

EASTER MESSAGE



**Mr Mark Hyland,
Director of Faith and Mission**

As we prepare for the Easter season, we are called to ponder again the meaning that the Gospel readings of death and resurrection have for our modern lives. In a series of Lenten reflections at my parish, I have been challenged to compare the traditional Catholic teachings that Jesus died to redeem the original sin of Adam and Eve with interpretations that embrace our modern understandings of evolution and the cosmos.

This is not to say that 'salvation theology' is wrong or that modern 'Cosmic theologies' must supplant the older theories. Human interpretations of the actions of God in our world by definition will have limitations.

“Theologies are like the templates or frameworks that people use to build their personal understandings of how God is at work in their lives.”

A key text used in the Lenten Reflection program was the story of the Prodigal Son. We have heard the story many times. A young man claims his father's inheritance and then squanders the fortune in dissolute living. He finds himself so hungry that he is ready to eat pig food. He bargains with himself that facing the punishment of his father would be better than his current circumstance and he decides to return home. In Luke's gospel we read, *'So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.'*

As a story of 'death and resurrection', here is a central message for all times. The image of the father waiting day after day looking out to the horizon in the hope that his son will return is powerful.

As parents, maybe we have known such times. When our children cut us out of their lives as they seek to take the things that we have given them and enter worlds different from our own. Maybe we have known that feeling of just being there, waiting, looking out to an horizon in readiness to welcome a child back into the world of our parental love.

The tragedy in Christchurch New Zealand caused me to think about the ways in which people are 'prodigal' in our world. There is a strong awareness that the 'prodigal' use of racist, disparaging and hateful language by so many in all levels of our society was a contributing factor to the terrible act of terrorism.

One might also sense God waiting, filled with compassion, in the spontaneous outpouring of support for migrant communities and

for those who follow the Muslim religion by the people of New Zealand and others around the world. In this way of thinking, the courageous and positive leadership of Jacinda Ardern was like a spark landing in a field ready to burst into flame.

The great mystic, Julian of Norwich, once wrote *'In my folly, before this time I often wondered why, by the great foreseeing wisdom of God, the onset of sin was not prevented: for then, I thought, all should have been well.'*

But Jesus, who in a vision informed me of all that is needed by me, answered with these words and said: *'It was necessary that there should be sin; but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.'*

I wish all our Academy families a happy term break. I hope that you can take the opportunity of the Easter season to reflect on the meaning of death and resurrection in your lives.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS EXHIBITION

The Year 8 students prepared art works to express their understanding and interpretation of the Stations of the Cross. The works are on display in the Chapel and the library. Parents are most welcome to view them.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

**Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
Sunday 8 Dec to Tuesday 10 Dec 2019**

Open to secondary students in the Year 9 – 12 classes, the festival takes the theme 'Listen to what the Spirit is saying'.

Catholic Education Melbourne will be assisting schools to participate in a 'Melbourne Pilgrimage' to the event which is likely to extend from Friday 6 December to Friday 13 December.

A Catholic Youth Festival is an exciting experience. There will be an impressive line-up of inspiring speakers from all around Australia and; live music, creative spaces, interactive exhibitions, prayer experiences and entertainment.

If you or your daughter are interested in finding out more about the festival, please contact Mark Hyland at the College or go to: www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au

REVIEWING PERFORMING ARTS



ACADEMY
OF MARY IMMACULATE



TERM 1

Term One has been packed full of exciting events for our musicals and performers. These opportunities that showcase talents and develop performance skills are creating a wonderful vibe around the Performing Arts Department! Here are a few things we've been up to!

WEEK 2: YEAR 7 PARENT MASS & WELCOME BBQ

Year 7 students and families were welcomed with a Mass during which our school **Concert Band and Choir** performed. This was followed by a BBQ, with the Pop Band playing 'a set' while people mingled and made new friends.

WEEK 3: OPENING SCHOOL MASS AND INVESTITURE CEREMONY

A College highlight, we celebrated the beginning of the school year with Mass and a blessing of our new Student Leaders. Our Concert Band and Choir helped raised the spirit of the occasion with some vibrant music.

WEEK 6: MERCY DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' SEMINAR

In March, the Academy hosted a Mercy Deputy Principals' Seminar, which opened with a liturgy in the Chapel. Our **Chamber Choir AMICCI**, led by Ms Mirelle Morris and accompanied by Ms Mina Yu, performed stirring renditions of "The Deer's Cry", and "Pie Jesu". **Maddy Palmer** of Year 8 completed the service playing Amazing Grace on the **Bagpipes**.

WEEK 7: NISHYAMA HIGH SCHOOL WELCOME ASSEMBLY

When our guests from Japan arrived in week 7 they were welcomed at an assembly. The Concert Band played the "Yorkshire Ballad" as the students proceeded into the Dillon Room. A fitting piece for the steady pace of a procession, and the tune itself elicits a welcoming nature with warm blending tones from the wind and brass. Students and staff were also excited to see Nishyama's school principal perform 2 items on the Shakuhachi (Japanese Bamboo flute). It was very impressive!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY STUDENT MASS

On 15th March, selected students from the Academy joined with students from Mercy College Coburg, Mazenod College Mulgrave and St. Margaret's Primary Maribyrnong to provide music at the St. Patrick's Day Mass. I was honoured to arrange and coordinate the music for this event. It was also a privilege and a great experience for our students to collaborate with other schools to provide music for this event with Archbishop

Comensoli officiating. **Academy soloists** Edel Miskella, Alessia Di Vita, Emily Napolitano and Kasthuri Sahathevan did the College proud performing solo cantors at the Mass. Each student gave a unique and brilliant performance singing to a congregation of several thousand.

WEEK 8: NISHYAMA BBQ

After returning from Tasmania, the Academy hosted a BBQ for our Japanese guests and host families. Mr Jack Towers and the **Academy Pop Band** provided music. This ensemble has grown from strength to strength over the past 12 months, and the school's new drum kit debuted! With the proceeds of hiring out our brilliant production costumes from last year, we were able to purchase a Yamaha Stage Custom drum-kit (made of Birchwood). This is the first brand new drum-kit the school has purchased since the late 1980's.

WEEK 9: AUTUMN SOIREE

Our guest presenter this year was **Madeline Roycroft**, musicologist and lecturer from The University of Melbourne. The evening showcased the **Isabella Strings** (formerly senior strings), **Leanora Strings** (formerly junior strings), AMICCI and various soloists. This was also the first music specific performance of the new Kawai piano in the Chapel! The Autumn Soiree typically aims to engage students and families in earlier styles of music that are pre-twentieth century. The purpose is to deliver an understanding of historical music, it's development, and venue appropriate repertoire. The Soiree performances continue to improve with greater exposure to pre-twentieth century music.

END TERM 1 ASSEMBLY

The cast of **Alice in Wonderland** gave a sneak peek of this years production performing "Zip-a-dee-doo-dah". Tickets are selling fast so make sure you jump onto trybooking and book now! www.trybooking.com/484513

All up, it has been a big Term 1 with excellent opportunities for our students and ensembles! Join us in following the talents and performers of the Academy Performing Arts.

Mr Andrew Power
Performing Arts Director