BISHOP’S VISIT
On Friday of last week Bishop Christopher Prowse and our Canonical Administrator Fr Denis O’Bryan made a pastoral visit to St. Peter’s as part of the Bishop’s annual visit to the Parish of St Agatha’s. He spoke to many students in year 7 and year 11 about his own life and role as Bishop but also asked several students and staff members to explain the importance of Jesus Christ in their lives.

It is always enlightening and encouraging when one hears another explain why they follow Jesus Christ both with their heart and their head. Jesus as Role Model and inspiration to follow, as support in times of need, source of love and compassion, provider of hope and purpose in life were different words and terms that were used to help explain why various people chose to follow Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic School we aim to provide an environment where all members of our community can grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Extending our students knowledge of the Catholic faith through Religious Education classes is one avenue by which we meet this aim. Another is the opportunity to express their faith through words and actions whether it be moments of prayer, social justice activities or the reminder of how we are called to treat our neighbour in the day to day interaction of school life.

Bishop Prowse’s question of “Why is Jesus important in your life?”, and the subsequent responses is a reminder of the importance of personal witness in our community. Our students discover the truth of our faith through the personal witness in words and actions of other members of our community, in this way we become a community of faith.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
It was pleasing to see some new faces at the Parents and Friends Association meeting last Tuesday Night. One of the focuses in fundraising for the P&F this year will be raising of money towards a new sculpture of St Peter which we hope to have completed by the end of the year. Over the next six months Artist Bart Sanciolo will consult with senior art students, staff and the P&F association with the aim of creating a piece which will reflect and enhance our understanding of our Patron Saint Peter. One of the key ways the P&F will raise money for this project is through the Ritchie’s Community Benefits cards which were distributed last year. I encourage all families if they are shopping at Ritchie’s to use the CB card for the benefit of the St Peter’s College Community. The Parents & Friends Association will distribute Ritchie’s Community Benefit Cards to new families to the school this week.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
I attach the response of the Director of Catholic Education, Mr. Peter Ryan to a recent article in The Age newspaper which misrepresented the facts of Government funding for Catholic Schools.

YEAR 7 2012 ENROLMENTS
Applications are now being taken for Year 7 2012 at both the Cranbourne West and Cranbourne East campus. Application forms are available from the College Office.

Enrolments close
Friday 11 March (NEXT FRIDAY)
Please contact our Registrar Kelley Cooper for more information.
28 February, 2011

The Editor
The Age Newspaper
GPO Box 257
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Sir / Madam

The approach taken by Trevor Cobbold, National Coordinator of the Save Our Schools organisation, is clearly either deliberately ignorant or simply mischievous. *(The Age 26 February, 2011)*

It is easily available and common public knowledge that the SES funding model, imperfect though it may be, is merely a mechanism for providing government funds to systems of schools, rather than to individual schools. In the Catholic Education system those funds are, in fact, aggregated and then distributed across all Catholic schools in the State on the basis of need. The schools listed in Mr Cobbold’s critique, in fact, do not receive “$39 million more than their entitlement”. Their generosity and commitment to Catholic Education across the entire state means that they receive significantly less so that many of their poorer cousins can survive and thrive.

An honest appraisal of these facts by Mr Cobbold, and by *The Age* would give lie to such half truths that are peddled in this article.

Yours sincerely

[signature]

Peter Ryan
DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION
DIOCESE OF SALE

*Faith ... Learning ... Growth*
On Thursday 24th February the annual St Peters Swimming Carnival was held under sunny blue skies at ‘Doveton Pool in the Park’. After the grand entrance by the Year 12’s and House Captains, all 4 houses – Blue, Gold, Green and Red fought it out, fiercely competing for points in freestyle, breast stroke, backstroke, butterfly, relays and novelty events. At the end of battle, the scores were extremely close, but it was Gold House who came away as the House Swimming Champions for 2011.

GOLD – 833.5 points  
GREEN – 831 points  
RED – 699 points  
Blue – 620 points

HOUSE SPIRIT AWARD: Red House

Congratulations to the following students who were age group champions:

Under 13 Female champion: Lauren Stewart
Under 13 Male champion: Matthew Shaw
Under 14 female champion: Letisha Shute
Under 14 male champion: Jared Makhoul
Under 15 female champion: Caterina Cester
Under 15 male champion: Sam Russo
Under 16 female champion: Dannika Newland
Under 16 male champion: Jordan Stewart
Under 17 female champion: Skye Brennan
Under 17 male champion: Sam Qualizza
Senior female champion: Shannen Banks
Senior male champion: Michael Kassabis

The carnival was certainly a whole school event, with students and staff involved in ICT, recording, timing, photography, cheering, swimming and house spirit. We now look forward to the SIS Swimming Carnival to be held on March 16th at MSAC.

Due to the Labour Day Holiday, the Uniform shop will CLOSED on Monday 14th March.

In lieu of the closure the shop will be open an additional day the following week (Wednesday 23rd March).

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<tr>
<th>CLOSED</th>
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<tr>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td>Monday 21st March</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td>Wednesday 23rd March</td>
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Normal opening Hours are Monday from 1pm to 5pm.

LOST PROPERTY
There are a number of items in Lost Property.

- Items from the Swimming Carnival
- Uniform Items
- Reading/Seeing Glasses (some from 2010)

If your child is missing any of items please check Lost Property (at the office)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Last week I was pleased to be part of two experiences where faith was clearly given a position of prominence.

The first occasion began in my Yr 8 RE classroom. The Yr 8s were given the opportunity to write prayers about the devastation and suffering caused by the earthquake in New Zealand. I told the Yr 8s that if they wished to leave their prayers on my table I would share the prayers with the all the teachers who were attending a Staff Meeting that afternoon. The following two beautiful prayers were shared.

**Dear God**

**help the rescue teams find these people that are trapped. May the people trapped come out alive. May they rejoin their families and friends. Provide them with food and water and power so that they might contact their families in Australia. I pray for all the people in New Zealand. Amen.**  (Alex Jones 8C)

**Dear God, please help and comfort all those who have been aggrieved by the New Zealand earthquake. We ask you that all victims of this catastrophe are safe in your arms, protected from harm. Please allow peace to be restored, and help all those in need. We praise you. We thank you God. Amen.**  (Michael Curmi 8C)

The second occasion happened on Friday afternoon during a pastoral visit by Bishop Prowse. Our Bishop invited the St Peter’s Liturgy Captain, Fosio Dunlop to share his answer to this question.
All present: the two classes of new Year 7s, the Principal, our new Parish Priest Fr Denis O’Bryan, all the Senior College Student Leaders and other teachers were incredibly moved as Fosio shared very eloquently about his faith journey through secondary school. Fosio’s openness and generosity in sharing set the scene for all the other sharing of faith that happened that afternoon. All were inspired by his testimony and I am certain, all feel proud to belong to St Peter’s College.

Let us continue to pray for all the people of New Zealand and their country.

+John Dew, Archbishop of Wellington has sent the following prayer.

For though the mountains leave their place and the hills be tossed to the ground, your love shall never leave us . . . Isaiah 54:10

PRAYER AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

Lord, at times such as this, when we realize that the ground beneath our feet is not as solid as we had imagined, we plead for your mercy.

As the things we have built crumble about us, we know too well how small we truly are on this ever-changing, ever-moving, fragile planet we call home.

Yet you have promised never to forget us. Do not forget us now. Today, so many people are afraid. They wait in fear of the next tremor. They hear the cries of the injured amid the rubble. They roam the streets in shock at what they see. And they fill the dusty air with wails of grief and the names of missing dead.

Comfort them, Lord, in this disaster. Be their rock when the earth refuses to stand still, and shelter them under your wings when homes no longer exist.

Embrace in your arms those who died so suddenly this day. Console the hearts of those who mourn, and ease the pain of bodies on the brink of death. Pierce, too, our hearts with compassion, we who watch from afar, as the poorest on this side of the earth find only misery upon misery.

Move us to act swiftly this day, to give generously every day, to work for justice always, and to pray unceasingly for those without hope.

And once the shaking has ceased, the images of destruction have stopped filling the news, and our thoughts return to life’s daily rumblings, let us not forget that we are all your children and they, our brothers and sisters.

We are all the work of your hands. For though the mountains leave their place and the hills be tossed to the ground, your love shall never leave us, and your promise of peace will never be shaken. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and forever.

Mary B Murphy
Religious Education Leader

ST. AGATHA’S NEWS

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement which brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer. This years prayer service will be held at St. John’s Anglican Church, 27 Childers Street Cranbourne this Friday 4th March at 9.30am followed by morning tea. Please join with other parishioners from our Parish to represent St. Agatha’s

FIRST RECONCILIATION: There will be a Parent/Child Workshop for the preparation of First Reconciliation on Tuesday 8th March. It will be held in the hall at 5pm and 7.30pm respectively. Your time can be found on the lists on the school notice boards, in the Church foyer and on the hall door. Remember, this workshop is an essential part of the preparation process, thus all the children for First Reconciliation this year are obliged to attend with their parents.

RCIC: Classes will start March 20th for teenagers who are in years 7-12 and would like to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the end of this year. Please collect an Enrolment form from the Parish Office before 20th March 2011.

ST. AGATHA’S COMBINED SCHOOL FETE CARNIVAL: Will be held on St. Patrick’s Day, Thursday 17th March in the St. Agatha’s School grounds 4pm-8pm.

Mary B Murphy
Religious Education Leader

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