Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

Lord I am a sinner, 
Come with your mercy. 
Amen

The logo – designed by Father Marko I. Rupnik – presents a summary of the theme of mercy. It expresses the way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity with a love and the power to change one’s life. The Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, this is expressed in the eyes of Jesus margining with those of man.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Core Catholic Principles and Values

As the key driver of Catholic education in the Armidale Diocese, the Catholic Principles and Values for the New NSW Syllabuses document underpins all that we do here at McCarthy. All Key Learning Areas (KLAs) endeavour to embed the principles to provide a richer catholic education into the future. During 2015 teaching staff were given expert tuition by the Bishop on the first principle - The Primacy of God. To further enhance our teacher’s understanding that process continues in 2016 with further professional development on Friday 3 June. The topic for Tamworth teachers this year will focus on the Principle of the Sanctity of Life where presentations will cover Life and Dignity of the Human Person, Rights and Responsibilities, as well as Stewardship of God’s Creation.

Pupil-Free Day - Friday 3 June 2016. Classes resume for all students at 8.40am on Monday 6 June.

All-Up Fee

In the coming days families will be receiving a co-signed letter from Parish Priest - Father Joe Adriano, Board Chair - Mr Adam Green and myself, outlining the final details of the all-up fee proposal that I flagged in earlier newsletters. Please take the time to peruse this informative document and provide affirming and/or critical feedback as you see fit by Friday June 10. As with all of our current communication the letter will be emailed to all families unless a family has indicated that they do not have an email address.

Athletics Carnival

At the time of writing the Inter-house Athletics Carnival is underway. Such a day provides great opportunity for students to engage in a fun and collegial manner that enhances and grows good community spirit. Unfortunately, even though attendance is as compulsory as any other school day, some students see these sorts of days as an opportunity to miss this positive interaction with their peers. While disappointing I would hope that in years to come we can work in partnership with families to support full attendance at what is always a wonderful day. I commend and thank the ever-efficient Mr Feltrin and all of the staff who contribute to the organisation of our Athletics Carnival. Results will be published in the next newsletter.

A Vote for the Voiceless

A Vote for the Voiceless: A Statement by the Catholic Bishops of Australia on the Election. You can find a copy of this short and very readable two-page statement at www.catholic.org.au and at the end of the newsletter.

Forest Road Closure 23 – 29 May

Forest Road will be closed to all traffic from 23 – 29 May. This will in turn increase traffic along Moore Creek Road and Tribe Street. Please note that McPherson’s Bus routes will run approximately 6 minutes ahead of normal scheduled times for that week.

Enrolments for Year 7 in 2017

Thank you to those families that have expressed an interest in catholic education at McCarthy Catholic College for Year 7 in 2017. Interviews will be conducted throughout Term 2.

Changes to Rural and Regional School Travel

From 12 May 2016, applications for free school travel in rural and regional NSW will need to be completed online instead of using paper forms. This change makes it easier to apply, as you only need to complete one form that covers all situations, including journeys that involve multiple transport operators. For more information call 131 500 or visit transportnsw.info/school-students. To update
your details (eg address), go to apps.trasport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updatedetails. Information brochures are also available from the office.

May your God go with you.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
For the past three years schools have been required to collect data on school students with a recognised disability, learning difficulty, a special medical need or meet the criteria of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005. Further information is provided at the end of this newsletter. Parents not wanting their child recorded for the data collection must contact Mrs Briony Martin (bmartin1@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au) in Student Support prior to 24 May.

Mr Geoff McManus – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Liturgy
Last week, we introduced into McCarthy’s annual liturgical calendar the celebration of the Feast of Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice, founder of the Christian Brothers order. Over two days, Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 May, we honoured the memory and achievements of Edmund Rice by celebrating the Eucharist in two stages at St Nicholas’ Church. I would like to thank sincerely Fathers Joe and Joseph, the McCarthy students who assisted as readers, gift bearers, altar servers, musicians and singers for these Masses. In the introduction to the Mass for Blessed Edmund Rice we endeavoured to acknowledge McCarthy’s historic and spiritual link with the Christian Brothers who responded to Bishop Polding’s invitation in 1843 and came to Australia and then Tamworth in 1926 to establish Catholic schools.

Year 12 Twilight Retreat
Year 12 students will have the opportunity to attend their first twilight retreat on Wednesday 25 May. The theme of the retreat is ‘Merciful like the Father’ and will provide our students and participating teachers with an opportunity to, as Pope Francis’ advises ‘contemplate the mystery of mercy …[as] a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace.’

St Nicholas’ Debutante Ball
Many Year 12 students are busily preparing for the St Nicholas’ Debutante Ball on Friday 27 May. We look forward to a special evening.

Save the Date 5 May 2017
St Joseph’s Parish Uralla is holding a parish celebration dinner Friday 5 May, 2017 to celebrate the 50 year opening of the current church. Please contact Trish Shortis 0402 342 032 or Bev Niland 6778 4328 for further details.

Mrs Cate Allen – Mission and Spiritual Formation Coordinator

PASTORAL CARE
Welcome
We welcome Milarni-Rose Cloake, Simon and Sophia Samson and their families to the McCarthy community.

Condolences
Our thoughts and prayers go to Isaac Byrne and his family following the passing of his grandfather and to Jack and Tom Lange and their family following the passing of their grandmother.

Mrs Libby Molony – Pastoral Care Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

Meeting
Our next meeting is Tuesday 21 June at 7.15pm in the staff common room. All welcome.

Save the Date
The McCarthy Association’s annual Trivia Night will be held on Saturday 30 July.

TEACHING AND LEARNING
Week 3 was exceptionally busy with Year 7 and 9 students completing NAPLAN. I was very impressed with the way students applied themselves. Very simply, we asked the students to do their best work.

With Half-Yearly Examinations being held in Week 5 and 6 for Years 7 through to Year 11, we continue to encourage students to give their best effort in these assessments. Again, making sure students are demonstrating their real ability on the day is very important. Teachers spend time analysing results and making adjustments, so it is important that we are looking at the true ‘snapshot’ of a student at that moment in time.

Please ensure students attend all examinations with the correct equipment and follow the instructions on their published timetable. These will be distributed via Mentor Groups this week. Copies will also be available on the school website. It is very important that all students who have genuinely unavoidable absence follow the procedures outlined below and include the required documentation.

Exam procedures for students include:
- Please be prepared with appropriate equipment needed for each exam: paper, pens, pencils, eraser, ruler, tissues and any other specific items as notified by your teacher.
- Mobile phones devices and smart watches are not to be brought into the hall – leave them in your bag which will be locked in the foyer.
- If you wear a watch into the hall, it must be removed from your wrist and placed on the desk in full view.
- If you bring in a pencil case or clear water bottle, it must be placed on the floor.
- Go to the toilet before an exam.

**Appropriate behaviour is expected:**
- Follow teacher instructions.
- Do not speak to other students.
- Sit quietly when you have finished the exam, you are not allowed to leave early.
- Respect other students’ right to complete their exam without disturbance.

If students are **unwell**, a phone call to school or email to rmaxworthy@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au from parents is required **before the start of the examination** and a **medical certificate MUST be presented** on their return. The medical certificate must be attached to a blue ‘Application for Extension of or Special Consideration for an Assessment Task’. These are available from the office. Please forward this completed application to Mrs Maxworthy by handing it into the office staff.

*Mrs Raelene Maxworthy – Teaching and Learning Coordinator*

**CAREERS NEWS**

On Friday 6 May, Year 12 students attended the University of New England Open Day. Students were able to tour the residential colleges, speak to lecturers and course advisers, and attend talks and tours to assist them in making choices for their future.

Earlier this week there were several opportunities to assist students with their choices of careers. On Tuesday representatives from the Defence Forces spoke to interested students and on Wednesday interested Year 12 students were able to attend the Careers Expo at the TRECC.

There will be further opportunities for students later this term.

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

**MUSIC**

**McCarthy Catholic College Earns a Place on the National Music Mentoring Program**

Students at McCarthy Catholic College came together to collaborate with some of Australia’s most successful musicians and producers, as part of SongMakers - a national mentoring program run by APRA AMCOS.

The school was chosen to take part in the program, which is offered to a select fifty Australian schools each year. Thank you to Mrs Lane for successfully applying to gain this opportunity for our students.

The school transformed into a kind of creative hothouse for sixteen budding songwriters and producers. They worked over two intensive days – 16,17 May – with writer/performer and former Amy Meredith frontman, Christian Lo Russo (who has written for Jarrryd James, 5SOS and Jess Mauboy, among others) and producer/writer JP Fung (who has production credits for multi-award winning albums include those for Last Dinosaurs, Birds of Tokyo, Silverchair, Bluejuice).

Run with support from the Australian Government, SongMakers is all about contemporary music and is aimed at nurturing the next generation of hit-makers – right in the classroom.

“The great thing about this program is that it takes the real world into the classroom. For most of these students, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to collaborate with and learn from some of the biggest names in music. And because it’s so hands-on, it really fast-tracks students’ understanding of today’s contemporary music world and the steps needed for success.”

They now have an original composition recorded in true industry style.

**Rosary and McCarthy Class of 1986 30th Reunion**

The 30th school reunion of the Class of 1986 will be held in Tamworth on August 27.

The “Last of the Pioneers” are trying to track down their classmates who attended Our Lady of the Rosary College from 1981 to 1984 and then McCarthy from 1985 to 1986.

Please join our Facebook page “Rosary+McCarthy Class of 1986” or email kieran74@gmail.com for more information. Come join in the fun.

*Kieren Chapman*
**SPORT**

**NSW All Schools Swimming**
On Friday 6 May, Edward George competed at the NSW All Schools’ Swimming Championships at Homebush in the 15 year boys’ 50m backstroke coming 7th personal best time.

**Bill Turner Trophy**
McCarthy Catholic College recently played Round 1 of the Bill Turner Trophy Knockout Competition against Oxley High School at Oxley. McCarthy opened the scoring with a great goal late in the second half by Caitlin Wallace. Oxley then responded with a goal which took the game to golden goal in extra time. McCarthy were awarded a penalty early in extra time and Tyla Endemi made no mistake in converting the spot kick winning the game 2 – 1. Tyla Endemi, Phoebe McLoughlin and Caitlin Wallace all played strongly for McCarthy dominating the mid field whilst Tameka Frewen was outstanding as goal keeper. Congratulations to all the girls on a fantastic performance.

Team: Tameka Frewen, Phoebe McLoughlin, Tyla Endemi, Laura Robertson, Mykenzie Semple, Aimee Faulkner, Georgia Curtis, Grace Salter, Caitlin Wallace, Ellie Purkiss, Tyrah Hewitt, Emily Moyes, Millah Green, Maddison Simon.

Thank you to Mr Michael Herden for driving the bus and Mr Ronny Rindo for accompanying the students.

**Diocesan Cross Country, Tennis and Golf - Gunnedah**

**Tennis**
Darcy Walker, Devon Fourie, Laura Jeffery and Hope Taylor contested the Armidale Diocesan Tennis Championships at Gunnedah on Friday 6 May. The girls had a successful day emerging as eventual winners after defeating St Mary’s, Gunnedah, 6 – 4 in the deciding doubles match. They qualify to attend the NSWWCCC Championships in Bathurst on 20 June. Thank you to Mr Gerard Ritchie for accompanying the students.

**Cross Country**
On 6 May, seven students participated in the Diocesan Cross Country Event held at Gunnedah. All students participated to the best of their ability and displayed sportsmanship throughout the day. Results; Tyhla Condrick 12 year boys (1st), Luke Stainton 12 year boys (3rd), Daisy George 13 year girls (3rd), Tristan Reed 13 year boys (7th), Andrew Myers 16 year boys (7th), Sophie Barr 16 year girls (1st) and Jude Malaga 17+ boys (3rd).

The following students have qualified to compete at the NSWCCC Cross Country Championships at Eastern Creek on 17 June: Tyhla Condrick, Luke Stainton, Daisy George, Sophie Barr and Jude Malaga. Thank you to Mrs Kate Woolaston for assisting the students.

**Golf**
Brendan Scott, Daniel Morris, Luke Miles, Jackson Sweeney, Harry Mills, Ben Wilkinson, Liam Thompson and Tristan Reed competed at the Diocesan Golf Tournament in Gunnedah on 6 May.

Jackson Sweeney was runner-up in the stroke event scoring 69. Liam Thompson was the Nett runner-up (on a count back) and Brendan Scott was Nearest the Pin of the 2nd hole.

The McCarthy team of Daniel Morris, Jackson Sweeney and Harry Mills was named the overall Champion School for the competition. Thank you to Mr Marcus Chittick for travelling with the boys.

**Hockey**
Jack Cruickshank, Harper Galvin, Calvin Farmilo and Ehren Hazell (former student) competed in the Under 18 State Hockey Championships in Bathurst recently. The boys qualified for the Division 1 final after defeating Far North Coast in the semi 3-1. At the completion of the final, against Central Coast, the score was 4 all, resulting in an extra time golden point drop off. Central Coast went on to win the drop off and the boys were awarded the silver medal. Ehren Hazell was named Player of the Tournament and gained selection in the NSW state team. Jack Cruickshank and Harper Galvin were named in the NSW State Blue Team.

Toby Climpson, James and Nicholas O’Connor played in the Tamworth 2 team coming 8th in Division 2. All McCarthy boys played exceptionally well.

**BMX**
Congratulations to Daniel Morris who won the ACT State 17-24 years BMX Mens’ Cruiser titles in Canberra recently. He also placed 9th in the Open Pro class.

**Water Polo**
Congratulations to Kane Clinch and Jake Mitchell who were selected in the NSW Under 16 Waratahs Water Polo team to compete at the Pan Pacs in Auckland, New Zealand in July.

Congratulations also to Billie Mitchell and Harriet Lyden on their selections in the NSW Under 14 Blues and Waratah Water Polo teams respectively. They will compete at the East Coast Challenge in Melbourne in June. Jorja Irwin will compete in the NSW Under 14 Platypus Water Polo team and will travel to New Zealand in July.
Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

Background to the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

In May 2013, all Education Ministers from Commonwealth, state and territory governments endorsed the implementation of a nationally consistent collection of data on school students with disability in all Australian schools (government, independent and Catholic).

The nationally consistent approach to data collection provides all Australian schools, education authorities and the community with a clear picture of the number of students with disability in schools and the adjustments they are provided to enable them to participate in education on the same basis as other students.

Authority for the collection of information for the purposes of the NCCD

The Australian Education Regulation 2013 (the Regulation) requires the operators of government and non-government schools (approved authorities) to provide information to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training (the department) for the purposes of the NCCD.

The information that approved authorities must give to the department is set out at subsection 58A(2) of the Regulation. This includes, in relation to each student with a disability at a school operated by the approved authority:

• the student’s level of education (i.e. primary or secondary)
• the student’s category of disability (i.e. physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional)
• the student’s level of adjustment (i.e. support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive adjustment).

The information will not identify individual students (subsection 58A(3) of the Regulation); no information that could reasonably enable the department to identify individual students will be provided by approved authorities to the department.

Other details about the information to be collected and the format in which the information is to be provided to the department, will be contained in guidelines approved by the Education Council (the committee of the Council of Australian Governments comprising the Commonwealth and state and territory Ministers responsible for education). The NCCD guidelines are available on the department’s website at www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-students-disability-guidelines

Collection and disclosure of school level information

The information collected by schools for the purposes of the 2016 national data collection will ultimately be provided to the department. In some cases this will involve the school passing the data directly to the department and in other cases the school will provide the data to its state and territory government agency or other relevant body, depending on the school’s particular arrangements. The state and territory government agency or other body will further de-identify school level data, and may aggregate the data at the state and territory level, before providing the data to the department.

The department, on behalf of the Joint Working Group, will use the information collected for the purposes of preparing reports for and briefing the Australian Education Systems Officials Committee and the Education Council in relation to the NCCD. For the purposes of preparing these reports or briefing material, the department will ensure that the information is aggregated sufficiently so that no student’s identity could reasonably be ascertained.

The aggregated information held by the department may also be used as an input to policy development for future funding and other policy requirements as required by the Education Council.

The department will not otherwise disclose any personal information to third parties, including overseas recipients, without consent or unless authorised or required by law.

Contact

For further information about the collection, use or disclosure of information for the NCCD please contact: SWDPolicyTeam@education.gov.au
A VOTE FOR THE VOICELESS
A statement by the Catholic Bishops of Australia on the election

Australians are again going to the polls. We do so thankful that the electoral process will be free of the violence found elsewhere. Our political system may have its problems but we have a stable democracy, which is not to be taken for granted. Nor is the quality of those who put themselves forward for election to the Federal parliament. We are in their debt for their willingness to serve.

During the long election campaign there will be much talk about the economy and the need for good economic management at a time of some uncertainty. Both sides of politics will state their economic credentials in a bid to win power.

The economy of course is important and there does need to be sound management. But, as Pope Francis has pointed out, there is also a danger that the economy can become a kind of false god to which even human beings have to be sacrificed.

Among the people discarded in this throwaway culture are these:

- Refugees and asylum seekers who are often seen as a problem to be solved rather than as human beings in need of our help.
- Indigenous peoples whose cry for recognition has barely been heard and who suffer injustice at the hands of our justice system.
- The survivors of sexual abuse who have emerged from the shadows and whose voice is now being heard, crying out for redress and healing.
- Those who suffer family violence who are often unseen and unheard, behind closed doors with nowhere to go and no-one to turn to.
- Those in the womb who are among the most defenceless, at risk of being deprived of the most basic of all human rights, the right to live.
- The elderly who are seen at times as an economic burden now that they are unable to "produce" or consume in the way the economy demands.
- Those suffering mental illness who seem not to fit in with accepted patterns of social behaviour and are often presumed to contribute nothing to society, thus ending up in the too-hard basket.
- Those suffering addiction who can see no way out of the destructive grasp of alcohol or other drugs, gambling or pornography.
- Those entrapped in new forms of slavery who are the victims of sexual or workplace enslavement.
- The desperately poor beyond our shores who look to wealthy Australia for the help they need - often simply to survive - but find our nation less and less generous.

This leads to what the Pope has called the throwaway culture - a culture of over-consumption where all kinds of things are thrown away, wasted, even human beings. The voices of the throw-away people will not be heard in the long and rowdy campaign.

This leads to what the Pope has called the throwaway culture - a culture of over-consumption where all kinds of things are thrown away, wasted, even human beings. The voices of the throw-away people will not be heard in the long and rowdy campaign. Their faces will not be seen in all the advertising. Yet unless their voices are somehow heard and their faces seen, we will not have a truly human society in which economic management serves human beings rather than the other way round.

That is why we bishops want to speak a word as part of this campaign - not in order to push an ideological line or simply to defend the Church’s interests but to give a voice to the voiceless and make their faces seen, however briefly in a statement such as this.
There are others in our community, near and far, whose voices are unheard, whose faces are unseen. They are seen as politically irrelevant. They will not decide any marginal seats or determine the result of the election. Yet any society is ultimately judged not on how well it manages the economy but on how well it treats the thrown-away people.

Who then are the people unheard and unseen? What does it mean for Australia to care for them? If we fail to ask these questions and to try to answer them, then much that goes on in this or any other election campaign will be political theatre that does not address the real issues.

But it is not just individual people who are thrown away. The same can happen to the environment, both social and natural. At the heart of a healthy social environment there is marriage and the family. Yet political decisions can end up undermining marriage and providing less and less support for families despite a rhetoric that claims otherwise.

The fact is that economic decisions have been less and less favourable to families in recent years; and it may be that political decisions in the future will undermine further the dignity and uniqueness of marriage as a lifelong union of man and woman. Support for marriage and the family does not look a big vote-winner, so that even the most basic human institution, upon which the health of a society depends, can become part of the throwaway culture or at best an optional extra.

Pope Francis has said that the earth too cries out for justice at this time. The natural environment - the land we live on, the air we breathe, the water we drink - even this can become voiceless, so that the earth’s cry for justice can go unheard. Now is the time to act, so that the natural environment is able to meet human needs rather than be sacrificed to the god of the economy. We need an economy that is truly human, not falsely divinised. This does not mean divinising the natural world, but it does mean treating it with respect and seeing it as a gift to be received gratefully rather than as a resource to be plundered at will.

Neither can we as Christians afford to be voiceless through this campaign. On all kinds of issues we need to make our voices heard. But to do that we will have to listen first - not only to the voice of the voiceless, but even to the voice of God. That is why for Christians and others prayer is an essential part of this long journey to the election. By prayer, we mean first listening to God who has a word to speak in all this - the God who is neither voiceless nor faceless. If we can listen to God’s voice, then there is a chance that we might be able to speak with a voice that is not just our own.

“The fact is that economic decisions have been less and less favourable to families in recent years; and it may be that political decisions in the future will undermine further the dignity and uniqueness of marriage as a lifelong union of man and woman.”

To listen to God and to the voiceless is in the end the same thing. In hearing their voice, we can hear the voice of God. That is where the real God is; that is how the real God communicates.

We hope that this campaign - for Christians at least and especially for Christian politicians - will be a time not of spin and bombast but a time of wise and true speaking that comes from deep and humble listening. Then our vote may be a vote in favour of a community where no-one is thrown away, where all the voices are heard and all the faces seen.