

The Angel

Thursday 15th February 2018, Volume 2



Above:

Most Reverend Bishop Leslie Tomlinson DD blessed the Ladywell building and guests during the official Opening.



Pictured right at the official Opening and Blessing of the Ladywell Building:

Bridget Seiter, Jack Holt, Paul Desmond - Director of Catholic Education Sandhurst, Bishop Leslie Tomlinson - Bishop of Sandhurst, Matt Carver, Ryan Wallace and Mia Parker.



Background image:

The founding fmdm Sisters dig trenches for the first buildings at St Mary of the Angels.

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College

Chapel Street, Nathalia, Victoria, 3638

Ph: (03) 5866 2222 | Fax: (03) 5866 2471

Email: info@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au | Website: www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au

Prayer:

Lord,
Teach me a new freedom.
Freedom to reject comparison
And to embrace uniqueness.
Freedom to cut ties with greed
And feast on love.
Freedom to abstain from over
indulgence
And feast on self-control.
Freedom to leave behind selfish thoughts
And to focus on the needs of others.
Freedom to fend off insecurity
And to embrace grace.
Lord, at this time of Lent,
Thank you for the freedom you bring.
...AMEN...

Lenten prayer from www.lords-prayer-words.com

Principal's News

Dear Parents / Guardians, Staff, Students and Friends of St Mary of the Angels,

This week's prayer moves our thoughts and attention to social justice via Project Compassion and the season of Lent. Project Compassion is our annual fundraiser for Caritas and continues until Easter. In thinking about social justice it brings to the front of our minds those in our local and global communities who are marginalized, persecuted, impoverished, afflicted by war, hungry and unloved. The gospel of Micah guides us beautifully into the season of Lent and strengthens our commitment to Project Compassion.

And what does the LORD require of you?

***To act justly and to love with mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah)***

Last Friday morning we celebrated our opening School Mass involving both St Francis Primary School and St Mary of the Angels College staff and students. Our celebration was shared with a number of special guests and it is with gratitude that we thank Bishop Leslie Tomlinson DD and Fr Michael Grace for leading our celebration and helping us to bring our faith to life.

Principal's News

Thank you also to Mr. Paul Desmond, Director, Catholic Education Sandhurst for joining us on the day. It is a joy to welcome our Diocesan leaders into our community for these significant occasions.

During the celebration, it was fantastic to see our older students acknowledge the St Francis school captains and then for the younger students to acknowledge our 2018 year 12 students. Furthermore, the recognition and celebration of Jake Hindmarsh, our 2017 College Dux was also a highlight of the Mass.

Tradition, ritual and celebration did not end with the closing hymn on Friday morning. At the conclusion of Mass our guests, staff and students from Year 10 celebrated the blessing and opening of Ladywell, our year 10 learning Space. Ladywell is associated with our founding FMDM sisters through both the name of their 'motherhouse' in Ireland but also the name of the original computer labs that were established after the 2004 fire at the College. Bishop Les reminded us of the origins of Ladywell, a well spring of water and our Board Chair Mr. David Booth expressed the joy our parents and families have in watching our College grow and develop into a fine learning facility for their children and the many students to come.

Ritual, tradition and celebration are incredibly important in our faith to build spirit, connectedness and community. It was a privilege to host Bishop Les, Fr Michael, Paul, David and Board members, architects, builders and the many friends of the College at our opening Mass and Ladywell blessing. We thank them for their generosity of time and spirit.

With Peace and Goodwill,

Matt Carver



Bishop Leslie Tomlinson and Fr Michael Grace present the St Francis Primary School Year 6 students with their badges at Opening Mass on Friday 9th February 2018.

Opening Mass Photo Gallery



***'Preach the Gospel at all times
and when necessary use Words'***

Deputy Principal's News

"Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders, let me walk upon the waters wherever you would call me."

Chris Dainton

Deputy Principal - Catholic Identity

Spiritual experiences will affect people in different ways. Your reaction could be informed by age, background, mood or level of expectation. For me, the feeling after our St Mary of the Angels College Opening Mass was a mixture of relief, joy and gratitude for being able to work with some of the most dedicated, insightful, committed and talented folks going around. I felt the presence of Jesus Christ in working with these people and I look forward to doing it all again soon. The Catholic calendar moves fast at this time of year from Opening Mass straight into Lent.

Ash Wednesday (15th February) marked the start of Lent for us here at the College. This is an important time for those in the Catholic community as we turn to God for enlightenment and purification.

On Tuesday of this week we celebrated Shrove Tuesday with the traditional feast of pancakes. This feast was contrasted the following day as our preparation for the coming of Easter began with fasting, prayer and a commitment to generous giving.

The practice of Catholic communities being blessed with a cross of ashes on the forehead symbolises humility as well as cleansing. We then take this sign as a reminder to ask for God's forgiveness in the shortcomings of our own lives. This is a powerful invitation, as we all need the time to reflect on where our lives may be lacking judgment or right relationship. With prayer and fasting we consciously strive for a healthier and more positive relationship with our faith, our families, our communities and ourselves. I urge everyone in our College community to consider 'giving up' or 'taking up' something from now until Easter.

Challenge yourself and deny yourself some of the first world luxuries that we so often take for granted. Phones, laptops, cars, televisions, internet and social media all come to mind (even if you only give them up for a period of the day- after 7pm for example).

Perhaps you could extend yourself and commit to doing something positive for the betterment of others. A kind word, a greeting to someone outside your peer group, volunteering at your local church or generously giving to those in need. The impact you can make with a small gesture is powerful. In Lent as in life, we will get out of it what we are prepared to put into it.

I wish you well for your Lenten journey and pray that it starts with deep discernment and a desire for action.

SHROVE TUESDAY - service with a smile from SRC, Social Justice Group and VCAL students at recess.



St Mary of the Angels Secondary College

Chapel Street, Nathalia, Victoria, 3638

Ph: (03) 5866 2222 | Fax: (03) 5866 2471

Email: info@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au | Website: www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au



PICTURED TOP:
Mrs Bakogianis and the Social Justice Group students raise awareness and collect donations for Caritas Australia at TJ's IGA Supermarket.

ABOVE: Social Justice group's Sophie Jenkins

BELOW: Elizabeth McKenzie and Digby Bunnett pour perfect pancakes.



Project Compassion

Kate Berend Year 12, Social Justice Leader

Lent began on Ash Wednesday which also marks the beginning of 'Project Compassion' a major fundraiser for Caritas Australia.

Caritas Australia is part of a global network which spans over 200 countries and territories. For over 110 years, Caritas has worked towards the creation of a just world. In 1964, Caritas began in Australia. A Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, Caritas is Latin for love and compassion – two qualities which are central to our work.

Shrove Tuesday, that day that precedes Ash Wednesday, was also marked with the cooking of delicious pancakes a combined effort of the SRC and Social Justice students. The stall at school sold out of pancakes at recess while our Social Justice team cooked pancakes outside TJ's IGA Supermarket raising \$185 from public donations.

The SRC and Social Justice group collectively raised \$366.75 which is a great start to our Project Compassion fundraising.

This year's social justice project compassion initiative is named 'Goatitas'.

Over the Project Compassion period, for every \$50 the homeroom raises they will receive a cut-out goat; this represents the worth of a goat in a disadvantaged country. Money raised during project compassion 'Goatitas' will help fund programs such as the purchase of goats and livestock, agricultural training and give communities the opportunities to build a stable income.

Raising awareness of the plight of some of our poorest neighbours will be an important focus of Project compassion at St Mary of the Angels as well as fundraising. We ask that everyone gets involved to continue our College's reputation as a big supporter of Caritas.

We only have six weeks left so start rounding up your 'Goatitas' dollars!

TEN THINGS THAT REQUIRE ZERO TALENT

1. Being on time
2. Work ethic

3. Effort
4. Body language

5. Energy
6. Attitude

7. Passion
8. Being coach-able

9. Doing extra
10. Being prepared

Tim Campbell

Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing & Development

We would like to acknowledge and thank our 2018 students leaders (listed below) for accepting their positions of leadership. These students have been chosen for their strength of character and integrity and it is hoped they will encourage participation, honesty and leadership in others.

2018 STUDENT LEADERS

COLLEGE LEADERS: Jack Holt, Mia Parker, Bridget Seiter, Ryan Wallace

ARTS LEADERS: Josephine Diretto, Jessee Champion

HOUSE LEADERS (SPORTS CAPTAINS):

St Clare Amy Hollister, Hannah Paganoni, Ryan Bergamin, Cooper Beitzel

St Elizabeth Amy Rohan, Andriana Oliver, Noah Lane, Lachlan Hyde

St Francis Sarah Flett, Natalie Lukies, Keely Bond, Jack Wilson

SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERS: Kate Berend, Riley Wilson, Louise McCracken

SRC LEADERS: Isabella Nielsen, Chelsea Gray, Vincent Barca, Kye Roberts

BUS CAPTAINS:

Bus 1	Finley/Tocumwal	Tristan Doyle	Jesse Barker	Gracie Reid	
Bus 2	Cobram/MV Hwy	Vince Barca	Josephine Diretto	Cooper Fitzpatrick	Kodi Simpson
Bus 3	Wunghnu/Numurkah	Kallum Green	Isabella Nielsen	Holly Scott	
Bus 4	Cobram East	Eliza Flanigan	Noah Lane	Lily Kennedy	
Bus 5	Katamatite/Invergordon	Maria Gilroy	Kaleb Clarke	Natalie Lukies	
Bus 6	Katunga/Numurkah	Will Newman	Sophie Morris	Jennifer McKenzie	
Bus 7	Barooga/Numurkah Rd	Sarah Flett	Gemma Doyle	Amy Rohan	Bethany Bale
Bus 8	Cobram/Labuan Rd	Lachlan Hyde	Keely Bond	Riley Wilson	
Bus 9	Cobram/Centre Rd	Ryan Hayes	Madison Trenerry	Rian Mendoza	

SHROVE TUESDAY

On Tuesday our SRC and Social Justice Leaders sold pancakes to help raise money for Project Compassion as the Lenten period begins here at St Mary of the Angels. Our wonderful VCAL team (led by Carmel Mithen and Janet Brooks) donated their time and effort to cook over 200 pancakes which were drizzled with lots of lovely goodness. The event was supported well by our students with over \$188.95 being raised at recess. Well done and thanks to our students and a big thank you to Carmel, Janet and the VCAL students for their efforts.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

St Mary of the Angels Parents and Friends in conjunction with the SRC will be conducting the annual Easter Egg Raffle.

We ask that each student and member of staff donate an Easter Egg for their respective homeroom.

The money raised will be divided evenly between Project Compassion and the Parents & Friends.

Raffle booklets will be sent home with your child on Friday. Please return the sold tickets to the College Office prior to the Easter Raffle draw on Thursday 29th March.

OUT OF UNIFORM DAY

NATIONAL RED BALLOON DAY FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

Next Friday 23rd February, is the Annual Nathalia Red Balloon Day.

This year's fundraiser is to help the CFA raise funds for a new Thermal Imaging Camera for Nathalia (who currently share one with Numurkah CFA).

To support this worthy event we will be having an **OUT OF UNIFORM DAY** to help raise money. Students are encouraged to wear red on the day and make a gold coin donation (\$1 if wearing red, \$2 if not wearing red).

Some students will also get the opportunity to have their photo taken with the CFA volunteers on the day when it visits the College. So let's all get behind our local CFA and help support their efforts!



2017 DUX - Jake Hindmarsh

When proud doesn't do it justice

Stephanie Sparrow, Senior School Teacher

Proud, Stoked, Honoured, Impressive; none of these words quite hit the nail on the head of how I felt at Opening Mass as I watched our 2017 graduate Jake Hindmarsh speak to the St Mary of the Angels and St Francis community.

I had forgotten over the summer holidays just what a great person Jake was and more importantly, I was flawed by how much he had matured in such a short space of time.

You see, I know Jake pretty well, he was a student in my English class and homeroom for three years. I knew he had a work ethic second to none, I knew he was Dux and I even knew he could speak pretty well (he worked hard on these English oral presentations over the years).

On Friday however, Jake showed the whole community how great he was and reminded me of why I loved teaching his classes for those three years.

Humility: Jake earned an overall score of 95. I'm very proud that he also received 41 in English. That's not good, or great, it's brilliant!

Yet on Friday, as he spoke to the community, Jake spoke of hard work and dedication. He gave a shout out to the entire class of 2017. He stated that he was never the most naturally brilliant student and mentioned it had taken him three days just to write the speech he was presenting.

That takes guts; Which is why I cannot put into words how proud I was of Jake.

On Friday he showed St Mary of the Angels and St Francis students, what hard work looks like. Jake stood at the podium in front of the entire College community and special guests and said that "...what we should honour is not just the brightest, or the best sports stars or the most charismatic...", but the Jake's out there, "...who put in 110% every single day, do their absolute best and really give us something to be proud of.."

Jake that speech was second to none, have fun at Monash, you've earned your place.

Deputy Principal's News

Bev Thorp

Assistant to the Principal - Learning and Teaching

INFORMATION NIGHTS

A reminder that the College is providing Information Evenings for the various year levels and we encourage parents and carers to attend where they are able to meet homeroom teachers and learning advisors. The evenings will also provide pertinent information on the program for the year. If unable to attend, please do not hesitate to contact your child's learning advisors to touch base and enable us to work with you to support your children through their new year of study. Formal Learning Advisor interviews will be held toward the end of term at both Barooga and Nathalia.

Year 9 Information Evening:

Wednesday 28th February, 6.30pm.

Year 10 Information Evening:

Wednesday 21st February, 7.00pm.

Senior School Information Evening:

Wednesday 28th February, 7.30pm.

EXTRA-CURRICULA ACTIVITIES

Congratulations to all of the students involved in a variety of activities this week. Each of our Year 8 students, VCAL students and Year 10 Employment Pathways students have participated in team building and personal challenge activities at Anglesea; Mt Buffalo and Echuca respectively. These opportunities also allow students to strengthen friendships and develop leadership skills. Our senior debating team has also started their year with a competition in Euroa. We look forward to reading more of their experiences in next week's newsletter.

Our Year 10, 11 and 12 students this week have participated in Elevate Education sessions. Run by dynamic, high-achieving past VCE students, these sessions provide valuable study skills, hints and exam techniques for students, complete with web based access to further notes and support materials. Please ask your child/children what they learnt from the session, and encourage them to follow up on some of the ideas or resources available to them. Your Learning Advisors are also a great source of information and support with regard to setting sound study skills and habits to set up the students for a positive year of learning.

Parents & Guardians please save the date for the Term 1 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews.

Appointment times will soon be made available on PAM (more details to follow).

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

St Mary of the Angels has traditionally reported on assessment tasks with an A to E grade scale. Increasingly, however, some tasks at Years 7 to 10 will be assessed to VCAA achievement levels. Our teachers are progressively developing assessment rubrics which are constructed with multiple levels of achievement so that each individual student is encouraged to work, and progress, from the level at which they are currently working. Assessment tasks based on achievement standards for each level will not be assigned a grade, but will rather be assigned the overall level of achievement that the student has demonstrated. As we work through the 2018 academic year, you may find that your child's achievement on some assessments are reported as grades, and some to VCAA levels.

Reporting to achievement levels allows for:

- a more rigorous, personalised approach to learning for all students
- a focus on celebrating learning growth regardless of the level at which a student may be working
- greater student involvement in their own learning as the next step in their learning progress is visible.

For each year level, there are age-expected levels at which the average student is expected to achieve, as listed below. More importantly though, all students should be rewarded for achieving learning growth, particularly celebrating when they achieve more than the minimum expected one year of growth for one year of schooling.

YEAR LEVEL	AGE-EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENT
End of Year 6	Level 6
End of Year 7	Level 7
End of Year 8	Level 8
End of Year 9	Level 9
End of Year 10	Level 10

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Learning Advisor or myself if you have any queries regarding assessment and reporting processes.

PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT INTERVIEW DATES:

Wednesday 21st March, 4.00 pm - 8.00 pm

St Mary of the Angels College, Nathalia

Thursday 22nd March, 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

St Mary of the Angels College, Nathalia

Wednesday 28th March, 5.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Barooga Sports' Club - Garden Room

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College

Chapel Street, Nathalia, Victoria, 3638

Ph: (03) 5866 2222 | Fax: (03) 5866 2471

Email: info@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au | Website: www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au

SMOTA Stars

'SMOTA Stars' aims to help spread the news and celebrate the achievements of our students outside of the College setting. Parents and Guardians please let us know if your child(ren) have been achieving great things in their home life activities.

SKIDMORE EARNS SILVER

Year 10 student Bradley Skidmore has taken home silver in the Victorian Cycling Elite Men's section over weekend.

What is even more impressive about his silver success is that Bradley is an Under 17 junior rider competing two grades above his age group against much older competitors.

Bradley's team (of three) competed in the sprint event which involved each team member completing a 250m lap as fast as possible. His team qualified for the final with a time of 53.311 seconds they then went on to shave their time to 52.841 to win the silver medal.

Congratulations Bradley!



HOST FAMILY NEEDED FOR SMOTA STUDENT

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is looking for a volunteer host family for a 17 year old Finnish girl who is currently attending St Mary of the Angels Secondary College. Tytti is a social girl interested in sport, cooking and catching up with friends. She would love to experience new activities and simply be part of a family's daily life. We are looking for a family to host until May 2018.

If you can help, please phone Isabelle at the Student Exchange Office: 1300 135 331.

Student Wellbeing News

WELLBEING 'TABLE TOPIC'

Sandy, Rowan & Carmel (Mrs Mithen)
SMOTA Wellbeing Team

Our Table Topic for this week is **'SPARK'**

Ask your children what the School wide Mantra is?

It is hoped all members of our school community will soon be able to recite the five words without a moments hesitation.

SAFE
PURPOSEFUL
ACCEPTING
RESILIENT
KIND



At St Mary's:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Safe | "I will be a person that others can trust" |
| Purposeful | "I will be relentless in striving to achieve my goals" |
| Accepting | "I will focus on what is good about others" |
| Resilient | "I will think positively and keep trying when times get tough" |
| Kind | "I will do the right thing even when nobody is Looking". |

WHAT WOULD "SPARK" LOOK LIKE IN YOUR HOME?

Italian News

Dani Blain, Italian Teacher

Congratulations to all the students in Year 7. They have approached Italian with a positive attitude and I am truly amazed at the genuine interest shown. We have started the term with a look at general introductions, expressions of well-being and greetings, jumping straight in with an oral activity. Despite the sounds being quite foreign to many of the students, they all challenged themselves to have a go. By the end of this week, we will even start reading and writing activities.

If students have access to the internet at home, I encourage the Year 7s to access www.languagesonline.org.uk click on games, Italian, Saluti to review the vocabulary introduced in class. It has been a great start to the year. Bravi!



Sports News

Parents & Guardians

are invited to join us this coming

Tuesday 20th February 2018
for the College's Annual House

Swimming Sports

Where: Nathalia Memorial Swimming Pool,
Park Street, Nathalia

Attendance: Parents & guardians are invited to attend our College House Swimming Sports.

All students are required to attend to cheer on their house

Time: Students go to homeroom get marked off the roll and then walk to the pool in their homeroom groups. They attend the swimming carnival and then walk back to school in time for homeroom. First race starts at 9.30 am

Transport: Students will walk to the pool via the levee bank supervised by College staff.

Parking for parents is available on the side of Park Street.

Dress Code: Students are to dress in house colours:

ST FRANCIS – YELLOW, ST ELIZABETH – RED, ST CLARE BLUE. Students MUST wear a hat while not swimming and remember to "slip slop slap" and continually use sunscreen throughout the day. Parents are also invited to wear house colours on the day

Food: Students can bring their own lunch if they wish. The Pool staff will be running a BBQ on the day and their canteen will be open to purchase items. Food and drinks will be available for parents at the hospitality tent.

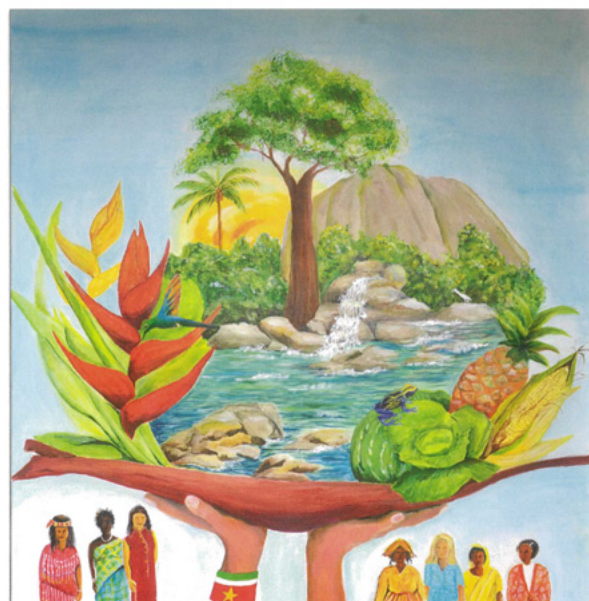
Medical: A reminder to students with medical conditions e.g. asthma or anaphylaxis, please bring the necessary required medication with you.

Public Notices

World Day of Prayer—March 2018

SURINAME

All God's Creation is Very Good!



Friday 2nd March 2018

10.00am

St Marys Catholic Church, Nathalia



FREE

**VICTORIA
WIDE
SERVICE**

For:

Parents

Grandparents

Carers

of children aged 2
to 12 years

Positive Parenting Telephone Service

Our free 6 to 10 Week program helps you to:



Have
Stronger
more positive
relationships



Set rules and
limits



Manage
everyday
behaviour
problems

Participants complete a workbook or online modules which are supported by weekly 30 minute phone calls with a trained parenting educator.

All of this can be done from the comfort of your own home at a time that suits you.



**Enrol now and make a
positive start to last a
lifetime**

Call us for more information or to enrol

1800 880 660

Enrollments are taken all year round



St Mary of the Angels Secondary College

Chapel Street, Nathalia, Victoria, 3638

Ph: (03) 5866 2222 | Fax: (03) 5866 2471

Email: info@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au | Website: www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au