



Kildare Ministries

Newsletter 3.17

Dear colleagues and friends



Andrea and I, together with Linda Kiernan and Anne Young are in the final stages of preparing the second pilgrimage to Ireland where we will visit ancient religious sites as well as walk in the footsteps of Nano Nagle and Daniel Delany. We will tap into the ancient Celtic spirituality of St Brigid and St Patrick and will spend time in prayer, refectation and contemplation. It is a meeting that I look forward to, not just because in four short months we and twenty others will be embarking on this pilgrimage, but also because, I find it energizing as we discuss places to visit and activities that will invite pilgrims into tranquil mindsets so often lacking in our busy lives. We hope that this experience will transform change and touch peoples' hearts and that it will awaken or re-energise as the case may be, peoples' deep spirituality and connection to God.

When I taught medieval history to year 8 students all those years ago, we discovered that in those times, a person could be paid to walk to a designated holy place carrying the sins of another, and on arrival, those sins would be absolved. So you could pay someone to walk off your sins! This was certainly rich food for vivid imaginations but years later when I was about to participate on my first pilgrimage, a friend approached me with a similar request. Not to carry her sins but to carry her prayers to the *Wailing Wall* in Jerusalem. This has been a site for prayer and pilgrimage for centuries and even today, if one cannot travel to Jerusalem then prayers are placed in the wall on their behalf.

Both the notion of walking off the sins of another and carrying the prayers for another to a holy site made me think of communal responsibility for humanity and about walking in the shoes of another. The Kildare Ministries value of *Compassion – walking with and having empathy for all* calls us to walk in the shoes of another. In his address in Africa in 2014, Pope Francis listed 'uncommon' attitudes that would make the church attractive: 'generosity, detachment, sacrifice and self-forgetfulness', so that we might care for each other which is a more positive spin on it I think.

In this modern world we call such times of contemplation and tranquillity mindfulness. There are now over a thousand Apps on the market to help us manage our tranquility. You might be interested to know, that last year, 22% of US employers commissioned a mindfulness course for their staff and this year the mindfulness 'industry' will, according to some estimates, break \$1.5 billion in value. And yet it seems that people crave for self-care, a peaceful mind and a deep connection and notions like 'sin' and 'sacrifice' and 'self-forgetfulness' are outdated and irrelevant to us. We just need to give a cursory glance at our current news headlines to come to the conclusion that we have worked to create a society where the needs and wants of the individual have superseded the common good for society. When did we lose sight of the fact, that the two are not mutually exclusive? A community that flourishes care, protects and advocates for the most vulnerable and voiceless, means that the needs of the individual become less important.

As we approach the second pilgrimage the notion of carrying sins for others, deepens that possibility of connection by the simplest act of setting down one foot after the other. And my hope is that when we return we will have renewed our desire to make our world a better place for our having been in it.

Erica Pegorer
Executive Officer for Kildare Ministries

Pilgrims Way

Eternal God,
give us the courage to set off on pilgrimage.
May we travel unhindered by worldly possessions
simply trusting in you for all that we need.
Sometimes our hearts will be heavy as we plod along
and our feet will ache and feel dirty.
Other times we will rejoice as the sun shines
on the path stretching before us.
May we ponder the truth,
that the pilgrim's journey is never finished till they
reach home.

Amen

Jenny Child



Kilbreda College Mentone



As in all schools, the start of the 2017 has been a busy one with Term 1 flying by so quickly. This year has seen changes to our Leadership Team with three new Assistant Principals joining our community. Kilbreda has welcomed Cathie Johnston (Learning and Teaching), Wayne Murrill (Staff Learning and Development) and Stephanie Smyth (Wellbeing and Engagement).



It has been a year of “firsts” in a variety areas of areas of college life. As part of our Year 7 transition program this year our students and staff participated in a three day outdoor education camp at Camp Howqua (near Mansfield). The feedback was overwhelmingly positive as participants were challenged to have the courage to step outside their comfort zones, embrace opportunities and develop new friendships.

In 2016, there were several disappointed Year 9 students when the immersion experience to the Balgo Community in Kimberley (WA) was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Five, then Year 9 students supported by Jaime Wallace and Anthony Cormick looked for other opportunities to support our Indigenous communities and continue to promote our commitment to Reconciliation. With the support of Sherry Balcombe from Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Melbourne, Kilbreda has committed to the FIRE Carrier (Friends Igniting Recognition through Education)

initiative. To be a FIRE Carrier is to exercise an important role in the school community. FIRE Carriers are students that share a passion for learning Aboriginal culture and history and are committed to sharing this knowledge and promoting reconciliation within and beyond the school community. At our Easter Liturgy and final assembly for Term 1, we were very proud that these girls (now in Year 10) along with eight Year 9 students were acknowledged for their commitment to FIRE Carriers at a Commissioning Ceremony. We look forward to hosting a forum for secondary school students on Indigenous issues on Thursday 22 June.



In late March, a small but enthusiastic group of staff and students participated in Kilbreda’s inaugural Italy Study Tour. This pioneering group enjoyed a very positive and meaningful learning experience. Staff members Joe Gallo and Rosalie Padovan, who led the tour, are delighted with the student’s improved knowledge of Italian culture and language.





Kilbreda College Mentone



Two students from Kilbreda College Mentone received a Premier's VCE Award for their outstanding achievement in the 2016 Victorian Certificate of Education. Montana O'Brien and Tenae Smith were presented their awards by The Hon James Merlino MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Education at a formal presentation at Palladium at Crown for their exceptional results in Sport and Recreation and Dance respectively. Montana achieved a perfect Study Score of 50 in Sport and Recreation (VCE/VET) and demonstrated a strong commitment and passion towards her studies in this area. She showed great proficiency in effectively applying the skills and knowledge she acquired in her practical classes to scenario based assessment tasks and examinations. Through the college's accelerated studies program Tenae completed VCE Unit 3 and 4 Dance while in Year 11 in 2016. Tenae achieved excellent results in both the written and performance components of the subject. She choreographed two solo dance works including one technical solo *'Where the light gets in'*, examining her physical skills such as flexibility, alignment and balance and a composition solo titled *'Pollination'*, where she explored an expressive intention and created a unified composition.

We are very excited that the extension and redevelopment of the existing theatrette into a contemporary, 400 seat auditorium will commence on Monday 8 May, with an expected completion early 2018. This auditorium will further enhance our facilities and learning opportunities for students. It will provide a multipurpose space for a wide range of uses in theatrical and musical performance and for exams, seminars and other presentations.



Ms Nicole Mangelsdorf Co-Principal at Kilbreda College presenting at the Kildare Ministries Board Directors & Stewardship Councillors Seminar on Saturday 25th April 2017.



Presentation Family Centre



Beautiful weather warmly welcomed us to our Easter School Holiday Program. The residential families were brimming with enthusiasm at spending some quality time together

We have developed a new model for our guests in order to facilitate their engagement in the program as an entire family whilst spending their holidays at PFC. Guests were warmly invited to attend the Activity Centre and engage in jewellery making, gardening, cooking, and art therapy sessions. In addition, they were encouraged to participate in local activities such as a free swim at the local pool, and / or cuddle animals at the local farmyard.

This model has been well received by our guests, the assisting volunteers, appointed facilitators and staff alike. We all gain reward from seeing these families interact with each other on many levels. The constraints of their lives appear to relax when direct involvement with others is enabled. Encouraging strong family relationships is an important part of our work at PFC and to offer quality recreation, in a safe and nurturing environment, assists in strengthening family bonds. The feedback is extraordinarily positive.

We thank our volunteers for sharing their precious time with us. They continue to contribute to wonderful memories for the families to take home with them.

Our morning tea on the first Day of the program has long been a wonderful way to introduce the families to each other. The importance of developing social connections at the beginning of their holiday cannot be emphasised enough. The volunteers offered a delicious array of baked goods that everyone indulged in and the comfortable banter around the room set the tone for the week ahead.

Jewellery Making



This first jewellery making session for our new program model was put to the test. An enthusiastic group of adults and children filled the activity centre and got straight to work. The work spaces were laid out with a great choice of colourful beads of different sizes, shape and texture. There was a smooth flow as necklaces, bracelets, and earrings were measured then made to suit the



individual. There was such pride on the faces of the artist as their pieces were completed.

Children's Farewell Breakfast

Our reliable volunteer arrived with her famous pancake mix. We teamed this with maple syrup, strawberries and bananas. A fruit platter is a must for a farewell breakfast and a variety of muffins baked in the cooking program were also on offer. Great discussion was held about favorite moments whilst at Presentation Family Centre and the children returned to their world with a positive mindset.



Presentation Family Centre



Good Vibes Gardening Program

Delicate herbal and floral scents welcomed the families into the Activity Centre for our new Gardening Activity.



This was a wonderful way to engage the senses of the adults and children alike. Our facilitator set up a sensory table and the participants' intrigue was stimulated by what they saw and smelt. The group was then taken out to the veggie gardens for a gentle walk to heighten their observation skills which implemented a most calm working environment. On return to the sensory table, the five senses of sight, sound, smell taste and touch were awakened and explored. The group then ventured outside to pot their own succulent plant to take home and then finished the session with a wander through our wilderness, observing things they hadn't previously noticed.

'For the love of Good Food' – Cooking Program

The cooking program was divided into two sessions; 12+ and 18+ age group. This gave both age groups an opportunity to hone their cooking skills and gain education in the kitchen. The children had a wonderful time creating two desserts that they shared with the rest of their family. They explored some nutritional facts and the science of how certain ingredients react or behave when combined. There was a real harmony between the participants and new friendships were made giving a sense of pride when the desserts were presented to the group for our family feast that evening. The adults had a 'child free' afternoon chatting and baking, friendly, relaxed banter filled the kitchen. Some new skills were learned and different cultural styles were explored. Livening up 'old' dishes made them more interesting; sharing ideas on budget and nutrition brought the ladies together. A substantial meal was created and offered as a Family Feast for all to enjoy.

A positively, energized group arrived for dinner and the room was filled with happy chatter. After the main meal was consumed games were played and a general feeling of content developed, dessert was served and quiet descended among everyone. The proud faces of the children involved with baking dessert were a delight to see.

Art Therapy and Creative workshop

The Art therapy and creative session brought out some real talent in both the parents and children. Our facilitator, a local artist, had the group in the palm of her hand while explaining the plan for the session. The group listened earnestly and threw themselves into a wonderful exploration of colour, texture and shape.

Communal Dinner

The delicious fare made during the day by all the cooking workshop participants was enjoyed by everyone at our 'Family Feast'. It was especially to welcome some of the working Dads that are away during the day. We were told it was such a blessing to work hard all day and have a family holiday to come home to. We enjoyed each other's company and listened to each other's stories. When dessert was complimented and complete, games were enjoyed by all.

Ishti Griffiths
PFC Manager

Catholic Health Australia Governance Symposium

Coogee, March 2017

The imperative for, and the challenges of formation in mission leadership have long been recognised by Catholic Health ministries who have been under the care of lay leadership for many decades. At a symposium held in Coogee in March, many ongoing and emerging issues were discussed by delegates representing Boards of Management and Executive Teams from Catholic ministries in Australia and Asia; not only from the Health sector but in partnership with Education and Social Services.

One of the highlights of the symposium was a panel discussion on the Sustainability of Catholic Services



featuring former co-chair of the Trustees of Kildare Ministries Annette Schmiede alongside Fr Frank Brennan sj, CEO of Catholic Social Services. With Annette's extensive leadership experience in Catholic Health and many years working with Religious Congregations as they transfer care for their ministries to PJP's, she has a wealth of wisdom to share. Annette spoke of the renewed global focus on good corporate governance with Catholic ministries as we manage a Church in transition. As new leaders from diverse sectors are brought into management roles, the need intensifies for these leaders to undergo formation in mission leadership. Frank addressed the question of how

we retain our Catholic identity in a time of great change for the church, while operating in a political landscape where social policy is watered down to meet economic policy. In this context the 'deserving poor' get their piece of the pie while the 'undeserving poor' drop off the edge; the concern of Catholic ministries must remain those at the edge, regardless of how 'deserving'. Frank described the shifts under the leadership of Pope Francis as he attempts to shape a church functioning more like a field hospital than a toll house, with the whole question of Catholic identity more up for grabs under this papacy than ever before.

The keynote address 'Oils ain't Oils' was offered by Fr Peter Steane msc, Deputy Head of School of Business at Australian Catholic University. This was a fascinating presentation illustrating the increasing emergence of formation in Catholic Mission & Identity as a key issue since the 1990s. Peter emphasised the absolute expectation that those in Catholic governance understand and support the mission. He offered 3 key factors which enable this to happen:

- 1. Resisting the temptation to view sound business in opposition to mission.** In reality there need not be a dichotomy; on the contrary good governance requires they go hand in glove.
- 2. Expanding traditional thinking beyond tribalism.** Thinking beyond our 'tribal gods' and removing any 'us' and 'them' boundaries enables abundant, creative possibilities for expression of the mission.
- 3. Seeking 'back to the future' strategies.** The aim is for mature leadership in faith. Strategies for formation can claim the past while still looking forward; this is more a craft than a science as we continue to build and sustain our ministries into the future.

Peter finished with very sound advice from Frances Hesselbein:

Start where you are

Use what you have

Do what you can

Andrea Grant
KM Mission Leader



Around the Traps...

New Staff Induction Day 22 March 2017



Kildare Ministries Board Directors & Stewardship Councillors Seminar 25 March 2017





Around the Traps....

Marian College Sunshine West 60th Anniversary Dinner 24 April 2017



Kildare Ministries

Calendar of

Events

For May

2017



Date	Event
8 May	Brigidine College St Ives AGM
9-11 May	KM Trustees visit to Brigidine College Indooroopilly
10 May	Brigidine College Indooroopilly AGM
12 May	Educating for Justice Co-ordinators Meeting
18 May	Faith Leaders Network Meeting
19 May	KM Members' Council Meeting
24 May	Educating for Justice Student Seminar at Killester College
24 -26 May	KM Founding Grace Retreat
25 May	KEM Board and AGM