The Catholic Secondary Principals visited and Benedict enjoyed a disco. The Fishing Boat Museum opened and the winter rains don’t dampen the attempts at sporting glory.

Visit by the Catholic Principals of South Australia

Last week the Principals of the secondary Catholic schools in South Australia visited the College. There were 22 in attendance. They gathered for a monthly meeting, often held in Adelaide, but they took the chance to get up to Pirie, look at the College and get a sense of our spirit and community. They were impressed. For me it became a moment to polish up and showcase our wonderful school and our winter green mid north. I took them on the school bus to Blessings Winery in the southern Flinders. It was a bit like ‘Chitty Chitty Bang Bang goes to the grapevines’ but they survived the swerving tour and enjoyed an insight into wine growing in our region. We drove straight back to the Cathedral where the Bishop welcomed them to a very regal and holy Mass at the Cathedral. College Captains, Patrick Williams and Eve Cappelletto greeted the visitors. They welcomed them by talking about the joy of seeing the Bishop back with us after his health scare. They spoke about the importance of the Cathedral in their lives and that hospitality is a defining feature of the College. Teacher, Isaac Ellis, then pounded the organ as we processed through the Cathedral doors. Our choir, under the baton of Fiona Clarke created moments of sacred blessing.

After Mass we got back on ‘Chitty Chitty Bang Bang’ and went to McNally Farm where a warm campfire greeted us and a silver service dinner was provided. There was a very elegant dining table in the shed. It was decorated and gleaming with wattle and candles and sparkling wine glasses. Joel Head managed the outside bonfire and Lyn Ellbourn the food – she’s a good cook and Joel likes a good campfire! I have to note that the farm smells slightly distracted from the elegant ambience. However, there were a number of boarders on hand to conduct a tour of the farm and the Trade Skills Centre and I saw fellow principals look in glazed disbelief at the opportunity we have for our students. They were certainly impressed.

The next day the Morning Prayer was provided by the Year 3s at Benedict Chapel. They used Andrew Chinn music and dance, as well as innocence and faith, to help us all get closer to God. The Year 3s were so excited and I was delighted with them. Their smiles alone were the blessing. Tours of Benedict and Bosco followed and the student leaders made sure that the visiting principals knew how good this place is. They are our best salesmen and women. The meeting was held and a delicious morning was provided by the students. To finish the Year 1 class came over and gave a jar of local produce and a specially decorated letter telling the principals that they love the school. Deb Slade who stage manages the whole thing was quietly superb and it was us at our best, so many of us, a team of us, at our best. I could not have been prouder.

A sense of belonging and a chance to boogie

An element of school life that is integral to the wellbeing of our students is a sense of belonging. It happened once again at a lunchtime disco at Benedict and they belonged together through modern music and dance. It is vital to give our children confidence, welcome, certainty. They need to belong, to share memories of great moments and rituals. They need to know that they are part of something greater than themselves. A bit of decoration and a booming music system can do that. In fact our school does this well. This place has many moments where students know they belong. It is probably why people feel so busy, so rushed, so often organising something. And sometimes doing this is simply fun. It simply fun just like last week when the Benedict students dressed up and set about to disco. From the simplicity of a gym a bit of hop, skip and jive was created. The students dressed to surprise and entertain. They looked great in sparkles and technicolour. They delighted in the music and they gathered in big numbers. I feel very assured when I see so many teachers making such efforts to give them a sense of belonging. It is a deep gift to the students and critical in developing healthy emotional life.
The Opening of the Port Pire Italian Committee Molfetta Fishing Boat Museum

The Our Lady of Martyrs, Port Pirie Italian Community has built a museum and I was asked to represent the College at the recent opening. It’s on the foreshore and I extend my congratulations to the Italian Committee and in particular Dino Gadaleta because the Museum is a wonderful connection to an important history. The building itself is an accomplishment and the result of the hard work of many. The contents of the museum stir the imagination and remembers a legacy and a history that is significant. The Fishing Boat, which is the central feature, is well preserved and a beautiful relic. I touched the fishing net and wondered. I looked at the simplicity of design and imagined. I saw the space and thought ‘How did they do it?’ I was then deeply moved by my recognition of so many names that are remembered on plaques on the wall of the museum. The wall of the museum tells simple stories of the fisherman. It tells their biography and remembers their hard work, their bravery and their toughness. It hints at the better future and the generosity of their lives. It was the names of those fishermen that touched me. Those names are scattered all through the roll books of the teachers at our school. The grand childrens and the great grand childrens of those fishermen are here. The Museum is their history. There are hundreds of St Mark’s children who are connected. There are hundreds who attend our College and are living well because of a dream and a toughness and a net full of fish. It is a powerful connection and I know that the College will use the museum as a very valuable learning resource.

The Winter Glory of Sport

Our teams keep turning up. The games are being played. The children are trying hard. They are throwing, catching and defending balls of all shapes and sizes. The temperature on Friday afternoon or on Saturday morning continues to descend and still the teams keep turning up. It is a wonderful feature of our community and I delight in the efforts of the students. Sport is loved by the children and the mums and dads love coaching and giving support. There are whistles and clip boards, spare tops and first aid kits all essential to get them playing. There are gloves and coats, umbrellas and scarfs all are essential for supporting. I feel very grateful to our coaches who enter the half way mark of the season and keep generously turning up. I thank the families who encourage and support this vital part of the formation and fun of a child.

I think it important for our community to know that there is a special team who wear the College colours and boldly play as Gentlemen of St Mark’s. The Men’s Over 40 Hockey team, the Division 4 St Mark’s Lions, have been representing the College with distinction. Well, perhaps they are more distinctive than distinguished. The qualification for the team is a connection to the College. Carlo Porcelli and Huey Oxford are fathers of teachers. Sophie (Reception) and Jesslyn (Sport Coordinator) smirkingly shake their heads at these Peter Pans of Hockey. Carlo is a fast midfielder and is actually very good with an infectious enthusiasm and Huey keeps the goals and blocks opposition attack with deftly placed sticks, gloves, witticisms and cleverly timed jokes. Patrick Connolly (Finn –Year 1) is ‘the heartbeat’ and as a mid fielder is actually quite skillful and competitive. These are not qualities usually needed for selection but Patrick, is our marquee player and keeps things happening. Dr Uche (Kamsi-Year 5, Gini-Year 3, Chiamaka-Reception) is the running game with smiling athleticism. His prescription is effort and courage. Dr Uche often leaves the opposition bewildered if there is a clash or a tackle. Grant Hanlon (Julius-Year 3) is deft and precise and contributes with skill and control. He is the team thinker and strategist, keeping the team focussed and balanced. Paul Laube (Hayden-2012) is called ‘the package’ because he can play anywhere and Bill Watt (Eliza-Year 11, Molly-Year 9, Laura-Year 7, Henry-Year 1) is an attacking, disciplined backman with a more tempered pace than selectors had in mind. Mark Sheasby (Sienna-Year 2, Caprie-Reception) is a striker, has more flare than the 1970s and he scores goals. (Although suspicions are that he may be just protecting himself and the ball accidently goes in).

Darren Munro (Jackson-Year 9, Georgia-Year 5) is the most athletic of the group and playing on the wing is our highest scorer. We are actually very proud that one of us can run so fast. Darren is our X Factor. And I have found myself in the team at left back in the position I prefer to call ‘left right out’. I run the left boundary and push the ball back in if it accidently comes near me. We play against a number of wonderful St Mark’s dads as well. There are talented players like Zubrinich and Evans, Lunsmann and Lane, Smith and Coe. These are giants of Division 4, warriors and gladiators. But enough of this banter. I have to get down to the chemist. There has been a run on Deep Heat, Anti-inflammatoryatories and icepacks lately.

Greg Hay, Principal
From the APRIM

The term continues to flow in 'Ordinary' time. This time is anything but ordinary. The green colour of this season signifies a time of life and living in the church and this is exactly what we have been doing here at St Mark’s College.

Year 11 Retreat
This week our Year 11 students went on retreat as all secondary students do annually. This year we took students off campus to three different locations. It was a time for more intimate self-reflection. Students were able to step away from the busyness of exams and life pressures and connect to the spiritual self within. The students looked at vocations. Throughout the day students explored their giftedness and the gifts that they see in their peers. It was a good experience for all involved. I would like to thank the teacher retreat teams who facilitated such a faith filled experiences to our young people.

Eucharist Program
Our Year 4 students are now working on the Sacrament of the Eucharist. A reminder that students will bring the program home frequently to share with families. Parents are asked to discuss each topic with their child. It is also good if parents are able to comment or add ideas to the work the students are doing. If any family still have not got the necessary information regarding the Sacramental Programme please see your child's class teacher or myself.

Year 5 student Marcus Meaney who was received into the Catholic Church this week during his Class Mass at Benedict Campus. Marcus is pictured above with his family and Fr Francis Montero.

Buddy Benches
Next week at Assembly we will be blessing our buddy benches. This is another tangible response to the Year of Mercy. It is a way for students to activate inclusion and compassion to those around them. We look forward to putting them to good use in the Benedict grounds and thank our P & F committee for making this possible.

Welcome To Our Church Family
Congratulations and God's Blessings to Kyleah and Jett Dunstall who recently baptised into our church community. We also wish many blessings on Marcus Meaney who was received into the Catholic Church this week.

Refugee Week
Our College YCS students headed up by secretary Leo Taylor have organised an Art Competition for National Refugee Week. The theme for the competition is 'For those who've come across the seas'. It is a response to the Catholic Church document highlighting the plight of those seeking asylum. It is hoped to encourage students to engage with this important part of our call to work for a social justice. If you would like more information to support your child in participating in this competition please use the following links.

- www.refugeeweek.org.au

Entries are due in on 5 July. They can be handed to Leo Taylor or the Art teachers at Bosco Campus. Class teachers at Benedict will collect any entries and pass them on to Leo.

Reception to Year 12 Mass
Next Friday we will gather as a whole college to celebrate our diversity during NADOC week. It is an opportunity to celebrate the fabric of our community and all that each individual contributes to it to make our community such a wonderful place. Mass is at 12pm in the Good Samaritan Hall at Benedict Campus. Families are invited to join us for the celebration of the Eucharist.

Katie Pole, Assistant Principal for Religious Identity and Mission (APRIM)
From Benedict Campus

The busy world of Benedict continues with many life-giving learning experiences.

Jack Jaeschke shares his reflection on the Prayer Liturgy 3 Green led for the visiting Secondary Catholic Principals last week:

Yesterday there was a Principals’ Liturgy. I had to say, “Thank you for coming to our prayer service.” I felt a bit nervous because everyone that was sitting in the church was looking at me. I felt happy because I felt good about myself.

And, Cheynae Jones, Ruby Stark and Ciara Hadert share their recent visit to St Joseph’s House:

On Wednesday 8 June, the M Team members went to Saint Joseph’s House to meet the residents. We had a Mass and there were lots of people. They were very nice people. Fr Francis said the Mass and some people from the other class read in the Mass. After, we went to give the presents we had made so we went to go visit some residents to give them their presents. There were streets in Saint Joseph’s House. We went up in the lift, some people went up the stairs. We talked to them for a while. Some of them have just entered Saint Joseph’s House only a few months ago. Then we left Saint Joseph’s House to go on the bus to go back to school. All together it was a good day!

On Wednesday 8 June, the M Team went down to Saint Joseph’s House at 9:45am. The day before we made some lilies. When we got there we had morning tea. After morning tea we had Mass. After Mass we gave out some of our lilies. I gave mine to a man called Bob. Bob was blind so a helper had to help Bob take the lily. After that, the Year 6s and 7s stayed upstairs and gave out their lilies and the Year 4s and 5s went down stairs. Everyone went down in the elevator except for me and Ruby Stark because there wasn’t enough room in the elevator. We had to go down the stairs. It was really fun !!!

Planning is currently underway for more wonderful experiences so please ‘save the date’:

The current Reception - Year 6 SRCs will conclude their role at the end of this Semester and the newly elected Semester 2 SRCs will be presented with their badges at a special gathering on Wednesday 6 July (Week 10) at 11.20am in the Good Samaritan Hall. Voting is underway as we speak so please keep this date in mind if your child comes home with an ‘announcement’.

Also, Grandparents and Grandfriends’ Day is Week 1 of next Term, Friday 29 July. Students are lovingly making invitations which will arrive home on Monday 4 July. Please note, as there could potentially be 1,000 very special visitors, we are dividing the day into repeat sessions. We are mindful that not all families can adhere to their allocated time slot so there is some room for change. However, please remember we are dealing with large numbers of people so please only swap if it is really necessary ie for travel purposes. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this.

Student surnames A-K: morning session 9.45am
Student surnames L-Z: afternoon session 1.45pm

Melissa Gadaleta,
Teacher in Charge - Benedict Campus

End of Term 2
Friday 8 July
Benedict finish at 12.20pm
Bosco finish at 12.30pm
Reception to Year 12
Semester 1 Reports Issued

School Resumes
Tuesday 26 July

Important Reminder
Please be reminded that all playgrounds are ‘out of bounds’ after school as there are no staff on duty in these areas.

It is the school’s Duty of Care that any students on play equipment must be under staff supervision.

Students or siblings on playgrounds will receive a friendly reminder from staff to move out of the area.

A reminder as well that any students waiting for their siblings at sports training must be under the supervision of an adult.

Thank you for your anticipated support in our effort to keep students safe.
Crazy Accessory Disco

On 17 June the SRC’s from all grades held a disco with a crazy accessory theme. Every class picked 3 songs that they would like to be played. The Disco went for the whole lunch, to get in it was a dollar coin donation. Together the whole school raised over $500! It was a really fun day even though the weather wasn’t good to have it on the turf, lots of people came and had lots of fun with their friends dancing.

Lia and Georgia, Year 7 Green students
From the Deputy Principal

Student Leadership

Over the past two weeks I have seen our student leaders flourish. They have been at their absolute best. A number of visitors came and each were greeted personally by a smiling face and wonderful conversation. Even the wet weather didn’t dampen their spirits, as they popped open the St Mark’s umbrellas and made sure that our visitors stayed dry.

Students performed musical pieces over morning tea breaks and lunch, they even stayed back after hours to perform at Mass and entertain during evening meals. Their voices were angelic, the instrumentalists were on song, it was a wonderful showcase of our vast talent and indeed a very proud moment. Students rehearsed long and hard, they deserve many accolades.

When you think they couldn’t do anymore there they were again, waiting on our guests, dressed proudly in their winter uniform. They were polite, helpful and took the time to connect, highlighting just how multitalented St Mark’s students are.

On top of this we had tours of the campus, trade skills centre and the farm, now these were more precious moments. There is something quite powerful about seeing our leaders, filled to the brim with pride talk about the school they love so much. They spoke with confidence and from the heart, leaving our visitors with a sense of the St Mark’s spirit.

I cannot speak highly enough of our leaders, they stood up, they stood tall, and they were proud of their school, just as we are proud of them. Working with our leaders is one of the many life giving areas of my role.

Good News Assembly

On Friday we gathered as a community to acknowledge and celebrate our students' talents and achievements. We were entertained by our talented Year 10 Music class who brought a touch of grace and ‘urban cool’ with their performance of Punk Rocker by Sandy Thom. We gathered to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of three of our students.

Recently one of our Year 10 students travelled to Spain to compete in the Mediterranean International Cup for Soccer. After 2 months of trials, which started with over 300 players our very own Jayden LoBasso was selected in the Adelaide United U16’s team to play in the Mediterranean International Cup. He was one of two country players in the team. The Mediterranean Cup is an International soccer tournament for young players in which the best clubs and national teams of the world compete in four different age classes. 200 teams representing 36 different nationalities over five continents participate in the tournament which is seen by many as the youth world cup of Europe. High profile teams such as Liverpool, Barcelona and Celtic participated in the tournament.

Jayden was also named Vice Captain of the team and received the honour of representing the team in the opening ceremony. We are proud of Jayden and congratulate him on this outstanding achievement.

Our next good news story was another of our Year 10 students, Will Dickeson. In recent weeks Will travelled to Melbourne for the Junior Tri-State Pistol Competition. Here Will...
represented South Australia, competing against very strong Victoria and New South Wales sides. The team finished 3rd overall and we affirm Will for his Pistol Shooting precision at such a high level. An outstanding achievement. We also acknowledged Will, along with Year 11 student George Seppelt for their piloting achievements. Both Will and George will be ‘flying solo’ in the air by the end of 2016, such a significant milestone.

Finally, with the assistance of special guest and president of the RSL Haydn Madigan, we presented the winner of the Port Pirie RSL Bursary Award. Each year, the Port Pirie RSL generously provides a bursary to a Year 12 student in each of the secondary schools in the area. The purpose of the Bursary is to assist Year 12 students in their final year. It is a significant financial scholarship that supports with student and their family with schooling supplies. Each student who applied (and there were many this year) met with a panel from the RSL for an interview as part of their rigorous process. I am delighted to announce that this year’s recipient is Annie Ford.

**Semester 2 Begins**

Monday June 29 marks the beginning of a new semester and for many this means new electives and new teachers. I remind students and families that there is a process in place should your child have reservations about their choices. Green subject change forms can be collected from the Bosco Admin Office. From here students must have a conversation with our Director of Curriculum Meriam DeVries, the form is signed by teachers and parents before being returned to Mrs DeVries. Students have 2 weeks to make any required changes, making Friday, July 8 the last day to change Electives.

**Report Distribution**

As the end of the term fast approaches I take this opportunity to outline our report distribution process. This term there are a number of key events in the final week meaning report distribution will be staggered.

- Year 12’s will receive their report Tuesday July 5 during Lesson 8, their last lesson prior to Retreat.
- Year 10 students will of course be on Work Experience, therefore they or a family member will be able to collect their reports from the Bosco Office Friday July 8 between 10am – 2pm.
- Year 8, 9 & 11 students who have lessons as normal will collect their reports on Friday July 8 at 12:30pm upon dismissal.

I remind families that the final day is a normal school day and attendance is expected. Reports will not be posted home. Absent students will need to wait until Day 1, Term 3 to collect their report.

**Work Experience**

By now all students have received the necessary information, forms and support to secure a Work Experience Placement from 4 July to 8 July in Week 10. In order for this week to run smoothly and be a worthwhile experience, your child needs to ensure the following is completed:

- A Work Experience placement located and confirmed (please contact Ms Atkinson, if assistance is required).
- The Workplace Agreement form provided to the work placement boss.
- The Safety Induction Booklet completed and handed into Ms Atkinson

If you have any questions regarding Work Experience please do not hesitate to make contact.

**Kate Kilpatrick,**

Deputy Principal - Bosco Campus
Applications are now open for full-time and school-based Apprenticeships in the following trades:
- Metal Fabrication
- Fitting & Turning
- Electrical

Minimal standard for all positions is completion of Year 11 by the end of 2016.

Register your interest please email: pp_apprentices@nyrstar.com to receive further information and an application form.


Dental Assistant Traineeships

SA Dental Service is offering more than 20 Dental Assisting Traineeship positions at Clinics across the state.

The 12 month Traineeship contract includes on the job training and attendance at TAFE where you will gain a Certificate 3 in Dental Assisting while earning $20,710 – $31,978 a year.

If you are 17 to 24 years of age (or up to 30 years if Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander) or have finished Year 11.

You may qualify for a Traineeship - Apply now!

Applications open 1/7/16 – 29/7/16 for the February 2017 intake.

For more information visit www.sahealthcareers.com.au
Search Job Number: 594236 at this website from 1-29 July to apply.

St Mark’s College Teacher & Old Scholar Exhibition 2016

Showcasing the talents that have passed through St Mark’s over the years. An eclectic mix of Visual Artists and Designers featuring a variety of different media and techniques.

Launch: 12th August 2016
Time: 7.00 - 9.00pm
Duration: Monday 15th - Friday 19th August
Where: Bishop Gallagher Centre
St Mark’s College Bosco Campus
The Terrace, Port Pirie SA 5540

Exhibition open 3.30pm till 5.00pm or by appointment

Drinks and light refreshments provided at opening event

For further information please contact either
Megan Congdon or Alixandria Schuppan
mcongdon2@stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au
aschuppan@stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au
Year 10 Art - Expressions of Humanity

This semester, Year 10 Art students took a thematic approach to their art making, exploring “Expressions of Humanity”. Influenced by the work of European Expressionists from the early 20th Century, students were required to look at how artists can respond to the world around them and to explore an aspect of humanity in present day society. This culminated in the creation of an artwork that challenged viewers to consider their own humanity. Students produced drawings in pastel and charcoal before translating their composition into a black and white lino-print. Some of the works created are deeply symbolic, some are confronting. They all display the depth of talent that our students possess and are a thoughtful response to the humanity in all of us.

Megan Congdon, Year 10 Art Teacher - Bosco Campus
Year 10 Poetry

**Black**

It's dark, it's black, it's shaded  
It shows that death after life is created  
It shows nothing or no emotion  
It doesn't show peace, but only distortion  
It's not a colour that shines in the sun  
It's a colour that tells you to run  
It sinks into your heart like an abyss  
It feels like a crumb that's burnt to a crisp  
It makes you feel like your world is cracked  
It's all that it is, it's the colour black.

*Stanley Halfacre, Year 10 student*

**Goodbye**

Red, all she can see is red.  
She moves closer, it's too late now.  
Darkness fills the sky and the lightening 
flashes in his eye,  
His anger is the colour of crimson, same as 
the blood coursing through his veins.  
The icy cold stare she sees is reflecting on 
the black night sky.  
The things that have been done have broken 
his trust,  
The red changes to blue.  
The sadness is overwhelming, like the 
rainbow of emotions he is feeling.  
She tries, but it's too late,  
Goodbye.

*Allyson Diggins, Year 10 student*

**Blank White Canvas**

Clean, pure, spotless  
completely untouched white canvas  
Yet to be contaminated by the colours of 
the world's mess  
Newborn babies are blank canvasses  
Forever innocent  
Until the first pain covered brush hits the 
canvas  
Entering the world as a new citizen  
Just a blank, white canvas.

*Dana Stevens, Year 10 student*
SMC Hockey

St Mark’s Hockey players have been enjoying the season so far. The U9 and U12 players have been developing their skills under the guidance of their coaches, and the U15 and U18 players, looking fantastic in their red shorts and skorts, have played some excellent games.

Canteen Duty

Just a friendly reminder that St Mark’s are on Canteen Duty this Saturday morning. Please check the roster to confirm your time. If you are unable to make your duty, please arrange a swap with another parent.

State Selection

We congratulate our U15 girl’s player, Katelyn Guy, for being selected to represent South Australia in the 12 and Under State Team. Katelyn will travel to sunny Cairns in July to compete in the championships. Well done Katelyn!!

Jesslyn Oxford,
SMC Hockey Coordinator

Parents and Friends News

WINTER WALK
SUNDAY 24 JULY
BOWMAN PARK PICNIC LUNCH
Meet at 1pm for a BYO picnic lunch followed by a group walk.
MCNALLY FARM CAMPFIRE & SAUSAGE SIZZLE
Continue the fun around the campfire.

SHOWDOWN
SATURDAY 20 AUGUST, 6.30PM
ADULT ONLY EVENT!
BYO drinks, chairs & a plate of nibbles to share.

CONSTRUCTIONS

STARKS COLLEGE
Parents & Friends

SMC Under 15 player Katelyn Guy who has been selected to represent SA in the 12 and Under State Team in Cairns in July.

Congratulations to SMC Under 15 player Katelyn Guy who has been selected to represent SA in the 12 and Under State Team in Cairns in July.

Parents and Friends News

Winter Walk

Showdown

Parents and Friends News

Parents and Friends News

Parents and Friends News

Parents and Friends News

Winter Walk

Showdown

Parents and Friends News

Parents and Friends News

Parents and Friends News

Parents and Friends News

Winter Walk

Showdown

Parents and Friends News
**Visit by the Catholic Principals of SA**

SMC staff and students extended a warm welcome to the visiting Principals. During their visit the Principals were treated to a winery tour through the Flinders Ranges, Mass at the Cathedral, tours of both Bosco and Benedict Campus as well as a BBQ and bonfire at McNally Farm.

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**Adelaide United Football School**

The Adelaide United Football School is holding a 3 day intensive programme for girls and boys aged 16-17 years from beginners to advanced.

On Wednesday 13 July to Friday 15 July 2016 from 10.30am to 1.30pm at St Mark’s College Bosco Oval.

Price $290 per person $275 sibling discount.

[Enrol at aumc.com.au](mailto:enrol@aumc.com.au)

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**Notices**

**Make a Wish Quiz Night**

Get your team together for a fun night of games, prizes and auctions. Friday 29 July 2016 at the Northern Festival Centre at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Cost $15 per person. Please book your table and purchase tickets from Northern Festival Centre on 86 33-8500 by 27 July.

**Port Pirie Youth Theatre - Karaoke Night Fundraiser**

Come along to a fun filled night of Karaoke on Friday 1 July from 6pm to 9pm at the Flinders Touring Motorcycle Club (Old Warnertown Football Clubrooms) Abattoirs Road, Warnertown. Cost is $5 single or $10 per family. Food and drink for sale, chocolate wheel and lots of prizes.

**Piano/Keyboard Music Lessons**

Private half hour lessons available at school. Learn for fun! Beginners to advanced welcome. Contact Ms Anne Hansen (Bachelor of Music) on 0429 866 242 or 86 36-2231.

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**Around the College**

Our Year 10 and 12 students recently attended an informative presentation about University. Year 12 students Bree and Adrianna spent some time with Emma from Uni SA talking through their tertiary options.

Year 10 students recently completed compulsory Safety Training in preparation for their Work Experience placement later this term. Students Danielle and Connor with Student Pathways Coordinator Ms Simone Atkinson.

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**Port Football and Community Sporting Club**

Open daily from 10.00am
Pastoral Letter to the Christian Faithful of the Diocese of Port Pirie

Concerning the Forthcoming Elections

Dear Brothers & Sisters

We are at last nearing 2\textsuperscript{nd} July after a very long election campaign.

The Australian Bishops have produced a Statement concerning the election, and it is well worth studying. It is not party-politic but calls to mind the need to vote according to values, reminding us that there are issues beyond the economy when we vote. It is available in the latest issue of \textit{The Witness}, and can be downloaded from the diocesan website at \url{www.pp.catholic.org.au}.

Australia has been termed the lucky country, and we are in so many ways. We think of the violence that assails other nations, and the enmity that can produce massacres, and we must thank God that our community coheres so well. But being blessed, we must look to our own responsibilities to share, to look out for the voiceless. The Bishops’ Statement says:

\begin{quote}
This leads to what the Pope has called the throw away culture – a culture of over-consumption where all kinds of things are thrown away, wasted, even human beings. The voices of thrown away people will not be heard in a long and rowdy campaign. ... yet unless their voices are somehow heard and their faces seen, we will not have a truly human society in which economic management serves human beings rather than the other way around.
\end{quote}

Of all the categories of those called the voiceless, most would affect our communities, but might I suggest that the following three categories could be of special interest to us as a diocese.

Firstly, unemployment has hit our diocese more than others – families in our communities in Port Augusta, Leigh Creek, Whyalla, Roxby Downs, and nearby centres such as Quorn and Wilmington, are suffering. What we Catholic people can do is deeper than hand-outs, which might offend or appear patronising. Through a phone call or a bright conversation when we meet in the street or at a shopping centre, we might give personal support and friendship to such families, helping to counteract the sense of isolation and vulnerability and even humiliation that can come from being retrenched. At the same time we must continue to encourage our politicians to act as decisively as possible in seeking a social remedy. No family should withdraw from our schools; our Principals will accommodate all families. This is how Catholic schools have always acted.

Involvement on behalf of refugees is part of our graced history as a diocese. We know there are hundreds of desperate people on Manus Island and Nauru, and many of those hundreds have been classified as genuine refugees. Nevertheless, through the policies of both Parties, they seem doomed to a nightmare existence of virtual imprisonment on those islands. There must be some resolution of this situation; it is inhumane to tell refugees they will be on those islands in perpetuity. Candidates for parliament should be quizzed as to what they intend to do in order to resolve this grotesque situation. If both Parties are like Coles and Woolworths on this matter, pushing the same barrow, then despair can be the only outcome for those poor people marooned there.
Thirdly, being a diocese of such a great area in this part of Australia, our Indigenous people are a significant part of our total community. As a diocese our work with Indigenous people is through the ministry conducted by Sisters Kaspar and Delma at Davenport near Port Augusta, where they work with women’s groups and children’s homework clubs, and visit the elderly in the Old Folk’s Home. There is also the work of the schools with an increasing number of Indigenous students, and there is the work of priests like Fr Brian Mathews with the Inland Mission, and the ministry of Fr Khalid and other prison chaplains which sadly has so much to do with Indigenous people in the medium security sections of our prisons. Our politicians must do all in their power to confront these challenges of poor education, addictions and a disproportionate incarceration, and welfare dependency. It is the indifference of white Australians that takes the pressure off our politicians to act.

We must be a voice for the voiceless, in order to show that we are their brothers and sisters in Christ. We want to vote for politicians who share these values and who seem prepared to act on behalf of them. Generally speaking we are blessed in Australia with politicians of integrity, but even good people need reminding to act and to act well. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit grant them the gift of wisdom and a passion for justice.

Yours in Christ

+ Gregory O’Kelly SJ
Bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie

22nd June 2016