Work Experience

Our Year 10 students have been involved in variety of work experience placements over the last two weeks to give them an insight into the world of work and a taste of the career choices they have a specific interest in. Placing 170 students into the workforce for two weeks requires much organisation and planning and a number of schools no longer run this program because of these factors however we are convinced of the value it provides to our students especially when focusing on subject selection in early term 3. I thank our Careers Co-ordinator Ms Melissa Dillon for her meticulous preparation over the last few months and also for all staff who have conducted visits to support our students.

Visit of our Bishop

Next week our Bishop, Christopher Prowse will visit both the East and West Campus of St Peter’s College. As Bishop, he is the principal teacher in the Diocese of Sale and he will take this opportunity to address staff and students both formally and informally on a range of issues that arise from our desire to come to know, love and imitate Jesus Christ. On our College Website you will find the Pentecost Pastoral Letter from our Bishop which I encourage you to spend some time in reflection on. The Pentecost Pastoral Letter ties two themes together, “Evangelisation in Challenging Times” and “Family Life” as a means by which our community can take up its responsibility to share its faith.

Alycia Ingram at St Kevin’s Primary School in Hampton Park.

Iesha Clarke who attended Caldermeade Farm is pictured after having completed the morning milk run with the cows.
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL OF STUDENTS AT CRANBOURNE WEST

Parenting Tips from Andrew Fuller

I have included in this Newsletter another article of Parenting Tips on building resilience in our Children from Andrew Fuller (See his profile below).

Andrew Fuller
Clinical Psychologist and Family Therapist The Resilience Institute Fellow, Departments of Psychiatry and Learning and Educational Development University of Melbourne Scientific Consultant for the ABC series "Whatever: the science of teens" Ambassador for Mind Matters Member, National Centre Against Bullying

From ‘can’t do’ to ‘can do’ - Andrew Fuller

Research has proven Henry Ford correct when he said, “whether you think you can or that you can’t, you are usually right”.

Helping young people develop a positive growth oriented mindset where they can improve over time and overcome setbacks powerfully predicts success. This shifts them from “can’t do” to “can do”. Here are some ways that parents develop this attitude in children.

Have a policy of “we fall down 7 times but we get up 8”. We all have set backs. There are times when we all have to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and start again. Most of us are experts in this even if we’ve forgotten it because this is the way we learned to walk. Sucking at something the first few times you do it is the first step to getting good at it.

Use “I noticed” feedback
Parents can use “I noticed” feedback for positive and negative behaviours. The number of comments made to kids that begin with the phrase “I noticed”, shape behaviour powerfully. For example, “I noticed you like to draw”, “I noticed you are really trying hard to”, “I noticed you’re reading a good book”. Believe me, they will notice that you have noticed!

Parents can use this to calmly draw attention to negative behaviours. For example, “I notice you are up when you are supposed to be asleep” or “I notice that you are feeling upset right now”. This gives kids a chance to explain their actions or comply with parents’ wishes.

Praise effort more than ability
Tell your kids that they are geniuses but they don’t know it yet. It’s good to know that your parents think you are wonderful. Then focus most of your comments on effort. For example, “You really worked hard at that well done!” “I noticed you really tried your best at that, I’m impressed” or “Wow, your practice seems to be really paying off”.

Mistakes are opportunities to learn.
If a child thinks they didn’t do well at something because they lack intelligence, they give up. When they can see they are on a pathway of improvement they persist.

Mistakes are an essential part of learning. The physicist Niels Bohr defines an expert as “a person who has made all the mistakes that can be made in a very narrow field.”

Creating something new involves make a lot of mistakes. One example is the bestselling Dyson vacuum cleaner. The inventor made 5,127 prototypes of the vacuum before getting it right. “There were 5,126 failures. But I learned from each one. That’s how I came up with a solution. So I don’t mind failure.”

Parents can help children to learn that when you make a mistake all it means is that you haven’t learned how to get it right yet.

Dealing with set backs
No one really enjoys making mistakes. If we don’t learn from our mistakes we are destined to repeat them. It is hard to keep your enthusiasm up when you’ve not been selected for a dance team or a drama part or a sports team or failed a test at school.

Parents can help kids by helping them to analyse mistakes. Some questions used to review a setback are:

Ok so you didn’t do as well as you would have liked. Let’s see if we can learn from this?

What parts of it did you do well?

What parts of it didn’t go as well as you hoped? How much work would be involved in getting better at those parts?

Would you change the way you prepared for it next time? In what ways?

I know you can do better at this if you want to. Do you want to try again?

How can I help you with this?

If they decide not to have another go say, “Ok but don’t let your decision trick you into believing you couldn’t get better if you tried.”
Turn losses into tournaments
You may have already done this as a kid. After losing at a game, you may have said, “Ok, best out of three is the champion”. If you didn’t win that tournament perhaps you may have said, “Ok, best out of five is ruler of the universe”. Teach your kids that there is no loss; there is always a chance to have another go.

There is no try!
As the Jedi master puts it, do or do not, there is no try. Parents shouldn’t accept “try” either. When kids say they are going to try ask them,” does that mean you are going to do it or not?”

Focus on the way we do things rather than the result
Successful sports teams play the game the same way regardless of the score in the game. Focusing on the result causes people to panic or freeze up. Parents’ comments can cause a shift in their child’s awareness. Instead of commenting on the result, find something you like and notice it. For example, “you sang the first few bars of that song beautifully, it’s coming together”. Avoid the temptation to then add suggestions of ways to improve.

Talk about your role models
Young people today seem to lack positive role models. The media seems determined to serve kids up role models of testosterone fueled bozos or ditzy socialite women.

The idea that you can partly shape your life on someone who you admire is alien to them. Talk about the people you admired as a kid. Explain why they have been important. Talk about the everyday heroes who have inspired you.

How to avoid a boring life
If you get scared of getting things wrong, you won’t try new things. If you don’t try new things you become bored and boring. Life becomes mundane, dull and routine.

Parents can arrange to do things with their kids that they have never done before. Quirky adventures don’t have to take a lot of time or money but they do take some thought and planning. Plan to have your child (and yourself) go somewhere they’ve never been before or do something they have never done before. Don’t settle for anything less than an interesting life.

Think of a time when it was hard
We’ve all done things that at first seemed impossible. We’ve all struggled at times in our lives. Share some of those stories with your kids so they know that you have shared the same doubts as they have. Talk about times when you could have given up but you didn’t.

How to talk with them about successes.
Kids want their parents’ approval. The way you provide praise will shape their future efforts. Let them know you are proud of them. Try to include in your delight at their success a comment on the effort that went into their success.
For example, “I am so proud of you for getting that A, I know how much work you put into that project.” “You were great today. All that practice has really paid off. I’m proud of you”.
“Wow when you put your mind towards something you really work hard and get it. That’s great”

Be exuberant
If you become the proud parent, kids will tell you that you are embarrassing them. Don’t believe them. Maybe don’t do it in front of other people but when you get them in private, let them know that you love them and think they are fantastic. They may pretend to you that they hate it but they all secretly lap it up.

Be the antidote to the drip feed of despair
Your kids will become upset at setbacks, will label themselves as “no good” or stupid if they don’t get a good mark and compare them- selves negatively to others. It is so tempting for parents to try to soothe kids out of this or even provide a salutary lesson, “well if you’d tried harder you would have done better”. Don’t do this!

Be determined to stay focused on effort and improvement. “I’m sorry you didn’t do as well as you hoped and if you want to have another go, let’s work out a way of getting better at it”.

At first changing your parenting language might feel a bit weird. Focusing on noticing, commenting on effort and emphasising the power of having a go are the most powerful ways parents can set kids up for success.

Copyright Andrew Fuller - www.andrewfuller.com.au

St Peter’s Day 2013

This year, the Celebration of the Feast Day for our Patron Saint Peter will take place on the last Tuesday of Term Two ( 26th of June).
More detail will be provided in the next Newsletter regarding the program for the day, however, please note that this is a compulsory school day, with a normal starting time of 8.50am.

Student Free Day, Monday 17th of June

Please note that Monday, 17th of June is a Student Free day, with Semester Two beginning the next day ( Tuesday, 18th of June).

Mr Anthony Banks
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL OF STUDENTS
PROCEDURES FOR YEAR ELEVEN AND YEAR TWELVE STUDENTS OF THE COLLEGE FOR THE FINAL WEEK OF SEMESTER ONE:

**Tues 11th June**
- Year Twelves: classes running as normal
- Year Elevens: Final Day of Exams

**Wed 12th June 10am-1.15pm**
All students enrolled in Year 12 and those enrolled to complete Unit 3 / 4 subjects at Year 11 will be completing the VCAA GAT (General Achievement Test) at the College. Materials for this were distributed to all eligible students last week. The GAT will be supervised by an external supervisor approved by VCAA. **All students are to be in attendance at the Hall no later than 9.30am on this day in full College Uniform.** At the conclusion of the GAT, all students will be dismissed from the College for the day. Note: Any Year 11 student required for Exam Resits will be required to attend the Hall for 1.45pm commencement. Year 12 students are dismissed.

**Thurs 13th June & Fri 14th June**
- Year Eleven Students will be attending a Holocaust Museum on one of the days and having normal classes on the other day.
- Year Twelve Students have normal classes on these two days. If they haven’t already done so in their classes, students can expect to complete practice assessments / exams within each subject area.

Mrs Annette Marschner
**ACTING SENIOR YEARS CURRICULUM LEADER**

**SOLOMON ISLANDS FUNDRAISING TRIVIA AND SILENT AUCTION**

The Year 12 students who are undertaking the Solomon Islands Immersion & Cultural Program in 2013 are planning a major fundraising event similar to that held in 2012.

**What can you do to help?**

1. **We are now collecting items for use as prizes on the night and as items for the Silent Auction.**
   
   Anything of any value is most welcome. Check out those cupboards for unused items, ask your local hairdresser, restaurant, chiropractor, or anyone else you think will support these endeavours for a voucher.
   
   Please phone or drop into the college for April Hampson who is co-ordinating the Auction items. Or you can simply email athompson@stpeters.vic.edu.au

2. **Come along to the Event.**

   **What:** Trivia and Silent Auction Evening
   **When:** Friday 9th August
   **Where:** St Peters College, West Campus, Staff Room
   **Enter and park via Navarre Drive**
   **Time:** 7.00 pm start
   **Catering:** BYO plate and drinks (alcohol allowed)
   **Cost:** $20.00 per person. Book a Table for 10 or Teams of 10 can be formed.

There will be lots of opportunity to support the fundraising efforts via the Silent Auction (all items will be sold on the night-absolutely no reserves), money raising games with gold coin donations, and much much more!

So bring along your loose change! And have a great evening of fun and community with students, staff, parents and extended family. **Pay for your tickets now at the College Reception.**

**1000 STEPS....VCAL STUDENTS GET A SENSE OF THE KOKODA TRACK.**

On Tuesday 4th June 13 St Peters College VCal students accompanied by 3 teachers undertook an activity aimed at increasing the students personal development.

First up, they undertook a team building exercise, to build a stretcher from make shift materials (similar to those that would have been available to the Australian WW11 Anzacs who fought on the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea).

Despite their best efforts they soon discovered that their stretcher would not bear a wounded person very far.
They then went on to walk the 1,000 steps, stopping along the way to read and discuss the memorial plaques set throughout the climb to highlight different sites on the actual Kokoda Track and why those sites were so significant to the work undertaken by the Australian Diggers, both those who fought the enemy and those who worked tirelessly to save the lives of our wounded.

One student, Michael Slailaty tells us that he “walked the 1000 steps up to the top and the track back down to the base while others like Daniel Sibbers ran the steps and track”. He goes on to say “it was rough, really really rough”. In all 13 students undertook the challenge along with their teachers, Mr Brannan and Ms Bennett, (while their bus driver chose to sit the visit out in the café).

Conditions on the day, although there was no rain, was very damp, with a heavy fog, and with the weekends deluge of rain in the area, the track was both wet with lots of large puddles and very slippery. Daniel explains “this only increased our sense of what it must of actually been like for the Diggers and delivered us with a greater understanding and respect for what was achieved”.

**KOLBE REPORT**

The Kolbe Tutor Group morning meetings are strangely quiet at the moment with Year 10s out on Work Experience and Year 11s completing exams. Things are hectic, though, with both staff and students busy finalizing assessments in preparation for reports and the start of the Semester 2 next week. There is no sign of things slowing down before the end of term with the Year 12 GAT, the Year 11 Holocaust Museum excursion, assemblies and St Peter’s Day still to come.

Our ever-reliable and enthusiastic House Captains, Brenton Harbour and Haylee Lineham, have been working hard behind the scenes with the Kolbe Forum Leaders to prepare our House fundraising activity for St. Peter’s Day; selling hot chocolate and chocolate-coated popcorn. Yum! We are asking all Kolbe students to bring along a gold coin to help with the purchase of ingredients so we can make a good profit to support Deacon Tony’s Chaplaincy Fund.

Louise Overberg and Antonia Hemming
ACTING KOLBE HOUSE LEADERS

**ST AGATHA’S NEWS**

**VOICE FOR LIFE – FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE FOR DOCTORS:** We are campaigning to Reform Section 8 – to change the Abortion Law Reform Act 2008 to restore the right of conscience objection to all health professionals: doctors, nurses and pharmacists. This would be a step towards winding back our state’s abortion laws and defending defenseless unborn babies. You can help by signing the open letter to Premier Napthine and sending the signed letter back to FamilyVoice at GPO Box 9894, Melbourne Vic 3001 by 20th June 2013. Please collect a copy of the letter from the foyer.

**INVIGORATE (Age 12-17) Youth Group:** Meet 2nd & 4th Fridays at 7.30pm in the Hall at St Agatha’s. Enquiries Yani Barroso ph. 0423 329 454

Mr Greg Nelson
ST AGATHA’S REPRESENTATIVE

**GROWING GOOD MEN EVENT: MELBOURNE 5-7 JULY 2013**

The Men Alive GROWING GOOD MEN (GGM) event is a weekend for Fathers and their teenage sons run by menALIVE.

menALIVE is a National Catholic Men’s Ministry. Since its founding in Brisbane in 2003 menALIVE have run 160 events for more than 10,000 men across Australian and NZ in 23 Dioceses in Australia and NZ. In 2013 there is a menALIVE parish weekend somewhere in Australia every two weeks. We also instigated the Archbishop’s catholic Man Breakfast Series, commencing in Brisbane around 8 years ago. There are now held twice a year in; Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart and Wellington, NZ. In each case, the Archbishop of that city hosts the event.

For all enquires go to mail@menalive.org.au

**RELGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

Today and tomorrow our Year 9 students will spend time experiencing and meditating on Creation. They will spend time at the Cranbourne Botanic gardens and then return to our Chapel where they will bring their experience to prayer. It is important that all
of us have an understanding of the obligations of stewardship in regard to the natural world. When God had completed Creation he said that it was good. Indeed it is, it what allows us to live. If we lose sight of the fact that what has been created is not ours to squander but is to be held in sacred trust for future generations, we do a grave injustice. We have many reasons to thank God for all his gifts and to use them with care and appreciation. We pray that our students take a lot from today and if they don’t already, that they begin to see the natural world as a gift of God, something to enjoy and give thanks for.

The Gospel for the 10th Sunday was the story of the Widow of Nain. Jesus took pity on this woman who was burying her only son, he restored him to life and gave him back to his mother. The compassion shown by Jesus on this occasion is an example to us. It is said that Christ has no hands on earth but ours, when we show compassion in Jesus’ name we are carrying on his caring and healing work. Let us always seek to be the agent of the love and compassion of God.

A Prayer for those who Serve.
Jesus the Christ, may our lie this day bring us to a deeper awareness of your presence in our sisters and brothers. As we contemplate you suffering in them, may we be clothed with heartfelt mercy and moved to action on their behalf. We ask this that your justice may reign in our world. Amen

Deacon Tony Aspinall
COLLEGE CHAPLAIN

CAREERS NEWS

SAVE THE DATE
Invite for all Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students and parents
ST PETER’S FUTURES EVENING – MONDAY 29TH JULY

This event will commence with a tailored presentation, specific to the requirements and future development of each year level, with a topics relating to:

- VCE Subject Selection Requirements
- Study Plans and Exam Preparation
- VCAL (the alternative VCE)
- VET in Schools
- Tertiary Course Options
- VTAC Application
- Study and ENTER Scores
- Scaling of Study Scores
- Scholarships and SEAS (Special Consideration)
- Plus much more...

The Careers Expo will be set up in the College Hall where you can see displays and speak with Teachers from the College Curriculum Areas and speak directly with University, TAFE and Employment Agency representatives. These include Australian Catholic Uni, Chisholm Institute, Deakin, Defence Force Recruiting, LINK Employment, Monash, RMIT, Southern School of Natural Therapy, Swinburne, Vic Uni, William Angliss, Engineers Australia and CCB Training.

Ensure you don’t miss out on this fantastic opportunity to receive this extremely valuable information relating to your child’s education and future.

RMIT Experience Days
Place as still available for the following experience days:
Experience Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Day, Wed 3 July, Bundoora campus east
Experience Community Justice Day, Tue 2 July, City campus
Experience Computing and IT Day, Fri 5 July, City campus
Experience Electrical and Computing Engineering Day, Tue 2 July, City campus
Experience Environment Day, Thu 4 July, City campus
Experience Health and Medical Sciences Day, Wed 3 July, Bundoora campus west
http://www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays

Elite Athletes at Swinburne
Swinburne offers eligible students flexible study options to assist athletes to balance sporting and academic commitments. Flexibility includes ability to negotiate assessment deadlines, waiving of minimum attendance at lectures or tutorials and ability to tailor academic study load with sporting commitments.

Elly Lukas Beauty Therapy Information Sessions
Wed 26 June, 6.00pm – 7.30pm
Sat 5 October, 11.00am – 12.30pm
Wed 26 June, 6.00pm – 7.00pm
P: 9919 2103
E: santa.giordano@vu.edu.au

Navitas College of Public Safety Open Day
Sunday 11 August, 10.00am – 3.00pm, 123 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

FIA FITNATION Career Information Session
Receive information about becoming a personal trainer, see practical demonstrations, meet staff and view facilities.
Scholarships
Bradman Scholarship
Each year the Bradman Foundation offers a $5,000 per annum scholarship to one Australian student commencing university. The scholarship is chosen based on a blend of academic, sporting (cricket), personal and social skills which best fulfill the purpose of the scholarship.
Applications close on 28 February each year
P: 4862 1247
E: info@bradman.com.au

Creative Young Stars Program
The Creative Young Stars Program aims to encourage creative, cultural, academic, and community achievements by offering financial assistance to people aged under 25 who wish to take part in relevant activities, events or training.
Applications close Fri 21 June
P: 130 363 079
E: creativeyoungstars@deewr.gov.au

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
The Parents and Friends Association undertakes numerous activities, including fundraising activities and the donation of such funds to various areas of College activity. Meetings are held on a Tuesday evening, twice a term, and at most meetings a staff guest speaker comes to address the group on activities associated with their day to day life at the college, and our Principal reports on relevant College issues and activities.

TUESDAY 30th JULY
7.15 Tea and Coffee
7.30-9.00 pm St Peter’s College West Campus
Frankston-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne, 3977
Enter via Navarra Drive Gates

GUEST SPEAKERS – MR ANTHONY BEUTELSCEISS & MS TRACY ALLES
-MR ANTHONY BEUTELSCEISS – TEACHER
Learning Advisor, Maths, Science, Carbon Management, Applied Science

-MS TRACEY ALLES – TEACHER
Dip.Ed.; B.Science; Cert 111 Carbon Management
VCE Psychology, Life Science, Environmental Science, Science

NEW COURSE: CARBON MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE 111
In 2011 Mr. Anthony Beutelsceiss and Ms Tracy Alles completed the Cert 111 in Carbon Management course with a view to introducing this course into our Curriculum in 2012. In its first year Anthony had eight students from year 10 who are completing the first year of this two year program which covers the following areas of study:
• Climate Change & Greenhouse Gases
• Measuring Carbon Emissions
• Carbon Reduction Options & Emission Factors
• Carbon Action Plans
• Implementation of Environmentally Sustainable Work Practices

Anthony and Tracy will give an update on the progress of this course into 2013 and the potential career pathways a course like this provides.

RITCHIES COMMUNITY BENEFITS CARD.
A Reminder that 1% of your spend will be donated to St Peter’s College P&F Association. All new parents to the College will be sent the card for them to activate in the next week. Thank you for your support of this program.

Local Locations List:
Berwick, 2 Richardson Grove
Cranbourne, 47 High St.
Carrum Downs, 1095 Frankston/Dandenong Rd.
Dandenong, 141-145 Lonsdale St.
Frankston, 207-211 Beach St.
Hastings, High & Salmon St.
Mt Eliza, 89 Mt Eliza Way
Narre Warren, 14 Webb St.
Seaford, 280 Seaford Rd.
Somerville, 2 Eramosa Rd East
Towerhill, Golf Links & Hastings Rd
For full address locations visit www.ritchies.com.au

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS 2013/2014
Reminder that any outstanding payments for Entertainment Books not returned are due NOW.

ST PETER’S SCULPTURE & GARDEN FUNDRAISING PROJECT
We are again in 2013 giving families and individuals the chance to have their name as a permanent part of the landscaping of our Sculpture Garden at the West Campus. To Order please visit the College website in the Our College/Parents & Friends section.

Members of the Executive of the Parents & Friends Association may be contacted:
Phone: 03 5990 7777
Fax: 03 5996 8277
Email: office@stpeters.vic.edu.au

ST PETER’S COLLEGE WEBSITE
Visit our College website www.stpeters.vic.edu.au for all up to date information on the College structure and activities. 
Recent updates include Fundraising Result for Term 1, Year 11 Retreat, Year 8 Medieval Day, Activities and photographs, Girls in Education Conference for our students and teachers.

You will also find in ‘News and Events’ numerous current and past stories and pictures of the ‘Day to Day’ College life of our students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7 - 12 WEST AND EAST CAMPUS UPCOMING DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transportation Required
Families living near Somerville attending the East Campus…. Can you help?
A boy in Year 9 is in need of a lift home after school each day.
If you think you can help, please contact the College Office on 5990 7777.

2013 YEAR 12 SPORTS TOPS UNVEILED THIS WEEK.
The Year 12 students of 2013 have spent considerable time choosing and developing a concept for the design of the 2013 Year 12 Sport windcheaters.
Each year the Year 12 students are able to submit their chosen design for approval from the College Leadership Team. They then are produced with each student purchasing and then being able to wear them for the year on any occasion that their Sports Uniform is worn.
Congratulations to Ryan Pola and Eryn Larcombe (who are shown wearing their tops) and the rest of the Year 12 students on a very striking design.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)
Second Installment 2013

The Education Maintenance Allowance is paid to parents of eligible students under 16 years of age, and the student is enrolled in a Government or non-Government School in Victoria on census day, 28 February 2013 for installment 1 and 2 August 2013 for the second installment.

The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must be enrolled on the first day of 1st Term (29 January 2013) for the first installment and on the first day of 3rd Term (15 July 2013) for the second installment:

Parents who were paid the EMA at the school that their children are still attending for the first installment of 2013, are not required to complete a new application for the second installment.

Parents who were paid EMA at a different school for the first installment of 2013, or parents who are claiming EMA as they have just become eligible will need to complete an application form at the new school for the second installment.

EMA applications forms may be collected from the College office
Applications must be submitted to the College by 2 August 2013 with copy of eligible Health Care Card.

Ms. Alison Scandurra
Acting Assistant Business Manager
Dear Friends in Christ,

It was in 2010 that the Catholic Diocese of Sale began considering a pastoral plan for the diocese in the years ahead. This valuable time has enabled us to reflect on the past 125 years of Catholic life in the diocese with gratitude to God whilst beginning to plan ahead for the future in the hope of the Holy Spirit who always leads and animates the Church.

Our reflections together have been in response to the guiding principle of Blessed John Paul II that all such pastoral efforts are based on “knowing, loving and imitating” Jesus Christ but specific pastoral priorities are to arise from local communities (Novo Millennio Ineunte, John Paul II, 2001, 29).

I have published two Pastoral Letters to set parameters and encourage our reflections (Finding Home in Jesus, 2010, and Everything for the Gospel, 2011).

After considerable opportunities for prayerful diocesan discussions, organised via the Diocesan Pastoral Council, two general areas of pastoral priority have arisen.

EVANGELISATION IN CHALLENGING TIMES

The first area of priority pertains to the transmission of our Catholic faith in challenging times. Behind so many collated responses (published in Catholic Life, July 2011, December 2011) were pastoral suggestions based on stimulating a fresh outpouring of missionary zeal in the diocese. People are keenly aware of the obstacles to maturing our faith in society today.

Real concerns were expressed about the passing on of the faith to our families, youth, parishes and society (especially the poor and forgotten). Little encouragement seems to be given in today’s “busy” world to deep silent prayer and the importance of Catholic faith, especially the sacraments. Yet there was much hope and confidence expressed in the Holy Spirit in developing new ways of evangelisation in our parishes. So many wonderful suggestions were offered.

FAMILY LIFE

The second area of priority focussed attention on family life. The heartfelt reflections of so many seemed to centre on the state of Catholic family life today. Suggestions to help struggling families, to encourage husbands and wives to deepen their marital and family life, to assist families in passing on the faith to their children, to make sure our parish and parish schools are really serving family life, and so on. There was a double belief offered about families today. On the one hand, families are the foundation of Catholic life and its gravitational centre. On the other hand, family life today is so fragile and needs our every support.

THE PASTORAL PRIORITY IN THE SALE DIOCESE – FAMILY EVANGELISATION

Is there a link between these two pastoral priorities that have emerged? Most certainly! Increasing missionary zeal cannot be a vague generality but must find itself planted in human communities. There is no more fundamental or basic of all human communities than the family. Therefore, the emerging focus of the diocese becomes clearer: FAMILY LIFE IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

We thank the Spirit of Jesus for bringing us to this moment of discernment in our diocese.

Providentially, recent Popes have been articulating a similar pastoral priority for the universal Church. For example, Blessed John Paul II, a champion of marriage and family life in his long pontificate, expressed that:

The most fundamental and important thing in the mission of the Church is the spiritual renewal of the family... We have to start from this point, from this mission, The Holy Church of God, you cannot accomplish your mission, you cannot fulfil your mission in the world, if you do not pass through the family and through its mission”. (Homily for the Feast of the Holy Family, December 30th, 1988)

Benedict XVI, the Pope Emeritus, made a similar remark in his homily during the opening Mass of the Synod on “The New Evangelisation for the Transmission of the Christian Faith” (7th October 2012) when he said:

... the Church has said and witnessed for a long time now, marriage is called to be not only an object but a subject of the new evangelisation.

As the Australian Year of Grace draws to a close and the universal Year of Faith continues for some months yet, I consider this focus on the promotion of family evangelisation a wonderful grace of the Holy Spirit to us all.

Australians are generally very practical people. Before our minds begin to centre too much on the organisational possibilities of this diocesan pastoral priority, some reflections from our sources of Catholic inspiration – Scripture and Tradition – on family life in our mission may guide arising practicalities.

FAMILY IN THE GOSPEL

It always is a surprise when we are reminded that Jesus spent 30 years with his family in Nazareth and only three years in his public ministry. How important family life must have been to Jesus as a young boy and man in Nazareth.

We glimpse from the scriptures, especially during the liturgical season of Advent / Christmas and from the biblical scenes prayed in the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, this early and private life of Jesus in the Holy Family.

We are blessed with Benedict XVI’s extraordinary capacity to distil our complex Catholic theological Tradition into a comprehensible teaching. He has done that in his beautiful book Jesus of Nazareth – the Infancy Narratives (2012). This book could well be used, along with the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2002), as a basic text book for our consideration of family evangelisation in the times ahead.

Let us examine briefly, these early years of Jesus.
A Permanent Nazareth:

Perhaps people who have never been presented with an understanding of Christianity would be surprised to learn that the founder of Christianity was born in humble surroundings, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and placed in a receptacle used for feeding animals (a manger). “Manger” and “cloths” already make us think of the final hours of the life of Jesus: The Last Supper (the heavenly food of the Eucharist) and the Calvary Cross (the crucified wrapped in linen cloths). The joy of the Saviour’s birth and the redemptive suffering of His Cross are always placed near each other in our ancient Christian tradition.

Surely, however, most would be touched by the humility of the birth of Jesus and notice the importance played by the angels and poor shepherd boys. They may be intrigued with the arrival of three wise men from the East who followed a guiding star to Bethlehem bearing gifts and acknowledged Jesus as the universal King. Perhaps others would identify him in his infancy and youth as a typical child of his time, living in Nazareth (John 4:46). The life of Jesus lived under obedience (Luke 2:51) to Mary and Joseph.

Throughout these “hidden” 30 years of the life of Jesus almost nothing is known of his family life. The “obscurity of Nazareth” (John Paul II, Letter to Families, 1994, 2) is largely silent for us. Yet, even when we learn of the events listed above we could imagine that so much of the human experiences and interactions between father, mother and children that we experience, have also been experienced by the Holy Family – the life of Jesus lived under obedience (Luke 2:51) to Mary and Joseph.

Meditating on the Holy Family, Pope Paul VI (in an address on 5th January 1964) stated that the home of Nazareth became the first school of the Gospel and teaches us three lessons.

The first lesson to be learnt by all of us is the importance of developing a deep family spiritual life within the general noise of modern life. The silence of Nazareth can teach us this. This will be the particular focus of our diocesan plan in 2013-14.

The second lesson is that Nazareth teaches us that family life is a communion of love between its members and has an indispensable role in societal life. So much of Catholic doctrine and teaching on marriage and family starts from this foundation. This teaching will be the particular focus of our diocesan plan in 2014-15-16-17.

Lastly, there is the lesson of work. The home of the “Carpenter’s Son” teaches us the nobility of work and how it is not an end itself but is to serve true human freedom. This will be our focus in 2017-18.

There is always a special place in the heart of Catholics for Mary, the mother of Jesus. She is the first amongst the faithful. Her YES (Fiat) at the Annunciation was a permanent YES throughout her entire life to what the Lord wanted of her. She “treasured and pondered” (Luke 2:51) her son Jesus throughout his life and told us to “do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5). At his death on the Calvary Cross, she embraced him with heroic affection as she would have done countless times when he was an infant. She becomes a symbol of the entire Church.

Let us not forget St Joseph, the biblical model of the “just” man. His loving humility and faithfulness to whatever God wanted has been remembered throughout the ages. Indeed, both our Australian saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Fr Julian Tennison Woods, co-founder of the Josephite Sisters, gave St Joseph a special place in their Order. They observed that apart from the biological link, St Joseph was the father of Jesus in every way and his intercession is needed to guide the education of children today.

FAMILY IN OUR CATHOLIC MISSIONARY TRADITION

It is hard to imagine evangelisation in the Catholic Tradition at any level without direct reference to the evangelising action of the family. Fifty years ago, the Second Vatican Council gave the family a beautiful title – “domestic Church” (Lumen Gentium n.11). This means that the family is a kind of Church in miniature. The Church is the family of God. The vision is that, imitating the Holy Family as a community of love, the family is the place where “the Gospel is transmitted and from which the Gospel radiates” (“Evangelii Nuntiandi, Paul VI, n. 71). It is the place where evangelisers are formed and from which they go out to evangelise the world. In short, families become a kind of permanent Nazareth.

Blessed John Paul II declared that evangelisation in the future depended in great measure on the family (Familiaris Consortio, 1981, 65). The role of the married couple forming a union of love and life reflects the nuptial union between the Risen Lord Jesus and his Church. The family forms the basic building block of society. It “has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love” (Familiaris Consortio, 17). The desire for a healthy society depends on the health of family life. In other words, the more the family is encouraged and strengthened the more our shared life in society is protected from every danger and threat.

Even before, however, a family looks to its future mission, it must contemplate in profound awe and wonder on its origins. Contemplation precedes and animates all pastoral action to support families. Recall again the long years that Jesus spent in the silence of his family at Nazareth. We imitate the FIRST family, “the prototype and example for all Christian families” (Familiaris Consortio,86).

Our silence in the Nazareth family will ultimately draw us to contemplate the origin of all love and faithfulness. It will draw us to contemplate the Most Holy Trinity. The incredible mystery of the love sharing (unitive) and life giving (procreative) love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will offer us the true source of family love and all human love and all energy for evangelisation. We cannot fully embrace this mystery of the Trinity’s gift-love. It must fully embrace us. We know, however, that the Trinity is not simply a remote idea or theological abstraction. As Benedict XVI often reminded us, we worship “the God who has a human face” (“Spe Salvi [2007], 31). Namely, this encounter of our Triune God is by way of Jesus, “the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6). Jesus living in the soul of the family is the source of the family’s life and mission. The Permanent Nazareth for all families begins here.

Given this brief summary of Catholic Tradition and its link with the missionary nature of the family, the arising challenge presents itself. All must be done to encourage families to take up their missionary role. It is largely the task of the laity, but involves the entire Church. How can we strengthen marriage and family life in the Diocese of Sale?
MAKING A PERMANENT NAZARETH IN SALE DIOCESE

Sometimes when we examine the biblical/theological ideal as summarised above and then look at the reality of so many families today we can become discouraged. Family life today comes in so many different forms. Family life in Australia has become a kind of patchwork of various human arrangements offering all sorts of hopes, joys and sufferings. Without denying that many families seem to be in a healthy and happy state, many are in great pain and suffering tremendously.

This is not helped by cultural and political attitudes and structures that seem to undermine the centrality of family life. In his Apostolic Exhortation on the Church in Oceania, John Paul II observed that:

The Christian concept of marriage and the family is being opposed by a new secular, pragmatic and individualistic outlook which has gained standing in the area of legislation and which has a certain “approval” in the realm of public opinion. (Ecclesia in Oceania, 2001, 45)

Given all that could be said about the lights and shadows of family life today, the Catholic Diocese of Sale is to embark upon a diocesan pastoral plan with family life in the mission of the Church as it vision over the next five years. This vision is to ponder deeply on family life – its origins, its joys and sorrows, God’s plan for family life, its interface with parish/school life, and its evangelising role in society. As your bishop, I want to encourage you in family evangelisation and work towards making our families into a kind of permanent Nazareth.

To do this I am proposing a year by year focus on a particular aspect of family life over the next five years. The yearly focus will begin at the start each Advent Liturgical season. It may seem an odd time to begin a pastoral focus. After all, Australians ready themselves for their holiday season at this time and prepare for Christmas. But that is precisely the point. The liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas bring us into direct contact with the birth of Jesus and the Holy Family – their joys and struggles. The Australian holiday season generally is a time for family reunions and spending quality time with family after a busy year. Surely this is an unusual but appropriate time to encourage reflections on family life to begin.

The entire pastoral plan is titled: FAMILY EVANGELISATION.

The following year by year focus is as follows:

2013/14 – Year of Family Prayer
2014/15 – Year of Marriage and Family Life
2015/16 – Year of nurturing Family – School relationships
2016/17 – Year of nurturing Family – Parish / School relationships
2017/18 – Year of nurturing Family / Parish / School in the world of today

Before the Advent season each year I will publish a Pastoral Letter to launch the topic for the forthcoming year. It will set the scene for the next 12 months. There will be parish and family resources attached to assist with practical applications to the focus year. Accordingly, I will publish a Pastoral Letter before Advent this year (December 1, 2013) on the topic of FAMILY PRAYER.

I request parishes/schools, families and all communities in the diocese to give the yearly focus a major pastoral priority. It may not be so much of “doing” more but “focusing” more on FAMILY EVANGELISATION in our normal parish activities. It is surely providential that in these months preceding the initiation of our pastoral plan we are celebrating the conclusion of the YEAR OF GRACE and the continuation till the Solemnity of Christ the King (November 24, 2013) of the YEAR OF FAITH. Indeed, I believe that a pastoral plan on FAMILY EVANGELISATION is a particular fruit of our prayerful focus on GRACE AND FAITH over these past times.

Let us entrust our pastoral efforts towards FAMILY EVANGELISATION in the Diocese of Sale to the Most Holy Family and to Our Lady Help of Christians, the patroness of the diocese.

Heavenly Father,
We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, Our Saviour and Redeemer, into our world.
In the humble family of Nazareth, Jesus “increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour” (Luke 2:52)
Give our families, too, Heavenly Father, this experience of the Nazareth family in deeper measure.

With Mary and Joseph, in grace and faith, may we become in the Diocese of Sale a kind of Permanent Nazareth.

May Nazareth become a real school for FAMILY EVANGELISATION for all of us.
We make this prayer through Jesus, the Son of God, “the carpenter’s son” (Matthew 13:55) from Nazareth.
In the power of the Holy Spirit, the soul of all evangelisation.

AMEN.

Most Holy Family, Pray for us.
Mary, Help of Christians, and Star of the New Evangelisation, Pray for us.
SUMMARY AND QUESTIONS

THE PASTORAL PRIORITY IN THE SALE DIOCESE
– FAMILY EVANGELISATION
1. Why is it true to say that “Increasing missionary zeal cannot be a vague generality but must find itself planted in human communities”?
2. Share a personal experience of a family situation that led to
   • a deepening of your faith
   • a determination to express your faith in outreach to others
3. As “The most fundamental and important thing in the mission of the Church is the spiritual renewal of the family”, give examples of ways in which the family can be spiritually renewed.

FAMILY IN THE GOSPEL
Meditating on the Holy Family, Pope Paul VI (in an address on January 5, 1964) stated that the home of Nazareth became the first school of the Gospel and teaches us three lessons.

1. What steps can be taken by families to lessen the impact of the noise of modern life?
   The first lesson to be learnt by all of us is the importance of developing a deep family spiritual life within the general noise of modern life.
2. Why is it true to say that family life has an indispensable role in societal life?
   The second lesson is that Nazareth teaches us that family life is a communion of love between its members and has an indispensable role in societal life.
3. How can the example of the Holy Family of Nazareth affect your family and its life together?

FAMILY IN OUR CATHOLIC MISSIONARY TRADITION
1. The term domestic Church” (Lumen Gentium n.11) means that the family is a kind of Church in miniature; what implication does this have for Catholic families?
2. Explore the ways in which the family is the place where “the Gospel is transmitted and from which the Gospel radiates” (Evangelii Nuntiandi, Paul VI, n. 71).
3. Why is it true to say that the more the family is encouraged and strengthened the more our shared life in society is protected from every danger and threat? Give some examples.
4. Why is it important that contemplation precedes and animates all pastoral action to support families?

MAKING A PERMANENT NAZARETH IN SALE DIOCESE
Without denying that many families seem to be in a healthy and happy state, many are in great pain and suffering tremendously.
This is not helped by cultural and political attitudes and structures that seem to undermine the centrality of family life.
1. What are some factors that you believe are undermining the centrality of family life today?
   The Catholic Diocese of Sale is to embark upon a diocesan pastoral plan with family life in the mission of the Church as its vision over the next five years. This vision is to ponder deeply on family life – its origins, its joys and sorrows, God’s plan for family life, its interface with parish/school life, and its evangelising role in society.
2. What excites you about this plan?
3. What challenges do you see?