



### Primary Wonder

Days pass when I forget the mystery.  
Problems insoluble and problems offering  
their own ignored solutions  
jostle for my attention, they crowd its  
antechamber  
along with a host of diversions, my courtiers,  
wearing  
Their coloured clothes, caps and bells,  
And then  
once more the quiet mystery  
is present to me; the throngs clamour  
recedes:  
the mystery  
that there is anything, anything at all  
let alone cosmos, joy, memory, everything,  
rather than void, and that , O Lord,  
Creator, Hallowed One, You still,  
hour by hour, sustain it.

Denise Levertov: *Selected Poems 2003*



Featuring in this issue are the ministries of:

[Brigidine College Indooroopilly](#)

[St Joseph's College Echuca](#)

The Ministries to be featured in the  
next newsletter are:

[Presentation Family Centre](#)

[Marian College Ararat](#)

Please submit articles or  
photos of interest by Monday 19th  
October 2015 to  
[mlang@brigidineministrycentre.org.au](mailto:mlang@brigidineministrycentre.org.au)

Hahndorf, in the beautiful Adelaide Hills, was the venue in August for the first formal gathering of Principals in South Australia, in the name and spirit of Kildare Ministries. The story of Hahndorf, known as Bukartilla, a waterhole or a creek, by the original Peremarge people, reflects many themes in Australian history. In 1838, 38 Lutheran families, fleeing religious persecution in Prussia, settled and named the place Hahndorf, Hahn's village, after the captain of the ship they had travelled on. The Lutheran dimension of the Christian tradition has been a strength in the life of this district ever since.

Fr. Michael Trainor of the Adelaide Campus of the ACU worked with us on the values in our Kildare Ministries Foundational Statement from biblical perspectives and papal documents, especially *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Laudato Si*. We explored from the viewpoint of these values in action as an expression of God's grace, God's action in our world. We were inspired watching Barack Obama's moving talk on grace at the funeral of the murder victims in Charleston. A video of Monica Lewinsky, telling the story of her search for hope after shame engulfed her as a young woman, caused us to reflect on our own habits of judging. The day was rich in listening as we shared thoughts about the value statements as a challenge for us in the lives of our communities.

On the second morning we gathered again in the company of Monica Conway, Assistant Director of Catholic Education South Australia, (CESA). Monica led us into sharing Justice and Democracy Programs and broader thinking about conditions in a school that would enable all to 'see' justice.

It was a delight to be present with Principals, Marguerite Buckley, from the Resource Team and Trustees, Srs. Brigid Arthur and Nola Vanderfeen. One principal described *a real sense of collegiality, spirituality, generosity and positive energy*. Another, *I found these two days fabulous* and from another these days help *create a narrative* for Kildare Ministries.

**Kathy McEvoy**

**Trustee Kildare Ministries.**

In response to the feedback from the wider community of Kildare Ministries, the Trustees have refined the Foundational Statements.

We thank everyone for their thoughtful and creative feedback!



## Foundational Statement of the Vision, Mission and Values

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

### Our Vision

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

### Our Mission

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

### Our Values

#### JUSTICE

Making the needs of the vulnerable paramount

#### COMPASSION

Walking with and having empathy for all

#### HOPE

Bringing a sense of purpose

#### HOSPITALITY

Welcoming all

#### COURAGE

Speaking and acting with integrity

#### WONDER

Celebrating all that is good with joy and gratitude

### DATE CLAIMERS

*2015 Kildare Ministries  
Christmas Gathering  
Saturday 28th November  
6.00 pm*

*Venue to be announced*

*Wellsprings For Women Inc.  
'Fundraising Dinner'  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015, 7pm*



## Brigidine College Indooroopilly

Brigidine College Indooroopilly took part in a **Red Earth Immersion Experience** to Remote Cape York Indigenous Homelands in the June/July break. It was an extraordinary experience for our students. It was a life changing event, witnessing poverty first hand and the damage done from poor policy decisions from subsequent government departments. The privilege of living with people in their homeland communities touched our hearts and challenged us to live better lives. Here is part of our story:

### Excerpts from the Daily Journal written by students

#### Day 1

After lunch we took off on the bumpy roads to **Wujal Wujal**. As soon as we were arrived we received the **Welcome to the Land** by Francis and Cathleen and their lovely granddaughter. We pitched our tents which was difficult, had warm showers and dinner and finished the day with a camp fire reflecting our thoughts on today - Wujal Wujal has offered us a very pleasant welcome!



#### Day 2

Day 2 started with a 7:30am wake up call. We all gathered for an energising breakfast before readying ourselves for a half hour hike to the **Wujal Wujal waterfall** and **Art Centre**. The hike to the waterfall proved to be truly breathtaking and extremely worthwhile, rewarding us after our tiring walk under the hot North Queensland sun with an amazing view and a well-earned rest. Upon our return to camp, we ate lunch, sang hymns, and then headed off to our next destination: **Weary Bay**, where we were warmly welcomed by the local elders and their adorable children before we set up camp and made damper.

#### Day 3

Day 3 started with a lesson in spear fishing. Later that day the elders taught us how to hunt for pippies. After a fruitful pippie harvest, we took a scenic 30 minute hike along the beach to a secret fishing spot where we were taught how to hand fish with much success. Some of us had trouble catching a fish but a few of us had dinner covered when a huge fish was caught! We had a few guests for dinner, with us making dinner. 35 people enjoyed damper and pippies. Overall an unforgettable day.

#### Day 4

Once packed up, we said our goodbyes and left for **Hope Vale**. Some of us girls found Hope Vale very confronting! It was challenging to see how the residents lived and even to see so many stray dogs with their bones showing. After lunch, we visited the library and spent short time talking to some of the local teachers. It was very interesting hearing their perspectives on the alcohol ban and how learning and teaching operated in the district. After this we headed towards our next campsite, **Thithaar-Warra**.

#### Day 5

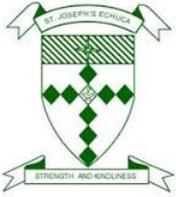
Eddie, the traditional owner of the land on which we were staying in **Thithaar-Warra**, had all his spears and spear heads laid out for us to examine. He proceeded to tell us some seriously amazing stories which involved 18 metre crocodiles shaking trees. After this introduction we were able to take the spears and we enjoyed a competition trying to spear a painted on cardboard fish.

#### Day 6

We left **Thithaar-Warra** and stopped at **Hope Vale** for the second time. We experienced a whole new communal vibe. We participated in the family fun day where we saw local cultural dancing and much more. This changed the perspectives of many girls as we got to see a whole new view of **Hope Vale** and its people.

Brigidine College students returned home from remote Queensland indigenous homeland communities with new insights and hope filled hearts, having experienced local hospitality and first hand issues.





# St Joseph's College Echuca

**Brewarrina Immersion** The St Joseph's College, Echuca VCAL students recently returned from their third annual Brewarrina Immersion where they have established an ongoing relationship of mutual benefit and learning with St Patrick's Primary School,

The students also visited the Brewarrina Cultural Museum to learn about the ancient Indigenous way of life and about more confronting realities such as the local massacre site and the local mission. Through their intensive interaction with the



Brewarrina. The VCAL group planned, organised and implemented activities for the primary students, a garden project and a parent morning tea, as well as helping to create a mural that represents the coming together of the two schools through Indigenous imagery.

The Brewarrina area (in remote northern NSW) is rich in Indigenous history and culture. The ancient fish traps in the Barwon River are said to be the oldest structure made by human beings in the world. The students spend a term preparing for the Immersion in an integrated program that combines literacy, numeracy and personal development skills through mapping, budgeting, catering, preparing lesson plans and this year, designing a memorial garden. In the past the students have used their various vocational skills to build a sandpit and a cubby for the children.

children the students begin to learn about the effects of intergenerational disadvantage as well as the difficulties of living in a remote area.

The group was able to camp out in the Gundabooka National Park so that they could visit the Mulgowan Aboriginal Rock Art site with a local Indigenous ranger.

The week long Immersion is a highlight of the VCAL year at St Joseph's College, providing students with a challenging practical learning experience that focuses on teamwork and personal responsibility and allows students to develop an enduring bond with each other and their teachers through shared difficulties and triumphs and through being able to assist another community that is very different from their own.

## Yingadi Immersion – Lake Mungo

During August this year, I was fortunate enough to be selected to take part in the annual Yingadi Immersion to Lake Mungo. I was keen to hear more about the area, as I have a strong desire to want to know more about Aboriginal history / culture and to learn about the people who have made this area their home for thousands of years. It was a fascinating and interesting account of how history and culture have integrated and I was able to see first hand, the evidence of Australia's earliest settlers' lifestyles, which was a deeply spiritual and enriching experience.

From this Immersion, I was able to fully recognise Aboriginal people's right to land and culture, to empower Aboriginal people through their voice so they may share their history and recognise the importance of respect and protection of Aboriginal culture. I also have a deeper respect for the notion of reconciliation through an honest understanding of history and am committed to further building cooperative partnerships.



## Corey McGillivray - Outstanding Achievement Award

VCAL focuses on Applied Learning and prepares students for apprenticeships, traineeships and employment as well as further education and training.

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015, St Joseph's College student **Corey McGillivray** was presented with the **VCAL Student Achievement Award – Foundation,**

**Outstanding Achievement** by Judith Graley, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier and member for Narre Warren. The Awards ceremony was held in the Latrobe Ballroom of the Hotel Sofitel Melbourne on Collins.

Corey completed Foundation Level VCAL at St Joseph's College, Echuca in 2014 and is now completing a full time Agricultural apprenticeship in Dairy Production.

The Principals' Comments: -



- Uplifted and challenged
- New perspectives on Gospel and Ministry
- Strong sense of team, common language and intentions
- There was a real sense of collegiality, spirituality, generosity and positive energy
- Michael Trainor's linking of scripture and values was excellent
- Exciting moments

HOPE

EXCITEMENT

UNIFICATION

ADAPTATION



- I felt that there was a real sense of a journey that has been well started but with a lot yet to unfold.
- Not sure where I am yet. The learning curve continues! The sense of something new out of well-established traditions is palpable and energizing.
- Exploring the emerging story and looking for meaningful ways to give expression to the emerging story while honouring the traditions that have lead us to this place
- "Staking a claim" as a body giving witness to the Catholic Story in our current context
- I would like to think we are heading in a direction that can re-capture the holistic education opportunity to our students so that the Kildare Ministries values can be explicitly lived and in all aspects of the school.

SUPPORTIVE

EXPLORE TOGETHER





## Kildare Ministries Pilgrimage to Ireland 19 September—3 October 2015

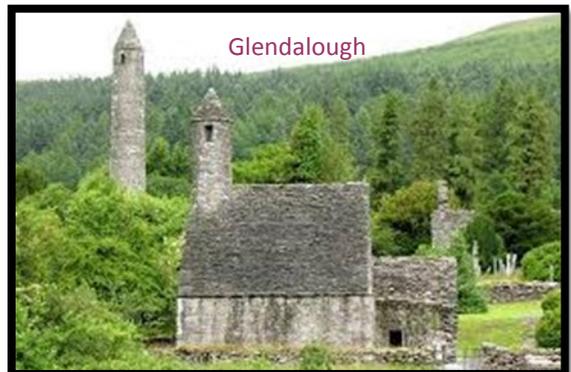


In mid-September twenty-three pilgrims will meet at the Emmaus Centre north of Dublin for the inaugural Kildare Ministries two week pilgrimage to Ireland. We will explore the world of the pre-Christian Celts and the early Irish Christians, such as St Brigid of Kildare and St Patrick as well as the beginnings of the Presentation and Brigidine Congregations. Pilgrims will visit a number of ancient sites, such as Clonmacnoise and Glendalough as well as places of significance to



the deep stories of the Brigidine and Presentation Sisters. A number of well-regarded scholars will work with the pilgrims over the two weeks and we consider ourselves fortunate to be able to enjoy their expertise while we are in Ireland.

We also feel privileged that we will be in the presence of Brigidine and Presentation



Sisters and associates, knowing how much we will gain from these meetings.

We believe that our journey will offer us opportunities for transformation of the heart. Pilgrims recently expressed their commitment to the aims of the pilgrimage, to be open-minded,

open-hearted and willing to engage with the Spirit. All are anticipating a journey that will bring opportunities for a deepening of our understandings of the rich traditions that have come together to form Kildare Ministries.

We thank the ministries who are supporting pilgrims in this journey and we thank the Organising Group: Erica Pegorer, Anne Young, Linda Kiernan, Enrico Caprioli and Marguerite Buckley for their careful planning. We ask for prayers from the Kildare Ministries community for a safe and fulfilling journey.

### Kildare Ministries Calendar of Events September 2015

Date	Event
2 Sept	Kildare MINISTRIES Trustees Meeting
3 Sept	Kildare Education Ministry Finance Meeting
3 Sept	Kildare Education Ministry Board Meeting
3 Sept	Annual Dinner for Presentation Sisters' Colleagues
19 Sept—# Oct	Pilgrimage to Ireland