



Agité

Term 1, Week 2

January, 2017

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St Josephs
College



Principal's News

There is so much to be grateful for as we begin this new year. The College extends a special welcome to all Year 7s and students who have chosen to come to St Joseph's College in other year levels.



Our new Rector is Father Martin Tanti sdb. Fr Martin has been in the Lysterfield community since 2007. He has had numerous jobs over the years such as coordinator of a youth centre, worked in both primary and secondary schools, worked on camps and now working in the Don Bosco Retreat Centre. This is his first year as Rector of a community and school which he is sure will be fulfilling but challenging. Fr Martin grew up in Melbourne and has two older brothers. He enjoys going to the movies, gardening and being creative. During his time as Rector, Fr Martin aims to assist and be fully engaged with the staff and students as much as possible. In the spirit of Don Bosco, he aims for us to work together as one community and be present to the students as we assist them to grow and enjoy the year ahead.

Recently, Mrs Jackie Macreadie has taken on a senior leadership role within the independent schools' sector and Mr Brad Raaymakers has joined Victoria Police. We wish Jackie and Brad all the best, and acknowledge and thank them for their dedicated service to St Joseph's College.

We have a number of staff joining our team this year:

- Ms Otilie Buszard (English and VCAL)
- Mr Stuart Cram (Science, Maths and Geography)
- Ms Cassandra Leeson (Mathematics)
- Ms Sophie Maclure (Religious Education, Music, Humanities)

Two former students from the Class of 2016 have joined our staff as part of 'AFL SportsReady'. Justin Woodcock is doing a Sport and Recreation Traineeship and Jacob Richardson is pursuing an IT Traineeship. Both young men will make a significant contribution to our programs.

This year, the Rector Major, in line with the Pope and the whole Church, aims to reflect on the theme of the family. "We are a Family", is the statement that opens the Strenna 2017: the family as a place of life, the family as a school of Life and Love.



The choice of theme of the Strenna of 2017 is the result of a request coming from the Council of the Salesian Family, which unanimously asked to elaborate on the topic of the family, looking to the challenges it faces in the new trends, to the reflections of the two Synods and on the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis titled "Amoris Laetitia" – the Joy of Love. Pope Francis asks the Church to meet people where they are in their journey, consider the complexities of people's lives and respect people's consciences when it comes to moral decisions.

On December 8, Father Greg Chambers, Provincial of the the Australia-Pacific Province, offered an apology from the Salesian Province. It is important that this is communicated to you.

Salesian Province Apology

"As the Salesians of the Province of Mary Help of Christians of Australia and the Pacific, we are painfully aware that our personal and collective story has often been tainted by brokenness and sinfulness. In particular, we want to sincerely acknowledge the reality and scourge of the sexual abuse of minors that has visited us during our journey.



From the very beginning of our Salesian story, the beacon pointing out our identity and our mission has always been and - will be - the welfare, the education and the integral formation of young people, particularly the poor and abandoned ones. For us Salesians nothing is more precious and more sacred than the life of a young person. That will always be the absolute and unconditional raison d'être for us. Consequently, any form of abuse is a denial of our vision and all we stand for, as well as a desecration of the very life of those we work for, depriving the most vulnerable of their dignity and of their future.

Unfortunately we have seriously betrayed the trust placed on us and denied our mission and our responsibilities, particularly at Salesian College Sunbury. Today we say 'sorry' unconditionally and wholeheartedly to the victims and their families for the deep hurt our wrongdoing has caused. As a province community, we wish to apologise most sincerely and ask for their forgiveness.

For our part, as followers of Saint John Bosco whom the Church has called 'Father and Teacher of Youth', we unashamedly admit to our wrongdoings perpetrated through all forms of abuse on so many innocent victims, and commit ourselves to ensure that such evil will never occur again in our province of Australia, New Zealand, Samoa and Fiji. While we apologise and ask for their forgiveness, we are firmly committed to continue our journey of support and compassion towards mutual healing and peace of heart and mind as the Lord has committed us to do."

*Fr Greg Chambers sdb
Salesian Provincial
Australia-Pacific Province
8 December 2016*

St Joseph's College is committed to the safety and well-being of all students. There are clear policies and expectations in place regarding the appropriate conduct of staff and students as well as processes designed to prevent inappropriate behaviour, and to ensure any allegations of misconduct are adequately responded to in a timely and sensitive manner. St Joseph's College values all of its community members past and present. Any member of the community who may require support may contact law enforcement authorities or me on 9756 3112.

We have continued to receive positive news about the tertiary offers which have been made to our Class of 2016. Congratulations to Brendan Hartnett Class of 2016 who has been selected for Top Arts. This is a phenomenal achievement. Top Arts will be exhibited at Federation Square from 24 March 2017 – 16 July 2017.

The College Newsletter is one of our main ways of communicating with families so I encourage you to make reading it part of your routine. It will be published each fortnight.
With every blessing for the year ahead.

(Ms) Cathy Livingston
Principal



Opening Day at St Joseph's College on Tuesday 2 February 1965

The first day of any school year is always an exciting yet anxious time. The thrill of making new friends and meeting new teachers is often tempered with the uncertainty of an unknown and unfamiliar environment (it is a natural and common response for most people in modern society). However, the boys who first arrived at Don Bosco High School on Lysterfield Road (sic) on Tuesday 2 February 1965 were justified in feeling a little more nervous and apprehensive than normal.

The College was brand new. A year earlier, cows were grazing happily in the spot where the new school is now built. It was a meager looking place with six classrooms, a sports room, toilets and lots of dirt in an open paddock of long grass. The 105 students who gathered at around 8:30 am on that hot and dusty morning must have had some mixed feelings. The new principal, Father Bill Edwards, would have understood clearly the joy and anxiety of the boys waiting in the main courtyard for something to happen and someone to lead them. He knew what they were thinking and so he had to make sure that his words and actions would relieve some of their anxieties.

Of course, Father Bill was also a little nervous. As he stood outside his office, on that historic first morning, waiting for the boys to walk through the main gate and up the gravel driveway, he would have been deep in prayer asking for guidance and inspiration. He also noticed that a few of the boys did not have the correct school uniform. Times were tough and school fees often meant that families struggled financially. He had met the parents beforehand and he knew their backgrounds. This was a working class community.

When the boys stood there gazing at the bleak grey besser-brick collection of buildings, Father Bill stepped up to the challenge and made his first tentative steps into College history. In his usual calm, quiet, voice, he welcomed the boys and made them feel at home. He moved around the different groups, sharing a few jokes, asking the right questions, shaking hands with students and parents, reassuring the families that this was going to be a place of great joy and happiness. Of course, Father Bill kept his promise.

Around 9:00 am, the new Principal asked everyone to stop their games and he spoke to them as a community belonging to the family of Don Bosco. His words were soft yet offering great confidence and he instantly gained the respect and attention of all the boys in front of him. As always, he started with a meaningful prayer, gave a few instructions, then finally opened the large double doors of the College for the first time, and proudly led them to their new classrooms.



Fr Bill Edwards, Founding
Principal of St Joseph's College
(1965 and 1966)



This photograph shows the full extent of the College in 1965. The main building is now the Year 8 corridor. The building at the back is now the Drama Room (in those days it was used as a Sports Pavilion). The school cast a lonely figure in an open paddock of dusty dirt tracks and long grass. In spite of the sparseness, Father Edwards ensured it was a happy place of learning and fun in those early days.

In February of 1965, there were only three classes: 50 boys in Form One, 33 boys in Form Two and 21 boys in Form Three. Father Bill had only planned for two classes. However, some parents had convinced him of the need to create a Form Three class. He was reluctant but he did not want to turn anyone away.

It was a problem, of course, because there were only two teachers: Father Bill Edwards and Mr Bernie McGrath. Luckily, the classrooms had connecting doors and Father Bill had to develop his skills quickly in teaching two classes at the same time. With the help of the Salesian brothers at Lysterfield, the challenges were met and obstacles overcome without loss of time or learning.

Although a few of the names and buildings have changed over the years, the spirit of friendliness and care for each other has always remained. From the very first day, St Joseph's College has offered our students great joy and a genuine love of learning that Father Bill Edwards nurtured in the school so long ago. In the same Bosco spirit, what Father Bill wanted the most from his boys was their happiness. He created a cheerful learning environment from the start and this was his greatest success and lasting legacy.

Mr Tony Di Donato
Teacher and former student of St Joseph's College



Welcome to 2017

One of the last College events for 2016 was actually the first event for 2017 – the Year 7 2017 Orientation Day. On the morning of Tuesday 6 December almost 200 boys arrived at St Joseph's College for their first day as St Joseph's students.

Joined by a group of Senior School Big Brothers led by incoming College Captains Nick Sondhu and Sam Stoitsis, the Year 7 students-in-waiting met their 2017 teachers and classmates for the first time, and started to become familiar with St Joseph's College. The Year 7 boys gathered in the Arts Courtyard where they mingled with each other, staff and the Big Brothers.

There is always a measure of uncertainty and even anxiety on days like these, and there appeared to be lots of nerves on show; the boys, however, seemed fine. It was a great support to have the Senior School boys present with them at the gathering, in the assembly that followed, in the classroom and in the yard.

It was a wonderful day. Not the least because of the enthusiasm and energy that the newest members of the St Joseph's community brought with them on the day, but also because of the care and commitment of the Year 7 teachers and the reassuring presence of the senior students.

And now, as if in the blink of an eye, all of the players from that closing event of 2016 are about to be reunited. Except this time it won't be a preview of things to come, but it will be the actual thing: the start of the 2017 school year at St Joseph's College.

The support available to the incoming Year 7 boys on that December day is emblematic of the support available to them throughout their journey at St Joseph's College: their families are vital to the journey, they are accompanied and guided by a professional and caring staff and they have models and guidance from the students around them.

The Year 8 students who were in the Year 7 students' position twelve months ago would attest to this as they prepare the next phase of their journey. With a greater level of comfort and familiarity at St Joseph's they begin to assert their independence a little more, something reflected in the academic and outdoor education program of Year 8.

Likewise, the Year 9 boys at an age of self-discovery set off to the unique Valdocco experience, a program designed to capture the best academic and personal growth opportunities that can be provided to a Year 9 boy.

Those in the Senior School are on the threshold of manhood and their programs reflect this. Year 10 students undertake work experience and have a varied 'taster' program of diverse academic disciplines, all designed to assist them making the most informed choices as they embark on to the next phase. Year 11 is about specialisation, with VCE and VCAL providing pathways into future careers. Finally, Year 12 is where the consolidation happens. Here, the personal, spiritual and academic journey of St Joseph's College reaches a climax, where the boys' potential is revealed to themselves and to the school and wider community.

And it all started six years previously, on a December morning filled with nerves and anxiety. Until they met that teacher, until that big kid introduced himself. Then it got a little easier, and then it became the most natural thing in the world.

On Tuesday 31 January 2017, the cycle starts up again. New Year 7s, teachers to nurture them, older students to guide them. A new journey begins.

Mr Guido Piotti
Deputy Principal - Students Prayer to the Holy Family



We are a Family: Strenna 2017

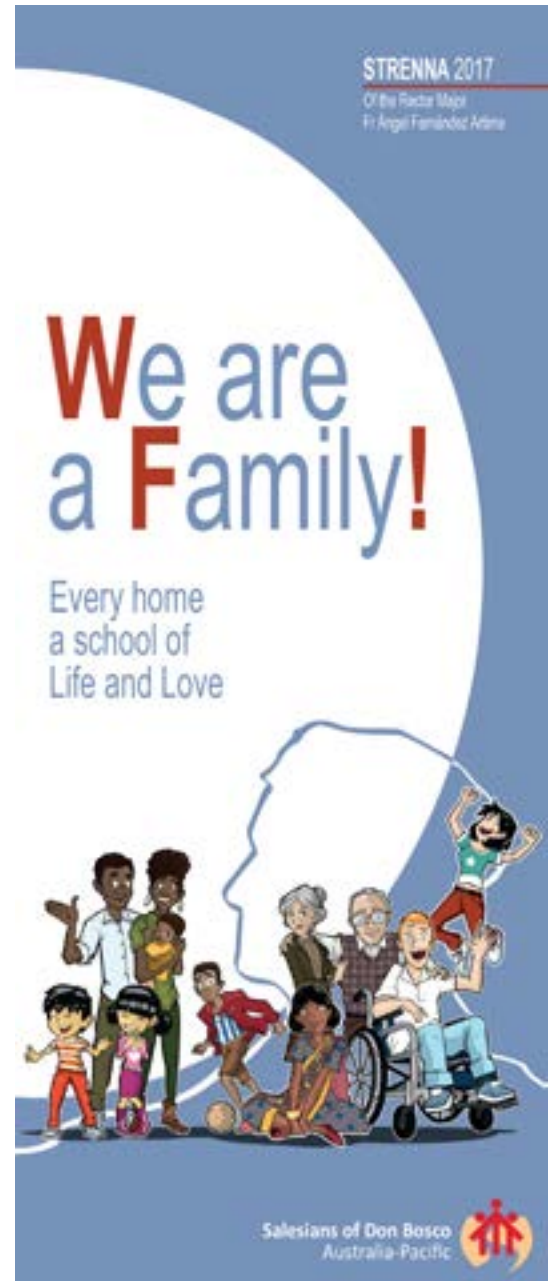
**Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
In you we contemplate
The splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust.**

**Holy Family of Nazareth,
Grant that our families too may be
Places of communion and prayer,
Authentic schools of the Gospel
And small domestic churches.**

**Holy Family of Nazareth,
May families never again experience
Violence, rejection and division;
May all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort
and healing.**

**Holy Family of Nazareth,
Make us once more mindful
Of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty
in God's plan.**

**Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Graciously hear our prayer.
Amen**





Cagliari Immersion 2017

Cagliari Immersion 2017 - Opportunity for students Year 10 – 12

- Do you have the desire to work with those less fortunate?
- Are you looking for an overseas Mission experience?
- Are you over the age of 16?

WHO: If you are aged 16 years or older, this mission trip is an opportunity for you! There are 12 available places for young people from Australian Salesian works.

WHEN: The immersion will take place from Friday 30 June – Sunday 16 July 2017. These dates fall around the school holidays between Term 2 and Term 3.

WHY: This is an opportunity to contribute to an overseas Salesian community while learning about Khmer culture.

APPLICATION: An application can be obtained by seeing Ms Ann Maree Pagon. You can email apagon@stjosephs.com.au or the Cagliari office at LHichaaba@salesians.org.au

FORMATION: If accepted to join the mission, there will be a formation weekend on Friday 5 May – Sunday 7 May 2017 at Don Bosco Camp, Safety Beach.

COST: \$2,700 (approximately) plus spending money. This includes airfares, accommodation, transport, most meals and travel insurance. This excludes personal expenses, airport taxes and some meals.

QUESTIONS: For more information, please contact Lauren Hichaaba, the Director of The Cagliari Project at (03) 9377 6000 or LHichaaba@salesians.org.au.

Are you ready to take up the challenge?

Ms Ann Maree Pagon
Director of Religious Education



Cagliari
Salesians of Don Bosco

**Do you have the
desire to work with
those less fortunate?**

**Are you looking for
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WHY: This is an opportunity to contribute to an overseas Salesian community while learning about Khmer culture.

APPLICATION: An application can be obtained by seeing your Principal or the person in charge at your Salesian work. Or email the Cagliari office: LHichaaba@salesians.org.au

FORMATION: If you are accepted to join us on our mission, we will be having a formation weekend on Friday, May 5th – Sunday May 7th, 2017 at Don Bosco Camp, Safety Beach.

COST: \$2700.00 (Approximately) plus spending money. This includes airfares, accommodation, transport, most meals and travel insurance. This excludes personal expenses, airport taxes and some meals.

QUESTIONS: For more information please contact Lauren Hichaaba, the Director of The Cagliari Project. (03) 9377 6000 or LHichaaba@salesians.org.au

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE?



Community Notices

St John the Baptist Parish, Ferntree Gully
Social Justice Group fundraiser

Trivia Night

☺ Come and join the fun. ☺

Trivia/games/raffle-lots of great prizes.

☺ Don't need to be an expert. ☺

SATURDAY 4 March 2017

St John the Baptist Parish School Hall
19 Forest Rd
Ferntree Gully

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Cost: \$10 per adult

BYO drinks and nibbles. Make up a table or come and join one.

Tickets on sale after all w/e masses at St John's FTG
or contact Patrick 97523524 or 0434072831

Proceeds in aid of "Opening the Doors Foundation" (Aboriginal students support), Thornbury and the
"Community Based Rehabilitation Foundation" (via Columban Fathers) in the Philippines
Donations are welcome