The students prayed the Stations of the Cross and connected with the Resurrection story. The staff heard from the Bishop and delighted in our Year 10s. We prepared for ANZAC Day and Parent Teacher interviews went well. There will certainly be a keensness about the bell sounding to end the term.

"Don’t be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here." Mark 16:6

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Stations of the Cross
Last week the Year 6 students enacted the Stations of the Cross for our Benedict community. It became a moment of sacredness and prayer. There were 70 children, all dressed in black, speaking with grave authority and enacting the elements of the Passion of Christ. They were determined. It was a sensitive and adept telling of the last days in the life of Jesus. The ensemble had created a vast dark cave in the Good Samaritan Hall. Palms cleverly placed hinted at another time, another era. Reflective music stilled us. Subtle lights highlighted character and tableau. Movement and gesture, shadows and darkness, kept our focus. The 70 students were at stations in an arc around the audience. They were disciplined and resolute in telling a story. A drum sounded over and over again throughout the performance. It echoed in that vast dark hall and kept reminding us of the drama of the moment and pounded at the consequence, the gravity of this story. It was really moving. Perhaps it was the innocence of the actors, perhaps it was the cleverness of the script, perhaps it touched our hearts where we know intuitively that something profound happened on that holy, black Good Friday. But it had impact. The use of music, movement, simple props, shadows and lighting were clever theatrical elements. The message was well delivered. The story was tragic. Jesus died on the Cross. We got a sense of the profound significance of that. The students cared about performing and they cared about the story. I congratulate the ensemble on their effort.
and the creativity of the production and thank them for bringing a moment alive to make such an impact on all of us.

**Resurrection**

“From the darkness there was light
On Easter Sunday there was a miracle
From death there was life
Somehow the world has changed. Something happened. There were witnesses.
Easter Sunday came. The sun came up.
The Son of God arose
It’s written in the Gospel
On Easter Sunday there was a miracle
A resurrection
The tomb was empty
There were witnesses
They wrote down the story”

Taken from the opening lines of the Year 6 Easter script.

The Year 6 students once again gathered to perform. Once again tableaus and scripture, stories and a drum. That drum beat and organised, focussed and added drama. The broken Jesus was now dressed in white. The stories were about mystery and hope. We saw the witnesses. Heard about the miracles. The Year 6s performed beautifully. There was a chance to unite again with a powerful story that just won’t go away. It won’t go away from our Catholic community, from our school and won’t go away from our hearts. The story is important. I thank the Year 6 group for telling it again.

“Where two or three are gathered” and a visit by Bishop Greg

The staff community gather once a term for what we call a ‘Faith Formation’ session. It is usually held in an afternoon at the end of term. We make an opportunity for some silence or search. We try and get some thinking time in to make sense of our faithfulness as a community. There are sometimes ideas to challenge us or moments to inspire. We enter into theology and discernment. We listen to our hearts and offer prayer. It can be so important and this week we were delighted to see the Year 10 Drama production called Matthew 18:20. It was a wonderful piece recently performed at the Diocesan Assembly and in a humorous way looked at the Gospel writer Matthew who was suffering from writer’s block and needing a miracle from God. Five apprentice angels appear and somehow they clumsily support the Gospel storywriter to find one unique insight. We enjoyed the Year 10 performance very much and the Bishop was present and spoke to the staff and some visiting families afterwards. He talked about two or three being gathered and the purpose of schools. It was in reference to the biblical verse from Matthew 18:20. He spoke of the privilege of having children in our lives that allowed us to watch growth. He offered challenge about seeing the sacredness in the gathered community and that school life is only ever purposeful if it is underpinned by love. We left the gathering richer for the generosity of the Year 10 performance and touched by a sense of how important loving is. We are grateful to the Bishop for his words and the ‘angel cakes’ that were part of the afternoon tea...ohl...and grateful for the angels who performed.
ANZAC Day Remembered

The College will be on holiday when ANZAC Day is held. However, it is significant to us at St Mark’s as it is to all Australians when we commemorate 100 years since the landing at Gallipoli. We have been very fortunate to have had a visit from RSL President Haydn and Laraine Madigan accompanied by Gail Swanton who has done significant research for the RSL. They took an opportunity to speak to students about the significance of ANZAC and we are very grateful for their time and insight. They spoke with groups of students from Benedict and Bosco and highlighted the Port Pirie impact on the landing. We heard about Port Pirie sons who travelled to Egypt with the anticipation of a thrilling campaign. We heard about those defining qualities of bravery, comradeship, resilience and the honour that makes us as a nation so proud. We learned of the despair and trauma of battle. It was a very well researched and delivered presentation. Our student leaders from both Benedict and Bosco have been invited to represent our community at the Anzac Day Dawn Service commemoration at the Memorial Oval Gates on April 25 during the holidays. This was an important visit ‘lest we forget’.

Parent Teacher Interview

Our partnership, our shared commitment to the children, was expressed at Parent Teacher evenings at both Bosco and Benedict. The Benedict families gathered with teachers last week and Year 12 groups at both Bosco and Benedict. There was talk about attitude and commitment, relationships and curriculum. There was an opportunity for exploration and constructive support. And people worked together. They spoke and they listened. I have a sense that the best communicators are also the best listeners and there was much attention paid at our meetings. There was laughter and some frowns. There was connection and support. I trust that there was time to affirm the efforts of the children and grow in understanding about factors that impact on the learning and personal formation of the students. I know that the people involved bring to the meeting much hope and much trust. They are great qualities. We shared a deep care about the growing development of each child and the teachers are so grateful that parents make this meeting a priority. Thank you for your attendance. We look forward to a large group next term for the secondary group straight after the reports are read.

My best wishes to all as we begin a holiday break. Rest well, repair and reconnect with that energy and enthusiasm for all the great St Mark’s experiences.

Greg Hay, Principal

Ten Commandments to Parents

(as presented at last week’s Diocesan Assembly by Centacare SA)

1. You shall do as you say you will. Children know where they stand when you are consistent and follow through.

2. Expect children to help but don’t expect them to do so graciously all the time. Work comes after play in most children’s dictionaries.

3. Remember that encouragement and praise will get children a lot further than criticism and punishment so be your child’s best encourager rather than the fiercest critic.

4. Treat children as you want them to be. If you want responsible capable children then treat them as if they are responsible.

5. You shall take everything they say with a large grain of salt. Not that children lie, but they have been known to exaggerate or see facts only from their side.

6. You shall say you love each of your children at least once a day. Knowing they are loveable is the basis of self worth.

7. You shall pay attention to your children’s positive behaviour more than their negative behaviour. What you focus on expands so if you focus on the positive behaviour that is what you generally get.

8. You shall never regularly do for a child the things he or she can do for him or herself. Remember your job is to make yourself redundant.

9. You shall set limits and boundaries for children and expect that they will push against them. Making life hard for parents is in many children’s job descriptions.

10. You shall keep a sense of humour when dealing with children, as this will help you keep things in perspective. It may seem improbable some days but they will soon grow up and be out of your hair and be a living, breathing reflection of YOU.

Leo is living below the Poverty Line

I want to tell you about someone that we can be very proud of, and that is Year 8 student Leo Taylor. As part of his Project Compassion observance, Leo decided to live below the Poverty Line. He was living on $10 of food a week. He started on Ash Wednesday and stopped on Good Friday. Leo’s goal was to raise $500. He had weekends off and he could eat normally then. He also really looked forward to cooking in Home Ec because he could eat extra food then. Some of the things Leo ate were toast with just butter, plain weetbix, sausage in bread, corn and a few oranges and apples. He also ate lots of rice. To date Leo has raised over $1000.

Ms Veronica Travers, Bosco Teacher

We congratulate Leo on completing his goal of living below the Poverty Line and raising over $1000 in the process.
Port Football and Community Sporting Club
Open daily from 10.00am

Laura Folk Fair
On Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 April 2015. Come along and enjoy the family-focused Laura Folk Fair. Free entry and lots of entertainment - art, street parade, bands, dancers, musicians, puppetry, rides, fireworks, side show alley and over 100 stalls selling handcrafted items, local produce and plants.

Blessing of the Fleet
Miniature Debutante Ball
Our Lady of Martyrs – Port Pirie Italian Community (Blessing of the Fleet). Students in Years 3, 4 and 5 who would like to participate in a Miniature Debutante Ball on Saturday 20 June 2015. Please contact Liz Gadaleta on 86330399 or 0439 883 586 by April 5. All welcome!

Winter Tennis Social Competition
Saturdays - Flexible start times of 1.30, 2 or 2.30pm; and flexible finish times of 2.30, 3 or 3.30pm. Social tennis is open for Hot Shots juniors (plus mums and dads), and all juniors who played A,B,C,D,E,F grade during summer; also for all senior players. Just register to play on the day. Starts May 2.
Wednesdays - Flexible start times of 6.30 or 7pm; and flexible finish times of 7.30 or 8pm. Wednesday social tennis is restricted to boys and girls who play A Grade junior comp; also for all senior players. Just register to play on the night. Played every Wednesday throughout the year. Further enquiries: Grant Hanlon 0414 320 840. Email: pirietennis@bigpond.com

Out of School Hours Care
Airdale After School Care offers a fun and educational environment for your child between 3pm to 6pm weekdays. First session free. Run by qualified staff there is homework assistance and a nutritious afternoon tea. Child care benefit and child care rebate are available. April Holiday Program also available. Please call 86 33-0066 for more information.

Aquinas College Open Days
Aquinas College is a Catholic Residential College for University students.

Aquinas College Open Days are Saturday 11 April and Sunday 22 April 2015 from 9.30am to 4pm.
You are invited to meet with Br Paul Gilchrist, Head of Aquinas College and tour the College with current students.

Aquinas College is now accepting applications for the 2016 Academic Year.
If you are coming to University in Adelaide and considering residency, you are invited to submit an application as soon as possible and certainly before 30 June 2015.

For applications and/or enquiries - Judith Kirby
College Secretary
(08) 8334 5001
Email - admin@aquinas.edu.au
Apply online - www.aquinas.edu.au