

Dear Friends of the Kildare Ministries community

We extend a very warm welcome to each one of you for 2017 – a year for which we have Courage as our designated value.

There are always many stories, and a great deal of excited anticipation and hope when a new year dawns for us all. Having celebrated the joys of Christmas with some of my family members with whom I haven't had much time in the last number of years, I also reflected on those who endure separation on a more permanent basis. They have a special brand of courage.... And hope!

Pope Francis, in an address to 50,000 pilgrims and tourists said, "the new year will be good in the measure in which each of us, with the help of God, tries to do good day by day; that's how peace is created." That's very good advice isn't it? Yet, we also have so much going on in our contemporary world that unsettles us. There is so much disturbance in our world, and as I write the Royal Commission has completed its final hearing, bringing into the light much sorrow, as the extent of the betrayal is laid out before us. We can feel powerless, frustrated and anxious. Indeed, *The Tablet* has called this time the **Age of Anxiety**.

We can choose to be a 'victim' of such anxiety or we can choose to be people of hope and courage!

Our Ministries are sacred spaces of hope, courage and peace. In the messiness of daily life, they are giving life to Jesus' mission; they are places of hope, staffed by people of courage and hope. Courage and determination are the hallmarks of their daily work – be that in a College or in our community Ministries.

Parents and guardians also work with courage as they try to do their best daily for their children. Courage is on display daily – it's not hard to see. Let's all acknowledge that courage as we interact with each other, with our education staff and with the staff and volunteers in our community works. Your smile will give birth to another's smile, and a moment of affirmation will lead to growing respect and understanding.

Listening to each other also helps to keep the glass half full! We learn. We understand. It's always a marvel that in our schools we have over 8000 students, who, in the main, live in peace with each other, who listen to each other, and who in co-operation with their teachers and leaders, learn to be agents of social justice. While many students may not say the Jesus word too often, they are His hands, heart and feet. They are His courage today.

Kildare Ministries proudly acknowledges the work of each of the Boards and Stewardship Councils who care for the Colleges and Community Ministries. Board members and Councillors are generous, engaged, and hope-filled for their

Ministry. Thank You – you are contributing to the unfolding narrative of Kildare Ministries. You are forging for Kildare Ministries the hallmarks by which its members will be identified in the future.

At the end, we can all ask ourselves: "Is this Ministry a better place for my presence in and contribution to it? Does this Ministry light up Jesus' mission because of what I believed in and stood for?"

Faith. Courage. Together

With every best wish, and blessings for the year ahead.

Ms Rosemary Copeland

Blessing upon new leaders:

May you have the grace and wisdom to act kindly, learning to distinguish between what is personal and what is not.

May you be hospitable to criticism.

May you never put yourself at the centre of things.

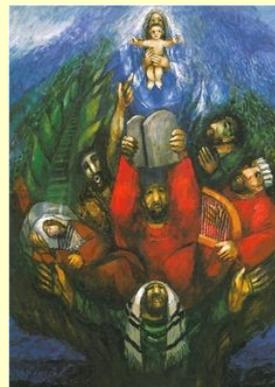
May you act not from arrogance but out of service.

May you work on yourself, building up and refining the ways of your mind.

May those who work for you know you see and respect them.

May you learn to cultivate the art of presence in order to engage with those who meet you.

When someone fails or disappoints you, may the graciousness with which you engage be their stairway to renewal and refinement



O U R V A L U E S

Justice

Making the needs of the vulnerable paramount

Wonder

Celebrating all that is good with joy and gratitude

Courage

Speaking and acting with integrity

Compassion

Walking with and having empathy for all

Hope

Bringing a sense of purpose

Hospitality

Welcoming all

Kildare Ministries Trustees Strategic Intent for 2017-2018

Goal 1

Continue to strengthen relationships, knowledge and understandings between the Trustees, the Mission and Ministry Team and our Ministries.

Strategy 1 Identify opportunities and implement actions to enhance the dialogue between the Trustees and Mission and Ministry Team, and our Ministries.

Strategy 2 Continue to develop a comprehensive communication plan.

Strategy 3 Further clarify roles, responsibilities and authority by refining the Kildare Ministries Charter.

Goal 2

Embrace our transformative role in the Church.

Strategy 1 Nurture mission leadership through our professional learning and formation opportunities, enabling our community to realise its transformative role in the Church.

Strategy 2 Explore new ventures that will further our mission to serve the marginalised.

Strategy 3 Continue to participate actively in new and emerging initiatives, including the Association of Ministerial PJPs.

Goal 3

Promote safe and thriving communities.

Strategy 1 Encourage creative and new ways of developing the Mission and Vision giving expression to its Values.

Strategy 2 Ensure that policies developed by our ministries reflect Kildare Ministries' Vision, Mission and Values.

Strategy 3 Ensure sound governance is in place, including regular risk analysis for each Ministry, the employees of Kildare Ministries and Trustees.



O U R V I S I O N

A community where all people are valued, where all creation is recognised as sacred and where hope, justice and courage are our hallmarks.

Kildare Ministries is inspired by the transformative vision of the Christian story and our rich traditions.

O U R M I S S I O N

Responding to the changing needs of our world, we strive to build inclusive communities through the provision of education and community works.



'Gathering Together—Lighting Our Way'

Ministry Commitments

Brigidine College, Indooroopilly

Brigidine College Indooroopilly commits to working with Kildare Ministries to deepen and acknowledge our traditions to fulfil our mission.

Brigidine College, St Ives

Brigidine St Ives commits itself to creating and maintaining a culture of inclusivity where all have a right to dignity, self-worth and to experience the love of Christ.

Clonard College, Geelong

Clonard College commits itself to nurture and nourish the vision, mission and values of Kildare Ministries. Further to provide opportunities for our students to learn about the community works of Kildare Ministries and how they might contribute in a practical way to the mission.

Kilbreda College, Mentone

Kilbreda College commits itself to deepening the understanding of and connection to the mission and values of Kildare Ministries and its educational and community works.

Kildare College, Holden Hill

Kildare College commits itself to working courageously to explore and remove barriers which may prevent people from being fully part of our ministries.

Kildare Education Ministries Board

The collaboration between entities enables the flame to burn more brightly than its own. It will lead us to discern new ways for a new church, building on, not replicating the past.

Killester College, Springvale

Killester commits itself to building a depth of knowledge and understanding of mission through a continuous formation of all community members.

Marian College, Ararat

Marian College commits itself to the deep call of the original charism: To be welcoming to all and strengthen the relationships across our communities.

Marian College, Sunshine West

Marian College commits to building our community's understanding of the Kildare Ministries story and how it inspires our response to the needs of the College Community, emerging from the traditions of our past.

Presentation Family Centre

Presentation Family Centre commits to continuing the Presentation Spirit in collaboration with Kildare Ministries by welcoming all our guests and making them feel at home as they regenerate their spirits.

Star of the Sea College, Brighton

Star of the Sea College commits to honouring the justice priorities of the International Presentation Association in every part of school life: the rights of women and children, environmental sustainability, the plight of indigenous peoples and human rights.

St Joseph's College, Echuca

The flame we commit to at St. Joseph's College is, active participation in the growth of Kildare Ministries.

Wellsprings for Women

Wellsprings Ministry commits itself to being the flame of welcome while having the courage to embrace fragility and strength within and external to us.

Dear Members of the Kildare Ministries community

This week we sent to all our ministries the results of our deliberation and discernment from the inaugural conference last August, "Gathering Together: Lighting our Way", in a publication we called **Reflections**. This publication should have arrived at your place this week and within the booklet are captured the goals expressed by each ministry and the strategic plan developed by the Trustees.

The conference gave a voice to those engaged in bringing the mission to life in our ministries. The strategic intent of each ministry reflects those desires and priorities as well as those of the Trustees. The hope is that in two years' time, at our subsequent conference, we will look back with pride at how the expression of our commitments has contributed to the growth, life and narrative of Kildare Ministries.

We publish them here.



Kildare
MINISTRIES

Marking the Beginning of the Year

Brigidine College, Indooroopilly



Year 12 taking the Seniors Pledge at the Opening Mass



The happy smiles on the faces of Year 7 from Delany House as they receive their laptops from IT.

Brigidine College, St Ives

The Brigidine College community gathered for the opening of the school year to celebrate the Eucharist with a focus on St Brigid's Feast Day, alongside the launching of the theme of '**Courage**'. This theme has been adopted by all Kildare Ministries schools for 2017. The Mass, which took place on Friday 10 February, was celebrated by Father Greg Chee, from Corpus Christi St Ives. With Father, the student body, led by the Senior Six Student leadership team, prepared fitting prayers and reflections, challenging all to embrace the Year of Courage. We were delighted to have some of our Brigidine Sisters from Randwick join us for this important start to the year.



Clonard College, Geelong

Clonard College celebrated our Opening School Mass on Wednesday 8 February at St Mary's Basilica with all students, staff and many parents in attendance. This was the chance to officially articulate the theme for 2017, **Courage: Speaking and acting with integrity**. The Mass was also a time where we officially welcomed our Year 7 students, new students in other year levels along with new staff members to Clonard.





Marking the Beginning of the Year

Kilbreda College, Mentone

The safe return of staff and students is a time of much joy as we commence a new school year. We warmly welcome to the Kilbreda community our Year 7 students, students new to the college at other year levels, our new members of staff and new families joining us.

Our Opening School Mass celebrated on Wednesday 15 February by Fr Brian Collins was a wonderful community gathering and it was very special to have so many representatives from Kildare Ministries and members of the Community of St Brigid amongst us. Fr Brian engaged the community with our 2017 theme, ***Courage, speaking and acting with integrity.***



Kildare College, Holden Hill

At Kildare College, the first assembly was an opportunity to bring everyone together for the first time this year. In particular, the Principal Margaret Rouggos addressed the students, as did our student leaders with their vision for the year.



Killester College, Springvale

At Killester we have had a fantastic start to the year, welcoming 167 new Year 7 girls to our school community, as well as 22 girls across Years 8-12 who transferred into Killester. It was a pleasure to welcome all our Year 7s formally at the opening school assembly last Friday.

At our school assembly last week we also welcomed back our high achievers from the 2016 VCE cohort, who were presented with certificates to acknowledge their outstanding achievements. Another group of girls to receive badges were our Student Committee Leaders for 2017. At Killester we don't have a single school captain to act as school leader, but follow a collaborative model of shared leadership. This comprises five committees – Arts, Student Council, Community Service, Celebrations and Sport, and each has a Year 12 and 11 Leader.





Marking the Beginning of the Year

Marian College, Ararat

Led by Bishop Paul Bird, the Marian College Ararat community gathered with family and friends to celebrate the commencement of the 2017 Academic Year on Friday 10th February, 2017. During Mass our Student Leadership group of College Captains, House, Sport and Mission and Culture leaders were presented with their badges. Our Dux of 2016 and former College Captain, was congratulated on his great achievement. Principal, Mrs Carmel Barker, explored the value of '**Courage**' and '**speaking and acting with integrity**', inspiring both staff and students to reflect on this during 2017.



Marian College, Sunshine West

The Investiture Assembly is a celebration of all the students who have accepted, recognised leadership positions within the College. In his address to the community, Co-Principal Ray Pisani also acknowledged the students who demonstrate leadership without the formal recognition. It is all of these students working together who build a collaborative and exciting culture of participation at Marian College.



Star of the Sea College, Brighton

At the Blessing and Commissioning Ceremony of new principal, Ms Mary O'Connor, and the 2017 student leaders, the singing of the College song uplifted us all as we listened to what seemed like a 1200-strong choir of angels singing, especially the refrain *We are one community; we are Star of the Sea*. Our four Liturgy leaders - Meg O'Sullivan, Emilienne Paul, Philippa Simon and Gabrielle Matterson - responded to our 2017 theme – **Courage-Make it Happen** - with dedication. Their exemplary leadership was evidenced in their meticulous planning and preparation of the opening prayer for the first College assembly.





Marking the Beginning of the Year

St Joseph's College, Echuca

A special welcome in this first week of school to the 162 new year 7 students, 32 new students across years 8 – 12 and 18 new staff members. All up nearly 200 new people to St. Joseph's.

At our Opening Mass we formally welcomed them and their families to our College community.

The 2017 College theme reflects Courage by the words: **Stand Up. Speak Out. Do what others won't.**



Presentation Family Centre

The Christmas Holiday Program at the Presentation Family Centre included HP and cookery workshops.



Wellsprings for Women

Wellsprings Mentor Program aims to connect isolated women residing in the City of Casey and City of Greater Dandenong into the wider community. As well as providing one-on-one support, the program includes a weekly drop-in / activities group where mentees and their mentors, and other Wellsprings participants get together for support and fun. The group has begun the year with a very popular and enjoyable yoga session. In fact, they enjoyed it so much that they're keen to begin each session with either yoga or Zumba. Support and fun – all part of the healing and empowerment that happens at Wellsprings.





Other News

Board Formation at Brigidine College—Indooroopilly



At their annual Formation Day, the Board of Brigidine College took the opportunity to explore this year's theme of 'courage' inspired by Andrea Grant – Mission Leader. We were reminded that courage is not just about confronting our own fears but to be cognisant of social injustices that surround us and being prepared to speak out with courage and integrity.



New Leaders Seminar - Wednesday February 22



Almost all school ministries were present at the New Leader's seminar held at the Brigidine Ministry Centre which explored not only the theories behind effective leadership but through the lens of Kildare Ministries vision, mission and values inviting all to be mission leaders. Thanks are expressed to Rita Grima and Damian McKew for leading the day and for their generosity of spirit.



Kildare Ministries Calendar of Events For February And March 2017

Date	Event
27-28 Feb	Educating For Justice Student Seminar
3 March	Kildare Ministries Members' Council Meeting
9 March	Principals and Managers Meeting
10 March	KEM Principals Meeting
14 March	Mission and Ministry Subcommittee (Trustees) meeting
15 March	Kildare Ministries Trustees Meeting at Marian College SW
22 March	Kildare Ministries New Staff Induction Day
25 March	Kildare Ministries Board Directors and Stewardship Council Seminar