Dear Parents/Carers

NATIONAL Vocations AWARENESS WEEK

This week is National Vocations Awareness Week, with the focus on the vocations of all the baptised - as the laity have an important role in the life of the Church.

How is God calling you?

We have three ex students, realising the depth of their faith, decided to answer their calling. We pray for these members of our Lasallian family.

Minh-Giao Le (ex 2008) is in his 6th Year at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd. He has dedicated his life to become a priest.

Benjamin Saliba (ex 2002) has started his 1st Year in the Seminary of the Good Shepherd. After a decade in the work force, Ben finally decided to stop and listen and that listening brought him closer to God and to dedicate his life to becoming a priest.

Brendan Bourizk (ex 2014) applied to join the Postulancy program of the Order of Capuchin Friars Minor to continue the discernment of his vocation to the priesthood.

We welcome back our World Youth Day Pilgrims: Joshua Grove, Ethan Hua, Jonathon Noujaim, Nathan Galvin-Valencia, Ms Maryanne Nemer and Mr David Cloran. “What a memorable experience—we’ll never forget the journey we were on with so many others and the sites visited!”

St John Baptist de La Salle,
Pray for us
Live Jesus in our Hearts,
Forever

Michael Egan
Principal

2016
DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST
15 Year 7 ACU History Excursion
Feast of the Assumption
17 Year 11 Information Evening
18 Sports Photo Day
SCC Soccer & Basketball
19 Year 11 PDHPE First Aid
Mufti Day
Year 12 Geo Enrichment Day
22 Book Week
25 MCC Athletics Carnival
SCC Soccer & Basketball
26 SCC Girls Athletics Carnival
30 Southern Region Youth Forum

SEPTEMBER
1 SCC Girls Soccer & Basketball
9 Archbishop’s Awards
15 SCC Girls Soccer & Basketball
16 Year 10 Incursion Commerce
20 9.00am Year 12 Assembly
5.00pm Year 12 Graduation Mass
6.30pm Year 12 Graduation Dinner @ Bankstown Sports Club
FROM OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: MS LEONIE DOWD

SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP – FEAST DAY

Saint Mary MacKillop Feast Day fell last Monday 8th August. Mary MacKillop had a strong faith that never wavered even when she faced great difficulties in her life. As an Australian community we are most proud that Pope Benedict XVI declared Mary a Saint on 17th October 2010. Born in 1842 in Melbourne and passing on 8th August 1909, she left a great legacy for fellow Australians to aspire towards.

Inspired by a meeting with Fr Julian Tenison-Woods, Mary MacKillop, at the age of 25, took her vows and the religious name, “Mary of the Cross”. In doing so, she founded the congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph. Her greatest love was in establishing an education system for the young and outcast of the Australian society.

Within 5 years of founding the Congregation, Mary had established over 30 schools, in South Australia and over 100 women had joined the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

Mary MacKillop was very conscious of the plight of the poor and needy. She worked tirelessly with families that lived in isolated areas of Australia. As a result, Mary MacKillop pioneered a new form of religious life in Australia and commenced a system of Josephite schools that would provide education, especially for the children of the poor.

Even today, many Australians can say that they too have felt the impact of the enormous work started by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, having been educated or cared for, by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. She was noted for her trust in the providence of God and miracles of healing have been attributed to her.

We often pray to Saint Mary to intercede for us in times of difficulties or to ask for healing for sick members of our families or community. Mary MacKillop listens to our prayers and intercedes for us. I pray that Saint Mary of the Cross will continue to bless our community at LaSalle.

Loving God

We thank you for the example of Mary MacKillop
who in her living of the Gospel
witnessed to the human dignity of each person.
She faced life’s challenge with faith and courage.
We pray through her intercession for our needs.

May her holiness inspire us to be
people of hope, love and forgiveness.
We make this prayer through Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

“Never see a need... without doing something about it!”

God Bless,
Leonie Dowd
FROM THE ACTING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR: MS KATHRYN WHITE

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

Monday, 15th August, is the Feast Day of the Assumption of Our Lady. It commemorates Mary’s bodily assumption into Heaven, where she was reunited with Jesus. The Feast of the Assumption is a Holy Day of Obligation and the most important of all Marian feast days.

Local Parish Mass Times for the Feast of the Assumption:

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Language</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>St Felix De Valois, Bankstown</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>St Brendan’s Bankstown (English)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>St Brendan’s Bankstown (Vietnamese)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>St John Vianney, Greenacre</td>
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<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>St John Vianney, Greenacre</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.00am</td>
<td>Christ the King, Bass Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Christ the King, Bass Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.00am</td>
<td>St Mary’s George’s Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>St Mary’s George’s Hall (Vietnamese)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.30am</td>
<td>St Mary’s George’s Hall (English)</td>
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Thank you: Thank you to all the students who volunteered to help prepare for Year 11 Mass this week: Anthony Chadrawy, Anthony El-Tarraf, Jayden Gulasi, Benji Asomaning, Charbel Naoum, Khang Bui, Karlo LaGuardia, Jean Pierre Abi Akl, Steven Hoang and Mr Mansour.

FROM OUR LEADER OF LEARNING: MR DAVID CLORAN

YEAR 12 TRIAL HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

This week has seen the continuation of the 2016 Trial HSC Examinations, which are the final significant assessments for our Year 12 students before they complete the HSC exams at the beginning of Term 4. Students are to be commended on the dedication and commitment that they have demonstrated towards their preparation and execution of these exams.

In the final days of these exams, I assure the students of the ongoing thoughts and prayers of the College community as they enter into the final stages of their schooling at LaSalle.

YEAR 11, 2017 SUBJECT INFORMATION EVENING

This coming Wednesday, 17th August, the College will host an Information Evening for students preparing for Year 11 in 2017. This evening will allow all students the opportunity to nominate the subjects that they would like to undertake for their Preliminary and HSC years.

In preparation for the night, all students have been issued with a list of subjects that they are eligible for, based on prerequisites they satisfied in their Semester One report.

The evening will include a ‘one-on-one’ interview with a teacher at the College, as well as, a subject market where students and their parents will be able to speak to various teachers regarding the range of subjects that are on offer for 2017. The subject market will commence at 6:30pm, with formal proceedings getting underway at 7:00pm. This meeting is a compulsory event for all students in Year 10 anticipating a return to the College in 2017.
Joshua Grove, Jonathon Noujaim, Nathan Galvin Valencia, Miss Nemer, Mr Cloran and myself embarked on a journey to explore our faith and discover the strength of our youthful church.

On our pilgrimage we were accompanied by over 500 other students across Sydney Catholic Schools. Our bus group consisted of pilgrims from Trinity Catholic College, Mount Saint Joseph and De La Salle Revesby.

We arrived in Rome - the Eternal City and on our very first day we visited The Vatican and Saint Peter’s Basilica where we saw the famous Michelangelo ceiling painting and the last Judgement in the Sistine Chapel. We later celebrated Mass here.

Other highlights of Rome included the Colosseum, Catacombs, Basilica of Saint John in Lateran, Saint Mary Major Basilica, Trevi Fountain and Roman Forum. During our last day in Rome we visited the Papal sanctuary of Scala Santa (The Holy Stairs) which were transported from Jerusalem to Rome.

As a bus group we climbed the 28 marble steps kneeling in silent prayer, reflecting on the fate that Jesus accepted on those steps of Pontius Pilate’s palace.

We also travelled to Assisi, the birthplace and home of Saint Francis. We visited the Basilica of Saint Clare and Santa Maria Degli Angeli. We walked through the town, following the footsteps of Saint Francis from his birthplace to the Cappella del Transito where he died in 1226.

Our last few days in Italy were spent in Siena where we saw Saint Catherine’s Sanctuary before we arrived in Florence to visit Santa Croce Basilica and the Duomo of Santa Maria Del Fiore.

On Saturday morning, 3,000 Australian pilgrims set out on a 14 kilometre walk to Campus Misericordiae, the site for the prayer vigil, sleep out and closing Mass for World Youth Day.
We arrived in Warsaw, Poland and made our way to Czestochowa to explore the Shrine and see the famous Black Madonna image devoted to Saint Pope John Paul II. We continued to Krakow, the host city for the World Youth Day events.

We spent most days walking for hours and despite the hard journey and sometimes unbearable weather we always managed to sing and chant with other pilgrims from around the world.

It was through our interactions with others that we felt God’s presence and the Catholic Church. We celebrated mass, attended the Aussie Gathering and participated in a range of catechetical events including Adoration.

Our first encounter with the Holy Father Pope Francis was during the Papal Welcome at Blonia Park. This gave us the opportunity to pray together whilst we listened to the Word of God and the first speech by Pope Francis.

We also gathered together in prayer and reflection on the Way of the Cross with a focus on this year’s theme “Blessed are the Merciful”.

Pope Francis called us to forgive and show heartfelt compassion to others. He also reminded us that having “a merciful heart motivates us to move beyond our comfort zone” that it takes courage and compassion.

On Saturday we started our 14 km walk to Mercy Fields to participate in the Vigil and camp out for the final mass with Pope Francis. Although we were physically exhausted and paranoid about the multiple insects the Vigil mass was a special and peaceful gathering.

After finishing the main events of World Youth Day, we travelled to Wadowice where Saint Pope John Paul II was born and then to Zakopane where we began our retreat.

Although there were some obstacles that we faced, we gained so much from the experiences of this pilgrimage.

We started as a group of strangers exploring an unknown country and left as a family who had witnessed some of the most beautiful and holy sites of Europe. Ethan Hua
“Peace builds bridges; hatred is the builder of walls. You must choose in life: either to build bridges or to build walls. Walls divide and hatred grows: when there is division, hatred grows. Bridges unite, and when there is a bridge, hatred can go away, because I can hear the other, I can speak with the other.” Pope Francis

“The Lord does not keep his distance, but is near and real. He is in our midst and he takes care of us.” Pope Francis

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. — Matthew 5:7
Year 11 Pastoral Lesson - School Community and Teamwork

At LaSalle Catholic College pastoral lessons play a major role in the social, spiritual and academic development of the students. The topics covered within the pastoral lesson are varied and the students respond well.

The focus areas of the pastoral lessons this term has been leadership, the school community and teamwork.

Last week the pastoral lesson focused on the value of rules and expectations as important tools for helping individuals function together as a team. The students learnt that rules and expectations reflect what is important to team members and how they work together.

To clearly understand the importance of working as a team, the students participated in the Tower Challenge.

The Tower Challenge involved students working in teams to construct the tallest structure possible using only the items in their bags or pencil cases. All students worked well together to build towers that were up to three metres in height.

The structures built by the students surpassed the imaginations of the Year 11 pastoral team. This activity highlighted the importance of working together as a team.

Mr Sortwell, Year 11 Coordinator

ROBOTICS @ LaSALLE

As part of the Year 9 & 10 Information & Software Technology (IST) subject students are studying *Robotics and Automated Systems*, which is both interesting and cutting edge technology.

During this unit, students are embarking on using ‘state of the art’ technology (hardware and software) and learning concepts that are beyond the reach of many of our population on earth.

Many students have found the unit to be both fun and at times challenging, however with persistence most students have managed to build very imaginative and creative robots.

Mrs V Thapaliya (IST Teacher)

SPORTS PHOTO DAY: THURSDAY, 18TH AUGUST 2016

Just a reminder, that College Sports Photos will be taken on Thursday, 18th August.

Please make sure that your child’s sports uniform is clean and tidy.

Mr Joshua Rheinberger
Principal’s Reading Challenge - new books available

All students in Years 7 – 10 should now be well on their way to reading the minimum number of books required for their class target in the Principal’s Reading Challenge.

New books in the Learning Centre this week:

- **Never Evers** (Romance. Mayhem. Hamsters. Not your average school trip…)
- **Faceless** (Emo – Challenging-Drama)
- **Boy X** (What must Ash McCarthy do to survive?)
- **The Pearl-shell Diver** (A story of adventure from the Torres Strait)
- **Making Bombs for Hitler** (Even if Lida manages to survive the war, how will she find her sister again?)
- **The Girl from Every Where** (A journey through time. A journey to love)
- **Green Valentines** (Resistance is futile)

**Look out for more titles every week.**

LOTS of favourites too!! Norm series, Treehouse series, new sport books.

Mrs Anne Nowakowski, Mrs Sophie Oparcik

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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM EXCURSION

On Tuesday, 2\(^{nd}\) August, 22 students from the Solomon classes across all grades attended the Bell Shakespeare production of ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ at the Sydney Opera House.

With the guidance of Mrs Nowakowski and Miss Harb, the students thoroughly enjoyed the Bell Shakespeare’s appropriation of the Shakespearean play.

Students learnt that Shakespeare’s plays are still valued and appreciated due to their relevance to contemporary society. This will assist them in their future studies of drama and Shakespeare.

The play explored universal themes such as love, rejection and betrayal in a humorous but informative manner. This reinforced the idea that our context may change but our human emotions and experiences are timeless.

The play was engaging and utterly entertaining and will be an experience the boys will never forget.

Jonathan Cakovski and Stefan Aneski
ANNUAL SOCCER GALA DAY

On Thursday, 4th August, students from Years 9 & 10 represented LaSalle Catholic College in the Annual Year 10 Soccer Gala Day at Heffron Park, Maroubra.

It was a knockout competition and the boys faced Marist College Kogarah, the competition favourites, in their opening game.

After a spirited performance against the eventual champions, LaSalle went down 3-0.

Congratulations to all boys for their sportsmanship and for the fine way in which they represented the College.  

Mr Michael Daher