Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

In this week’s Gospel, Jesus talks about the fact that he came to earth to bring fire, meaning that he wanted the earth to burn with love. It didn’t mean that we weren’t going to have problems but he wanted people to internalise love. This means talking about how we show concern for ourselves, how we nurture time for ourselves to grow, how we are honest with ourselves, how responsible we are in everything that we do for ourselves. If we cannot get love right on an internal basis, we cannot possibly show it to others. Jesus’ love was about an internal peace that we usually all want.

I would ask you to keep in your thoughts and prayers Brother Laurie Toohey, who was member of the Brothers’ Community and passed away last week.

Winter Serenade
Last Tuesday evening, the Music Department held the Winter Serenade. This is an opportunity for students to display their musical talents before an appreciative and supportive audience of staff, students, mums and dads. I am always impressed with the standard of musical talent that we have at the College. Every year I attend this evening there are new faces appearing to display their talents. This year was no different and I was suitably impressed with the talents that were demonstrated musically and with voice. I am sure that everyone present would have enjoyed the evening. Thanks to the Music Department for organising the evening and especially Miss Wray for her unique style of compering such an evening.

Winter Rugby
This Saturday draws to a close the winter sports season on Saturdays. It has been a wonderful season for the teams with some great results that will build confidence for the future. I would especially want to say thank you to the parents and friends who have manned the BBQ throughout the season as it is an important function in adding to the ambience of the day.

Academic Assembly
The Academic Assembly was held last week. It gave the College an opportunity to recognise the efforts of the top three students in a variety of classes from the first semester. It was pleasing to see so many students paraded across the stage to receive certificates. It is also important to note that there would have been many other gentlemen sitting in the audience who had also worked to the best of their ability but just didn’t finish in the top three. The important message here is to remember it is all about doing your own personal best. In the Olympics we note that only three people in the swimming get the medals but it does not mean that the others in the race have failed. I am sure that they have still swum to the best of their ability and achieved personal bests which is all one can ask.

Parent Forums
The College has completed the Parent Forums for this term. Thank you to the parents who attended over the last couple of weeks and hopefully they found the evenings beneficial. One of the topics I did touch on was the Parent Portal which all parents will have access to. It will allow parents to see daily notices, their son’s report and their son’s attendance, to name a few topics. A letter will be sent next week outlining how parents can access this portal.

Junior School
More information about the new Junior School will be placed on the College website next week in order to let parents know what is happening in this part of the College.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Mission

It is census time and there has been much in the media calling for Australians to answer the questions honestly in order to allow the government to plan accordingly and use government funds to reflect the needs of the community. A particular change this year is the moving of the No Religion box to the top of the list before the traditional religions, including Christianity.

While it cannot be argued that there has been a change in the way that Australians view religion and church, I am not convinced that we are a people who are content with a purely secular view of the world. As a culture, we crave recognition and celebration of rites of passage including 18th birthdays, engagements, weddings. Aren’t we fortunate that in our Christian tradition, we are encouraged to go deeper and invite God and our belief in something greater than us into these special moments?

In week 2 we celebrated the end of the Sacrament programme with a Mass and 11 young men receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. As Christians, we believe that these rituals maintain and strengthen our unity with Christ.

When we celebrate a sacrament we draw close to Christ by recalling his life and actions. We also experience the love of our heavenly Father through symbols of ordinary human events: joining a community (Baptism and Confirmation), sharing a meal (Eucharist), being healed and forgiven (Reconciliation).

As I fill in the census form and tick Christianity as my religious tradition, I take pride in knowing that 11 young men have publicly restated their commitment to that same faith. Congratulations to Blake Evangelatos, Dylan Ferbrache, Isaac Gallagher, Joshua Laplain, Mitchell Morris, Joshua Newell, Aiden Petrucco, Connor Rochester, Dylan Scanlon, Matthew Sakowicz and Kane Truman. As Isaac said so beautifully in his reflection at that Mass: “May all of us today in the sacraments we receive be blessed and strengthened on this next stage of our faith journey. May we all act as Catholics by knowing our beliefs, accepting all that is good and allowing God to act through us.”

Cathie Clarke,
Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Year 8 News

Year 8 have started Term three with some exciting events, the first being the annual Year 8 Ladies and Young Gentlemen Etiquette Dinner. It was good to see a great number of mums all dressed up to spend a special evening with their sons. The young men were keen to impress with the etiquette skills they had learnt during our pastoral care lessons. Our young gentlemen played host as Master of Ceremonies for the evening and conducted themselves wonderfully. The boys looked after their treasured ladies on the night beautifully, setting the table correctly with cutlery, plates and glasses and also trying to impress with fancy napkin folding. The boys were responsible for serving their mums salads and drinks, demonstrating the correct bread roll eating etiquette, sharing some “do’s and don’ts” of the table, and finished with toasts to the special ladies in their lives and mateship. Watching the hugs and proud smiles as the mums opened their special written messages from their sons was a special moment. I hope it’s a night the ladies will remember for a long time. I would like to thank Mrs Jeffcoate and her team, Mr Millar, Mr Hawkins, Mrs Santa Maria and the Year 8 Homeroom team who attended the evening. It is the amazing support of the staff that allows such nights to be so successful.

Our most recent event took place on Monday with the students participating in an Italian day that they all enjoyed. The boys were given an informative and entertaining presentation about the culture and famous places of Italy with Mr Vetrano, Mrs Santos and Mr Perna in the morning, here at school. After recess our cultural experience continued at La Piazza in Bankstown where the students got a taste for Italian food and the décor felt as if we had stepped into a piazza in Italy. The boys didn’t let anything go to waste enjoying pizza, pasta and gelato with their peers.

I am proud of the young men of Year 8 so far this term and I encourage them to keep up the high standards.

Loren Keir,
Year 8 Co-ordinator

Photos from the Etiquette evening are in the Galleries section of the College website.
Student Profiles

Congratulations to the following students for their achievements as shown:

- **Alexander Chapman**
  Year 9
  High Distinction in the ICAS Digital Technologies competition

- **Riley Anderson**
  Year 7
  Academic Excellence for Semester One

- **Cavan Limbre**
  Year 7
  Academic Excellence for Semester One

- **Ethan Clancy**
  Year 8
  Academic Excellence for Semester One

- **Cameron McDonald**
  Year 8
  Academic Excellence for Semester One

- **Nicholas Parr**
  Year 9
  Academic Excellence for Semester One

- **Lachlan Saunders**
  Year 10
  Academic Excellence for Semester One

- **Sean Mabin**
  Year 11
  Academic Excellence for Semester One

Teaching and Learning

Term 3 is a very busy one for all students.

Our Year 12 students will complete their Trial Higher School Certificate exams on Monday. For all boys, this was an opportunity to improve their ranking in each course and to test themselves out under more strenuous exam conditions. It is important to stay focused and use their remaining time at school well in order to improve on these results.

Mrs Dein and I will work with Year 12 next Thursday afternoon and take them through the process of applying for university and TAFE for 2017.

Year 11 should be utilising the skills presented by Prue Salter to prepare study notes in preparation for the Preliminary exams at the end of Term 3. A reminder that all students have access to the online Study Skills handbook which contains a wealth of additional support material [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au), user name: forstgregsonly, password: 60results. I would like to commend Year 11 on their participation at the study skills session. Dr Salter commented on their high level of engagement and their positive approach to the information presented.

Year 10 has been busy putting together a pattern of study for their senior years at the College. Many students have taken the opportunity to discuss their plans with their parents and a member of the College staff. I have been very impressed with the preparation done by the boys for these interviews: most have done some research and preparation for the interview and are very realistic about their plans for Years 11 and 12. Thank you also to the many parents who have made time in their busy lives to attend the interviews: working together will lead to a better result for the boys.

Year 8 has also begun the subject selection process for Year 9 2017 with presentations from each of the KLA coordinators today. The information evening for Year 9 will be held on Wednesday 24 August.

The Year 7, 8 and 9 boys have swapped their History and Geography classes for Semester 2. A reminder that the assessment schedules are available to the students on Skyblue. A copy of this can also be found on the College website.

**Absence from an Assessment Task**

A reminder that students in Years 10, 11 and 12 need a medical certificate if they are absent from an assessment task. The certificate must cover the entire period of the absence and students should see the relevant KLA coordinator on the morning of their return to school.

Catherine Keegan,
Director of Teaching and Learning
TERM 3 – WEEK 4

GIO SCHOOLBOY RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP
Our First Grade Rugby League team had another outstanding come from behind win in the third game of the GIO competition against Matraville Sports High School. After trailing 6–22 into the second half, St Gregory’s won 23–22. We now progress to the KO Quarter Finals stage of the GIO competition where we are scheduled to play Hills Sports High School.

Unfortunately, because of inflexible timing of the GIO and CCC Rugby League competitions we are scheduled to play both of our games on the same day and time. Our First XIII will be playing Hills Sports High School at New Era Stadium, Cabramatta in the GIO game and our Second XIII will play All Saints Catholic College, Maitland.

CCC FOOTBALL (SOCCER) COMPETITIONS
As representative of the MCS Association we are seeded into the Quarter Finals of the CCC competition. Traditionally these games are played at Country school venues. Final preparations are underway for our First Grade Football team’s trip to Dubbo playing St John’s College as we represent MCS in the NSW CCC KO.

MCS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP
With a growing interest by our students and the support of Mr Wignall we entered five teams into this year’s MCS Chess Championship—one Year 7, two Year 8, one Year 9 and one Year 11. Our most successful team was the Year 8 “A” team placing 3rd in their competition.

MCS AFL AND TOUCH COMPETITIONS
With a wet start to the MCS competitions Weeks 1 and 3 were cancelled. In Week 2 our two AFL teams, 14 years and Seniors, played Greystanes with wins to the 14 years team 84–0 and the 17 years 44–6. St Gregory’s has entered a second team in the Year 9 Touch division. The Touch teams began the competition with three rounds of play against various Colleges. Year 7 had two wins; Year 8 – one win, one draw and one loss; Year 9 “A” – two wins; Year 9 “B” – one draw and two losses and Year 10 – one win and one loss. Teams total being six wins, two draws and four losses. This is a good start.

2016 / 2017 COACHES
Please refer to my sport report on the College website for a list of Coaches, Managers and Scorers.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

The full sport report can be found on the College website.

Other News

School Photos
26 August 2016

In PC today students in Years 7-11 were given their photo envelopes which must be completed and handed to the photographer on the day as per the instructions on the envelopes. Parents should note that if paying by cash the correct money must be included as no change is given, also cheques are no longer accepted.

Co-curricular photos will be taken on

Friday 9 September

Feast of St Gregory
and
90th Year Celebration
Mass
Friday 2 September
commencing at 9am
in the
Br Luke Hall
All Welcome