

Catholic Education

Today



CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
MELBOURNE



Growing Young
in Christ

TERM 1, 2019

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The Prayer of Oscar Romero

Excerpt taken from a prayer composed by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw in 1979. Often attributed to Oscar Romero, the words were never spoken by him.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,
a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders;
ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.



**CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
MELBOURNE**

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Cover image: Students from Glowrey Catholic School, Wollert and Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School, Sunbury, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli following the Mass of St Patrick for Schools on Friday 15 March.



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Editorial

In his recent Patrick Oration, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli spoke of rediscovering the missionary spirit of St Patrick, the leader who united the scattered outposts of the faith he found in Ireland into one whole, great force for good. Archbishop Peter urged us to nurture the growing Church wherever we find it.

Catholic education seeks to serve both the community and individual student. This year, more than 210,000 students – almost one in four Victorian schoolchildren – will enjoy a Catholic education in over 500 schools statewide.

We opened two new schools this year – Glowrey Catholic School, Wollert and Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School, Sunbury – to support the growing Catholic community in Melbourne. Academic results, affordability and strong enrolments all point to a flourishing future for our schools.

We are determined to be a leader in child safety, working to build truly inclusive school communities where everyone feels welcome. At the same time, Catholic education provides choice, allowing parents to find schools that best meet their children's needs.

We also don't forget our families. Instead, we know how good communication between school and home produces better outcomes, and strive to build deep connections with parents as partners in learning, able to assist their children with their school journey be they starting out, advancing through the system or preparing for their final year.

2019 will be an exciting and challenging year for Catholic education in the Archdiocese. Thank you for your choice in our schools.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival

Melburnians will join the throngs at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF), the largest national gathering of its kind, in Perth at the end of the year. The ACYF aims to promote and engage the life and voice of young Catholics, providing them with solid formation to live as followers of Christ.

The ACYF will run from 8-10 December as part of the process of mapping new directions for the Australian Catholic Church's future at the Plenary Council 2020, taking the theme: 'Listen to what the Spirit is saying'. Registrations will open in mid-April, with information and booking details available at www.cam.org.au/acyf19.

2019 Federal Election

It's expected that a federal election will be held early next term, in mid-May. During the campaign, we will be calling on the major parties to stand by promises they made last year to the Catholic school sector and, if victorious, see them implemented as soon as practically possible.

During the lead-up to the election, we will be providing updates to school communities. We may need to ask you again to protect your right to choose a Catholic education for your children. You and our other Catholic school parents have already demonstrated the power of your voice – and the credibility of our case – in Canberra. †



World Youth Day 2019:

a journey of wonder with the Lord

World Youth Day 2019, held in Panama in January, saw 44 Melburnians join hundreds of other young Australians on an exciting faith-enhancing experience, drawing on the uniquely vibrant church culture and history of Central America.

The Melbourne pilgrims, led by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, prepared for the journey for weeks, finishing with a Commissioning Mass towards the end of Advent, in the spirit of meeting Christ. Just a few weeks later – and around 34-hours travel – the excited (and exhausted) group touched down in Mexico City.

The first day began with a morning Mass with locals at the nearby Church of the Holy Child of Peace, followed by an introduction to the pre-European cultures of the Americas at the giant pyramids of Teotihuacan (up to 2,200 years old in parts), and ending with the pilgrims' initial encounter with the Latin American devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patron saint of Mexico, at the Santa Maria Tulpetlac Church.

The Virgin of Guadalupe is not just an important emblem of Mexico. She is a vital symbol of our faith being deeply incarnated in culture. When she appeared, Our Lady spoke the local language of the people, rather than the language of power used by the bishops and leaders of the time.

The Guadalupe story begins in 1531, when Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, a native of Mexico, and

asked that a shrine in her name be built on the site of her appearance. Juan told his bishop about the apparition and the request, but the sceptical man demanded a sign before he would approve construction of the church.

Three days later, Mary again appeared to Juan and ordered him to collect roses in his tilmatlí, a type of cloak. Juan took the roses to the bishop and, when he opened his cloak, the flowers fell to the floor, revealing Our Lady's image imprinted on the inside with the brown skin of indigenous Mexicans, an angel and moon at her feet and encircled by rays of sunshine.

For the Melbourne pilgrims, the second day brought another meeting with miracles, with a visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Ocotlan and a procession of its statue of the Virgin. However, the highlight was a visit on the fourth day to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the place where Mary asked Juan to build a shrine and the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site in the world. The devotion of the thousands of faith-filled people was both tangible and inspiring.

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>> CONTINUED PAGE 4

The question and answer sessions and discussions with Archbishop Peter on bus trips to and from different destinations helped the Melbourne group spiritually prepare for the World Youth Day Mass and celebrations, as did further wonders in Mexico dedicated to the glory of God.

After setting up a base near the Cinta Costera, a strip of reclaimed Pacific coastline in Panama City and the site of many World Youth Day events, the Melbourne contingent spent time in catechesis with other English-speaking pilgrims from Britain, North America, South Africa and the Caribbean.

The night-time arrival of Pope Francis was followed by Stations of the Cross and an Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – featuring a monstrance made from bullet casings as a pledge for peace – before the final Mass with the Pope on the theme: ‘I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word’ (Luke 1: 38). The Pope’s addresses were very inspiring for pilgrims and gave them much food for thought.

After the rigours of travelling to and from the Mass with half-a-million people, a sleep-in was welcomed the next morning before the final day in Panama began with Mass on a pool deck led by Archbishop Peter (a first, he says). Then commenced the long trip home to Melbourne. A retreat in Houston, Texas, was the ideal time to reflect on the pilgrimage and its significance for the vocation and mission of each person who experienced it.

The pilgrims’ spiritual journey provided a unique opportunity to deepen their faith, grow closer to Christ and encounter firsthand the universality of the Church. They have returned from the experience with renewed energy and enthusiasm to spread the Word and grow young in Christ, ahead of the next World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2022. ✦



Photos provided courtesy of Katherine Spencer (CAM) and the Melbourne pilgrims.

Words from the pilgrims

Each Melbourne pilgrim had their own individual experience during 2019’s World Youth Day events, but the following reflections provide a sense of what this unique journey of faith meant for them:

‘World Youth Day Panama taught me that saying yes to God is much bigger than I ever imagined. This pilgrimage gave me countless intensely personal moments of encounter and deepened my faith. With true and complete trust in God, everything and anything is possible.’

BERNADETTE WALSH, ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL, BLACKBURN

‘My favourite moment from the pilgrimage was the final Mass as I got to sit right at the front. The atmosphere was contagious and really made me feel privileged to be surrounded by youth from all around the world who share the same faith. This experience has given me a new-found enthusiasm to spread the gospel message.’

AYESHA ALBUQUERQUE, ST JAMES THE APOSTLE SCHOOL, HOPPERS CROSSING NORTH

‘One aspect of the trip that was not only educational but also spiritual was the question and answer sessions with Archbishop Peter and the daily catechesis. It allowed us to ask the ‘big’ questions as well as the simpler questions (that we have pretended to know the answer to our whole Catholic lives) and receive the answers without feeling belittled or ignorant. Just as enriching was the reflection time we had while visiting the ornate cathedrals and chapels in Mexico, where we were able to slow down, pray and pay tribute to Jesus and Mother Mary in particular.’

SINEAD SENAWEEERA, SACRED HEART GIRLS’ COLLEGE, HUGHESDALE

‘Having the privilege to go on pilgrimage with the Archdiocese of Melbourne has given me the opportunity to feel a part of the Catholic community in Melbourne throughout our World Youth Day experience.’

EIMEAR ROSS, OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL, PRAHRAN EAST



Student voice in action

Four Catholic primary schools in the north-eastern region have set out to transform learning through a unique student voice project.

St Pius X School, Heidelberg West, St Gabriel's School, Reservoir, St Clare's School, Thomastown West, and St Catherine's School, Lalor West, developed a set of surveys to give students an opportunity to be heard and to talk about what matters to them.

Staff from the four schools formulated simple prompts to provoke responses from students that revealed not just the standard worries virtually all students have experienced, but also the heavy commitments some pupils have and how that impacts their learning. They also shared concerns about specific types of learning, such as working as part of a group.



One thing that happens at home that affects my learning is ...

- ... that my siblings distract me.
- ... that I stay up really late to get my homework done.
- ... not getting my homework done in time which stresses me out.
- ... sometimes I don't get enough sleep and I'm tired the next day at school.
- ... doing too many extracurricular activities.

One thing that happens at school that affects my learning is ...

- ... my friends talk to me while I do my work.
- ... sometimes I feel I'm not good enough to be part of a group.
- ... when I need to do tests I get worried that I'm not doing well.
- ... sometimes I don't work well with other students.
- ... that my teacher talks too fast and I can't understand.

Other prompts include: 'I wish my parents knew ...', 'I wish my teacher knew ...' and 'I learn best when ...'

Results from the initial surveys were collated, analysed and shared ... to create a new set of 'prompt questions' to enable better understanding of what really matters to students and what affects their learning.

Results from the initial surveys were collated, analysed and shared across the four schools to improve two-way communication between parents and children, and to create a new set of 'prompt questions' to enable better understanding of what really matters to students and what affects their learning.

This was followed by further work with students on the data collected to encourage positive conversations that delve deeper into school, student and parent communications by prompting more detailed and nuanced responses.

Students were asked to consider new questions, such as: 'What subject do you like at school and why?', 'When did you feel most proud of yourself today?' and 'How does the teacher make learning fun?'

Again, the outcomes were shared across the schools: the product a process that made students and teachers evaluate their views of education and barriers to learning, fostered a sense of positive inclusion and, most importantly, engaged parents as partners in education.

Prepared with assistance from Wonda Ball (St Pius X School, Heidelberg West), Clare Ryan (St Gabriel's School, Reservoir), Julie Di Noto (St Clare's School, Thomastown West) and Brunina Moreno (St Catherine's School, Lalor West).

Bright future for specialist school

A Melbourne specialist school with a proud history is looking forward to a bright future at its new campus in Balwyn.

For the beginning of the 2019 school year, St Paul's College relocated from its home of 62 years in Kew to a modern and purpose-built campus in Balwyn. The school welcomes children with a range of additional needs and currently teaches 60 students from Prep to Year 12.

The new campus includes an assistive technology centre, a sensory room, a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) centre, specially designed inclusive playgrounds, and a café and kitchen garden to help senior students develop vocational skills.

The school's principal, Tim Hemphill, said the Balwyn campus has been designed to use technology to support the learning needs of a diverse range of students.

'The whole school community is in awe of the buildings and grounds. We are all very excited with how the new site will continue to evolve over the coming months and years', Tim said.

A proud history

The college was known as St Paul's School for the Blind when it opened the doors to students on 12 February 1957. Its founding principal, Brother Patrick O'Neill, was himself blind and a passionate advocate for the school and its students. He rallied community support when little government funding existed for such enterprises.

As times changed, the community responded and, in the 1970s, the school expanded to teach children with other disabilities. Today, St Paul's College offers a number of innovative programs for students with a range of goals and needs.

To support those wishing to access dual enrolments, the Dual School Program enables students to divide their school week between St Paul's College and a mainstream school of their choice. Another initiative is the Bridging Program, which provides extra support for preschoolers with additional needs to develop their social and academic skills.



Melbourne Archbishop's blessing

St Paul's College celebrated the official opening of its new campus with a blessing by Archbishop of Melbourne, Peter A Comensoli, on 28 February.

More than 200 people attended the opening of the Balwyn campus, including Victorian Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, Luke Donnellan, Member for Kew, Tim Smith, and Member for Box Hill, Paul Hamer, as well as several supporters of the school, previous students and their families.

It was a proud day for Villa Maria Catholic Homes (VMCH), a not-for-profit organisation that supports people with disability through a range of services, such as the educational programs facilitated by St Paul's College. Those attending the opening from VMCH included new Board Chairman Julien O'Connell and CEO Sonya Smart. +

Prepared with kind assistance from Mariza O'Keefe (VMCH).

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St Paul's College offers a number of innovative programs for students with a range of goals and needs.
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Catholic Education Week

10–17 March 2019

With the theme *Growing Young in Christ*, schools gathered in East Melbourne to celebrate Catholic Education Week events in March. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli celebrated his first Mass of St Patrick for Schools, bringing together 3000 students to share their faith. Our newest teachers were welcomed at the Graduate Teacher Celebration and our students displayed their creativity at the Visual Arts Exhibition. With the Young Speakers Colloquium, Concert in the Park, Catholic Education Week Live FM and other events in our schools, Catholic Education Week 2019 is one to be remembered. ✦





Parent leadership in education – a time for reflection

Ahead of next year's Plenary Council on the future of the Catholic Church in Australia, groups around the country have come together for reflection and to participate in conversation about what it means to be a Catholic in modern times.

By Rachel Saliba,
Catholic School
Parents Victoria

What is it that Catholic school parents are called to do? Our first and most important role is acting as leaders in our homes to show our children the way and demonstrate what sort of people we want to be in the eyes of Christ.

As busy families, it's not often that we have the opportunity to stop, reflect, think and wonder what the future holds. During this time of change in the Church, we may ask: who will be the future leaders of our community?

In a 2018 Pentecostal letter, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli wrote: 'We want to find hope, but struggle to see it before us. We call for reform, but do not seek

conversion. We desire change, so long as others do the changing. Are these not the fears and wounds that are holding us back in our upper rooms? Are they not what make us – and our life in the Church – old and tired, angry or indifferent?'

As parents of children in Catholic schools, we are capable of leading positive change in the Church, in our communities and, most of all, within our families. Parents are the first leaders in the education of their children. Pope Francis continues to emphasise the importance of families in setting an example. His book *The Blessing of Family* states: 'Truly Christian families are known by their fidelity, their patience, their openness to life, and their respect for the elderly ... the secret to this is the presence of Jesus in the family.'

Our leadership begins in the home, where we have every opportunity to be examples to our children of what it means to be 'growing young in Christ'.

As Nelson Mandela wrote in his *Long Walk to Freedom*: 'A leader ... is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind.'

It is with this realisation that we are called as leaders, alongside educators, to guide our children on their road ahead.

Many children are beginning their learning journey as first-time students, others are starting a new year level with new classmates and some are completing their final year of school. It is important to pause, reflect and share in conversation as a family about how this new journey is unfolding for each of us.

Every day we are called to be leaders in our homes, in our schools and in our broader communities to support the next generation to grow young in Christ.



Are you a Catholic school parent or carer with a passion to make a difference in education?

Catholic School Parents Victoria are a team of passionate parents of children in primary and secondary Catholic schools. As volunteer members we contribute parent perspective in education at a system, state and national level under the pillars of Parent Engagement and Parent Leadership in:



CSPV are seeking current Catholic school parents or carers to join our team in 2019-2021.

As a CSPV volunteer council member you will have the opportunity to contribute and provide parent perspective on education issues and policy in Victoria through engagement with State and Catholic education authorities.

To apply as a volunteer council member you will be currently involved on a school board or parent group at your school.

Please visit the CSPV website for further information on how to join and to download the CSPV prospectus at www.cspv.catholic.edu.au/join-us.



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Our first and most important role is acting as leaders in our homes to show our children the way and demonstrate what sort of people we want to be in the eyes of Christ.

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Teaching is all about *Learning*

At the beginning of their second year of teaching, Anthony Bucca and Simon Rahilly from John Paul College, Frankston, discuss the challenges and opportunities of being a new teacher.

What does a Catholic educator require?

Anthony: Understanding that teaching the curriculum in a classroom isn't the only way our students learn, grow and develop. Having an emphasis on our students' social and emotional education is just as important as the academic outcomes. It's an approach to education that doesn't end when the bell rings.

Simon: Going above and beyond for each individual student and encouraging individuality in all. It also means that as a teacher I implement within all my classes personality traits such as kindness, in order to help students grow into positive and respectful members of society.

What do you like about working in a Catholic school?

Anthony: At my school, the students come from a wide range of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. It is extremely rewarding to be involved in nurturing students of different backgrounds to develop into respectful members of our community through the values we model as Catholic educators.

Simon: The focus on wellbeing allows students to set and achieve goals, and this environment is fantastic for me personally as I feel it will be incredibly beneficial for my teaching career in the future. There is also a strong sense of community within Catholic schools and this is great to be part of. Whether it be through whole-school activities such as swimming sports or just during everyday classes, the overwhelming feeling of belonging is wonderful for a teacher.

What are the greatest challenges and opportunities for parents today?

Anthony: Helping their children negotiate access to technology. Students are becoming increasingly reliant on devices to help them with everything, from research to communication. They are losing the important social skills that, in the past, were learned at school through face-to-face interactions.



Anthony Bucca



Simon Rahilly

Simon: Being connected through technology provides parents with the ability to be constantly aware of what the student is doing at school, as well as the knowledge required to successfully support the student at home. The use of technology also enables an open dialogue between parent and teacher, and this again is beneficial for the student as they are receiving the same messages both at school and at home.

In five years, I hope to ...

Anthony: When I first started teaching, I was extremely lucky to have an amazing mentor to model my teaching on. Her approach to education has made me the teacher I am today and she has had a huge impact on my professional identity. I would love to have the opportunity to mentor new teachers and have a positive impact on people entering the profession in the future.

Simon: I hope to be in a position where I have the ability to help shape and develop the students of the future into respectful and successful members of society. +

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It is extremely rewarding to be involved in nurturing students of different backgrounds to develop into respectful members of our community through the values we model as Catholic educators.

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ANTHONY BUCCA

Chorus Luminis

Late last year, Rev Monsignor Tony Ireland blessed *Chorus Luminis*, an art installation at **Aquinas College, Ringwood**. The installation depicts three flame-like figures in movement with each other, relating to the college's motto, *Illuminare et Ardere*, which challenges students to be beacons of light and love. The sculpture also makes reference to the Trinity and the dance of the Holy Spirit within college life. ✦



Victorian Early Years Award winner

Our Lady of the Way School, Kingsbury, received a 2018 Victorian Early Years Award under Category 4: Promoting Children's Health and Wellbeing. These awards celebrate the exceptional contributions that individuals and organisations make to improve the learning and development of young children and their families.

The 'Kingsbury Play Map Project' was designed to raise awareness about the diverse play opportunities in the Kingsbury area. ✦

Let's **PLAY** in Kingsbury!

- 1 **JUMP** over the cracks in the pavement as you walk.
- 2 **FINN** a secret singing spot under a wonderful willow tree.
- 3 **GO** for a bike ride. Feel the wind rush past.
- 4 **CONNECT** with someone at the Link Reserve. Can you play together?
- 5 **KICK** catch, toss, bowl, hit, pass, putt, throw or shoot a ball at one of these sports spaces.
- 6 **CHANGE** leaves and flowers into magic wands. What super power would you like to have?
- 7 **CLIMB** like a monkey and hang upside down.
- 8 **SEARCH** for golf related street names - did you know Kingsbury used to be a golf course?
- 9 **JOIN** a playgroup and meet others in your neighbourhood.
- 10 **RUN** with your dog outside. How fast can you go?
- 11 **LAUGH** and giggle with your friends. Who has the funniest joke?
- 12 **CREATE** a show and perform it to your family on this little stage.
- 13 **SPOT** some animals - can you find a bird, cat, frog, butterfly, sheep, dog or maybe a weebly?
- 14 **BUILD** a cubby house from branches, sticks and leaves.

Thanks to The 60 Hours staff and teachers of Kingsbury Primary School, Our Lady of the Way, Macdonough Kindergarten and Academy, St Joseph's Primary School, The Kingsbury School, Our Lady of the Way, St. Brigid, Conny McGeehan, Gill Barry, Andrew Fraser and Claithe Sempson@deltron. Also, thanks to Linda Norman from Darebin City Council for all our assistance.

Parade College marks 150 years since founders' arrival

In 2018, **Parade College** celebrated 150 years since the arrival of the founding brothers and 50 years since the founding of the Bundoora campus. The college commissioned well-known artist Jenny Steiner to create a series of sculptures to be located in front of the Nash Learning Centre. Each sculpture features one of the five Christian Brothers who founded the college in 1871. The pieces are collectively called 'The Winds of Providence'. ✦



Avila College student represents Victoria in Legacy public speaking competition

Avila College, Mount Waverley, student, Milagros Vargas, participated in the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award program where she was runner-up in the Victorian State Final, and later progressed to the National Final held in Sydney, New South Wales.



Milagros was one of the two Victorian students invited to participate at a national level. The theme of her speech was 'self-sacrifice being the core value of mateship'. ✦



St Monica's College world champions

A team of students from **St Monica's College, Epping**, won the Australian-International Model Solar Challenge with their solar-powered boat. Students Paris Mascetti, Ross Alexopoulos and Natalia Straube worked together on the 'Model Solar Open Boat Challenge', following a strict set of rules and guidelines to be crowned international champions. ✦

Padua students bring comfort to emergency room patients

As part of their Senior VCAL program, **Padua College, Mornington**, students participated in the 'Comfort Kits' project last year, which aimed to give back to the community. The Kits were donated to the Frankston Hospital Emergency Department. They consisted of toothbrushes, combs, socks, toothpaste and other essential items to bring comfort to patients. The students also held several fundraisers throughout the year to complete their project. ✦



Our Lady's in Eltham 'socks it' to poverty

Students from **Our Lady Help of Christians School, Eltham**, held a walkathon to raise funds to support Catholic Mission in last year's World Mission Month. The focus for Catholic Mission was 'healing a nation through education' with the aim of supporting students in Myanmar to have access to quality education. The children also wore crazy socks to remind them to 'sock it to poverty'. ✦



Community, faith and growth

St John's School, Footscray, students have been working with staff from the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria on a biomimicry unit and referencing organic forms to design an art installation for the school. Inspired by the three pillars of community, faith and growth, students have sketched and sculpted a variety of shapes while learning about the natural world. ✦



Poetic Voices from Black Saturday

A group of aspiring young authors from **Marymede Catholic College, South Morang**, paid their respects to the victims of the Black Saturday bushfires by publishing a book of poetry titled *Poetic Voices from Black Saturday*. The students focused on giving voice to the victims who either lost their lives or were affected by the natural disaster. ✦



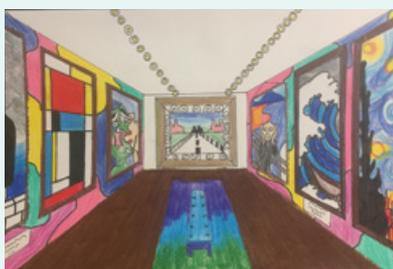
Leap of faith

Ten students from **Simonds Catholic College, West Melbourne**, were welcomed into the Catholic faith at St Mary Star of the Sea Church last November. In a Mass celebrated by Monsignor Greg Bennet, with Parish Priest Fr Anthony Bernal, six of the boys were baptised before all 10 received the sacrament of Confirmation. ✦



Creativity at the heart

The students of **St Catherine's School, Moorabbin**, shared their creative side at the school's biennial Art Expo last November. The exhibition brought together proud students, families, staff and the parish community. Alongside works using many different mediums from visual art lessons, each class also collaborated to produce seven eye-catching artworks depicting God's Days of Creation. ✦



Leadership in action

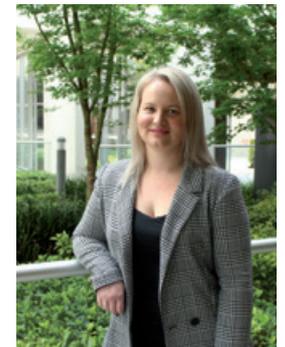
Principal of **Marcellin College, Bulleen**, Mark Murphy, received a Principals Australia Institute 2018 John Laing Professional Development Award, which recognises principals across the country who demonstrate outstanding leadership in providing professional learning in schools.



'I feel very humbled but a little bit unworthy to receive this award, from the perspective that there are many people in the Marcellin community who have contributed to the development of a strong learning culture in our college', said Mr Murphy. ✦

Ave Maria teacher recognised for leadership

Ave Maria College, Aberfeldie, Teaching and Learning Leader, Jessica Hall, was listed among a very impressive line-up of 53 educators across Australia in *The Educator* magazine's Hot List.



Jessica stood out for her particular leadership strengths in change management and collaboration, along with a tenacious disposition for excellence. ✦

2019 Young Citizen of the Year

Mount St Joseph Girls' College, Altona, student Layla West was awarded the title of Hobsons Bay City Council's 2019 Young Citizen of the Year for her work in junior sports development and Down syndrome awareness.



Layla became involved in volunteer work at a young age and now heads the fastest growing local group for girls new to football. She has also assisted a team her brother Reid, who has Down syndrome, used to play for. ✦

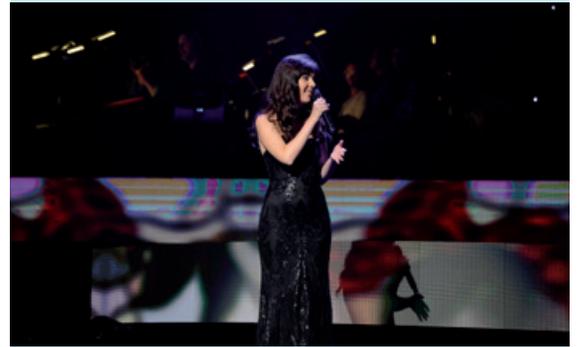
Acting with kindness



Students from **St Vincent de Paul's School, Strathmore**, gave up part of their summer holidays to make a difference to disadvantaged people around the world. Outdated uniforms were donated by families at the school and the parish outreach group organised for over 300 sports polo tops to be delivered to the Donations in Kind warehouse in West Footscray. The sports tops will be given to children attending schools in East Timor, South Sudan, Somalia, Ghana, Chile or Nepal. ✦

CLC student performs on live TV

Leea Nanos, a 16-year-old student from **Catholic Ladies' College, Eltham**, was selected to participate as one of the finalists on SBS's *Eurovision – Australia Decides* on 9 February. Leea performed her song 'Set Me Free' on live television. ✦



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WHAT THE
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AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Australian Catholic Youth Festival

8-10 December 2019
Perth, Western Australia

For students aged 16 +.



Join us on the Melbourne pilgrimage to ACYF in Perth 2019 for a graced time of deepening our relationship with Jesus alongside friends from schools, parishes and communities all across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Together, let us 'listen to what the spirit is saying'.



ARCHBISHOP PETER A COMENSOLI

For information about the Melbourne Pilgrimage please visit www.cam.org.au/acyf19.

To participate, talk to your school's ACYF coordinator.