



TRINITY
CATHOLIC
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College Newsletter

18 March 2016



Entering Holy week with Mary

This Sunday with the celebration of Palm Sunday, Christianity begins its annual commemoration of the central unique events of our faith - the final days of the life of Jesus, his suffering and death and his Resurrection. As St Paul says, "if Christ has not been raised ... our faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:13). Prepared by our Lenten observances of fasting, giving to those in need and prayer, we open ourselves willingly to enter into the Paschal rhythm of living exemplified in the life of Jesus.

As a Marist family, we live in a way that seeks inspiration and is modelled on that of the mother of Jesus, Mary. Of all the many images of Mary and Jesus one image stands out beyond all others. That is the sculpture we call the "Pieta" (or pity or compassion) created by Michelangelo. Michelangelo was relatively unknown to the world as an artist



when at the age of 24 when he was formally commissioned to do a life size sculpture of Mary holding her son in her arms. It would be the first of four sculptures that Michelangelo would create in his lifetime and the only one he completely finished. In less than two years Michelangelo carved from a single slab of marble, one of the most magnificent sculptures ever created. The marble came from Lucca, known for its marble quarries, including from Carrara, which yielded the largest, finest blocks of the brittle white stone that was so hard to work with, but especially prized by sculptors.

Michelangelo's interpretation of the Pieta was far different than ones created previously by other artists. Michelangelo decided to create a youthful and peaceful Mary instead of a broken hearted and somewhat older woman. Artists before and many after Michelangelo depict Mary at this moment in her life as grief stricken, almost on the verge of desperation.

Michelangelo, on the other hand, created a different image. As Mary holds Jesus' lifeless body on her lap, we can see that Mary's face is young, serene and somehow accepting of this immense sorrow at the death of her Son. Commentators explain that there is great tenderness and vulnerability in Jesus' exposed neck. As we contemplate the Pieta we can feel with Mary the sorrow at a parent's loss of their son.

We might ask ourselves what sort of Jesus we, like Mary present to our world. We might In asking this, Mary has much to offer us. In the Pieta, but more so in her life, Mary presents to the world her beloved Son, a human like us in all things but sin, a teacher, a son, a human being loved by others for his mercy and compassion, a healer, a catalyst for change.

Upcoming Events

- **Monday 21 March to Thursday 24 March**
Year 12 Semester 1 Exams
- **Thursday 24 March**
Holy Thursday
- **Friday 25 March**
Good Friday
- **Monday 28 March**
Easter Monday
- **Tuesday 29 March to Friday 1 April**
Year 12 Semester 1 Exams
- **Friday 1 April**
Year 11 Retreat Day



Francis Newton Souza, (Indian, 1924–2002). *Untitled ('The Pieta')*, 1987





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Mary, unlike so many followers of Jesus who abandoned him in his final days, was present in that first Holy Week witnessing silently and lovingly to her son's glory, her son's trial, torture and death and with her son at the foot of the Cross.

Mary, as our model of discipleship teaches us that the God we present to the world is at once the healer and teacher, and the one who suffers and dies as we do. The example of Mary to us proclaims that the face of God we bear to the world is one who is truly present in the joys and highs of life, but just as present to us in darkness and death. Mary is the first disciple and model of our discipleship precisely because she was the first to grasp the beauty of our faith - that nothing can separate any of us from the love of God. That somehow, trusting in God through every experience of life we, like Jesus, can rise to newness of life at one with God who loves us beyond our imagining. May this coming week, this Holy Week be a truly holy one for us as we deepen our love of Jesus and our discipleship of Him in the way of Mary.

NAPLAN HIGH ACHIEVER

Trinity was recognised as one of the few Catholic secondary systemic schools, and one of a small group of Australian schools to have achieved substantial growth between Years 7 and 9 in literacy and numeracy. Trinity had above expected achievement of similar schools and all Australian schools in the top 3 bands in Year 9 for spelling, reading, punctuation and grammar, and numeracy. That is in all categories. We extend our congratulations to students currently in Year 10 student for your hard work and for the high expectations you have of yourself as learners. We also celebrate the work of all of our teachers in creating a culture where learning growth is our main focus each day.

We particularly commend the staff at Regents Park for their work in achieving these results. One of the areas that our students noted was that on our smaller campus at Regents Park teachers **know their students as learners**. This skill of our teachers is at the heart of how learning occurs at the College. We also recognise the support of our families for whom learning growth is central to their hopes for their children in attending TCC.

Well done to all.

Public Speaking Success

Congratulations to Solosolo Faitua who on Friday evening was awarded First Place in the Catholic Schools' Public Speaking Competition Grand Final for Year 8. Solo was coached by Mrs Katherine Gudgeon and sincere thanks to Mrs Gudgeon, our coaches and our Public Speaking Coordinator, Ms Veronica Zouki, for their wonderful efforts in organising, training and encouraging the students in this very demanding art.

Congratulations Solo.





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Trinity wins the Executive Director's Award for Art

On Friday 11th March we attended the opening and awards night of The Clancy Prize, held at McGlade Gallery ACU, Strathfield.

The Clancy Prize is a Religious Art exhibition for Sydney's Catholic Secondary Schools and the theme for the exhibition was based on a central feature of the spirituality of St Francis:

"Be praised my Lord for the gift of life; for changing dusk and dawn; for touch and scent and song." (St Francis of Assisi, 1226)



Our art class worked collaboratively to conceive and create a sculptural work based on this theme. We titled our work *The Gift of Creation* and collectively came up with the following artist's statement:

'Admired by all Catholic Churches as the official Patron Saint of animals and ecology, Saint Francis is most known for his open heart towards nature, the environment and all of God's creation. In order to achieve the likeness of St. Francis, our Year 10 Visual Arts class used different mediums, consisting of wire, clay, wool, patterned fabric and stone. Each piece compared to another portrays diversity, as St. Francis displayed diversity when he imparted his love to others. By implementing sections of his Canticle of Creation into our artwork, our class has incorporated the gift of creation with creativity.'

We are excited to announce that we received the Executive Director's Award for our artwork. This award is for works that explicitly represent an aspect of Catholic culture, tradition, prayer or belief. The title of the work, the subject matter and accompanying commentary should display clear links to the guidelines for this award. Since 2013 SCS Sydney has exhibited the winning work for twelve months at St Martha's at Leichhardt, after which time the artwork is returned to the school.



We would also like to acknowledge the Year 7 and 8 Collaborative Work from Regents Park. Their title was *The Unity of St. Francis of Assisi* and portrayed a collection of paintings and drawings that also celebrated the theme of the Prize. We wish to thank Mr. Welk and Mr. Flint for their guidance and support in working with the Regent's Park students on this project.



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Marist Connect



The Marist Youth Ministry team Sydney held its Marist CONNECT gathering on Friday 26 of February. CONNECT is an event that is held once a term for Marist schools around the same geographical areas. The students who represented Trinity were Felicia Kalatua, Carlin Liang and AnhTu Dao. The evening proved to be thought provoking as it allowed the students to explore the Year of Mercy. The students formed groups and discussed how they could be more merciful to themselves, to each other and how mercy could look within their school community. They group then shared a meal together kindly prepared by the Marist Brothers who live in the Eastwood community.



Br Michael, Chef at the Marist Community Eastwood

REMAR Ministry Team

It was the 13th of October last year; Supi Taufaa had just finished his HSC Business Studies exam when he received a call from an unknown number. The call was from the National Remar Coordinator Liz Wake. Supi recently reflected on this call, "When I answered the phone I remember the person on the other end saying, 'Hi Supi, congratulations...' and because I just finished my exam, it hadn't hit me what she was saying. It took a few minutes into the call until I realised, she was telling me, I got the job! It was a surreal feeling, it was a bit strange, but a happy feeling. I felt like it was something I was meant to do."

Supi had undergone the arduous process of applying to be a member of the Remar Ministry Team for 2016, all whilst juggling his HSC study and his responsibilities as College Captain. Applications were received from around the nation and in becoming a member, Supi became not only the first member of Trinity Catholic College Auburn to hold this prestigious position but the first ever member of the Ministry Team from NSW.

The main role of the Remar Ministry Team is to coordinate and facilitate Remar for the 19 secondary schools who run the Remar program. This means that Supi will spend the majority of the year, living out of a suitcase, travelling the country, moving





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from school to school, camp to camp, leading and mentoring the young members of Remar. Whilst also finding time to be a member of the Marist community in his new home, Melbourne. The year will take him away from friends and family, and meant deferring his tertiary education; a Bachelor of Social Work at ACU in the pursuit of a meaningful gap year. However, he doesn't believe he is sacrificing anything: "I don't see it as giving it up but simply just gifting myself to God and to others."

Supi was a member of the inaugural Remar caravel at Trinity. Through his three years of Remar he developed as a person and a leader, which was recognised in this remarkable appointment. As Supi stated, "For me, Remar has had a huge impact on my life. The program has done a lot for me in the past few years. It's strengthened and developed my faith, taught me a lot about personal development and leadership, provided me with great community experiences as well as social justice education and action".

It is these qualities that inspired Supi to apply to be part of the Remar Ministry Team. "I wanted to share my experience of youth ministry with young people and inspire them. I'm looking forward to a lot of things. I'm looking forward to travelling around Australia, meeting new people and working with the students".

In his new role he has had to move to Melbourne, where he is currently living as a member of the Marist Brothers community in Fitzroy. "The transitioning from Sydney to Melbourne has been an immense change". Supi's responsibilities include cooking, cleaning and being an active member of the community. He seems to be relishing these challenges already and has learnt some new cooking tips from many of the brothers, including from the National Director of Marist Schools Australia, Br Michael Green.

Other members of the graduating year of 2015 have taken Supi's lead and have created the first ever Marist V-Team (Volunteer Team) in NSW. These students will be trained by the Marist Regional Office in Mascot and become young leaders for various Marist events throughout the year, including helping run Remar events at Marist schools all over Sydney, including Trinity. This, along with Supi's appointment as a member of the Remar Ministry Team demonstrates the lasting impact that Remar is having on students who participate in the program. These students are becoming life-long Marists who will continue to live as Christ's disciples and follow the examples of Marcellin Champagnat, Mary our good mother and Jesus.

At Trinity, Remar continues to grow and develop with each year. The program has now been running at the College for four years. In 2016, we have over 90 students from Years 10, 11 and 12. The program is developing youth leaders of faith with a deepened understanding of the social justice issues that exist in our wider community. Remar teaches our students to truly be followers of Christ and that we must stand in solidarity to people experiencing disadvantage and injustice. This is seen through our work with local groups such as the St Joseph Aged Care, Auburn Public School and our local Parishes. Along with working in partnership with organisations in our wider community, Remar members are working with the disabled at St Vincent de Paul's Ozanam Industries, feeding the poor at the Missionaries of Charity soup kitchen at Surry Hills and working in conjunction with the John Berne school at Lewisham.

Mr D Ronchetti, Remar Coordinator

Young Women's Leadership Seminar

On Thursday the 10th of March 2016, to celebrate International Women's Day, we had the privilege to attend a Young Women's Leadership Seminar hosted by NSW Parliament. There we were spoken to by a Pia Waugh, who runs the website <http://data.nsw.gov.au/> for the State government. She spoke to us about how we are all weapons capable of making a difference in the world, no matter how big or small, and taught us that we are all leaders regardless of our position.

Later on we were addressed by Trish Doyle, Member of Parliament for the Blue Mountains, Bronnie Taylor, a member of the NSW Legislative Council representing the National Party, and Mehreen Faruqi, a NSW Legislative Council member representing the Greens Party. They spoke about women's roles in politics and leadership roles, the subjects of feminism and equality and how their experiences with prejudice lead them to become the powerful women they are today. We were inspired to lead the way as women to become strong leaders and ambassadors for social justice and positive change, both in our local community and around our constantly shifting world.

By Celine Nguyen and Evana Mouawad, Year 11



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Study Leave

I am very grateful to the Sydney Catholic Schools office for their support of study leave for myself during this final year of Doctoral studies. I was fortunate to have received a scholarship to complete a Doctorate through the Australian Catholic University some years ago. As I enter my final year, I have been granted study leave during this year to complete this study. The first block of time will begin on March 21. Ms Donna McLaughlin will be Acting Principal during this time and Mr Anthony Gorman Acting Assistant Principal.

As I will be on leave commencing this week, I extend to our students, your family and our staff every blessing for Easter.

John Robinson, Principal

Other News

[Sydney Catholic Schools Media Releases](#)

Sydney University is undergoing change...[Click here](#)

Regents Park Reach Program...[Click here](#)

Sacrament Confirmation 2016 – St John of God Auburn

Enrolments for Confirmation are open from 22 February to 21 March 2016. Forms will be available from the Presbytery office during the week or from Fr Ray after Mass on Sundays. If your child is in Year 6 or above and has received First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion and attends Mass in the parish they are eligible to enrol even though they may attend school elsewhere. There will be a Parent Information Evening on Monday 4th April 2016 at 7pm. Confirmation celebration to take place on Sunday 29th May at 2pm.



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