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**ST THOMAS AQUINAS
 COLLEGE**

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COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Tuesday 24th May 2022



Word from the Principal

Dear Staff, Parents and Friends of the College,

Last week I promised to provide some advice on how to practice devotion to Our Lady. That advice is provided below, but firstly I would like to emphasise the importance of such devotion to Our Heavenly Mother. I prefer quoting Father Joseph de Tonquedec (1868-1962) than just using my own words because he was a famous French Jesuit who wrote many works of philosophy, theology and spirituality. He was the official exorcist of the Diocese of Paris from 1924 until his death in 1962. He wrote these penetrating words about the effects that devotion to Our Lady has on the youth. "By the practice of Marian devotion the soul bathes, so-to-speak, in a perpetual pool of purity; it is surrounded by a fragrant virgin atmosphere, completely saturated with heavenly perfumes. By looking at the Virgin, by frequenting Her and by praying to Her, we acquire the taste and the need for purity, like Her and for Her. She draws souls to Her, who soon realize that keeping such company, with such an affection in their lives, they cannot remain mediocre; they must rise to ... that living ideal which is there, before their eyes. No doubt, sinners can also approach Mary, *but this very approach is the beginning of purity for them.* They sense the disparity of their state with that of the Virgin and an obscure desire awakens in them to make themselves less unworthy of the One who has charmed them."

Here is a checklist of typical Marian devotions and practices that the Catholic Church encourages parents to instill in their children. It is not a question of trying to practice them all, although many families do, it's more a question of starting something and being consistent with it. In time, the fruits described by Fr de Tonquedec will become evident.

1. Wearing the scapular and miraculous medal.
2. Making the devotion of the Five First Saturdays.
3. Praying three Hail Marys each morning and night for the virtue of purity.
4. Saying the daily rosary as a family.
5. Attending holy Mass as a family in the first and second class feasts of Our Lady such as Our Lady Help of Christians 24th May and Queenship of Mary, 31 May.
6. Having your children join the Junior Legion of Mary, the Militia Immaculatae or, for Girls, the Children of Mary.
7. Having a sense of Christian modesty and upholding it.
8. Doing regular spiritual reading which includes books and writing about Our Lady. You can refer to the MI corner at the College reception and Church foyer for books of choice.

I wish everyone the blessings and graces of today's feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, Australia's principal patroness. Her image is present in many classrooms around the College and our students pray to Her every day. May She bless and keep you all safe from harm under Her maternal mantel.

Father Andrew Cranshaw
Principal

VIRTUE THIS WEEK

FORESIGHT

Foresight: Consideration of the consequences of one's actions; thinking ahead

COLLECT - FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

O God, from Whom all good things do come, grant unto us, Thy suppliant people, that by Thine inspiration, we may think what is right, and under Thy guidance perform the same. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.



From the Deputy Principal

Dear Parents,

We are fast approaching the end of a very busy semester, with only a couple of weeks to go before we commence Semester Two.

Last week our Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students finished their 2022 NAPLAN tests. For many, it was their first experience of this style of assessment. Naturally, some nerves come with this, however as always our students adapted quickly. My thanks to the students and staff for the smooth running over the fortnight the tests were scheduled.

As we move through Term Two, we remain thankful for the continuity of learning and time on site for our students. We have seen increasing involvement in our range of co-curricular activities and our students continuing to engage wholeheartedly in being back at school, connecting with their friends and teachers. We also know that this time of the term and semester means increased assessments and work requirements that need to be managed with these other involvements. Our Year 12 students especially, will be managing these expectations as they look to the completion of their Unit 3 subjects.

Whilst the secondary students have been away on their respective camps it has been wonderful to spend some time with our Primary students. Each morning this week, they have bounced into the College with a sense of anticipation and wonder on their faces. From Foundation through to Year 6, I have been able to witness our teachers working together to develop a creative, cohesive and sequential program that reflects our Catholic faith, is supported by current research and is informed by an understanding of how children learn. The activities that they engage their classroom with are designed to cater for the individual needs of all students, promoting a love of learning.

Victorian Child Safe Standards

The Victorian Child Safe Standards are changing to align more closely with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, and to strengthen protection from child abuse. This change will take effect from Friday 1st July 2022.

In 2020, the DHHS Review recommended a number of changes to better align the Standards with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, and made other recommendations to strengthen administration of the

Standards. The Victorian Government adopted these recommendations. In addition to providing greater national consistency, the new Standards include practical steps for each Standard, outlining the actions organisations must take to keep children and young people safe.

Parents, carers and families are the primary influence on children's learning and development. The College strives to build and maintain an inclusive culture, which is respectful of all family structures in order to support all children to feel safe and be safe. Standard 4 ensures that organisations such as the College, keep families and communities informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

The College values the unique understanding that parents, carers and families have of their child. This includes valuable information about their strengths, abilities, interests and challenges. This unique insight is not only important when shaping your child's access to the curriculum but ensuring they are equipped with an understanding of how to remain safe.

The College will be providing parents, carers, families and broader College community with access to information which will not only enhance your understanding of our approach to child safety and wellbeing but help to upskill you, so that you are aware of the behaviour that is expected by the College for those that have both direct and indirect interaction with our children and young people. This is aimed at fostering a greater understanding of what constitutes unsafe behaviour and knowing how to raise concerns.

If you hold concerns for a child's safety and/or wellbeing, please don't hesitate to contact me via the College administration office.

As we move into the middle of the year, it is important that your child's contact and medical details have been reviewed and are current. A reminder for those parents that have indicated that their child is asthmatic, that the College should have a current Asthma Action plan signed by their GP on file.

Kieran O'Dwyer

FOOD FRIDAY DONATIONS

The St Gerard's League will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items on the first Friday of each month. **Our next collection will be next Friday 3rd June.** Food items can be left at the front office, with class teacher or homeroom.

Thank you for your support and generosity.

If at any stage you wish to donate please contact Mr Phil Robinson on 0407 925 720



DOCILITY

Emily Houston, Aleisha Higgins, Marie-Estelle Hanney, Josephine Nivet, Isabelle Higgins, Poppy Taveira, Joanna Verleg, Rebecca Fitzpatrick, Josephine MacDonald, Christiane Ryan, Lilian de Castella, Anna Hardiman, Anne Ockerse, Stephanie Verleg.

Mark Obrador, Santino Tommasi, Daniel de Castella, Joseph Hardiman, Zoran Pravidur, Thomas Ward, Maarten Braaksma, Myles Youngman, Joseph Zaccari, Luca Attard, Thomas Davis, Joseph Hovens, Hugo Ward, Chara Wangkaew, Orlando de Castella, William Fahey, Joachim Hayward, Anthony Tadros, Laurence Ockerse, Braydan Rayner, Sebastian Fahey, Xavier Taveira, Dominic de Farias, Andre Elliott, Raphael Hayward, Julian Hovens, Ethan Ward, Simon Taveira.

Annabelle de Castella, Katrina Malty, Paula Obrador, Sebastian Upston, Elana Fahey, Katie Higgins, Summer Cleary, Maria Botrous.

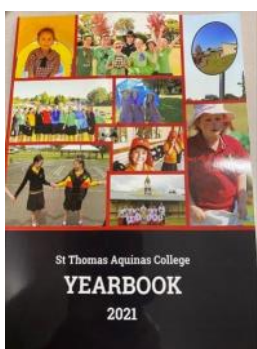
SECONDARY CROSS COUNTRY - WEST GIPPSLAND REGION

On Thursday 19 May the College sent 20 runners from Year 7-10 to Chairo Christian School in Drouin for the West Gippsland *DIVISIONAL* cross country running competition.

Each race had around 30-40 excellent runners representing seven secondary schools across West Gippsland. All our runners put in their best efforts and supported one another during the different races. We had 7 of our 20 runners qualify for the next round. A huge congratulations to Christiane Ryan for her 3rd place finish for which she received a ribbon in the under 16 girls race. Congratulations to Aaron Braaksma, Theodore Zaccari, Luca Attard, Chara Wangkaew, Santino Tommasi, and Genevieve McLean who also finished in the top 15 to advance to the Gippsland REGION competition on Thursday 2 June at Lardner Park.

With continued training and effort these 7 runners are in with a chance to qualifying for the Victorian STATE finals on Thursday 14 July at Yarra Glen.

Well done to all our college's cross country runners! Thank you to Father Mujic, Mrs Zaccari, and Mr Bell for your support on the day.



**2021
YEARBOOK ON
SALE NOW**

The Yearbook can be purchased from the College Office.

Cost is \$20 per book.
Payment can be made by cash or credit card.

Note from the Second Hand Uniform Shop

There is a large selection of white dresses Communion Day, Confirmations and Processions. Boys Suits - Size 7 & 8 available. There is a small fee to hire or some can be purchased.
Blazer Re-Braiding Service available: any size for \$60. Cuff edge braiding \$15.
Contact Michelle Verleg on 0468 438 404.

Operating Hours:

Mon 8:30am - 9:30am, 2:45pm - 3:30pm

St Gregory VII

Pope (1029 - 1085)

Gregory VII, one of the greatest of the Roman Pontiffs and one of the most remarkable men of all times, was known as Hildebrand before he became Pope. Born in Tuscany in 1020, he was sent to Rome to be educated under his uncle, who was Abbot of Saint Mary's monastery on the Aventine Hill. It was a time of great danger for the Church, when the Emperors of Germany were claiming it was their role to elect the successors of Saint Peter, the Vicars of Jesus Christ. They sold ecclesiastic dignities at auction or gave them to unworthy favorites, and many sees were occupied by persons who had obtained them with gold. It was this humble monk who had embraced the Benedictine Rule at the famous monastery of Cluny in France, who was chosen to bring a remedy to the current evils. The three great abuses, simony, concubinage, and the custom of receiving investiture from lay hands, seemed to threaten the very foundations of the Church. This great servant of God would never cease to oppose those corruptions of the reign of Christ.

Hildebrand was admired by the bishops of France when for a time he was at the Court of the Emperor Henry III. He returned to Rome with the bishop of Toul, who had been chosen Pope by the Emperor Henry III, and who invited him to accompany him. The young monk reproached him for having received from his relative a favor which should be granted only by the clergy and people of Rome; but when the bishop ceded to his arguments, he said he would accompany him if he would have his election ratified there. This was carried out, and Hildebrand became the right arm of the good Pope Leo IX. He was made a cardinal and named Superior of the Roman monastery of Saint Paul-Outside-the-Walls, which lay almost in ruins because the major part of its revenues had been usurped by powerful laymen. Hildebrand succeeded in recovering its lands and restored the monastery to its ancient splendour.

When Leo IX died, the clergy and people of Rome sent Hildebrand at the head of a delegation to the Emperor, with full power to elect a Sovereign Pontiff. It was he who chose Pope Victor II, against the Emperor's wishes, and again he became the right arm of the Pope in the combat against abuses. Pope Victor II sent him as legate to France, to stop the practice of simony in the collation of ecclesiastical benefices. He served as Archdeacon under three more Popes, Stephen II, Nicholas II and Alexander II. Upon the death of the last-named in 1073, he was compelled to fill the vacancy.

Pope Gregory VII immediately called upon the clergy throughout the world to lay down their lives rather than betray the laws of God to the will of princes. Rome was in rebellion due to the ambition of the Cenci, a family of Rome whose history is a series of acts of violence and crimes. Pope Gregory excommunicated them. As a consequence they laid hands on him during the Christmas midnight Mass, wounded him and cast him into prison; the following day the people rescued him. He then was forced to face Henry IV, Emperor of Germany, who openly relapsed into simony and claimed to depose the Pope. The Emperor too was excommunicated. The people turned against Henry and he sought absolution of Gregory at Canossa, but he regrettably did not persevere; he set up an antipope and besieged Gregory in the castle of Saint Angelo in Rome. The aged Pontiff was obliged to flee.

Opinion is unanimous that no Pontiff since the time of the Apostles undertook more labors for the Church or fought more courageously for her independence. While he was saying Mass, a dove was seen to come down on him; the Holy Spirit thus bore witness to the supernatural views which guided him in the government of the Church. Forced to leave Rome, he withdrew to Monte Cassino, and later to the castle of Salerno, where he died in 1085.

2022 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
23 May HOUSE CAMPS SECONDARY STUDENTS	24 May HOUSE CAMPS SECONDARY STUDENTS	25 May HOUSE CAMPS SECONDARY STUDENTS	26 May ASCENSION THURSDAY HOLIDAY	27 May
30 May	31 May 12:55pm Debating Yr 7-9B Mannix vs MacKillop	1 June	2 June 12:55pm Debating Yr 7-9B Kolbe vs Bosco	3 June
6 June Secondary Exams	7 June Secondary Exams	8 June Secondary Exams	9 June Secondary Exams	10 June Secondary Exams
13 June QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	14 June 12:55pm Debating Yr 7-9G MacKillop vs Bosco	15 June	16 June 12:55pm Debating Yr 7-9G Kolbe vs Mannix	17 June
20 June	21 June	22 June	23 June	24 June Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus LAST DAY OF TERM

OFFICE HOURS

8:15am - 3:30pm

TERM DATES

2nd Term: Tuesday 3rd May - Friday 24th June
3rd Term: Tuesday 19th July - Friday 16th September