

Trinity's Jubilee Year



Trinity Catholic College Lismore is currently celebrating its Jubilee Year. The year-long celebration began on Foundation Day, 15th August, 2010 and will run for 12 months, finishing on Foundation Day 2011. Trinity's Jubilee Year brings together three important anniversaries:

The Silver Jubilee of *Trinity Catholic College, Lismore* – 2010 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the merger of *Saint Mary's College* and *Marist Brothers High School, Lismore* to form Trinity (1985).

2011 is the Centenary of the arrival of the Marist Brothers in the Diocese of Lismore, with the commencement of the Marist Brothers' school in Lismore (1911).

2011 is also the 125th anniversary of the commencement of the *Presentation Sisters'* ministry of education in Lismore on the Saint Mary's site (1886)

Each of these is a highly significant occasion and well worth celebrating; hence the *Trinity Jubilee Year*.

The *Jubilee Year* is evidence of the rich history and tradition that the College enjoys. Trinity and its antecedents, Saint Mary's Presentation College and Marist Brothers High School Lismore, have made an incredible contribution to the Catholic story of Lismore and the educational endeavours of the wider community. The College has educated tens of thousands of young people, supported numerous parents and families in their goal of providing a fine education for their children and given continual witness to the evangelising mission of the Church. The richness of our Trinity tradition is further highlighted by the fact that our College brings together the *Parish Community*, the *Presentation Sisters Congregation* and the *Institute of the Marist Brothers*. These three Church entities are owners of the College. The College's name, '*Trinity*' is truly appropriate: not only because the Holy Trinity is the defining belief of Christianity, but also because the oneness and community that '*Trinity*' speaks of is symbolic of our College. *Trinity* is a work of *Saint Carthage's Cathedral Parish* and a contemporary expression of the charisms of Nano Nagle and



The three trumpeters heralding in the Jubilee Year of Trinity Catholic College are: L-R: Phillip Kruezer, Callum Bennie and Lewis Bail



Saint Mary's College

Presentation Sisters
Founded 1886

First Principal: Mother Mary Stanislaus D'Arcy pbvm
Colours: Blue and White
Motto: "Non vox sed votum"

Marist Brother's High School Lismore

Marist Brothers
Founded 1911

First Principal: Brother Paulinus McColl fms
Colours: Blue and Gold
Motto: "Fide et Virtute"

Trinity Catholic College Lismore

Founded 1985

First Principal: Sister Mary Cannane pbvm
Colours: Blue and Gold
Motto: "Deeds Not Words" (1985-2005) & "In Word and Deed" (From 2005)



Saint Marcellin Champagnat. On another level 'Trinity' symbolises the partnership of the three parties essential to school education: parents, students and school. The best education occurs in an atmosphere where there is a strong bond of unity and deep sense of belonging. *Trinity* is truly a unique College.

Trinity's Jubilee Year was launched at the 2010 Foundation Day Mass. The College's Foundation Day is celebrated each year on or around August 15 – the *Feast of the Assumption*. This was the date in 1886 when the Presentation Sisters commenced Saint Mary's. At the start of the Mass a contemporary Icon by Australian iconographer, Michael Galovic, was unveiled and blessed. The Icon depicts Nano Nagle and Saint Marcellin Champagnat in the shadow of the *Trinity*. It has become one of the symbols of the *Jubilee Year*. The presence of celebrants, Father Peter Slack, the Vicar General of the diocese and Father Paul McDonald, Administrator of the Cathedral Parish, was a reminder of the close connections that the college has always enjoyed with the parish and the diocese and the complementary roles played by all parties. At the conclusion of the Mass and with a blare of trumpets, the current Chair of Council Dr. Berenice Kerr RSM officially launched the Jubilee year. The Jubilee Fanfare was composed by Trinity Music Coordinator, Mrs Jude Magee.

The second major event in the Jubilee calendar was the opening of the College's new facility, appropriately named *The Jubilee Centre*, which took place on August 21. In 2009 the College made an application to the Commonwealth for one of its Science-Language Centre grants, which were being offered through the Building the Education Revolution component of the Economic Stimulus Package. To the College's surprise and delight its application was successful and it received 1.86 million dollars for the new facility. Being an independent College, Trinity managed the whole project itself, so there was no need for money to be spent on external consultants or project managers. The entire grant was used directly on the building and its contents. The builders, Hutchinson's, completed the project on time

providing sparkling new facilities for the second semester of the year. The Jubilee Centre is an elevated structure which comprises four language classrooms, sound-proof practice booths, a conference room, staff room and office. The Jubilee centre was blessed by His Lordship Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett and opened by the Honourable Janelle Saffin, Member for Page. In his remarks at the opening, the College Principal, Brother Peter, said "a new building such as the Jubilee Centre is a sign of hope and optimism. It is a clear indication that the community has confidence in the work and mission of the school, so much so that it is willing to invest significantly in its future".

The next two major events in the Jubilee calendar are *Presentation Day* which will be held on November 19 and the *Jubilee Race Day* which will be held on November 20. *Presentation Day* is a celebration of the *Feast of the Presentation of Mary* which is the patronal day of the *Presentation Sisters*. It gives the College an opportunity each year to recall the marvellous legacy of Nano Nagle and the wonderful commitment of the *Presentation Sisters* to *Trinity* and Catholic education and life in Lismore. The *Trinity Race Day* is a special Jubilee year event and is being sponsored by the *Lismore Turf Club* and a series of local businesses that have connections with the College. It promises to be a most enjoyable day for the community.

The *Jubilee Year* celebrations will continue into 2011. The *Jubilee Ball* is planned for 14th May, 2011 and will be a night of fine food, entertainment and fun. Tickets will go on sale in the New Year. June 6 is the annual *Feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat*, the French founder of the *Marist Brothers* and this time next year will be the focus of the *Marist Brothers' Centenary* celebrations. These will include the blessing of the *Marist Brothers* commemorative stained glass window in *Saint Carthage's Cathedral*, the *Champagnat Day Liturgy* and a gathering of ex-students.

The *Trinity* community has much to be proud of and the *Jubilee Year* is an opportunity to recall and celebrate the great achievements of the past 25, 100 and 125 years.



by Kerry Myers in Rome

Domus Australia, apart from being a Catholic pilgrimage centre in Rome will be a great place to “throw another steak on the barbie”, said Australia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd.

He was speaking during a VIP site inspection of the new centre a day before the canonisation of Mary MacKillop.

Mr Rudd led a parliamentary delegation including Deputy Opposition Leader Julie Bishop and Senators Ursula Stephens and Barnaby Joyce. They were accompanied by the Ambassador to the Holy See, Tim Fischer and the Ambassador to Italy, David Ritchie.

The Archbishop of Sydney, George Cardinal Pell, also used the occasion to show the progress of the project to the other major stakeholders, Archbishop Denis Hart of Melbourne, Archbishop Bede Hickey from Perth and Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett of Lismore. Other guests included clergy from Australia, including Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Mons Kerry Bayada, Mons Brian Rayner, Fr Peter Brack, Fr John Knight and Fr Mark Podesta.

The visitors were introduced to the architect of the project, Santiago Hernandez. His work has involved extensive renovation to the building which dates to the 19th century. Excavation has revealed ancient foundations which have been preserved.

Business manager of the Archdiocese of Sydney, Danny Casey, showed the guests detailed plans and explained how the centre will function before escorting the group on a tour of the building.

Mr Rudd said he was interested to hear that the site

was previously owned by the Marist Fathers.

“I was educated by the Marist Brothers for two years at Ashgrove and the Marist Fathers were our spiritual directors ... so it’s good to know that we have a strong Australian connection with them here,” he said. “Pilgrimages offer an enormous opportunity for reflection and it is good when going through these moments at day’s end there is a place you can call home ... and this is why Domus Australia is such a good idea.

“Another good thing is it is intended it will also be used as an Australian cultural centre where other activities will occur to reflect the good name of Australia. So from the Government’s point of view we think the Catholic Church of Australia is doing a fantastic thing here in Rome.”

Domus Australia, which is Latin for “Australian home” is expected to open in mid-2011 and will offer top quality accommodation for between 80 and 90 pilgrims at a time, including families, groups and individuals. It will also be a place for visiting Australians to relax and catch up with news from home – there’s even a barbecue area being prepared on the rooftop of the centre.

Mass will be celebrated in English in the centre’s chapel. It was announced that one of the side altars in the chapel will be dedicated to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

There are also provisions for recitals, concerts and conferences.

Cardinal Pell stressed that Domus Australia will welcome “every sort of person”, irrespective of their beliefs or the lack thereof. He said he hoped that the centre would encourage tourists to become pilgrims.

The cardinal also paid tribute to both Tim Fischer and David Ritchie as well as the former ambassador to Rome, Amanda Vanstone, for their great support of the project.

*Reprinted courtesy
“Catholic Weekly”*



L-R: Archbishop Hart, Bishop Jarrett, Cardinal Pell, Archbishop Hickey and Mr Kevin Rudd inspect progress on the renovations (Image from Kerry Myers)

St Francis Xavier Primary

Ballina



Composition Workshop

We recently held a concert led by Michael Mangan. Michael Mangan is a contemporary Catholic composer and his music is well known in schools across Australia.

Each grade rehearsed two of Michael's songs which they then workshopped with Michael on the day. The day culminated with a whole school concert led by Michael and supported by each grade level.

St Paul's College

Kempsey

Dominic Collins, Daniel Cavanagh & Jack Sullivan-Bull in a Kindergarten classroom



Farewell Year 12!

On Friday 3rd September, the Year 12 students from St Paul's College, Kempsey, joined the Kindergarten students from St Joseph's, Kempsey, for a Mass to celebrate the beginning and ending of their Catholic education. The Kindergarten children sat next to their Year 12 buddies at Mass and after the church celebration, the older children revisited their old Kindergarten rooms. They then had morning tea together which had been prepared by Year 12 students in the Food Technology course at St Paul's. The rest of the morning was spent reading and playing games in the classrooms and on the park. It was an enjoyable and memorable experience for all.

St Mary's Primary

Casino

Students participated in a Novena to Saint Mary MacKillop



MS Read-a-thon, State Manager Special Achievement Award

Once again, students have willingly supported MS Read-a-thon, reading 1,782 books during the month. In recent years our school has raised \$13,124.60 for Multiple Sclerosis research. In recognition of this terrific effort St Mary's received the State Manager's Special Achievement Award.

St Mary's tradition of Term 4 camps is a highlight of the year for students, parents and staff. Year 3 begin their overnight experiences with a school sleep-over in term 2 and follow this up with an overnight stay at Camp Koinonia at Evans Head – this year involving 18 parents and 50 students. Year 4 test their outdoor skills at Midginbil Hill accompanied by 17 parents, with Year 5 tackling Mt Warning accompanied by 30 parents – many of whom take holidays or rostered days to participate in this popular family oriented camping experience. Meanwhile, Year 6 enjoy a trip to Canberra via Sydney with ferry rides, a harbour bridge walk and tours including HM Bark Endeavour, federal parliament houses, CSIRO, the AIS, National War Memorial and Electoral Commission.

Back at school, 2011 Kindergarten students are welcomed to their orientation days aimed at assisting the new students and their parents feel at home in our school community.

With the BER constructions commencing, St Mary's is in period of exciting change with the whole school community already looking forward to 2011.

(L-R) Alana Kelly, Maxwell Winn, Jake Conomos and Tahlia Vicary playing with a construction kit.



Port Macquarie Regional

Port Macquarie

Jessica Genders (School Captain) and Olivia Lawrence

Parish Schools Gather to Celebrate at Port Macquarie

On Thursday 21st October, all Catholic schools from the Hastings and Macleay (Port Macquarie and Kempsey) areas gathered to celebrate the Canonisation of St. Mary MacKillop at the Regional Sports Stadium in Port Macquarie. Family members and parishioners joined 4,500 students and 600 staff. All present were treated to a spectacular liturgy featuring great music, dance and drama. Following a picnic lunch, there was a sports and games afternoon. The celebration commenced with a traditional smoking ceremony and all schools were involved. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to celebrate the Canonisation of our first saint.



Above: MM Welcome – Badu Dancers Below: Steven Donovan



St Joseph's Primary

Tweed Heads



Mini Vinnies Coin Day 2010

On Monday the 1st of November, St Joseph's Primary at Tweed Heads, hosted *Coin Day* to raise money for the *St Vincent De Paul Assist-A-Student* program. The grand total of \$280.00 was raised. The money will assist four children in the Asia/Pacific region to obtain an education.

St Augustine's Primary

Coffs Harbour

Year 1 students with the cloth of rainbow colours

Celebrate in Colour

We celebrated the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop with a whole school Liturgy. The Liturgy was celebrated by Parish Priest Father Paul Winter and was a special occasion for staff and students. The Church was decorated with Mary MacKillop art works, which were prepared by every student. The Liturgy began with our Year 6 students processing into the Church with a candle procession. The children then accompanied the entrance hymn with Liturgical Movements. During the celebration a letter from Miss Kristy Firkin, a teacher at St Augustine's who was in Rome for the Canonisation, was read to the school community. To conclude, 90 students from Year 1 performed a beautiful movement using silk cloth of many colours to form a rainbow.

St Patrick's Primary

Macksville

Caleb Wassens (Year 1) and Joe Walker (Year 1) share a game of chess



Sharing Day

On Friday 24th July, St Patrick's "Mini Vinnies" group, consisting of Year 5 and 6 students organised our annual sharing day. This day coincides to celebrate the feast of St Vincent de Paul. All students were invited to wear mufti and bring a gold coin donation. The money raised this year was donated to our local St Vincent de Paul branch and the Pakistan Flood Appeal that Caritas Australia is conducting.

The theme for our Sharing Day was "We are the face of God". The children participated in a liturgy and then were divided into mixed age groups for some games and activities. This allowed the children to get to know and have fun with other students in our school that they may not have met.

We had the privilege of being visited by the 'Rosary Ladies Group' from Telegraph Point on Tuesday 26th October. These ladies patiently worked with each class from K-6, approximately 300 students in total, helping each child make their own set of rosary beads. The children were also shown an array of beautifully and intricately hand-made rosary beads, constructed from materials such as apple seeds, cherry seeds, rockmelon seeds, palm tree nuts and string, just to name a few, that the ladies had made.

The children's hand-made rosary beads were then presented to Fr Peter Jones, class set by class set, during the All Saints Mass on Monday November 1 to be blessed.

Year 2 students, Olivia McGuinness, Tyler Smith, Charley Townley constructing their rosary beads



Mt St Patrick Primary

Murwillumbah

Paris and Tyler Ludlow with their grandmother



Grandparent's Day

We recently held our annual 'Grandparent's Day'. The grandparents and visitors to the school were treated to a series of concerts in the hall, a delicious morning tea and a much anticipated visit to the classrooms. The new BER block was completed just days before the event and has four new classroom with interactive whiteboards, meeting rooms and a range of other facilities.

St Paul's High School

Port Macquarie



Out of uniform and bandanna day

On Friday, 29th October we held an Out of Uniform Day to raise funds for 'Canteen' an organisation for young people living with cancer. In the lead up to this day bandannas were for sale and students were encouraged to incorporate the bandannas into their out of uniform for the day.

The day was organised by Mr Dom Ashe and the Student Representative Councillors. Over \$2,000 was raised through their efforts.

Pictured above: Year 8 students Back row: Emily Davidson, Alana Johns, Maddison Lewis, Nicholas Maguire, Maddison Johnson, Mairne Pooke, Tori Stone. Front row: Lisa Raymond, Jamie Hart, Rhiannon Styles, Eriakalyn Jones.

Mary Help of Christians Primary

Sawtell

Students role playing a Restorative Justice mediation session

L-R: Zac Cross, Hayden Purkiss, Jackson McAllister



Students supporting each other

Year 5 students have just completed a workshop, *Restorative Problem Solving for Primary School Leaders*, run by Marist Youth Care, Sydney. The School has been using Restorative Justice Practices for the past 4 years with the Executive, Staff, Parents and Students attending workshops as a holistic approach to conflict resolution and ensuring a safe and supportive school environment.

Staff from Marist Youth Care has been most supportive in their presentation of workshops and their back up from a distance. Year 5 students, in preparation for their leadership roles in 2011 have explored the many triggers for conflict and have been led through the process of restoration, developing strategies and skills to assist them to support junior members of the school community. Presenter, Vicki Kable, engaged students in realising their talents and discerning how they as leaders can be an integral part of restorative problem solving. Vicki commented, *"It is a no blame model with a teaching and learning approach recognising we all make mistakes. It focuses on empathy, understanding and forgiveness. Clear boundaries and consequences are set with support rather than a punitive response."*

School and parents are working in partnership to provide the best possible process for supporting students as they make decisions.

Below: Restorative Justice Student Leader Workshop; Sarah Gane, Jayden Buckingham, Emma Gane, Aimee Sully, Brianne Gane, Jackson McAllister, Zaine Ryman with presenter Vicki Kable



Our Lady Help of Christians

Sth Lismore

Shania & Eliza



Saint Mary MacKillop

Sunday October 17th 2010 was a tremendously important event for all Australians. Mary MacKillop became Australia's first saint when she was canonised by Pope Benedict XVI, at St Peters Square, Rome.

Mary MacKillop now known as *St Mary Of The Cross*, is known for establishing the first ever Catholic school in Australia at Penola, South Australia. She is also well known for starting the order of the *Sisters of St Joseph*.

The *Sisters of St Joseph* were founded by Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods. They commenced teaching poor children in South Australia in 1886. The work grew rapidly and soon spread to other parts of Australia – Lismore being among them. The sisters are also very engaged in all kinds of charitable works, from hospital ministry to helping educate Catholic children in state schools.

It was an honour for our school to embrace the experience of a special cross visiting our school a few weeks before Mary's canonisation. The cross was made out of the floorboards from Mary MacKillop's first school in Penola.

Mary MacKillop has a strong connection with our school, as the *Sisters of St Joseph* taught at this school from 1924-1993 teaching the qualities of Christian life and the importance of God.

Our Lady Help Of Christians Parish also celebrated this event by attending a special mass on the Sunday that Mary MacKillop was canonised. After the Mass, some of the students with groundsman Mr Goodwin, planted a special callistemon named after Mary MacKillop at Hollingworth Creek across the road from the school. The students of OLHC continue to dedicate time to learning about the work of Mary MacKillop and the *Sisters of St Joseph*, as they strive to be more like Mary in their everyday life.

By Shania Donnelly, Eliza Stormon and Isabella Smith,
Students of OLHC Parish School

St John's College

Woodlawn



Woodlawn's Academic 'First'

The **Tournament of Minds** competition and its Regional and State levels of participation have been widely documented in the local press in 2010. The nationally-run competition, which extends the lateral thinking of the brightest minds in our public and private schools, is regarded as one of the benchmarks for academic success.

Woodlawn College provided three winning teams with a fourth gaining honours at Regional finals held at the Southern Cross University in August this year. The 1st placed teams in the categories of Maths/Engineering, Language/Literature and Social Sciences went on to represent this region at State level in September. In the lofty halls of the University of N.S.W. the latter two of those teams achieved the near impossible, both attaining 1st place. And the Maths/Engineering team were not forgotten, gaining honours at State level.

The National titles: the Australasian Pacific Titles were held in Darwin. A lot of fundraising was put quickly in place to get 16 participants all the way to Darwin – and as usual our local businesses as well as the school student body were in the forefront of support.

The Social Science team (see photo) made up of academic stars Georgia Woods, Andrew Herrmann, Jack Dillon, Rachel Farrington, Emily Farrington, Emma O'Meally and Gary Collocott took out the title of 1st place National Champions.

Language/Literature students Jessica Spence, Marian Joseph, Danny Chatterton, Phoebe Parker, Paris Mordecai, Jack Oates and Callum Riordan. This team, facilitated by Mrs Catherine Graham-Smith, managed to complete the double with Honours at National level.

Messages of congratulations for this unique result have rushed in from many local schools and businesses.

Story & Photo: Student Media Centre (SNAZZI Unit)

*Pictured above: Front Row L-R: Rachel Farrington, Emily Farrington, Paris Mordecai, Middle Row: Georgia Woods, Emma O'Meally, Jessica Spence, Gary Collocott, Callum Riordan, Marian Joseph, Danny Chatterton, Phoebe Parker
Back Row: Mrs Catherine Graham-Smith (Facilitator), Jack Dillon, Andrew Herrmann, Mr Glenn Roff (College Principal & Facilitator)
Absent from photo: Jack Oates*

St James Primary

Yamba

Year 6 students of St James Yamba engaged in Multi-Mice activities



Ahead of the Game

Students at St James Yamba have embraced *Multi-Point*, the latest computer technology that enables the whole class to have simultaneous interaction with the Interactive Whiteboard from the comfort of their seat. Each student has their own wireless 2.4ghz mouse and the programs we use allow each mouse to display its own unique, identifiable cursor on the screen. The students love the fact that they have a real time presence on the screen and they all can participate and answer every question in every lesson. The programs are also capable of tracking and scoring individual student progress. Having 25 or more cursors flying around the screen creates a very exciting atmosphere as students collaborate on questions to formulate an answer or compete to be the first to answer correctly. This type of learning uses computers like never before.

Currently our Year 6 students are designing content for our multi-player games. This will provide an excellent source of revision for their end of year assessments. When they have finished writing their questions and answers, the whole class then gets to play to test their skills and knowledge. It has turned learning into games and the children just love it! Content can easily be generated for every subject area and for every grade level from K-12. The children ask me every day if they can do "Multi-Mice". It makes lessons fast and fun.

We have been fortunate to have had the support and sponsorship of programmers and developers from countries all around the world who have invited us use, trial and test their software in return for feedback.

There are so many types of activities we can now do with our mice eg. voting on multiple choice answers for up to ten responses; brainstorm or answer any question simultaneously by entering text using an on-screen keyboard or numerical keypad; simultaneously drag objects, images or text around the screen as for matching activities, whole class jigsaws or labelling; all draw or write anywhere on the screen in different colours simultaneously (they absolutely love this feature). As well, there are game platforms that can accommodate the entire class playing at once. This is truly amazing, as other game systems can only support up to four players.

By Joe Stewart



In the Footsteps of Bishop Jeremiah Doyle (The Nightcap Track)

Bishop Doyle rode in the late 1870s, the Nightcap track from Lismore on his trusted horse Yorick many times. He would go through the Nightcap National Park from Lismore to Murwillumbah in order to visit his congregation there.

As part of their initiation into Year 12, each year a group of Year 11 Trinity Students from Doyle House (named after Bishop Doyle) walk the same track in the footsteps of Bishop Jeremiah Doyle. Mr Flood, their Head of House, has used this opportunity as a time of reflection and bonding for these senior students. What follows is a short account of their journey:

"So how long is the walk, Mr Flood?" asked an excited group of students on the morning of Friday 22nd of October. "Only about 5 kilometres..." he replied.

Ten students from Doyle House departed the College, accompanied by Mr Flood and Mrs De Maria, to begin an exciting journey.

Upon arriving at Rummery Park, team building skills were immediately put into action: Boys vs Girls engaged in tent erecting. The females stole success from the males, after which the group eagerly disappeared into the bush to complete what they were expecting to be a 5km walk, through an environment filled with many ferns, leaches and fireflies.

At the halfway point, we stopped at what is known as the Postman's Tree. This is where Bishop Doyle would frequently take shelter in the hollow trunk of a gigantic tree. The tree was large enough to hold all ten students, including Mr Flood and Mrs De Maria, albeit a tight squeeze.

After five and a half hours, the exhausted team returned to their campsite, covered in scratches, bruises and leaches having successfully completed around 21 kilometres of bush walking! The girls realised that during the excitement of their tent victory they had left their tent unzipped, issuing an invitation to some unexpected guests: possums, goanna's and wild dogs!

The next day, the once enthusiastic group of students began packing up tents, overnight bags and plastic cutlery. They continued to a small creek at Rosebank for a well-earned swim before sleepily returning to their parents, in a battered and dirty state.

The camp taught us many team building skills, as well as never to trust Mr Flood with his calculation of distances again. Thank you to Mr Flood and Mrs De Maria for accompanying us, as well as Mr Grogan for his surprise visit to help us with billy-boiled spaghetti over the fire for dinner. We all had a great time.

*By Alex Beaumont and Will Wu
Students, Year 11 Doyle*

Left: Doyle house students along with Mrs Sally DE Maria, pose for a photo inside the "postman's tree" where local pioneer travellers (including Bishop Doyle) often stopped in years gone by.



World Cup Day

In June we raised money for the Missions by holding an SFX World Cup Day. We divided into multi-age teams of 10 and were allocated a country. The children spent some time together locating their country on the map and colouring their countries flag. They also practised the World Cup theme song. On the day children and staff dressed in their country's colours and proudly waved their flags. The day began with the school captains leading the whole community in prayer. Next came the anthem with everyone including the parents, joining in enthusiastically.

This wonderful start was followed by games which had to include a soccer ball.

Celebrations and Scholarships at South Lismore



The celebratory Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Church at South Lismore to honour St. Mary of the Cross held special significance.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph taught at the parish school from 1924 until 1993.

The Liturgy of the Mass was inclusive of the traditions left by the sisters as pupils of the parish school and parishioners recalled their involvement not only in the parish school but also in the community of South Lismore.

Parish Priest Father Peter Karam recalled the solid traditions of faith, generosity of spirit and dedication to the whole community that the sisters reflected in their work over the years. *“They were there not only for the education of the children in the community but excelled in their generosity and care in times of flood, during the war years and in troublesome times. They were there not only for the catholic community but supported the community at large,”* he said.

In tribute to *St. Mary of the Cross* and her sisters, Father Karam announced the establishment of two scholarships at the school for pupils of Year 5 to be used in Year 6. The scholarships would be presented each year and would include all school costs for two students and remuneration for book and computer expenses. *“A fitting tribute”* he said *“to the memory and tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Saint Mary.”*

Celebratory Mass at Our Lady Help of Christian Parish Church, Sth Lismore held on the October 17th, 2010

Diaconate A ‘Commission’ For Life

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The understanding of the origin of the *‘diakon’* words shows us that with the Deacon the emphasis in relationship is always one that finds its meaning through the one who commissions.⁵ Thus a deacon cannot be one who *‘does his own thing’* as it were, without reference to the will of the Bishop and of God Himself. As John Collins points out, the scripture that *“Jesus came to serve”* cannot be taken out of its context, because he came to serve by *“giving his life as a ransom for many”*.⁶ The *‘diakonia’* of Christ is not *‘being a good social worker’* but rather, carrying out the will of the Father, by redeeming humankind. Similarly, a Deacon is an emissary of his Bishop and is to carry out the will of his Bishop in serving the church through Word, Liturgy and Charity. In this way he is participating in the *‘diakonia’* of Christ, the redemption of the world.

Clearly there is a difference between what the Deacon is and what he does. The latter does not define him. Whatever he is doing the Deacon is an icon of Christ, participating in the *‘diakonia’* of Christ, that is, the redemption of the world. Paramount to

this is the call to humble service. As Christ was concerned with *‘doing the Father’s will’*, so must the Deacon be concerned with *‘doing the Bishop’s will’*. This is not to say that he cannot use his initiative in getting things done, or that a Bishop should not choose tasks that are in line with the Deacon’s personal gifts, it just means that the mandate to carry it out is given him by the Bishop. This mandate includes the *‘faculties’* granted him by his Bishop and may also include particular assignments.

The modern Diaconate is a vibrant and indispensable part of the Body of Christ. In reading the *‘signs of the times’* we must look at the action of the Holy Spirit in giving new impetus to this ancient order. Over 30,000 Catholic deacons⁷ now minister around the globe. The majority of these men are married and bring with them vast experience in a huge variety of fields. How can a particular church be an authentic church if it does not have deacons? If there is no commitment to Diaconate, can there really be a commitment to carrying out the will of the Father? Christ’s *‘diakonia’* is the redemption of humanity. The Deacon is a reminder to the church community of its baptismal calling to be the leaven in the world.

The redemption of humanity is the real *‘diakonia’*. A diaconate *‘hidden’* only in Priesthood or Episcopacy

does not, I believe, give witness to the *‘diakonia’* required in this present age. This is particularly so with regard to marriage, which reflects the relationship between Christ and His Church. In this day of self-centeredness, of same sex relationships shouldn’t we be actively engaging the world through the Diaconate? The harvest is indeed rich, but the labourers are few. Not only do we have a shortage of Priests, we have an equally critical shortage of Deacons! To ignore one at the expense of the other is to fail to understand what *‘diakonia’* and ministry really is. Let us pray for vocations to the Priesthood, but let us also pray for vocations to the Diaconate. It is interesting to note that where there is a vibrant Diaconate there are also local vocations to the priesthood. Let us pray that those willing to take up a commission in the Lord’s service will persevere and never give up. May they hear the words, *“Well done, good and faithful servant”* when they reach the kingdom of heaven.

¹ Collins, John N., *‘Deacons and the Church’* (London: Gracewing 2002) p44, 45, 86 ² *Ibid.*, 87 ³ *Ibid.*, 94 ⁴ *Ibid.*, p 99 ⁵ *Ibid.*, p 106 ⁶ *Ibid.*, p 28 ⁷ Collins, p. 1, 121

Deacon Christopher Wallace is Chancellor of the Diocese of Lismore, NSW. A former NSW Police Officer, Army and Navy Reservist, he was ordained in 1993. Deacon Wallace holds the position of ‘Defender of the Bond’ for the Tribunal of NSW & ACT. He is also a Police Chaplain for the Richmond Local Area Command in northern N.S.W. Married to Loana in 1984, they have five children.



As It Was

The Early Years of St Mary's College and Marist Brothers School

*Mother Stanislaus with Mother
Agnes in 1931.*

*Photo courtesy of The Congregation
of Presentation Sisters, Lismore*



Marist Brothers' rugby league team, 1921.



*St Mary's College,
1940*



*Marist Brothers
School, 1911*

*All photos
courtesy of the
Northern Star*