

Catholic Schools' Week 2006



Bishop Jarrett with student leaders from Mary Help of Christians School, John Paul College, St Francis Xavier School and St Augustines

*M*ore than 2500 students and 200 Staff gathered at John Paul College Coffs Harbour to celebrate the opening of Catholic Schools' Week 2006.

Students from Mary Help of Christians Sawtell, St Augustine's Coffs Harbour and St Francis Xavier, Woolgoolga met with the John Paul College Students in prayer, activity and performance.

Mr Ian Walton, Principal of John Paul College welcomed official guests including Mrs Dianne Marshall, Director of Catholic Schools, Principals and school leaders from several schools in the Diocese, who joined the students this year. Mr Walton in addressing the students and staff stated, "Let us be proud of who we are, let us be proud of what we are, as we follow the light of Christ to a future filled with joy and hope in Catholic Education."

Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett, Bishop of the Diocese officiated at the Liturgy, which marked the

opening of Catholic Schools Week. In recalling the foundation and history of Catholic Schools Bishop Jarrett reminded all of the importance of Catholic Schools to work in partnership with parents in handing on the faith from generation to generation. He emphasised the need that Catholic Schools be out reaching enabling all Catholic children to receive a Catholic Education.

Under the leadership of Mr Leon Walsh, Deputy Principal at John Paul College the organising committee provided a timetable that allowed students to mingle, meet new friends and reacquaint themselves with those they had met in previous years.

All Staff entered fully into the event making it such a successful and memorable occasion.



Scenes from the Catholic Schools Spectacular held at Salt Central Park at Kingscliff

Catholic Schools Spectacular



On Tuesday evening 23rd May nine Catholic Schools of the Northern Rivers Region presented a Catholic Schools Spectacular.

The schools taking part were:

Mt St Patrick's College – Murwillumbah

St Joseph's College – Banora Point

St James Primary – Banora Point

St Finbarr's Primary – Byron Bay

St Anthony's Primary – Kingscliff

St John's Primary – Mullumbimby

Mt St Patrick Primary – Murwillumbah

St Joseph's Primary – Sth Murwillumbah

St Joseph's Primary – Tweed Heads

The performance was held at Salt Central Park from 6 – 8p.m. and provided an opportunity for all nine schools to showcase the talents that abound in each school.

Some 600 students participated on the night. Students participated in a variety of ways which included a combined Primary and Secondary school choir, combined orchestral bands, soloists, pianists, jazz bands, theatrical performances, choral speaking, drum core, gymnastics displays, and dance groups.

An audience of 3000 people were on hand to watch this inaugural performance.

The theme of the night was Generation to Generation and it gave tribute to the past, present and future of Catholic Education. Importantly the night provided a focus point for Catholic Schools Week across the Diocese.

Brian Laybutt



Bishop Jarrett Leads Mexico Pilgrimage – Kate Nestor

On the 28th June a group of 21 students from our Diocese will be attending a Pilgrimage to Mexico. Led by Bishop Jarrett and assisted by Fr Peter Padsungay along with Ms Cath Ord, Mt St Patrick College, Murwillumbah, Peter Watts, St Francis Xavier primary school, Woolgoolga and Ms Kate Nestor, Catholic Education Office.

The Pilgrimage to Mexico provides the opportunity for the Pilgrims to encounter a social milieu in which the Catholic Faith is still a lived Religion integrated into the life and culture of modern society. Participation in a Christian Pilgrimage helps to enlighten the spiritual identity of the pilgrims. In particular the Mexico Pilgrimage provides an encounter with a fascinating and ancient cultural history of the Aztec people and their archaeological sites.

This Pilgrimage is under the patronage of Our Blessed Mother, Mary. Central to the Pilgrimage will be time for the Pilgrims to understand and experience the special Marian graces that have been bestowed upon Mexico. The group has already gathered together for our first formation weekend. This gathering was to help the students get to know each other as well as reflect on what it means to go to Pilgrimage. The excitement levels of our group is growing as our departure date draws near.



Pilgrims with Bishop Jarrett

World Meeting of Families

The Archdiocese of Valencia in Spain will host the 5th World Meeting of Families this July 1-9.

Together with the Archdiocese, the Pontifical Council for the Family have prepared the Catecheses. The catechetical program, which is being used by parishes worldwide, was introduced in part by Pope Benedict XVI's address at last June's opening of the ecclesial congress of the Diocese of Rome on the family and Christian community.

The catecheses cover nine chapters that address topics of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. They include a reflection on "the essence of the Christian family, the values of marriage and the transmission of the faith." The catecheses may be downloaded at www.emf2006.org.

More than 40 people from Australia are making the pilgrimage to Valencia, which is being led by Bishop Hurley along with Professor Ron and Mrs Mavis Pirola.

They said the Pontifical Council for the Family had become well known over the years for its initiatives in promoting and defending family life.

"The council has become a byword for the proclamation and defence of Church teachings regarding marriage, the family and the transmission of life," they said.

Looking ahead, they said that a major challenge for the Council was to express truth with compassion, especially in the area of sexuality.

They said that in his address to the General Assembly, Pope Benedict XVI called on married couples to be counter-cultural.

"He emphasised that when married couples commit themselves to each other unconditionally, in a love relationship that is open to new life, they help society to appreciate authentic human values," they said.

All parishes in Australia will have a kit of information and a CD to enable them to participate in this special event.



The Sisters of St. Joseph returned on Sunday 4th June to Our Lady Help of Christians Parish South Lismore, to dedicate a stained glass window honouring Blessed Mary MacKillop.

Their association with the parish spanned a period of seventy-four years commencing in 1924. A large congregation of parishioners and visitors welcomed the Provincial Leader Sister Judith Sippel and Sisters Rosalie, Clare, Marion, Margaret and Katherine. Parish Priest Father Peter Karam, in his welcome to the Sisters, said that their presence again in South Lismore recalled the wonderful legacy of faith and mission that the Sisters of St. Joseph had given the parish over seventy four years.

He thanked those who had arranged the celebration including Mrs Joy Ryan, School Principal, teachers and students.

In her address at the dedication Sister Marion Gambin spoke of the long and happy association of the Sisters

Parishioners Lenore and Ray Seymour, Terry and Betty Hassett donated the stained glass window in memory of Marie and Bruce Beckman.

The artist who designed and crafted the window is Wolfgang Janssen. He has used his own newly developed technique of incorporating a photographic image of the sisters' convent at South Lismore into the window. He is one of Australia's foremost designers of stained glass, being a member of glass conservation and maintenance of Cologne Cathedral.



Even though I have not had the opportunity to live in this community my sense was that the relationship of the Sisters with this parish & school over 74 years was a happy and harmonious one

of St. Joseph with the priests and parishioners of South Lismore. She said: "After receiving an invitation to attend today, I spent some time reading through the records about South Lismore Parish held in our Province archives in Sydney. Even though I have not had the opportunity to live in this community my sense was that the relationship of the Sisters with this parish school over 74 years was a happy and harmonious one. This was confirmed! I read there of the sacrifices made in the early days...to build a church, a school and a convent. I read of the way the Sisters, Parish Priests

and Parishioners worked together right through the years to battle the hardships and difficulties, not least during the many times that floods were part of daily life, to build not only bricks and mortar but also a strong faith community. In many ways this stained glass window honours the memory of that story and those events.

This window can remind us of the many achievements of all who have been a part of this community, the roads that you have travelled and the choices you have made.

It not only honours the memory of the past but also gives witness to the values that you hold today; values

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of generosity, compassion and justice that Mary MacKillop lived by and which she encourages you to hold firm to now and in the future.

In our church and world today we are often confronted by uncertainty and it is sometimes so difficult to see the way ahead. I'm sure Mary MacKillop would have been surprised to look into the future and see herself depicted in stained glass but would have gladly accepted the honour knowing that it encouraged you to have the same trust in God that she often spoke of and a deep awareness that "God will provide" when you turn to God with those many needs which confront you in



Sisters of St. Joseph pictured at the Dedication are (from left) Sr Marion, Sr Katherine, Sr Judith Sippel (Provincial Leader), Sr Clare and Sr Margaret

our daily lives. So today is a day of celebration and along with the other sisters here today and those many sisters who lived in the Parish and school community in the past but who were unable to be present, I congratulate you and ask God's blessing on you as you see the dedication of this beautiful window as an opportunity to be strengthened in your faith and in the bonds which unite you as a community".

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School Kingscliff



Jhai Banks and Katherine O'Donaghue carried the school wreath on Anzac Day

In Support of the Anzacs

It was both significant and special that 170 St Anthony's students chose in their small way to march down Marine Parade, Kingscliff on Anzac Day to remember and support our proud Australian history. Anzac Day is a regular, continuing, annual family service event for many families at St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Kingscliff. It brings us together for the right reasons – service, love of country and family, mateship, loyalty and commitment which characterised our first Anzacs. It has become a significant part of our annual St Anthony's culture and tradition. Special thanks to Katherine O'Donaghue and Jhai Banks who led our school and carried a very heavy wreath the whole way with pride and smiling faces. It was also most pleasing that two past students of STA (Ryan Andrews and Jessica Hunter), who now attend St Joseph's College, were asked to lead the recitation of "In Flanders's Fields" during the Commemoration as well.

We wish to thank and congratulate the 170 St Anthony's students and 15 staff members for honouring the ANZAC sacrifice, the sacrifice of all peoples throughout the world and showing great love of our school and our community by participating in the Kingscliff Anzac Day March 2006.

Mt St Patrick Primary School Murwillumbah

Special Presentation for Lent

At Mount Saint Patrick Primary School Murwillumbah, classes from K-6 participate in prayer celebrations within their school assemblies.

As part of the prayer and worship in our school, each of the classes was presented with a class candle and purple prayer cloth, symbolic of the liturgical season of Lent, which they were in at the time.

These cloths and candles were used to decorate the prayer spaces in each of the classrooms. The school has purchased coloured cloths for each class that coincide with the Liturgical seasons for the rest of the year. These will be presented to each class at a school assembly to acknowledge this change of liturgical season and emphasise the importance of prayer throughout the different times of the year.



Ms Michelle Mackney the school Religious Education Coordinator presenting Ashleigh Mumford and Jack Howard with a liturgically coloured cloth and class candle

St Francis Xavier School Woolgoolga



Some of the grandparents and students who attended our yearly gathering

Celebrating our Grandparents

As part of our Senior Citizens Week activities, St Francis Xavier School in Woolgoolga held a special Grandparents' Day on Thursday, April 7th.

The day commenced with a Liturgy of the Word to offer prayers with our Grandparents and to thank them for all the sacrifices they have made for us to enjoy the life we live. There was a concert involving the school choir, followed by all classes presenting an item. Some of our children from the Sikh community also performed a dance. The Grandparents enjoyed a morning tea served by our staff, parents and School Leaders and also visited the classrooms.

There were 80 Grandparents in attendance, some travelling great distances to attend.

by Peter Salter

St Joseph's Primary School South Grafton

School, Community and Parish Working Closely Together

Our year at St Joseph's began with a memorable mass, which was celebrated by our Parish Priest, Father Pascal O'Halloran. Staff, parents and new students received a special blessing to commemorate the beginning of 2006 and to ask for God's blessings. We also warmly welcomed Joe Stewart to our school community from St James in Yamba. He is the new St Joseph's Co RE.

Parents took an active role when St Joseph's school leaders were inducted during a moving school liturgy. Many parents witnessed Year 6 children as they recognised their roles of leadership and responsibility.

The Easter season began with a liturgy on Shrove Tuesday, where the children's Lenten promises were offered to God. After the liturgy, the children enjoyed pancakes and a variety of toppings, served by some talented parents.

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent – a very special time in the Church Liturgical Year. All staff and students attended mass and received the cross of ashes and/or a blessing from Father, which was a sign of our preparation for Lent.

St Joseph's School S.R.C. busily made Easter gifts for the elderly residents of Southern Cross Care and happily visited and presented them in person. The children received an overwhelming response for their thoughtfulness.

Staff Prayer was introduced and is now conducted during most mornings in the staffroom. A sign is placed on the door to remind students and their parents that this time is a sacred time – a time to prepare for the day remembering that our school life is centred around our faith in Jesus Christ.

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Confirmation saw children partnered with a class group for prayers during most mornings leading up to these masses of celebration. Twenty one children received the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Patrick's Church and 39 children from our school and parish eagerly await their Sacrament of Confirmation celebration. Bishop Jarrett is due to visit the school before the ceremony to meet with the children in their classroom. The children are very excited and are looking forward to impress the Bishop with their knowledge of the story of Pentecost and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Parishioners from St Patrick's Church are keeping these children in their prayers.

On Wednesday 26th July, Father O'Halloran will celebrate 50 years ordained. To mark this very special occasion, a mass of celebration is to be held in the Parish, to be followed by morning tea in the church grounds. All staff, students and parents of St Joseph's School as well as parishioners from our Parish are warmly invited to come together and thank Father for his many years of service to God and to his church. We are all looking forward to this memorable day.



*Sacrament of Confirmation candidates are
(from left) Flynn Hodgson, David Purnell,
Kanada Long, Emily Smidt.*



Laying of the Foundation Stone of St. Carthage's Cathedral Lismore by Cardinal Moran on the 4th October 1892. (Bishop Doyle is standing beside the stone on the left).



*Photograph taken after the consecration of his Lordship Dr. Carroll on June 12th, 1911
L-R: R. Campbell K.S.G., J. B. Kelly K.S.G., T. McDermott K.S.G., Right Rev. Dr. Carroll,
John Weather K.S.G. M.L.C., J. B. Carlton, D. Mason, Dr. Cohen*



*Blessing of St. Vincent's Hospital Site Lismore
Seated are Archbishop Duhig of Brisbane and Bishop Carroll of Lismore*

Curriculum for Religious Education *continued from page 14*



The Religious Education Curriculum, K-Y 10

- 2004** • Year 7 to Year 9 Religious Education Curriculum implemented
- Year 7 to Year 9 To Know, Worship and Love texts implemented
- 2005** • Year 3 to Year 6 Religious Education Curriculum implemented
- Year 3 to Year 6 To Know, Worship and Love texts implemented
- Year 10 Religious Education Curriculum implemented
- Year 10 To Know, Worship and Love text implemented
- Years 11/12 Catholic Ethical Thinking text implemented
- 2006** • Year Kinder to Year 2 Religious Education Curriculum implemented
- Year 3 to Year 6 To Know, Worship and Love implemented
- Years 11/12 Religious Education Curriculum rewritten for the To Know, Worship and Love text
- Years 11/12 To Know, Worship and Love text implemented

The Bishop of Lismore, Most Rev. Geoffrey Jarrett, has fully promoted the development of both the Religious Education Curriculum and the student resource text books. He has ensured that every parish school and student is able to access both these resources at no personal cost. His whole hearted commitment is to ensure that every student knows the truths of the Catholic faith in their entirety and that when they leave parish schools they are literate in the rich beauty of the Catholic faith.

The whole Diocese has rallied to ensure that these wonderful resources are presented in their best form to all students. The Coordinators (Religious Education) in parish primary schools have been busy organising school made resources (3D and 2D options) to assist in the teaching of Scripture and the Catholic Tradition. These are then used by the students as they further explore Scripture and Tradition. All parish primary school teachers have been given the opportunity to participate in two days of inservice on the Religious Education Curriculum during 2005 and 2006.

The esteem accorded Religious Education in parish secondary schools has been raised with the implementation of the Religious Education Curriculum and the "To Know, Worship and Love" student resource text books. The Coordinators (Religious Education) in parish secondary schools have done a praiseworthy effort in both learning the new Years 7 to 10 curriculum and then preparing their teachers in how to teach it.

Students in Years 11 and 12 will be provided with the new To Know, Worship and Love resource texts in May, 2006. The Years 11 and 12 Religious Education Curriculum has also been rewritten for the texts. Teachers of Years 11 and 12 will be inserviced throughout the rest of the year. While the majority of students take the Studies of Religion course for the Higher School Certificate, many will be attracted to the clear and well designed presentation of the Catholic faith found in the new curriculum and student text books.