glass and lead light, will be our story from the beginnings of the cosmos through Christianity, to our charism bursting forth into the future. Designed by Sr Reba Woodwiss (pictured), it will be a spectacular artwork as well as a fabulous teaching tool. We are excited to be able to provide a sacred space that honours our Catholic traditions, yet is able to be utilised by all within our community.

ANZAC Commemoration - On Friday 22 April our Year 9 students joined with St Joseph's College (Westcourt Campus) for an ANZAC commemoration day. Focus for the students was to understand the importance of Commemoration of World War 1 (and other wars) and the significance of the ANZAC legend. The day commenced with staff and students gathering together for an official ceremony followed by a number of workshops over the course of the day. In 2015, the two Colleges were awarded the Victorian State Award for the commemoration of ANZAC day. The week prior the whole school gathered in Tullow Hall to commemorate ANZAC day. This was an important time for us to reflect as a College community on the great sacrifices that were made by those men and women in times of war.





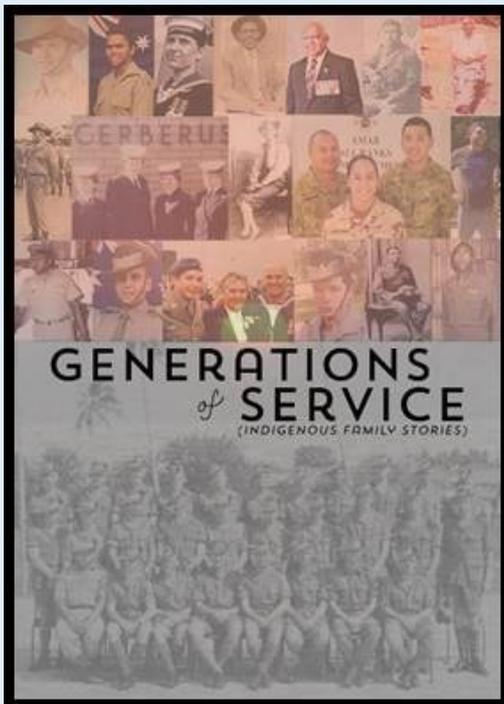
Kildare College—Holden Hill

Kildare College makes history attracting national attention



Students from Kildare College in South Australia have published a history book, *Generations of Service*, attracting national attention. This book, for the first time, tells the stories of generations of Indigenous families who have served or are currently serving in the Australian Defence Force.

The book captured the imagination of people all over Australia, featuring on *Behind the News* and in a range of media including *The Advertiser* in Adelaide. The *Behind the News* crew visited Kildare to interview the students and also filmed them representing the College at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Commemorative Service held as part of Reconciliation Week in June.



The idea for the book came about as a result of previous History project entitled *Serving My Country*, where the stories of Indigenous men and women who served in World War Two, Vietnam, Peace Keeping Forces and Afghanistan were told, which highlighted the number of families who had served over many generations.

Our Year 10 History students spent time researching and interviewing serving family members for the book. Some interviews were conducted in person and others by phone and email, as they came from all over Australia, with some serving overseas.



The book was launched in conjunction with a tribute service on Friday 6 May 2016 at Kildare College. Representatives from the Australian Defence Force attended along with members of the Directorate of Indigenous Affairs from Canberra, who had kindly provided travel funding and accommodation for many of



Kildare College—Holden Hill

The Tribute Service provided an opportunity for students to meet and pay their respects to participants and their families in recognition of the contribution Indigenous men and women have made, and continue to make in serving their country. The Tea Tree Gully Aboriginal Elders Choir and Vonda Last also performed songs, and a concluding Cleansing Ceremony by initiated Kurna man Jack Buckskin was performed in the College Wirra garden to cleanse the space and promote healing.

At Kildare, we have received a great deal of positive feedback about our book and widespread thanks from the families featured, who have highlighted that the Kildare students have not just completed a project, but have written history in a way that will be documented forever.

Copies of the book are available from Kildare College, while the inspirational story on Behind the News can be seen at <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4473634.htm>.

Kildare Celebrates 50 years

A very special year of celebration has continued throughout 2016 as Kildare College in South Australia celebrates 50 years.

Celebrations commenced in March with mass celebrated by Archbishop Philip Wilson at St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Adelaide. This was followed in May with a High Tea for Kildare Old Scholars and friends.

On Friday September 9 Kildare will host a 50th Celebration Dinner, which will be attended by the current and past Kildare community. Excitement is building for this special event with people travelling from country South Australia and other states to be a part of the night.

Later in term 3, our students will celebrate as part of our Brigidine Day festivities to round off a wonderful year of celebration.





Marian College - Sunshine West



Marian College's Stewardship Council, enjoyed listening to student and staff input at their recent meeting this month. The focus was on the Year 8 pastoral and wellbeing programme and the integration of their learning. The Learning and Teaching Leader as well as the Year 8 Level Leader work together to provide a holistic approach to the students' learning.



Stewardship Council Members were highly engaged in the presentation and were impressed by the way students articulated their learning and described with enthusiasm the projects in which they were involved. Students reported a sense of increased confidence in their learning and a strong sense of belonging to the school.



Star of the Sea College – Trasná Blessing

The Trustees attended the Blessing of the newly refurbished **Trasná** at **Star of the Sea College** on July 20. As one can see from the pictures, the oldest building in the school was totally transformed into vibrant and contemporary learning spaces. Classrooms were filled with light, with flexible class doors and easy to move furniture; the food technology areas and science labs are state of the art and the corridors are great for mingling and social learning.

The teachers worked hard to ensure proper design to support contemporary learning pedagogies and seemed thrilled with the outcome.

Congratulations to all at Star for their consistent and focused work in realising this ambitious project.





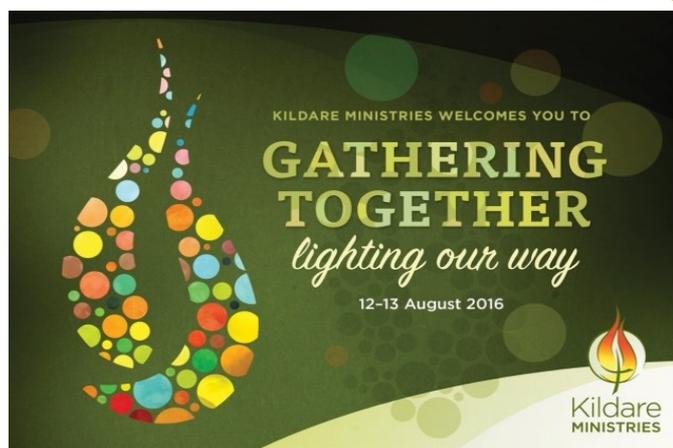
St Joseph's College—Validation Day

Students showcased various projects, events and other opportunities provided by St Joseph's to enhance their sense of belonging and faith development, as part of the school review and renewal process. The validation panel visited the school on 4th August.



Conference:

The Trustees of Kildare Ministries are looking forward to welcoming the delegates attending the inaugural Kildare Ministries *Gathering Together Lighting Our Way* Conference being held at Lancefield on the 12-13 August 2016.



The Conference Committee have finalised the programme for our inaugural conference on 12-13 August and we are delighted to say that all things are now in place. Each Ministry will launch the Conference with a presentation about the areas of challenge within their ministry and on Saturday we have invited three guest speakers to help shape the conversation around the explicit link of our Ministries to the mission of the God, the person of Jesus and our tradition within the Church. The context of lay leadership will be explored as well as our response within the framework of our Vision, Mission and Values. As part of the Church, Kildare Ministries aims to continue a mission identical with the mission of Christ, the inspiration of all who are called to share in this mission through baptism. In this light the speakers will address the following topics: -

- Fr Michael Trainor** will explore our leadership through the exploration of the Kildare Ministries Values
- Ms Michele Hugonnet** will focus on the our Baptismal right as leaders in the Church
- Ms Kate Fogarty** will provide a practical approach in response to our baptismal call as leaders in our Ministries.

Apart from the two launches held in the early part of 2014, this Conference will bring together people from all our Ministries for the very first time. It will be a moment of significant grace and infinite promise on our journey to articulate the Kildare Ministries narrative. We look forward to sharing the conversation had over this day and half with you, in a separate edition of this newsletter soon after the conference.

Kildare Ministries

Calendar of Events

For August

2016



| Date | Event |
|--------------|--|
| 5 August | KEM Complispace Meeting |
| 12-13 August | Kildare Ministries Conference |
| 15 August | Educating for Justice Coordinators Meeting No.3 |
| 19 August | Kildare Ministries Finance Meeting No.2 |
| 22 August | Faith Leaders Network No.3 |
| 23 August | KEM Principals Meeting No.2 |
| 25 August | KEM Finance Meeting No.3 KEM Board Meeting No.6 |
| 26 August | Presentation Family Centre Board Meeting |
| 29 August | Brigidine College Indooroopilly Board Meeting Star of the Sea Board Meeting |
| 31 August | Trustees Meeting with Members Council |