

Catholic Education

Today



MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Learning
for life

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SUCCESS

Faith in the future

As our Inspiring Spirit,
you lead us into the future.
In the century ahead grant those teaching and
learning in our schools,
those planning and leading,
and the families and community that entrust
their young people to us,
a love of learning and a willingness to be the
face of Christ
in the world of tomorrow.

Excerpt taken from *200 Years – Faith in the future
of Catholic education in Australia*



MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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Cover image Students at John Paul College, Frankston, with school
principal, John Visentin (left) and Director of Faith & Mission,
John Riddle (centre)



@CEMelbourne

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views and discussion designed for parents.

Editorial

This year, Catholic educators across the
country celebrate 200 years of Catholic
education in Australia.

The rich history we have inherited from those
dedicated educators of the past provides a strong
foundation for our schools to deliver high-quality,
contemporary learning practices that ensure the
full flourishing of each student.

Our dedicated and professional teachers are at the
heart of these efforts.

A Catholic school teacher accepts responsibility for
the holistic formation of children and young people
across all of the academic, spiritual, physical, social
and moral dimensions of a Catholic education.

Every day they engage students in this holistic
education to facilitate excellent learning outcomes,
cater for each student's uniqueness and maintain
a pastoral care that recognises the innate God-given
dignity of each student. Teachers offer our young
people evidence of how to live well as a person of
faith, even in complex and daunting times.

As one principal put it recently, 'a Catholic educator
has the right character and words and deeds, and
through that they can build the mission of the Church
by preparing students to live life with the right
qualities based on gospel values'.

It can be a challenging role, as we have seen
over the past 12 months, which is why Melbourne
Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS), and our
schools, upskill and develop teachers through
sector-leading professional learning opportunities,
and postgraduate and certification programs.

We will continue to focus on improving our schools
through stronger teacher standards, by measuring
teacher quality, and enhancing student, parent and
teacher engagement.

In this edition of *Catholic Education Today* there are
many examples that demonstrate the impact of
our teachers and the work schools do to ensure
high-quality learning outcomes.

Students have been inspired and guided by their
teachers to produce the artworks of the Creative
Arts Exhibition, fight for social justice and be safer
on the internet.

Dane Calleja from **Kolbe Catholic College,
Greenvale Lakes**, and Grace Hattingh from
Genazzano FCJ College, Kew, are two examples of
trailblazing educators having a profound impact on
their students. They were among the 10 Victorians
recognised by *The Educator* as 2021 Rising Stars for
their leadership and vision.

With such outstanding individuals choosing to
become teachers and rise through the profession,
alongside thousands of committed, skilful and
dedicated teachers, the future of Catholic education
and its students is bright. ✝



Regardless of the age of your child, the eSafety Commissioner's website is a rich source of information and advice.

This excerpt from the [Online safety basics](#) page recommends three key strategies for parents:

1. Be engaged, open and supportive

- Get involved. Share online time with your children as part of family life.
- Keep lines of communication open. Ask about their online experiences, who they are talking to and whether they are having any issues.
- Reassure your child they can always come to you, no matter what.
- If you notice a change in behaviour or mood, talk to your child about it. If you are concerned, consider seeking professional help – from your GP, a psychologist or school counsellor.

2. Set some rules

- Set age-appropriate rules for devices and online access, with consequences for breaking them.
- Ensure your child's input – this will help them understand risks.
- Consider creating a family tech agreement. The consequences for breaking the rules should be clear.
- Consider making some 'rules for parents' too – and stick to them! Model behaviour that you would like to see.

3. Use the available technology

- Get to know the devices you and your children use and set them up for privacy and online safety.
- Choose apps and games carefully, taking age ratings and consumer advice into account. Check the App Store or Google Play, and for games, the Australian Classification Board's online database.

Internet safety is a serious business

While the internet is a powerful tool for students and families to learn and connect, it is also fraught with risks to safety and wellbeing.

'We have all heard of the risks associated with things like cyberbullying and inappropriate web content, but with the online landscape changing so quickly, how many of us really know how to address and manage these issues in a practical sense?', said principal Karen Bergin of **St Peter's School, Sunshine South West**.



Karen Bergin of St Peter's School, Sunshine South West

'At St Peter's, we take our responsibility to support and educate our students, families and staff about appropriate and constructive internet use very seriously.'

Parent Anna Nguyen, who has three children at St Peter's, says cyber safety is a significant concern for her. 'My children are constantly wanting to be on the internet and because of the lockdown they have become accustomed to using it even more', she said. 'My biggest concern is that they are safe when online.'

On Safer Internet Day, held on 9 February, the St Peter's school community – students, parents and staff – participated in workshops about being safer online and addressing key issues such as cyberbullying, balancing screen time, unsafe apps and social media, as well as current trends in child/teen online behaviour. ✦

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My biggest concern is that they are safe when online.

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Catholic Education Week 2021

With a year of online learning squared away, [Catholic Education Week](#) was reimagined as a digital experience designed to enable schools to participate throughout the week and beyond.

The week's events can be viewed online via the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools website macs.vic.edu.au under *News and Events / Catholic Education Week*.



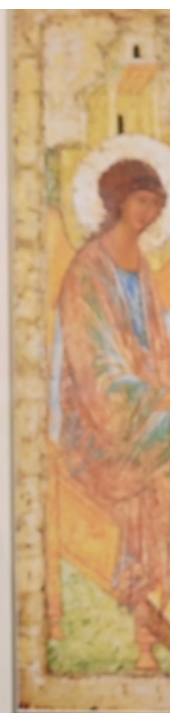
Young Speakers Colloquium

The [Young Speakers Colloquium](#) invited past Catholic school students to share their work and their motivation for making a difference. This year Sinead Coulter, design activist and lifelong humanitarian, and Tim Thomaidis, Project Manager at Smiling Mind, reflected on their Catholic education and how their experience shaped the person they are today. ✝



Message from Archbishop Peter

Instead of the annual St Patrick's Day Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli shared his [words of encouragement](#) for our Catholic education community, as we all strive to fulfil the mission of the Church in building the Kingdom of God here on earth. ✝





Concert in the Park

The [Concert in the Park](#) was reimagined with **Thomas Carr College, Tarneit**, filming a live performance of its 23-piece concert band playing high-energy contemporary music with vocals.

Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, Braybrook, featured two of its senior student bands playing great music, reminiscent of the old-style jazz halls. ✦



Creative Arts Exhibition

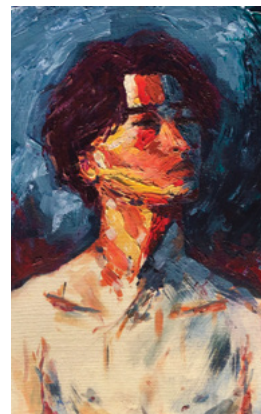
The [Creative Arts Exhibition 2021](#) included a live gallery at the Catholic Leadership Centre in East Melbourne and a digital gallery where schools, students, families and the Catholic community joined in celebration and witness to the incredible talents of our young artists. ✦



Royal Botanic Gardens Inspired by Nature Award Primary
Estelle, Prep, Our Lady of Fatima School, Rosebud
The Magic Bush at Night



Melbourne Museum
Still Life Award
Alexandria, Year 2, Sacré Cœur,
Glen Iris
*Simulated Textured Sunflowers
after Vincent van Gogh*



Portraiture Prize Secondary
Christopher, Year 9, John Paul
College, Frankston
Facade



Portraiture Prize Primary
Highly Commended
James, Year 5, Our Lady of the
Southern Cross, Wyndham Vale
*An Individual Man with an
Individual Hat*

Celebrating our teachers

The mission of the Catholic school is to build a community where authentic relationships, based on love, provide the means and the support for all students to flourish and grow into the fullness of life.

“

Effective leaders are learners themselves, engaging and inspiring school communities to build collaborative learning cultures.

”

With 290 Catholic schools in Melbourne, employing over 10,200 principals and teachers, as well as almost 4,700 non-teaching staff, the dedication and work of our teachers and staff are central to this mission.

Effective leaders are learners themselves, engaging and inspiring school communities to build collaborative learning cultures. Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) encourages teachers to become lifelong learners and offers career paths with management and leadership opportunities. †



L-R: Louisa Rennie (General Manager, Leadership and School Development, MACS), Dr Simon Lindsay (General Manager, Improved Learning Outcomes, MACS), Caroline Brown (Acting Deputy Principal, Sacré Cœur, Glen Iris), Dr Mary Oski (Director, Learning and Regional Services, MACS)

Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers program

In a first for Victorian education jurisdictions, MACS has initiated a certification program for Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers (HALTs) as a strategy to support teachers to progress their careers while remaining in the classroom where they can have the greatest impact on student learning.

Executive Director Jim Miles says MACS wants to better recognise and empower its lead classroom teachers.

‘National HALT Certification is a voluntary and portable process that recognises and promotes quality classroom teaching’, said Mr Miles. ‘HALTs will lead from the classroom to improve student outcomes and impact the practice of colleagues.

‘Their role is pivotal to helping build a culture of professional learning and growth in schools, where expertise is developed and shared, creating the best conditions for all teachers and students to flourish.’

The first 12 HALTs were awarded their certificates in a celebration at the Catholic Leadership Centre on 31 March. †



L-R: Olivia Wenczel (De La Salle College, Malvern), Callum Parker (Xavier College, Kew), Jade West (Salesian College, Sunbury), John Hein (St James the Apostle School, Hoppers Crossing North), Lauren Moore (John Paul College, Frankston), Paul Ribet (Padua College, Mornington), Jo Smith (Emmaus College, Vermont South), Monique Dalli (Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, Braybrook), Julie Pilioglou (Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, Braybrook), Kelly Bunning (Avila College, Mount Waverley), Caroline Brown (Sacré Cœur, Glen Iris), Absent: Sarah Shepherd (Sacred Heart College, Newtown)

Rising school leadership stars recognised

Two outstanding young leaders from Catholic schools in Melbourne have been recognised by *The Educator* among this year's Rising Stars of 2021, selected from across Australia's education sector:

- Dane Calleja, deputy principal at **Kolbe Catholic College, Greenvale Lakes**
- Grace Hattingh, EAL and English teacher at **Genazzano FCJ College, Kew.**

Now in its sixth year, *The Educator's* Rising Stars list recognises professionals working in primary and secondary education, aged under 35, who demonstrate effective leadership, innovation and achievement in their career to date.

From the 100 nominations received nationally, 32 young professionals were noted for their outstanding leadership, incredible initiative and passion, expertise, innovative approach to teaching and learning, and vision – all necessary to thrive in the ever-evolving education landscape. ✦



Dane Calleja is deputy principal at Kolbe Catholic College, Greenvale Lakes.

50 years of dedication to Catholic education

Christina Staunton-Burke, Faith and Mission Leader at **Antonine College, Pascoe Vale**, marks 50 years of service to Catholic education this year.

Incredibly, Christina has been involved in Catholic education for a quarter of its 200-year history in Australia.

After training at Mercy Teachers' College in Melbourne, Christina began her career teaching 46 Year 4 students at St Bernard's School, Coburg East, in 1971.

Inspired by her mother's large Irish-Catholic family, which included four siblings who pursued religious vocations, Christina says she feels privileged to have had the opportunity to contribute to Catholic education over such a long period.

'I feel blessed. I would strongly encourage young people to go into Catholic education. It's a special vocation where you can make a difference in the world', she said.

Throughout her career, Christina says she has been guided by the Holy Spirit and drawn inspiration and courage from the passage in Isaiah 41: 10 'Fear not, for I am with you', which also happens to be Antonine College's theme in 2021.

'Coming from a place of God's love, my energy comes from the Holy Spirit through the colleagues and students around me. Along the way, I have worked with some wonderful people who have given me strength and inspiration', she said.

Christina says that even after 50 years, the teaching vocation continues to present new challenges and opportunities.

'Technology is now playing a big role in schools and I feel we are much better at catering for learning diversity. But the fundamental aim of nurturing each student's talents to be the best they can be stays the same', she said.

Christina has also been a role model of lifelong learning throughout her teaching career, completing diplomas in Religious Education, Education Administration and Multicultural Studies, along with master's degrees in Education and Religious Education.

Antonine College co-principals Sr Mariette Kareh and Joanne Bacash acknowledged Christina's contribution, saying: 'We are thrilled to congratulate Christina on 50 years of outstanding service to Catholic education.'

'When we think about the essence of the Catholic teaching of service to others, Christina is a true embodiment of this', they said. ✦

“

I would strongly encourage young people to go into Catholic education. It's a special vocation where you can make a difference in the world.

”



Christina Staunton-Burke, Faith and Mission Leader at Antonine College, Pascoe Vale, marks 50 years of service to Catholic education this year.

A call to fraternity and social friendship



In his new encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis invites us all to be more compassionate and caring towards those in need, to develop a profound sense of unity with each other, and to engage in social friendship.

This social friendship refers to privileging the needs, dignity and respect of fellow human beings over individual interests. We need to seek what is morally good and ethical, and ultimately focus on recognising the inherent dignity of all persons, especially society's most vulnerable.

Paul Fumei, Education Officer, Religious Education at Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) says the Pope's encyclical calls us to be open to encountering and welcoming the 'other'.

'We need to be open to the "other" – those of different religious backgrounds, different ethnicities.

'We are to be connected and in solidarity as brothers and sisters, and to establish peace and solidarity by encountering God in the "other"', he said. 'Catholic faith welcomes all. We learn from the "other" and we also learn from each other.'

These values are taught in Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne and are demonstrated by the way our communities show kindness, acceptance and love towards one another, and by their ongoing work to create a more socially just world.

Fratelli Tutti

The title of Pope Francis' latest encyclical comes from St Francis of Assisi. With these words St Francis called for a fraternity that crossed all boundaries and limitations.

Fratelli Tutti was released in October 2020 and calls us all to form a universal fraternity. One that is open to all and where there is no 'us and them', only 'us'.

Fratelli Tutti is the third encyclical of Francis' papacy following *Laudato Si'*, which focused on the ongoing climate crisis, and *Lumen Fidei*, which celebrated Christian faith.

Written during the COVID-19 pandemic, the encyclical is a timely reflection on what is deterring humanity from achieving universal fraternity. Its urgent tone is a call to action for all of us to fight together as brothers and sisters against society's throwaway culture, its stalled expansion of human rights, its attitude towards immigration, the superficiality of digital connection and the many forms of discrimination, exclusion and segregation.

Yet, instead of producing a long and extensive list of society's flaws, Pope Francis invites us to find solutions to these problems and urges us to establish solidarity and universal love. We are called to give strangers the same love we give to our friends and family. To love one another unconditionally and create everlasting unity. This can only be achieved when people work together to address common problems.

“

We are to be connected and in solidarity as brothers and sisters, and to establish peace and solidarity by encountering God in the 'other'.

”



Our schools actively promote the eradication of modern-day slavery and give back to their communities.



Students at Mount St Joseph Girls' College in Altona sell pancakes to raise money for the annual Project Compassion appeal.

A mission of kindness and justice for all

Mount St Joseph Girls' College, Altona

Faith and Identity Leader – Social Justice, at Mount St Joseph Girls' College, Darcy Robinson, says social justice and providing practical support for the vulnerable in the community are a vital part of the school's mission and education programs.

'Our school has a student-led Social Action Group which meets every second Thursday to discuss social justice issues and response initiatives. All students are welcomed and encouraged to attend and share their voice.

'The college also engages in the annual Project Compassion appeal run by Caritas Australia to support projects in the developing world. Over the six weeks of the campaign, students were involved in a variety of advocacy and fundraising opportunities which this year raised over \$4,000.' ✦

On fraternity and social friendship in Catholic schools

Dr Adrian Lacey from the Catholic Mission team at MACS says the values of solidarity, compassion and fraternity are deep-rooted in *Pedagogy of Encounter*, the Religious Education curriculum for our schools.

The relationship between *Pedagogy of Encounter* and *Fratelli Tutti* can also be seen in the way our schools actively promote the eradication of modern-day slavery and give back to their communities.

'*Fratelli Tutti* is a way for us to recognise that we are one big family and that if some have excess, it means that others are lacking what is necessary to live with dignity', said Dr Lacey.

It is important to acknowledge that in order to achieve this desired social friendship and universal fraternity, we must see each other as equal, but we must also accept, acknowledge and respect each other's differences. We must rejoice and celebrate the beauty of diversity and continue to pursue what is morally correct. To seek God in the 'other'. ✦

Supporting children with social and emotional barriers to learning

MacKillop Specialist School, Whittington, Maidstone and Caulfield

For many young people, circumstances such as family violence, neglect or living out of home create barriers to learning and make school a struggle.

MacKillop Specialist School has three campuses in Victoria to cater for students whose learning needs and social and emotional behaviours cannot be adequately addressed in a mainstream school setting.

Executive Principal Anne Henderson said: 'We support children and young people aged 6–18 years, adopting a holistic, trauma-informed model of practice that promotes safety, positive relationships and creates a supportive learning environment'.

MacKillop Specialist School provides an environment that empowers students to re-engage with education, and supports them academically and socially, so they can experience success in learning, and either continue their education at MacKillop Specialist School, or return to their host school. ✦



Students at MacKillop Specialist School are supported to re-engage with education.

Student **success**



Jessica and Elissa Mirabelli –
Mercy College, Coburg

Mercy College, Coburg

Sisters Jessica (Year 12) and Elissa (Year 10) Mirabelli, rowed to victory at the Head of the Schoolgirls Regatta. The girls collected Gold for Mercy College at the Rowing Victoria State Championship in their open double scull, while Elissa took out the Rowing Victoria Junior Girls State Championship single title for Mercy College for the second year in a row.

‘Finding that perfect balance, we powered past other crews to the finish line’, said Jessica and Elissa. ‘Reflecting on the sense of trust, purpose and harmony that helps us move in unison, we see how this is a skill we apply not just in our sport, but in our everyday life, both at school and home.’ ✦



Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, Braybrook

Year 11 student Sheena Pioquinto is dancing her way to some incredible achievements. Earlier this year, Sheena and her dance crew were chosen to be featured in an advertising campaign for JD Sports.

Sheena has been dancing from an early age and credits her teachers for inspiring her to seek out opportunities outside of school. Sheena and her dance crew meet in Carlton every Monday evening and were discovered by a talent agent while rehearsing. Sheena is also committed to using her dance to spread awareness around issues such as sustainability and is an active member of the college’s Eco Committee. ✦



Sheena Pioquinto – Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, Braybrook

Aquinas College, Ringwood

Soloist, Charlotte Braat received an Outstanding Soloist Award at the inaugural Victorian All-State Jazz Championships. Charlotte was recognised for her incredible talent and commitment to singing, which have been nurtured through Aquinas College’s jazz and music education.

The college’s Harmony Tribes choir achieved first place in the ‘A’ Division Jazz Choir category, as well as a Stagecraft Award. The Senior Harmony group achieved second place in the Premier Division Jazz Vocal Ensemble. The competition was a friendly display of jazz music by young big band musicians and vocal groups from schools across Victoria. ✦



Musicians from Aquinas College, Ringwood, at the Victorian All-State Jazz Championships

Our Lady of Fatima School, Rosebud

Sienna Renjieth received ‘Fatima Star’ awards in the areas of: Community, the Arts, Studentship and Christian Spirit, demonstrating a commitment to her peers and her studies.

Sienna also made many contributions to the school’s virtual assemblies by recording videos to encourage fellow student wellbeing. ✦



Sienna Renjieth – Our Lady of Fatima School, Rosebud

Developing hearts open to the whole world

Pope Francis' latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, encourages us to discover the relationship between all things and people across the world, and challenges us to reflect on our place in the universal family.

By Catholic School
Parents Victoria

“

At the heart of Catholic education is an awareness of the needs and challenges of others, how to support others without bias, prejudice or fear, and how to fulfil the mission of God.

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All lessons for our children begin in the home as we are called upon, and privileged, to guide the next generation towards being compassionate people with open hearts and minds, acutely conscious and with an awareness of the challenges of the environment and how we are all connected.

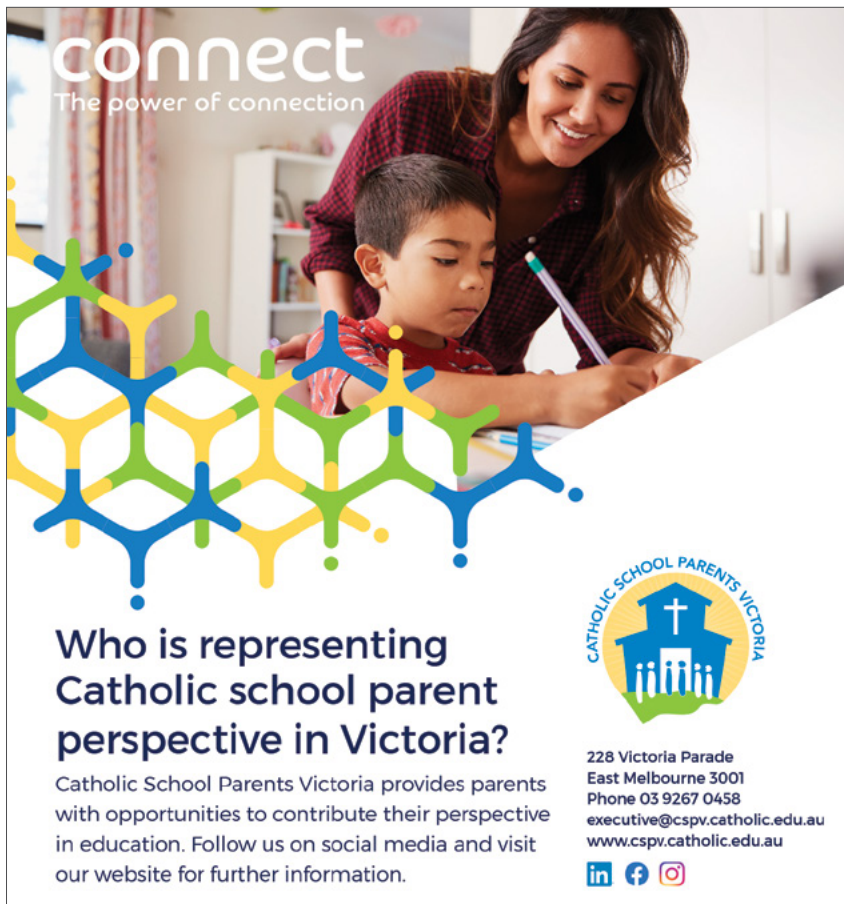
As parents we support our children to be socially conscious and aware, and we all share the responsibility to model for our children how we approach others and their differences.

At the heart of Catholic education is an awareness of the needs and challenges of others, how to support others without bias, prejudice or fear, and how to fulfil the mission of God.

The value of hospitality and welcome is alive in our homes and in the Catholic schools our children attend. Pope Francis calls on us to extend that hospitality further by understanding that this is a universal issue: 'it is impossible to be "local" in a healthy way without being sincerely open to the universal, without feeling challenged by what is happening in other places, without openness to enrichment by other cultures'.

There are limitless experiences to be had when we extend hospitality and compassion to others who are different to ourselves: 'The world grows and is filled with new beauty, thanks to the successive syntheses produced between cultures that are open and free'.

As we nurture our children to become limitless in their pursuits and ambitions, it is worth reflecting on how we are living examples to them and how: 'we are called to love everyone, without exception'.



connect
The power of connection

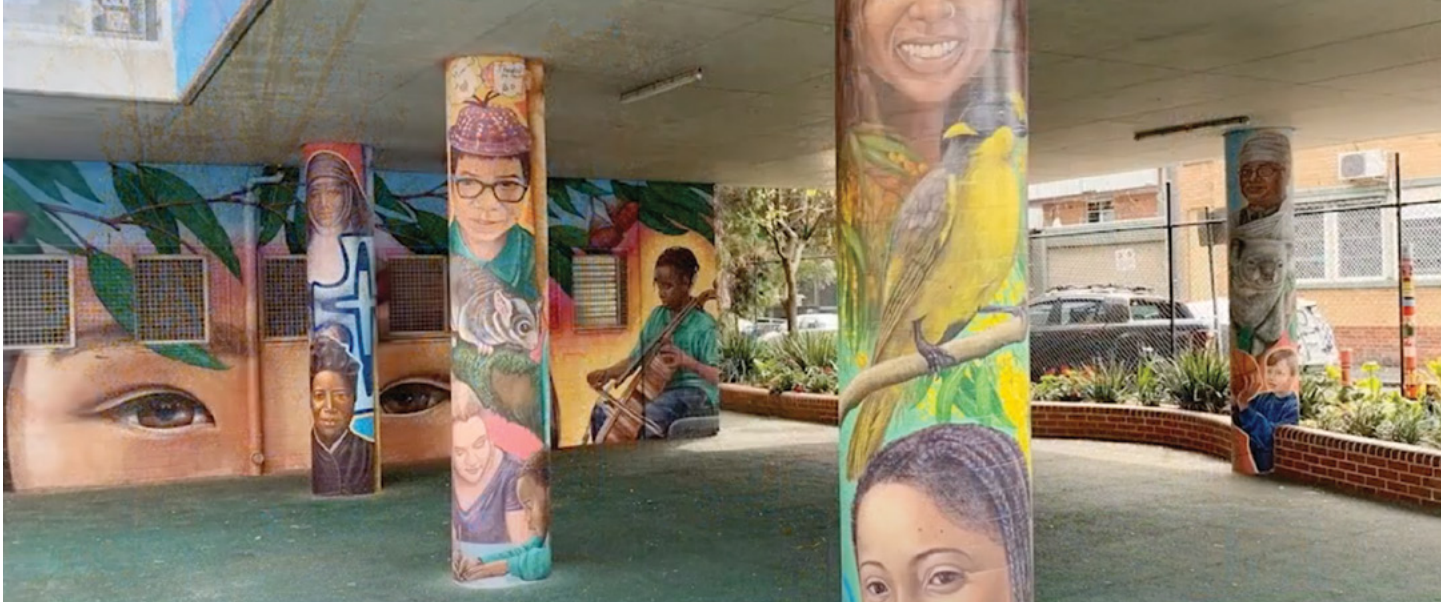
Who is representing Catholic school parent perspective in Victoria?

Catholic School Parents Victoria provides parents with opportunities to contribute their perspective in education. Follow us on social media and visit our website for further information.

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in f ig



Students driving change in their communities

A number of Catholic school students have applied their skills and knowledge to diverse social justice issues and become powerful drivers of change in their community.



Mount Lilydale Mercy College's food van



Students from Clonard College

In February, the winners of the inaugural 2020 Rerum Novarum Awards were announced. Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and the Rerum Novarum Foundation congratulated the following schools for their winning projects:

- **Mater Christi College, Belgrave** (first place)
- **Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy** (equal second place)
- **Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale** (equal second place)
- **Clonard College, Herne Hill** (third place).

The Rerum Novarum Awards invite students in Years 10 to 12 to work in groups to address a social justice issue in their community. Students must use the 'See, Judge, Act' method to apply the principles of Catholic social teaching to their project. This method encourages students to critically examine a social justice issue, judge the fairness of the situation against gospel values, and then use their knowledge and skills to act to drive change.

Students at Mater Christi College proposed developing a garden of native flora with signage to educate visitors about Indigenous history, land and culture. The educational space is to be a sanctuary for the community to use for reflection and to establish a partnership with the local Indigenous community.

Mater Christi College students Selina Yin and Chrysta Colpman said that despite the 'extra challenge of working through lockdown [and] online school ... with perseverance, we managed to conceptualise an idea which we are so proud of and so excited to make a reality'.

Community partnerships was a theme shared with the other winning teams, with students at Academy of Mary Immaculate proposing a school holiday program to forge relationships with primary schools in their area.

Mount Lilydale Mercy College students decided to open a food van to develop connections with those less fortunate, as well as raise greater awareness and provide a sense of hope.

Clonard College students took an artistic approach, proposing a digital mural equipped with QR codes that would link to stories and videos about social justice issues in their community – with a particular focus on diversity, mental health, and Indigenous and refugee communities.

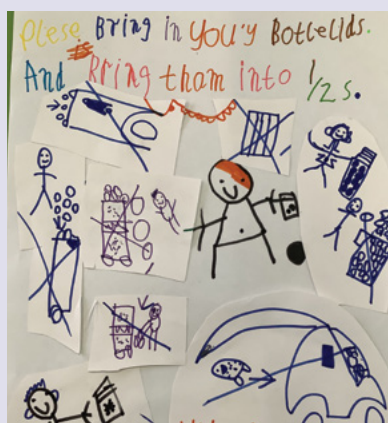
Clonard College student Paige O'Neill said that while 2020 was a challenging year, 'being part of this project allowed us to work as a team and strive for a common goal'.

Applications are now open for the 2021 Rerum Novarum Awards. Further information about this year's theme and application process can be found on the [RESource](#) website. †

Clean up at St Mary MacKillop

For this year's School Clean Up Day, the senior environmental team at **St Mary MacKillop Catholic Primary School, Bannockburn**, suggested that senior students could work with their Prep buddies to pick up litter around the school grounds and entrance.

Students collected a total of 10 compostable bags full of small pieces of landfill waste. The school is a ResourceSmart School working towards 'Waste Module' accreditation in 2021. ✦



UN World Day of Social Justice

For the United Nations World Day of Social Justice, a collaborative effort by a number of schools sent a shipping container filled with a range of educational items, such as school furniture, uniforms and books, to students in Papua New Guinea.

The schools involved were: **De La Salle College, Malvern**; **St Bede's College, Mentone** and **Bentleigh East**; **St John's Regional College, Dandenong**; and **St Mary's College for the Deaf, Wantirna South**. ✦



Celebrations at St Paul's School

The bicentenary of Catholic education in Australia took pride of place at the opening-year Mass at **St Paul's School, Coburg**. The school is celebrating its 170th anniversary in the same year that we celebrate 200 years since Australia's first Catholic school opened in Parramatta.

The school's opening-year Mass, celebrated by Fr Raymond, was an opportunity for the community to gather, have crosses blessed and present student leaders with their badges. ✦



Side by side: Celebrating St Mary's College

This year, **St Mary's College Melbourne, St Kilda East**, became the only Catholic coeducational secondary school in inner-city Melbourne, combining students from Christian Brothers College, St Kilda East, and Presentation College, Windsor.

The school's first Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli on 2 March, and it was a fitting acknowledgment of the community's pioneering history. ✦



Project Compassion

This year's launch for Project Compassion was held at **St Joseph's College, Ferntree Gully**, and streamed via Zoom for other schools to join.

During the launch, the students learned about the work of Project Compassion from guest speaker Ranmal Samarawickrama, Caritas Program Manager for Asia. The event also included a message from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and a song by Genevieve Bryant, who attended via Zoom. ✦



St James' Heritage Garden

The new Heritage Garden at **St James' School, Brighton**, has transformed the playground into a day at the farm. The project has come to life since lockdown and, while it is already extraordinary, the garden will have deep roots and lasting fruit for the school community.

After learning at home in 2020, students were welcomed back to school with a new sensory garden, made from natural materials like wood, fallen tree branches and river stones. ✦



Five sets of twins start Year 7 at Killester College

Five sets of twins enrolled in Year 7 at **Killester College, Springvale**, earlier this year. Year 7 student development leader, Michel Kennedy said the school is delighted to have welcomed such a unique group of young women to the Killester community in 2021.

All the twins agreed that starting secondary school with their sister by their side made the transition easier. ✦



Bradbury Club going for gold at Sacred Heart College

The transdisciplinary 'Bradbury Club' at **Sacred Heart College, Newtown**, is a unique, collaborative group of students, staff, academics and industry professionals who tackle long-term, problem-solving projects that benefit the community.

In line with contemporary learning and the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM), students can elect to join The Bradbury Club either as a class subject in Year 8 or as an after-school activity open to other year levels. ✦



Salesian College raises over \$18,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation

VCAL students and staff members from **Salesian College, Chadstone**, raised over \$18,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation in a World's Greatest Shave fundraiser. This was more than twice the initial fundraising target of \$8,000.

Three students and three staff members shaved their heads on Friday 26 March 2021, with Mrs Sarah Roberts participating in tribute to her father who lost his battle with leukaemia in July 2020. ✦



Choose to challenge

The theme for this year's International Women's Day was 'Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world'. The theme called us to choose to challenge gender bias, discrimination and stereotyping, and to seek out and celebrate women's achievements.

Several schools celebrated by inviting former students back to share words of strength and inspiration, including **Loreto Mandeville Hall, Toorak; Genazzano FCJ College, Kew;** and **Kilbreda College, Mentone.** ✦



Construction begins in Mickleham

An important milestone in the construction of **Holy Cross Primary School, Mickleham**, took place in March with a ceremonial breaking of soil.

Member for Yuroke Ros Spence MP, Mayor of Hume City Council Cr Joseph Haweil, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools' Megan Ioannou and John Mills, Parish Priest Fr Varghese Kurisingal and the school's foundation principal Mark Miatello were on hand to officially launch construction of Melbourne's newest Catholic school. ✦



Harmony Day at St John's Regional College

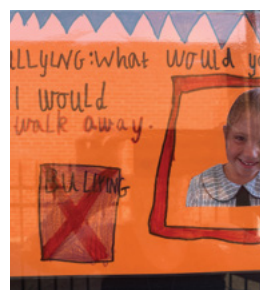
St John's Regional College, Dandenong, celebrated Harmony Week in March. Several activities, including Bollywood dancing and sharing cultural food, were enjoyed by the school community.

The variety of cultural dress worn by students and staff celebrated the multicultural heritage that makes the St John's community so unique and special. ✦

Bullying. No way!

Students and staff at **St Fidelis' School, Moreland**, began the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence with the words of St Matthew: 'Always treat others as you would like them to treat you' (Mt 7: 12).

Students wore orange and made posters as a visible action in their community, and engaged in a number of activities to help them understand and say no to bullying. ✦



History's bright future

Rachel Towns, a teacher at **St John's Regional College, Dandenong**, was the 2021 recipient of the Award for Special Contribution to the Teaching and Learning of History from the History Teachers' Association of Victoria (HTAV).



The award recognises a commitment to teaching history and supporting teachers to promote the study of history. ✦

Play Pod further extends learning opportunities

St Margaret Mary's School, Brunswick North, officially opened the new 'Play Pod' to further extend learning opportunities for its students. Principal Fiona Dearn says the Play Pod is a purpose-built shed filled with all sorts of spare parts, factory offcuts, wooden planks and other materials with which children can let their imaginations run wild.

The Play Pod equipment and operations are being managed by Year 3 and 4 students, providing an additional leadership opportunity in the middle primary years. ✦





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