



Newsletter No 3

June 2015

For reflection:

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's spirit dwells in you ... For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple (1 Cor.3:16-17).

The place within, where we seek God and God awaits us is a sacred place, like churches within our interior landscape. It is our embodiment of the goodness of creation, the goodness of being made, male and female, in the image of God. When our very beings are violated, through physical and sexual violence, this is a desecration of the inner sanctuary.

Such desecration may be temporary, in the immediate experience of violence and the acute response to violence that follows. When love surrounds the violated child and caring empathic adults step in to restore safety, respond to confusion, fear, anger and shame, then the inner temple can be repaired and reconsecrated in such moments of love. When neglect follows violence, then the inner temple remains desecrated, derelict, occupied by squatters: the inner representations formed in the traumatic experience and its aftermath. These are the inner voices that invoke shame and fear, and reign like gods in the inner world of the child, and later the adult. (*Carrie Doehring, Internal Desecration*)

In the aftermath of violence, when the inner sanctum of being has been desecrated, we pray that those violated may be blessed with the presence of companions who venture with them into that innermost sanctum, empowering them, so that they can take on the gods who reign there, cast them out and consecrate again this holiest of places, the God within.



As I write these words I am in Ballarat attending the *Royal Commission Hearing into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse*. During these weeks I have seen the worst of things and the best of things – the worst of things in listening to the shocking experiences of the abuse of young, innocent lives by members of our church community; the best of things in the support and sincerity of many in the same community caring for the survivors of this terrible abuse.

While I have been struck by the bravery and courage of the survivors who have told their experience of abuse to the Commission I have also been struck by the lay leadership coming to the fore: the leadership of the Catholic Education Office and principals of schools in Ballarat being present each day of the Royal Commission, attending in support of former students as well as church leaders and engaging with all in caring and encouraging ways; the gentle and compassionate care given to survivors by diocesan members from a committee called *Moving Towards Justice*; and the wisdom of the members of *the Truth, Justice and Healing Council* and the legal team of *Gilbert & Tobin* forging positive ways forward through the most challenging of situations.

Our values in Kildare Ministries are deeply embedded in compassion and inclusivity. Now, more than ever we are called on to live these values. No matter where we are or what we do we are called to tend sorrow and suffering, to tender hurt and hatred wherever we find it and to transform anguish and anger whenever we experience it. May our hearts always be open in compassion ...

Having also recently attended board meetings I have reflected on the generosity, commitment and leadership of many in the Kildare Ministries community. I would like to say a most appreciative and heartfelt thank you to the members of Stewardship Councils, Boards, Trustees, Members' Council and the various voluntary committees that keep our ministries and our governance of Kildare Ministries humming along. Your generosity is not taken for granted.

Maree Marsh csb,
Trustees Co-Chair, Kildare Ministries

BRIGIDINE COLLEGE - ST IVES



Brigidine College St Ives is a girls' school where girls are at the centre of their learning. We aim to create an environment in which girls are nurtured, challenged and empowered to act. Girls are leaders in their learning community, encouraged to take risks, enjoy the positive discrimination which occurs in a girls' school, have their achievements celebrated and thrive in a connected community. Research tells us that girls like to know the 'why' as well as the 'what'. They are relational and solve problems through dialogue and social connection. Their understanding often comes through narrative. Understanding gender differences and being in an all-girl school enables girls' learning to thrive and allows for them to make a genuine contribution to their local, national and global communities. From this fundamental understanding the girls go forth, actively engaged in the spiritual, academic and physical dimensions of learning.

Camp Gallipoli :

On the Anzac weekend a group of 65 Brigidine Years 10 – 12 students accompanied by 7 teachers joined a nationwide centenary commemoration of the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915. The group attended the Sydney based celebration in The Entertainment Quarter with over 7,000 students. It was a sleep over with various activities commemorating this significant moment in Australia's history, culminating in a Dawn Service on April 25. After the official opening the girls experienced an Opening Ceremony with the lighting of the Anzac Flame. This marked the return of the RSL Anzac Flame after its journey from Albany, WA, to the War Memorial in Canberra and regional Australia. The RSL Anzac flames symbolized the return of the 11,400 souls who were lost at Gallipoli. On Saturday, Anzac Day, campers were woken at dawn by a bugler followed by a Dawn Service conducted under the supervision of the RSL and DVA.



Eric and Ma from Fiji meeting with the J&D students

Year 11 have completed a successful charity drive to support Caritas Australia with the Project Compassion collections totaling \$2400. As a highlight to their fundraising the girls hosted a group from Caritas, including Eric and Ma from Fiji.

Sisters' Visit:

On 6 May, Year 7 hosted the visit of seven Brigidine sisters. The program involved a Chapel greeting with prayer, then a classroom visit to one of the Religious Education classes ending with morning tea. Each of the sisters spoke about her story, highlighting her connection to Brigidine St Ives and her vocation as a Brigidine. The sisters included Sr Margaret Daniels, Sr Chanel Sugden, Sr Patricia Buckley, Sr Trish Garland, Sr Ann Harrison, Sr Maureen Keady and Sr Jan O'Neill.

Charity:

Year 8 launched their charity, St Vincent de Paul Winter clothing appeal. **Year 12** launched their charity, Manly Women's Shelter, during a recent assembly. **The Justice and Democracy Club** held a lunch time fundraiser for the Nepal earthquake disaster relief raising over \$1000 in one lunch time. Monies raised went to Caritas.



Brigidine girls rendering a school in Laos



Year 7 hosted the Brigidine Sisters who came to share their stories

KILLESTER COLLEGE SPRINGVALE



Killester Turns 60 in 2015

A number of events have been planned to celebrate the occasion of [Killester College's 60th Birthday](#).

The first of the events was our Opening school mass. Father Brian Collins presided over a rich and moving celebration. Many guests were present including representatives from Kildare Ministries, Stewardship Council members, Brigidine sisters, parents and local Catholic primary principals. We were blessed with the attendance of Sr Anne Boyd csb and Sr Helen Toohey csb, previous Principals of the College. Sr Helen and Pauline D'Astoli spoke to the students about their experiences. Pauline was a student back in the 1960s and has had a long association with the College. Both spoke of the Great Spirit existing then and the observation of its existence even today. The mass was followed by a shared BBQ lunch and the opportunity to listen to the Mazenod rock band.

Over the course of the year four afternoon teas have been scheduled providing the opportunity for past students, who continue to be connected by means of the Killester Alumni Network, to come back to the school, meet up with old friends and tour the College as it stands and operates today. Two very successful afternoon teas have been held thus far. The first, with graduating classes of 1955 – 1969 and the second held last weekend hosted the graduating classes of 1970 – 1984. Over 300 ex-students attended and were delighted to catch up with old friends and teachers. The tours conducted by current students provided an avenue for many to remember their stories. Our Alumni were delighted to receive Sr Anne Boyd, Sr Helen Toohey and Sr Reba Woodwiss into their midst and share once again their memories. It is remarkable to hear the stories of their experiences, challenges and achievements since leaving Killester, a common thread is easily drawn by describing them all as "Women of Strength and Kindliness".



AROUND THE TRAPS...

What is happening in educating for justice in Kildare Ministries schools?

The teacher coordinators of the Justice and Democracy Forum met in May for their first Professional Learning day for the year. We were privileged to hear from Kath Boyle, Core Curriculum Manager, ACU Melbourne. Kath spoke about the scriptural underpinnings of justice, leading us through a most stimulating exploration of God's great love for humankind and the earth throughout history. She followed



Seated: L-R: Tony Dalton, Kristin Flynn, Damien Halliday, Amy Gellie
Standing: Sarah Cornelius, Di Reynolds, Kerrin Smith, Marguerite Buckley

this with keen insights into Catholic Social Thought with strong messages about principles for reflection, criteria for judgement and guidelines for action, all of which fit perfectly into the Kildare Ministries approach to *educating for justice*. The second half of the day was led by Megan Bourke, Global Education Coordinator Southern and Melbourne Metro Region, Caritas Australia. Megan explored some of Caritas' education resources and their applications. She facilitated great conversations about best practice in educating for justice. Teachers were pleased with

the day and reenergised for their work with young people in schools.



Kildare Ministries RE and Faith Leaders' Network

The network of **RE and Faith Leaders** across Kildare Ministries schools met at the Brigidine Ministry Centre this week. We were delighted to work with Chris Sage of Sage Sisters Sculptures. A highly sought after sculptor, last year Chris collaborated with Damian McKew and the staff at Clonard College to sculpt a young *Brigid of Kildare* which now stands in pride of place in the school's grounds. In addition to this work, Chris is a highly experienced artist and teacher who offers opportunities for students and teachers to deepen their spiritual life by working with their hands. Her intention is to enable people's expression of their spirituality through the creation of art works.

Chris spent some time with the RE and Faith Leaders exploring many of the options that work well in the classroom. We were in awe of the samples that she shared with us. Being a practical person, she then set us to work. She is a most encouraging teacher and assured us that all we needed was an open mind. Needless to say, by the end of the morning, we were all very satisfied with our journals and grateful for the time we had to reflect on our lives in the midst of end of semester exams, reports and everything else that occupies schools at this time of the year.

The rest of the meeting was spent in sharing: some of the stories that are shaping Kildare Ministries and practical ideas for effective pedagogy and good liturgies. I believe that we are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated, creative and inspiring leaders in the schools. Kildare Ministries is in very good hands!



Young Brigid
Clonard College
Herne Hill VIC



RESULTS: Language Perfect World Championships 2015

Top Ten in Victoria

RANK	SCHOOL	STUDENTS	SCORE
1	Kilbreda College	529	383,835
2	Marian College - VIC	372	156,153
4	Killester College	500	146,810

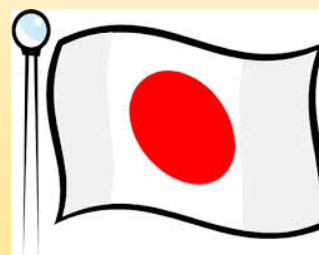


Congratulations to the above schools who placed 1st, 2nd and 4th respectively in the State-wide Italian Language Perfect World Championships 2015. Killester College who came 4th was just pipped at the post by Sacred Heart College, Geelong.

A big CONGRATULATIONS goes to **Kilbreda College**: They achieved -

- Placed 1st in Australia out of all languages all schools
- Placed 2nd globally out of 1074 schools
- 1st Globally in Italian
- 5th Globally in Japanese

We are so proud !



Kildare Ministries calendar:

June

- 4 KEM Board and Finance Committee meetings
- 5 RE and Faith Leaders' Network meeting
- 9 & 10 Trustees meeting in Sydney
- 15 Brigidine College St Ives Board meeting
- 17 JDF Student Seminar Day
- 18 Wellsprings for Women Board meeting
- 19 PFC Board meeting
- 20 World Refugee Day
- 22 Brigidine College Indooroopilly Board meeting
- 22 Star of the Sea College Board meeting
- 26 Clonard College Brigidine Day celebrations
- 26 Term 2 concludes VIC, NSW & QLD

July

- 3 Term 2 concludes SA

The Trustees invite

The Members Council, Chairs of Boards and Stewardship Councils as well as Principals and Managers to attend the combined Annual Meeting on Thursday 23 July 2015.

Venue: Brigidine Ministry Centre

Time: Registration 9.00am

Close 3.00pm

Agenda: The Trustees will focus on progress and developments and its strategic intent

RSVP: Monday 13 July 2015 Invitations will be forwarded soon

