Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Saint Mary’s,

Today is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Season of Lent. Throughout Lent, Christians are called to re-examine their lives to “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel”.

The Greek word χαμαρτία (ἁμαρτία) is usually translated as sin in the New Testament. It means “to miss the mark” or “to miss the target” which was also used in Old English archery. The challenge of Lent is to realign our lives with the target ie. to aim to be the best people we can be and to live by our Christian values.

Christianity can often be mistaken as a being a religion for saints, in reality it is for sinners, because all of us find ourselves “missing the mark” at times. Many of our greatest saints (eg. St Paul & St Augustine) started off as seemingly hopeless sinners. I love Nelson Mandela’s quote, when he was asked if he was a saint. He said, “I am not a saint, unless you think of a saint as a sinner who keeps on trying.” Is there a better definition?

One of my favourite Bible stories is the story of Jesus’ encounter with a sinner. Rather than condemning her, he instead bravely steps forward and risks his own life to save her. This story would have been scandalous in Jesus’ time, as he went against the religious laws of His people. Even now, the thought of bravely standing between an angry mob bent on killing and their intended victim is extremely challenging.

This is a story I have often used with older students to challenge them not to go along with bullying and harassment.

There is much conjecture about the things Jesus wrote in the dust. Some have said it was the various sins of the assembled crowd, others have suggested that it was passages from the Old Testament which pointed to how much the angry mob were “missing the target” by their actions. Whatever he wrote, it had the desired effect.

The final lines are telling. Jesus doesn’t condemn the woman, but does remind her to realign her aim toward the target ie. not to sin again.

John 8:1-11        A Woman Caught in Adultery

Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

“Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”

They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

“No, Lord,” she said.

And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal
Following is an extract from the parent letter which will be distributed in regards to the proceedings at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in recent times given the focus of the Commission on a case study from a Catholic school in the Diocese of Toowoomba. Brisbane Catholic Education does not have oversight of Catholic schools in that diocese, but the resurfacing of this case may again undermine the confidence of the broader community in the safety of students in Catholic schools generally.

The hearings uncovered further disturbing information about the way in which the Church has so poorly handled allegations of sexual abuse against children. We can only begin to imagine the suffering of those children and the impact on their families. We offer our most sincere apologies, again, for what occurred and reiterate our absolute determination to do all we can to ensure that children and young people are safe in our schools and that crimes like this do not happen again.

Please be assured that our school, along with all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Brisbane, has in place clear policies and procedures for dealing with all allegations of sexual abuse, including those not related to a school setting. These policies and procedures are available to all parents and are published on the Brisbane Catholic Education website.

Parents will receive in the mail a letter from Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane and Pam Betts, Executive Director of Brisbane Catholic Education, to assure parents of our continued commitment to ensuring our Catholic schools are safe for your children. If you did not receive a copy of the letter, please contact the school office and we will arrange for a copy to be sent to you.

**From the Deputy**

Today we had our Ash Wednesday celebration to mark the beginning of Lent. Thank you to Ms Radcliffe and Mr Hutton for organising this very important event.

Thank you also to the students before and after the service who put out chairs and stacked them away.

Many hands make light work!

Let us take this time of Lent to reflect upon the meaning of our continued commitment to ensuring our Catholic schools are safe for all our students.

We can only begin to make the first steps towards healing the pain suffered by victims of sexual abuse. We will never forget those who have been so poorly handled by those in the Church, including those not in school generally.

This week we have been focussing on our College “Hands Off” policy by being safe at all times in the playground and in class. I would like to thank the students for their co-operation and I hope we all look after each other in a safe way for the rest of the year.

Over the next few weeks in the lead up to camps, there will be assignments and exams for most students in Years 7-12. Thursday afternoon tutorials are very popular at the moment and I would like to thank all the teachers who have helped this year; Ms Robertson, Mr Dunbrack, Miss Tucker and Mrs Collins.

If your child has an assignment due or is struggling with a subject, send them along to the tutoring from 3-15 to 4-15 in rooms 42 and 43.

The new college bus will run students north to Murgon at the conclusion of tutoring and also take home the students who are visiting Orana with Mr Hutton. Camps are for Years 7-12 in week 10. Monday and Tuesday are normal school days, except for year 10 who have work experience all week.

Camps and retreats run Wednesday to Friday for everyone else (7,8,9,11,12). Easter is at the end of the two week holiday period this year. There is also an extra holiday on the Tuesday after Easter which makes the first week back two days! Anzac day services will be held on the Friday. I hope this makes sense as Easter and Anzac day are only a week apart this year.

Have a great week.

God Bless,

Mr Sean Ewin

Deputy Principal

**APA News**

It’s on again in 2014!

The College is once again running a weekly footy picking competition for NRL games. It’s just $10 to enter, and with an expected pool of about 40 entrants, the winner should receive about $165, second place $25, and third place $10. That will leave about $200 as a fund raiser profit for the Confraternity shield players (or QISSN netball girls if no boys elect to play Confo). Some students like to enter the picking comp. as a team, syndicate or partnership, and share the nomination fee and picking duties. Just remember to name your syndicate.

The weekly picking sheet will be published in the College Newsletter each week, all weekly entries into the NRL box by 3–30 pm Thursday, and the results sheet will be up on the door to the College office. Weekly picking using the college fax or email is also OK.

If you wish to enter, just fill out the form below, and return it to your $10 to the office by Thursday 6th March 2014.

Go on, have some fun! Come up with a picking system or formula. Tease your teacher about their poor picking form.

**Dance Fever Concert**

Parents should note that the Term 1 Dance Fever project will come to a finale on Wednesday April 2nd with a Dance Fever Concert in the Maryknoll Centre: 9:00am Prep to Yr 4

9:50am Yr5 to Yr 7

Parents are invited to come along and enjoy the morning watching our younger students show off their new dance move.

Have a good week

Mr John Dalton

Assistant to the Principal
giving a speech. The difference between normal anxiety and an anxiety disorder is when the anxiety is so persistent it stops you doing things you want to, or persists even when all logical reasons to be anxious are absent.

Generalised anxiety disorder, for instance, involves chronic worry without a definitive cause and social phobia involves a fear of talking to or being around others. There are many different anxiety disorders, and it can be difficult to distinguish when normal anxiety starts to become a problem.

Awareness and increase

There are two possible reasons why there has been an increase in these conditions. First, more people are willing to talk about their experiences, as the stigma of these conditions is slowly decreasing. And secondly, changes to criteria in diagnostic manuals have effectively classified some “normal” states as clinical conditions.

But being diagnosed with a mood or anxiety disorder can be a stressful experience itself. The reaction generally depends on how well the person relates to the diagnosis, whether or not the diagnosis was something anticipated and whether or not they expect a diagnosis and adequate treatment will improve their life.

The vast majority of conditions can be treated either psychiatrically or psychologically, but finding the right treatment, while ultimately rewarding, can also at times be frustrating. It's our opinion that Australia is ahead of many other western countries in having destigmatised mood disorders, and the stigma and negative consequences linked to seeking help has reduced considerably. Unfortunately, this doesn’t mean that stigma is completely eradicated. Some employers may take advantage of knowing that an individual has a psychiatric condition. And the declaration of any condition can prevent people obtaining income protection, and even travel insurance.

But that shouldn’t stop people from seeking help when they feel their emotional health is at risk.


Mr Graham Turnbull
Guidance Counsellor

Library Corner

Lexile Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received Lexile awards!

Blue award (5 books) – Bella Hams, Ben Trebbin, Sam Schmidhauser, Olivia Davis, Jacob Haydon, Martin Penny, Jugen Steenkamp, Matt Trebbin

Red award (5 books) – Cooper Moller, Kaitlin Ritchie, Emma Manktelow, Lachlan O’Kane

Library Book Returns:

Please remind your child to return their library books on time each week. Here is when the classes borrow/return each week:

Prep, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 – Tuesdays

Prep: Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 – Tuesdays

Prep, Year 3 – Tuesdays

Prep: Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 – Tuesdays

Year 4 – Mondays

Year 5, Year 5/6, Year 6 – Thursdays

All students P-12 are encouraged to borrow/return books at lunchtime every day as well. This is a good opportunity for students to do Lexile quizzes too. Please encourage your child to bring a library bag!

Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

Curriculum Corner

Weekly Study Strategy: Reviewing notes

As we progress into Term 1, it becomes important to ensure that your child is practising good study habits. This will help them to prepare for assessments and organise their time at school more efficiently. This week, we are encouraging students to review their notes. Your brain relies on seeing regular patterns if it is to remember and make sense of what you learn. Therefore it is a must that you review the notes you take in class often. You remember

- 90% of them if you revisit them within 24 hours but only
- 30% if you wait 3 days.
- After a month only about 3% to 4%

When you review notes at home use your dominant Multiple Intelligence. You may:

- Draw idea maps full of colour
- Draw floor charts and diagrams to put up on your wall
- Write lists of main points
- Develop plans of attack for solving

Maths/Science problems

Whatever way you choose the main thing is to actually do it!

Mrs Melanie Burr
Year 7-10 Curriculum Coordinator

Office News

A further reminder that unless you have a formalised instalment payment arrangement in place with the College (eg Direct Debit, BPAY) your Term 1 account was due for payment by Friday 28th February. Reminder Statements will be sent home this week to families who have not settled their account or made payment arrangements with the Office. These will be on yellow paper so that they can be identified from the original statement previously posted out. While the College is more than happy to accept payments by instalments, we do need to know the amount and timing of these payments and it’s preferred that these instalments be done via Direct Debits or BPAY payments. So please, if you have not already contacted the office with details of your planned instalments, can you do so immediately to prevent us doing unnecessary fee follow up procedures.

Kym Schultz
Business Manager

Indigenous News

Deadly Ears Mobile Van Visit

Mr Cecil Brown, Senior Aboriginal Health Worker from Cherbourg Community Health will be visiting our college on Tuesday 11 March 2014.

Valerie Mathews
Indigenous Support Worker

Music News

Donations of Instruments

At the recent P&F meeting, it was mentioned that some parents may have an instrument or two lying around at their places.

The school is very much interested in accepting donations of instruments such as Guitars, Clarinets, Flutes as well as Violas and Double Bass.

Unfortunately, the school cannot offer to buy any instruments.

Hire Program

Any students who are currently hiring an instrument from the school and have not returned the associated hire form, please do so as a matter of urgency - hire fees are being added to your school fees. If you need a new form, please contact Mr Scanlan through the office.

Thank You

Michael Scanlon
Music Co-Ordinator

Tuckshop News

This Friday Tuckshop Specials are as follows:

Fish Fingers (4 fingers) - $3.50 Lunch only

Morning Tea

Cheese and Macaroni - $3.50 Lunch only

A reminder to all that there will be no coffee served on Fridays during Lent. There will be Fish Fingers, Fish Bites and pieces of Fish for sale on these days.

Any help is greatly appreciated.

A big thank you to the parents who have kindly donated food items to the tuckshop so far this term.

Thank You

Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor
BARGAN!
2nd HAND UNIFORM SALE

Sale Rack
ONLY $5
Shirts—Shorts—Dresses etc
Uniform Shop Open
Wednesday 8am to 11am

MUSIcIANS WANTED
Have you ever wanted to play with an orchestra? Are you a musician who has just moved to the wonderful South Burnett? The South Burnett Community Orchestra is looking for new members! Come and join a great bunch of musicians and support our local community.

If you are interested come and check out our rehearsals, Wednesday nights at Kingaroy Uniting Church Hall from 6pm to 8pm. We would love to see you there.

FOOTY PICKING COMPETITION
Syndicate Name: ………………………….Name(s) of participants: …………………

(Please return this section and your $10 to the office by Thursday 6th March 2014)

Wanted New College Board Members

Our College Board serves our community by helping to review College policies and major projects.

College Board members are required to commit to attending approximately 10 meetings a year at 7.30pm on the 4th Tuesday each month during the school terms. The College Board is advisory and not a managerial in nature. Our College Board meetings are open to members only (ie. not open to all like our P&F).

If you would like to be considered as a possible Board Member or would like to nominate someone who you believe would make a good Board Member please contact Lee Moller, our College Board Chairperson, at lmoller@beangrowers.com.au or by ringing 0407 034 021

Kingaroy Junior Soccer Club

We are pleased to advise that training starts this Thursday, times will be as follows:
Thursday afternoons 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th March:
4.30pm – 5.30pm rotations and small games for Under 6, 7 and 8’s
5.30pm – 6.30pm rotations and small games for Under 9,10 and 11’s
6.30pm – 7.30pm fitness and small games for Under 12/13’s and Cadets (14, 15 & 16’s)
Remember your water bottle and shin pads. Teams will be announced on the 27th March. Training from 24th April onwards will be in teams at a time set by your team coach.

Newsletter Request Form
Please return this slip to the College Office

Name: __________________________

I would like to receive my newsletter □ Electronically □ Paper Copy

Email Address: __________________________