Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer
Gracious God,
guide and strengthen us
on our journey of faith and mercy.
In the remaining weeks of Lent
renew our spirits in the light of prayer and penance.
We ask this with confidence
in your increasing presence with us.
Amen.

Reflection
Pope Francis began his formal declaration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy with these words, “Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy.” These are indeed beautiful words that speak a profound truth and tell us that in Jesus’ life and teachings we see the reality of God’s mercy lived out in everyday life. Holy Week begins which begins, Sunday 20 March and culminates in the Easter Triduum. 24, 25 and 26/27 March is a very fitting time to ponder on Pope Francis’ words and journey closer to the merciful person of Jesus Christ by participating in the Easter liturgies in our parishes.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS
In scanning some contemporary resources related to Lent some of the reflections return an interesting theme. That is, people often do not look forward to Lent. Childhood memories of giving up chocolate or sitting through weekly Stations of the Cross come immediately to mind. Words like “sacrifice,” “discipline,” and “self-denial” are often used in ways that suggest that Lent is something to be endured rather than a time of grace and spiritual growth. However, have you ever thought of Lent as an annual second chance? Each year the Church gives us six weeks to take a long, loving look at our lives to see if our values and priorities are in line with God’s desires for us. Since most of us find that we have wandered from God’s path, Lent becomes that second chance, or do-over, to “return to God with our whole heart.” Some salient words to contemplate as we enter the final few days before the most significant event in the calendar of the Catholic Church.

As this newsletter is the last publication before the short Easter break. I wish all families a safe, happy and holy Easter and encourage students to attend either the Easter services listed in this newsletter or those published in the respective parish bulletins.

Note that classes conclude at 3.00pm on Thursday March 24 and recommence on Tuesday March 29 at 8.40am.

Spirit of Catholic Education Awards
We are very proud of our very own Mrs Julie McGregor who was awarded the 2016 Spirit of Catholic Education Award for Leadership during Catholic Schools Week celebrations. Recently retired, Julie was, and is, the embodiment of service in the McCarthy community as she continues to serve the students and staff both on and off the campus. Her support of students and staff who experience difficulty is well-known and deeply appreciated. A most deserving and humble winner of a highly regarded award. Well done Julie!

Enrolments for Year 7 in 2017 close April 8 2016
McCarthy Catholic College extends an invitation for students seeking enrolment into Year 7 in 2017. The only round of Year 7 applications for this year will close on Friday 8 April. Fully completed application forms and the $100 application fee need to be lodged at the College on or before Friday 8 April. Interviews will be conducted throughout Term 2. Contact the office on 6761 0800 for an application pack and/or more information.

Board and Parents Association Annual General Meetings – March 15
I thank and congratulate the members of our 2016 School Board and Parent Association. At the recent Annual General Meetings held for both groups, Executive members were nominated and elected for 2016. A list of new and ongoing members appears below. I especially welcome Father John McDonald from West Tamworth parish to the McCarthy Board as the nominated member of the clergy appointed by the Bishop to support Father Joe Adriano as the Parish Priest of St Nicholas parish.

McCarthy School Board Office Bearers are:
Chairperson: Mr Adam Green
Secretary: Mrs Laura Hughes

Diary Dates
22 March: Year 7/8 Science & Engineering Challenge
22 March: MCC Cricket Club AGM 6.00pm
23 March: Year 9/10 Science & Engineering Challenge
25 March: Good Friday
28 March: Easter Monday
29 March: Warramalaya Retreat
31 March: Diocesan Touch – Inverell
5 April: Year 12 Twilight Retreat
6 April: Northern Diocesan Rugby League Trials
8 April: 2017 Enrolment Applications close
8 April: Term 1 concludes
25 April: ANZAC Day
26 April: Pupil Free Day
27 April: Term 2 commences for students
27 April: Surviving Your Adolescents course
4 May: Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews 4pm
4 May: Peel Schools’ Carnival
6 May: Diocesan Tennis/Cross Country/Golf
6 May: UNE Open Day
Elected Members: Mr Shaun O’Sullivan, Mrs Trish Thornberry, Mr Peter Sleiman
Staff Representative: Mrs Kate Sullivan
Association Representative: Mrs Carol Reed.

Open Day
Thank you to all the wonderful families who visited the college for Open Day on Saturday 12 March. I trust that their impression of the grounds and facilities was positive. The staff are to be highly commended and thanked for their preparation of the learning spaces, especially those generous souls who lead tour groups on the day. I would like to deeply thank those students from Year 11 and 12 who acted as Tour Guides. As I told many families on the day, if these young men and women cannot answer questions and showcase the college then we have not done much of a job in educating them. They are fine ambassadors of this wonderful college!

Our Lady of the Rosary Cultural Centre
It’s open for business! A cursory scan of the photos below highlights the quality of this wonderful state-of-the-art facility. From high-tech IT and Music equipment to collaborative furniture and learning spaces, the ‘Rosary Centre’ is certainly well-equipped to enhance the learning experiences for students of all faculties, especially the Creative Arts. Tours were held on Open Day and at the Wine and Cheese Night for the Parent Association and many parents commented that they would love to come back to school if this is what the classrooms look like these days! There will be further opportunities for tours in the coming months as well as live performances and the blessing and official opening of the building. Stay tuned in future newsletters for details.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
St Nicholas’ Easter Schedule
Palm Sunday: Saturday - 6.00pm at St Nicholas’; Sunday – 7.30am at St Mary’s, 9.30am at St Nicholas’, 5.30pm at St Nicholas’
Holy Thursday: 6.00pm at St Nicholas’
Good Friday: 10.00am at St Nicholas’ (Stations of the Cross); 3.00pm at St Nicholas’ (Celebration of the Passion of the Lord).
Holy Saturday: 7.00pm Easter Vigil at St Nicholas’
Easter Sunday: Easter Vigil 7.30am at St Mary’s; 9.30am St Nicholas’, 5.30pm at St Nicholas’.
**Sisters of St Joseph**

Saturday 19 March 2016 is the Feast of St Joseph. On this day the Sisters of St Joseph celebrate 150 years since their foundation in Penola South Australia in 1866 as a result of the dream of Mary MacKillop and Fr Tenison Woods. The Sisters invite you to join with them in giving thanks to God for the countless blessings that have come to Australia and beyond as a result of the ministry of the Sisters in small country places and larger cities.

Mass will be celebrated in a number of centres throughout NSW on this Feast of St Joseph. Priests and Religious, Associates, family, friends, ex-students and current students of the Sisters are invited to join the Sisters in the celebration of Mass followed by refreshments.

Mass will be celebrated at St Patrick’s Church, West Tamworth at 11.00am on Wednesday 13 April. RSVP ph: 46771477 or 0418674452 or email julie.simpson@sosj.org.au

*Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinator*

**PASTORAL CARE**

**Condolences**

Our thoughts and prayers go to Lucas, Adam and Rebecca Cameron, Emily Klepzig and their families following the passing of their grandfathers.

**Surviving Your Adolescents**

McCarthy is hosting a free Surviving Your Adolescents course on Wednesday 27 April at 5.30pm. Learn how to manage and let go of your 11-22 year old. Please note: Registration is essential.

The course covers:

- What is normal adolescent behaviour
- How to manage teen risk-taking
- The Four Cardinal Sins (what not to do)
- The relationship between parent-teen communication and adolescent safety
- The four ways to improve your relationship
- What role to take: observer, advisor, negotiator, director
- How to respond to emotional blackmail.

For more information and to register contact the Family Relationship Centre through Centacare NENW ph: 1800372826 or 67387200.

*Mrs Libby Molony – Pastoral Care Coordinator*

**PARENT INFORMATION**

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 15 March. The Executive Committee is:

President: Ms Megan Jamieson
Vice Presidents: Mrs Jacqueline Fulwood and Mrs Maree Betts
Secretary: Mrs Carol Reed
Treasurer: Mrs Laura Hughes
Board Representative: Mrs Carol Reed
Committee: Mrs Tania Roworth, Mr Ken Macpherson, Ms Kylie Evans, Mrs Kim Pearson, Mrs Marie Rice, Mrs Maria Creigh and Ms Rosemary Chatwood.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 17 May at 7.15pm in the staff common room. All welcome.

**Wine and Cheese Night**

Thank you to those parents who took the time to attend our Wine and Cheese Night and tour the impressive Our Lady of the Rosary Cultural Centre. Thank you to Mr Geoff McManus for conducting the tour.

**CAREERS NEWS**

Earlier this week approximately twenty Year 12 students attended the Health Careers Forum at the University of Newcastle’s Tamworth Education Centre. Students from other schools around Tamworth also attended and were able to gain insight and information about ten different medical and health careers.

On Thursday 31 March at lunchtime the Defence Force will be visiting McCarthy to talk to interested students from Years 9-12. Topics covered will include career options, entry pathways (general, trade and officer entry), application process, gap year and scholarships.

*Mrs Susan Barrett – Careers Adviser careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au*
ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Clean Up Australia Day
Twenty students from Year 8 -12 gave up a Sunday morning sleep-in recently to give service to their wider community. As part of the Environmental Council's annual initiative in the national Clean Up Australia Day, McCarthy students walked the streets of North Tamworth in a bid to rid the area of rubbish. Over five bags of rubbish were collected. Thank you to Tamworth Regional Council for removing the rubbish to recycle and to be stored as general waste.

Clean Up McCarthy
In preparation for Open Day, forty students volunteered to clean the grounds of the college last Friday afternoon. The students who participated were shocked at the amount of rubbish on the oval where students sit at recess and lunch.

As a result, the Environmental Council will soon launch a public relations campaign educating the students on the importance on keeping our environment clean.

Mrs Sharon Stuart

MUSIC

HSC Music Workshop
On 10 and 11 March, Mrs Lane accompanied senior music students to NECOM in Armidale to participate in HSC Music Workshops. The students participated in intensive sessions to assist them with their aural, musicology and composition skills. Music 2 students learnt about sight singing and melodic dictation.

All students sung in a massed choir and watched their peers perform and receive critiques from experienced HSC examiners.

Of special note was the one on one time some of our Year 12 students spent with examiners working on their composition and viva voce. This was a valuable opportunity.

Mrs Lisa Lane

BAND

The McCarthy Concert and Jazz bands entertained at the McCarthy Open Day.
They performed to an appreciative, but wandering audience for the full three hours.
It was a great opportunity to try out the Forecourt of the Rosary building and some new music pieces.

FREE FREE FREE

McCarthy Catholic College has some past Year books to give away from 2000 through to 2014.
If anyone is interested in one, two or more, please contact Mrs Julie Kellahan via email jkellahan@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

The 2015 School Year book is not yet available.

Mrs Julie Kellahan – Year Book Coordinator
Ron George Trophy Champions
Congratulations to the McCarthy cricket team who won the Ron George Trophy competition for the second time in three years, recently against Calrossy.

Calrossy won the toss and batted scoring 8/105 from their 20 overs. Jye Paterson took 4/17 from 4 overs, Jack Hannaford 1/15 from 3, Toby Whale 2/26 from 4, Lachlan Smith 0/4 from 3, Alex Cook 0/13 from 2 and James Austin 0/20 from 4.
In reply, McCarthy scored 2/107 from only 15 overs with Jye Paterson (63 not out), Jack Hannaford (23) and Toby Whale 13 (not out).
The team was Jye Paterson, Toby Whale, Ryan Baker, Jack Hannaford, Ryan Rogers, James Austin, Alex Cook, Tristan Hunter, Jack Murrie, Pat Ferguson and Lachlan Smith.
Thank you to Mr Damian Kenniff for coaching, Mr Peter Virgen for assisting and Mr Chris Paterson for scoring.

Diocesan Swimming
Congratulations to the following students who qualified for NSWCCC Swimming Championships at Moree last week: Molly Johns, Ellie George, Edward George, Eloise Turner, Daisy George, Jake Mitchell and Kathryn Burke. They will travel to Homebush on 29 April.
Age Champions were Molly Johns (16 year girl) and Daisy George (13 year girl).

McCarthy Cricket Club AGM
The Annual General Meeting of the McCarthy Cricket Club will be held on Tuesday 22 March at 6.00pm in the Staff Room. All positions (President, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar) will be vacant. We look forward to welcoming new members to get involved with cricket.

MCC Sport Google Classroom
A Sport Google Classroom has been created in order to assist students with Sport at McCarthy.
The class code is jtrthi
In the near future students will find permission notes, due dates, any trials or training sessions, nominations and information regarding upcoming competitions.
If students do not have Google Classroom, they can download the app to their phone to receive notifications.

Diocesan U15 Rugby League Trials
On Wednesday 16 March, six McCarthy students, Nick Taggart, Clay Frendin, Tom Sharman, Jacob Smyth, Jake Vost and Jesse Collins, trialled to be selected for the Diocesan U15 Rugby League team. Congratulations to Nick Taggart and Clay Frendin who were selected. They will now travel to Smithtown on 5 and 6 April to trial for the Northern New South Wales Under 15 team.

Friday Cricket
Good luck to the boys playing in the cricket finals of the school competitions this weekend, as well as the local cricket.
FREE Surviving Your Adolescents

Learn how to manage and let go of your 11-22 year old!

The Surviving Your Adolescents course covers:
- What is normal adolescent behaviour
- How to manage teen risk-taking
- The Four Cardinal Sins (what not to do)
- The relationship between parent-teen communication and adolescent safety
- The four ways to improve your relationship
- What role to take: Observer, Advisor, Negotiator, Director
- How to respond to emotional blackmail

For more information or to register, contact the Family Relationship Centre through Centacare NENW
1800 372 826
6738 7200

WHEN: Wednesday
27th April 2016
TIME: 5.30 - 8.30pm
WHERE: McCarthy College, Tamworth
COST: FREE

Registration is essential. This course is subject to registration numbers.