MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Prayer of the Week

Lord God,
At the beginning of this new term teach us to
be your hands and feet where we are,
At the beginning of this new term teach us to
love as you love us
At the beginning of this new term teach us to
pray for those in need
So that You are honoured and glorified
Amen

Welcome back to all our students and families for the 2017 school year. I hope you have all had a happy and relaxing holiday and are looking forward to another successful year.

A special welcome to our 101 brand new year seven students and their families. There were lots of excited but nervous faces on Wednesday morning. A special feature of this year’s intake is that there are fifteen students commencing who had a parent attend Mary MacKillop College. We took a special photo of this group for posterity – a memorable moment in the life of our College. The year sevens are settling in well.

Our College theme this year is “Find Happiness in making others happy”, another of the quotes from our patron, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The theme was chosen by our student Mission Team and they have great plans to make it the inspiration for their work this year. I look forward to this unfolding as the year progresses.

Year 7 Students 2017

“We must teach more by example than by word” Mary MacKillop 1867
Congratulations to our Class of 2016 for their excellent VCE results. Once again our students have done very well: 54 graduates received first round offers, of which 41 received their first preference and 6 their second. 4 have apprenticeships, 4 continue diploma courses, 1 the defence forces and 4 entered the workforce. Mary MacKillop students find their place!

Our Dux is Matilda McNeil, who gained an ATAR of 96.6. She will be studying Law / Global studies at Monash University this year. Matilda will be presented at our Opening Mass next week.

We welcome a number of new staff to Mary MacKillop College this week. New teachers are Mr Michael Dillon, Mr Hamish Duckmanton, Mrs Nicole Dudman, Mrs Kate Dwyer & Mr Jack Pearce. Our new Counsellor is Mrs Melinda Licciardi. We also welcome our new Deputy Principal Wellbeing & Organisation, Mr Kieran O’Dwyer. Returning from leave are Mr James Wearne, Mrs Leonie Gilbert and Ms Beth Winterhalter. There have also been some changes in the office. Mrs Melissa Preston resigned for personal reasons. Mrs Jenny Damon has taken up the new role of Compliance Officer, to help deal with the ever expanding regulatory obligations on schools. We have three temporary staff: Mrs Michelle Birkett and Mrs Tracy Roylance in the office and Mrs Kylie Slink is Secretary to the Principal. Mary MacKillop College is fortunate to have such a great staff and I look forward to each of them making an excellent contribution to our community.

Our opening Mass is next week, Thursday 9 February at 9.30am. At the opening Mass, we will formally present our College leaders and make a number of presentations to our high achieving students, including the Dux of 2016. All members of the College community are invited to join us for the Mass & presentations.

Our Bishop Patrick O’Regan has written to all families in the Diocese of Sale regarding The Royal Commission into child sexual abuse. The letter is printed on the back of this newsletter.

Mary MacKillop College is off to a great start for 2017. I look forward to seeing you at a College event soon.

David Leslie
Principal

Year 7 students of Parents who attended Mary MacKillop College

Front: Kelsey Donohue, Heidi Tieman, Tayissa Walsh, Jessica Denbrok
2nd Row: Darcy Methven, Hayden Lindsay, Callum Martin, Zarni Holt, Brooke McCarthy
Back Row: Liam Smart, Luke Eagle, Harrison Garlick, Jacob Whiteside, Silas O’Halloran
IMPORTANT REMINDERS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Did you know .... Students are not to text their parents if they are ill
All students are to please follow the procedure below, do not text parents directly as this leads to class disruption.
A student who requests to go to the First Aid room must have a note in his/her planner from the classroom teacher explaining the ailment. The planner must then be taken to the office where the office staff will sign the student into the First Aid room and enter the time of entrance and exit. The office staff will call parents if your child needs further attention. Please do not contact parents directly via SMS/email etc. If your child contacts you then please ask them to tell their teacher that they are unwell and we will call you.

Did you know .... A note must be supplied in the event of an absence
Student Absences - In addition to notifying the school if your child is absent, parents or guardians must send a note to the Homeroom Teacher upon his/her return, providing an explanation for the absence. All schools are obliged to record a reason for EVERY absence from school.

Did you know ... We are unable to make announcements during class time
Early Dismissal - Please note that we cannot call classes for parents to collect students or pass on messages. This interrupts classes which may be running tests, exams etc.
Parents need to complete the early dismissal note in the back of the student planner or send a note. This note is to be given to the Homeroom Teacher in exchange for a class pass. This will allow students to leave at the required time, preferably not during lessons. We are unable to make announcements during class time.
More details regarding Communication Procedures are in the front of your child's student planner.

Did you know ... Bus Passes
Bus passes must be applied for through student reception with 48 hours notice. Bus drivers will not accept a note from a parent—the pass must be issued by the College. Just handing a note in at the office does not automatically mean a bus pass will be issued. Please note that Bus passes will not be issued for sporting or social purposes. This year passes to Korumburra, Nyora, Outtrim, Arawata and Mirboo North will not be issued under any circumstances due to the buses being full. The capacity of other buses may also change throughout the year.

We appreciate your help with the above, thank you.

WAYS YOU CAN RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER
You can view the weekly newsletter in one of the following ways ...

1. On the College Website or on PAM (Parent Access Module)
2. You can request an emailed copy be sent to you by forwarding your preferred email address to Info@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au
3. Or requesting a hard copy to be sent home with your student

If we don't hear from you regarding option 2 or 3 it will be assumed that you are happy with option 1.
Welcome back to 2017. It is lovely to sense the anticipation of a new school year, one filled with a vast range of opportunities for not only the students and staff but the wider school community. I would like to especially welcome not only the Year 7's to the school, but the new students in years 8-12 and staff as well. I hope that you feel a sense of connectedness and belonging within the Mary MacKillop community very soon.

To the families new to the school, I encourage you to make contact with your child’s Homeroom Teacher, Wellbeing Coordinator or Year Level Director. The key role of these people is to work alongside the students to ensure they can achieve positive learning outcomes. Over the break there have been some positive changes to the co-ordination of the wellbeing needs for students. The new teams are listed below:

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<tr>
<th>Junior School (Yr 7 &amp; 8)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Junior School</td>
<td>Mr Richard Muranty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 7/8 Wellbeing Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Mrs Nicole Dudman</td>
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<td>Yr 7/8 Transition Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Mrs Jacinta Johnston</td>
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<th>Middle School (Yr 9 &amp; 10)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Middle School</td>
<td>Mr Gerard Gordon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 9/10 Wellbeing Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Ms Merrin Viljoen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 9/10 VET Pathways Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Mr Ken Myors</td>
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<th>Senior School (Yr 11 &amp; 12)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Senior School</td>
<td>Ms Courtney Blair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 11/12 Wellbeing Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Ms Bron Kalos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 11/12 VCE Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Mr Peter Charles</td>
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Wellbeing is moulded by a number of broad influences including the degree of which a person experiences a sense of choice, achievement, enjoyment and growth. Our commitment to our students, parents and members of the community is that the staff here at the College will be teaching and creating learning environments that maximise these factors. The primary aim of the College is to support the development of healthy, happy, successful and productive individuals.

Underpinning all of this is the development of relationships. A focus for Term 1 for all teachers and staff will be building positive relationships with the students. These relationships will be characterised by constructive interactions that provide enthusiastic and genuine support. Once our students feel that they are known and valued, a deeper learning will commence. The upcoming Retreats, Camps and extra-curricular activities such as the House Swimming sports provide a fantastic platform for students to build new friendships and get to know staff in a more relaxed environment.

As Deputy Principal – Wellbeing and Organisation some key aspects of my role include:

* Working closely with the school Wellbeing Team to coordinate programs that promote wellbeing across the College
* Disseminating information to students, staff and the wider school community on key wellbeing initiatives
* Overseeing the school’s response to Behaviour Management and Child Safety
* Ensuring that students adhere to the School Uniform Policy
* Daily Organisation of the College

Over the next term I will go into more detail regarding updates and direction in some of these key areas of the role. However, I would like the opportunity draw your attention to the uniform policy. I ask for parental support in ensuring that students have the correct uniform and wear it in an appropriate manner. This will obviously include the wearing of the College hat while in the sun at recess and lunch during Terms 1 & 4. A reminder that the College jumper is not to be worn as the outer garment to and from school. The College Blazer does not need to be worn permanently to and from school until the 14th March.

I would like to wish all students and families of Mary MacKillop a wonderful year. A year where we, the school community will challenge our students to be active in their quest to gain the skills and knowledge needed to thrive and participate in a complex and ever changing society.

- Kieran O’Dwyer
Message from School Counsellor — Melinda Licciardi

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our students and their families back to school, and to extend a warm welcome to the new families joining our school community this year. As a newcomer to Mary MacKillop College I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to become part of your school community as college counsellor. For those who are unfamiliar with my role within the school, I am available to provide counselling, advice and support services to the students and will be at the school from Monday to Thursday each week. As well as working individually with students, I liaise with the School Pastoral Team, relevant community agencies and parents/guardians to meet the diverse range of needs presented by students within the college.

As we enter into the new school year it is important to acknowledge the challenges that many students face upon returning to school, particularly for students coming into year 7. The first few weeks of school can be overwhelming for students with new timetables, teachers, classes, and technologies. Our young people may also have concerns about adapting the social aspects of returning to school including friendships and peer relationships (eg. forming new friendships, maintaining older friendships, and feeling like they belong). Parents also worry about these issues, and about whether their child will have the confidence and skills to handle them. These worries are all normal.

At this point it is important to see the school year as a marathon, rather than a race to the finish. Developing new friendships and study habits, and feeling confidence in new environments takes time. As parents and caregivers you can support young people through challenges as they arise by making yourselves available to listen to concerns and reminding them that you are there to support them always. You may also like to consider some of the following strategies to assist your child with their transition back into the school community:

Try to arrange for a parent, grandparent or other close adult to be home before and after school for the first few weeks of transition.

Find out the name of the teacher responsible for your child’s overall care, attendance and social and academic progress. At this school this person is the home-room teacher. Make personal contact with this person as early as possible to introduce yourself and ask questions.

Try to make your home as comfortable for study time as possible. For example, make sure your child has a quiet place to study, away from distractions such as the TV or a mobile phone. When the internet is necessary for study, you might want to keep an eye on the websites your child is using.

Let your child know that new friends are welcome in your home. Encourage your child to invite new friends over, or be ready to transport your child to their houses.

Help your child explore new opportunities. Learning a musical instrument, trying a new sport or joining a drama class are great ways for your child to meet other kids and get involved in school activities.

Be prepared for early ups and downs. Adjusting to change takes time, but if things don’t stabilise after the first six weeks, talk to your child’s home-room teacher in the first instance.

Remind your child that it’s normal to feel nervous about starting something new – for example, you could share how nervous and excited you feel when starting a new job or even your first day of secondary school (if you remember it!).

Talk to other parents to check whether your child’s experiences and feelings are similar to those of others. Sporting and school events are a good place to meet other parents.

Try to make sure your child eats well, gets plenty of physical activity and gets plenty of sleep. The change to secondary school is likely to make your child more tired at first.

(Adapted from: raisingchildren.net.au)

Should you or your child wish to seek additional information on getting a great start to the school year check out some of the following online resources:

Reach Out  www.reachout.com
Youth Beyond Blue  www.youthbeyondblue.com
Kids Help Line  www.kidshelp.com.au

Headspace  www.headspace.org.au

Raising Children Network  www.raisingchildren.net
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<th></th>
<th>8.55am</th>
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<tr>
<td>HOMEROOM</td>
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<td>PERIOD 1</td>
<td>9.05am</td>
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<td>PERIOD 2</td>
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<td>RECESS</td>
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<td>PERIOD 3</td>
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<td>PERIOD 4</td>
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<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td>PERIOD 5</td>
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<td>PERIOD 6</td>
<td>2.25pm</td>
<td>3.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOMEROOM</td>
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**Howard Stevens**

It is with deep regret that we advise the College community of the passing of Howard Stevens.

Howard retired from the College last year and passed away peacefully before Christmas. Howard was a tireless and loyal worker for the College. His smiling face and 'can do' attitude will be missed.

Rest in peace Howard.

**College Hats**

The College has introduced hats and they are compulsory for students/staff to wear hats in terms 1 and 4. Students and staff will also be encouraged to apply sunscreen. This policy applies at all times, both timetabled outdoor activities, recess and lunchtimes. Hats are currently available for the price of $10.00. Hats are available from the uniform shop.

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**Medical Action Plans**

**Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes & Epilepsy**

If your child has a medical condition including anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes or epilepsy and you have not already supplied us with an up to date medical action plan please could you contact the office. Medical Action Plans are required as soon as possible (these need to be completed and signed by your Doctor) and supplied along with any spare medication required, in a named plastic container. I.e. Ventolin with spacer, insulin/jelly beans, eppens etc.

The Medical Action Plans will be reviewed on any of the following occurrences (whichever happen earlier):

- Annually
- If the students medical condition changes
- When the student is to participate in an off-site activity, such as camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organized or attended by the college.

The college requests that spare medication is left in the college office for emergency use. I.e. Ventolin (spacers are required to be used at school), EpiPen, hypo-kit/spare diabetes supplies etc.). These must be in date and clearly labelled with your child’s name and supplied in a plastic/Tupperware style plastic tub.

Thank you
### IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Year 9 OEG Parent Information evening 7.15pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 8 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 9 February</td>
<td>Opening Mass 9.30am in Pioneer Hall Parent and Friends all welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 16 February</td>
<td>College Swimming Sports Mirboo North Pool</td>
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<td>Sat 11—Wed 15 February</td>
<td>JJAMM—Captains to Sydney</td>
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<td>Tuesday 14 February</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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<td>Mon 27 Feb — Friday 3 Mar</td>
<td>Year 9 OEG Camp</td>
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<td>Mon 27 Feb — Wed 1 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp</td>
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<td>Tuesday 7 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Mass of Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14 March</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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<td>Wed 15 March</td>
<td>Summer All School Photos</td>
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<td>Mon 20 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Round 1 Immunisation</td>
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<td>Tue 21 March</td>
<td>House Athletics</td>
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<td>Tues 28 March</td>
<td>Parent teacher Interviews—Further information to follow</td>
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<td>Thurs 30 March</td>
<td>Parent teacher Interviews—Further information to follow</td>
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<td>Friday 31 March</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<td>Tuesday 18 April</td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
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<td>Wed 19 April</td>
<td>First day Term 2</td>
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<td>Tuesday 2 May</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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<td>Tuesday 30 May</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1 August</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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<td>Tuesday 29 August</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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<td>Tuesday 24 October</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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<td>Wed 22 November</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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### Reminder to Parents—Reports

End of Year reports can be found if you log-in to your PAM account. Reports are no longer printed. Please contact Sibby Wilson via email: swilson@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au if you need your login code.

Please note Year 7 and new parents to the College will receive their PAM (Parent Access Module) Username and Password shortly

### UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform shop is open each Friday from 12.50pm—1.35pm.

Helpers are needed for uniform shop Fridays 12.50pm to 1.35pm.

Please contact the College Office if you could spare time on the odd Friday to help out.

### Parents & Friends Raffle winners

which was drawn at last year’s Closing Mass and Awards Ceremony were —

1st Prize — Steve Dunlop
2nd Prize — John Manicano
3rd Prize — Terry Stephens
4th Prize — Nick Blogg

Congratulations to the prize winners. Thank you to everyone who brought and returned tickets and supported our fundraising raffle. Looking forward to some fantastic fundraising this year. Please support our efforts to benefit All Mary MacKillop College students.

### AMBULANCE MEMBERS

All families are encouraged to be members of the ambulance service. At times of accidents or illness, the First Aid trained staff member/s in attendance will make a decision as to whether or not they should request the attendance of the ambulance service.

In doing so, the health and safety of the patient will be the only determining factor. Ambulance membership or potential costs to families will not be a point of consideration. Such a decision will always be made with a conservative ‘better safe than sorry’ attitude. Parents (or next of kin for an adult) will always be contacted as soon as possible so that they may be in attendance when the ambulance arrives. A familiar staff member will always accompany a student to the hospital if the attending ambulance officers approve. Thank you.
Mary MacKillop College
House Swimming Sports
Thursday 16 February
Mirboo North Swimming Pool

- Students may wear sports uniform on the day and change into house colours at the pool
- Students must apply sunscreen, wear a hat and a shirt at all times unless they are competing in an event
- Students who are going directly to the pool must supply a note in writing to their homeroom teachers, signed by parents prior to the day. These students must also check in at the pool with their homeroom teacher to ensure their attendance is recorded

At School
- Normal beginning to the day and homeroom
- 9.05am assemble at front of the College in Homerooms
- Teachers will travel with their Homerooms on the buses
- House supervisors please make sure students go to house areas
- House captains organise students
- All students must heed the sun smart message ie, hat, shirt and sunscreen

First races: Fashion parade at 9.40am followed by U13 males 50m freestyle
Lunch: 12.05pm—12.20pm
Last Race: 2.00pm U21 Relay
Presentations: 2.10pm (no free swim allowed)
Depart: 2.40pm—on return to the College all students must attend homeroom for attendance to be marked

PARENTS AND FRIENDS
Swimming Sports are fast approaching (Thursday 16th Feb) and the P&F are looking for volunteers to lend a hand with our fundraising BBQ at the Mirboo North pool on this day. If there are any parents, grandparents, or friends who would like to help out, we would love to hear from you!! Please contact the College office on 56624255 and leave your details, we will be in touch.

There will be BBQ snags in bread available at the swimming sports for students to buy $2 EACH. Bring along your change, grab a snag in bread and help our College fundraiser.
The wisdom of the Lord teaches us

Mr David Leslie
Principal
Mary MacKillop College

cordially invites

Parents and Friends

to

Mary MacKillop College
2017
Opening Mass and Presentation

Thursday 9 February 2017
9:30am

at Pioneer Hall

Followed by light refreshments

RSVP: Monday 6 February 2017
To: Kylie Slink
Address: Private Bag 7, Leongatha Vic 3953
Phone: 5662 4255
Email: kslink@mackillopleongatha.catholic.edu.au
1st February 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ in the Diocese of Sale,

I am writing to you as the final hearing involving the Catholic Church at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse commences this coming Monday the 6th February, 2017.

For the victims and survivors, for the Catholic community and for many in the wider Australian community, this hearing may be a difficult and even distressing time, as the Royal Commission reviews the evidence it has already received and seeks to understand why and how this tragedy has occurred. The Sale Diocese has had its share of grief and of hope.

I am deeply aware and mindful of the hurt and pain caused by abuse, I once again offer my apology on behalf of the Catholic Church. I am sorry for the damage that has been done to the lives of victims of sexual abuse. As Pope Francis said recently, ‘it is a sin that shames us’.

Over the next three weeks, evidence presented during the Royal Commission hearings will be analysed, statistics about the extent of abuse will be made public, and the way forward will be explored. Many of our bishops and other Catholic leaders will appear before the Royal Commission. They will explain what the Church has been doing to change the old culture that allowed abuse to continue and to put in place new policies, structures and protections to safeguard children.

I am grateful to the all the members of the Diocese of Sale who have responded to our Diocesan initiatives in putting into place all the necessary protocols and changes in attitudes and behaviour that seek to ensure that the proper care of our children and vulnerable adults be our highest priority.

Pope Francis has urged the whole Church to, ‘find the courage needed to take all necessary measures and to protect in every way the lives of our children, so that such crimes may never be repeated’.

In 2017 the Diocese of Sale celebrates its 130th Anniversary. May the hope and faithfulness we celebrate this year, continue to draw us ever deeper into the mystery of God’s love.

Throughout the coming weeks, then, I wish to assure you of my thoughts and prayers. I encourage you to turn in prayer to the one who is always ready to listen: Jesus Christ, who brings healing and hope.

Yours in Christ,

+Part O'Regan
Bishop Patrick O'Regan
Bishop of Sale
MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE
CANTEEN

PARENTS AND FRIENDS AUXILIARY

As well as providing a great service for students the canteen is a tremendous fundraiser for the school. To continue running the canteen we obviously need lots of volunteer parents to help. This involves one parent for approximately 1 hour (12.45pm – 1.45pm) each day. **No food preparation is involved.**

The task is not difficult and it is a great way for you to feel both part of the college and that you are contributing, also it is a chance to meet other parents or you could do it with a friend. **Don’t just leave it to everyone else!**

Please help this year by filling in the form, and return to the office by Friday 11th Feb. A roster will then be sent home with the College Newsletter.

(Please print) Name: ___________________________ Phone number: ___________________

Address: ____________________________________________

☐ I am able to help with canteen  ☐ I am not able to help with canteen

☐ Once a term  ☐ Twice a term

The day/s that suit me:

☐ Monday  ☐ Tuesday  ☐ Wednesday

☐ Thursday  ☐ Friday

A list of emergency fill-ins is also needed:

☐ Yes, I could be a fill in.

Remarks: ____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Thanking you for your help in advance
Fran Backman
Canteen Co-ordinator

Please return this form whether you are able to help or not.