Dear Members of the St Gregory’s College Family,

The question that arises in next Sunday’s readings is do we think about how our actions will impinge on others and the effect that this will have. I am sure that on many occasions people do think before they act, but there also times when we respond on the spur of the moment without any thought going into the possible outcomes. Isaiah’s message to the people of the time was to stop and think and reflect with the help of God.

There are many occasions when we do stop and reflect and then take action. I am sure that the students who attend the Claymore Homework Club have thought about what a difference they will make or have made, when they give of their time to help the young children who attend the Club. The students who are attending the St Vincent de Paul Door Knock Collection on Sunday would have thought about the impact that they will make by door knocking and asking for money. This Collection means so much to the St Vincent de Paul Group as the finances are distributed to those in need. A worthy cause! These are two examples of events that are outside our daily relationships.

Closer to home, do we always stop and reflect on our actions at school or in the family home. Do we turn the volume of the music up at home without thinking about how it impacts on others? Do we talk in class because something is important to us as individuals without considering our neighbours around us and the impact that it will have on them? Do we continue to sit on buses and trains with our feet on the seats without thinking about how that will affect the people who will be sitting on those seats later?

Patience is something I am sure that we all desire as a gift. How many times have I said something that I have thought about later and would take it back if I could have the time over again? This is where it is important to consider our relationship with God. Isaiah was trying to say that God gives us what we have but how we accept it is up to us. We need to continue to strengthen our relationship with God for if we don’t the relationship will wither and die without attention. As I have mentioned many times, we live in a beautiful place with many options where we can take the time to work on our relationship with God.

The Diocesan Assembly is set to take place on Saturday 6 September 2014 at Mount Carmel Catholic High School Hall at Varroville, from 10.00am until 2.00pm. Bishop Peter has invited students to attend this important meeting as he acknowledges that he wants to hear their voice for the future of the Church. Everyone is invited to attend this special meeting.

We welcome to the College, Mrs Jenny Farias who is taking Mrs Allan’s place as she is on maternity leave for the rest of the year. I know that Mrs Farias is looking forward to working at the College and I am sure that it will be a rewarding experience for her.

Congratulations to Mr Harrison and the Athletics Team on winning the Aggregate Shield once again. The College also won the Junior Shield and came second in the Senior Shield. A great effort by all involved.

Congratulations to Mr Clanfield and the Choir on their recent success at the Penrith Eisteddfod. The Choir achieved a first and second place in different competitions on the day. This was our first foray into Eisteddfods in recent times especially with the Choir. Well done! From a Year 12 point of view, there are only four weeks of actual class time left before their Graduation on 19 September. I would encourage all Year 12 students to make the most of the class time that they have left and take every opportunity to continually strengthen themselves academically in the lead up to the HSC Exams.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Milliar
Headmaster
Mission

Last Friday we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption, a most important feast day in the life of the church, but particularly for the Marist Brothers who hold Mary as their patron. As this was a pupil free day, we celebrated Vigil Mass on Thursday and Br Michael spoke about the role of Mary in the lives of the Brothers. It is Mary who modelled the loving relationship we can all have with Christ – sharing the good experiences and the difficulties of our lives in faith and knowing we are never alone.

On Friday, I took the opportunity to present to the staff an exciting initiative from the Australian Marist community with the formation of the Marist Association. This is a group of people who will come together as Brothers and laity to ensure that the Marist mission is alive in their part of the world. It was a good opportunity to reflect on what it means exactly to be a Marist – to have a Marist heart. Essentially we are men and women who find that our faith journey and way of knowing and relating to God continues to be shaped, defined and energised by Marist values and the Marist characteristics of presence, simplicity, family spirit, love of work and In the Way of Mary.

These characteristics were also explored by our Year 11 students on Wednesday when they participated in a Leadership day run by the Marist Ministry Youth team. This is a most important time for our Year 11s as they finish their Preliminary Year, vote in their leaders for 2014/2015 and prepare to begin their HSC Year in Term 4. Leaders will be announced at the Mass of St Gregory on September 3. This Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School in Varroville at 9.30am.

Cathie Clarke, Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Year 11 News

Earlier this Term, the Year 11 cohort was introduced to a range of leadership opportunities that are available to seniors here at St Gregory’s. Mrs Clarke introduced them to the following:

◆ **Blood Bank Donations**
The boys were invited to self-nominate, given an outline of what would exclude a person from donating (eg. Illnesses, dental work, travel). I have truly no idea how many boys indicated that they wish to become a blood donor, however, the response was simply amazing.

◆ **Retreat/Insight**
Boys were given initial information regarding the events that will take place in Week 4 of Term 4. Again, many boys displayed plenty of initiative and have already taken steps to ensure that the week is one they will remember of some time to come. Any students who haven’t yet returned their Retreat/Insight forms must do so early Week 7 at the latest.

◆ **Leadership**
It has been remarkable to see just how many boys would like to be considered for a School Leader’s role for the coming twelve months. Often, many young men, shy away from roles like this, however, this is not the case with this particular group.

All up, the above clearly displays the commitment to service that the boys in this group often display. Well done gentlemen!

Pat Newell, Year 11 Coordinator

Student News

Year 11 student, Brandon Prince competed in the National Merino Fleece Judging competition last week, held at the Brisbane Royal known as the EKKA.

Brandon had previously won the NSW State Final, conducted at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, and was representing NSW at the National Finals.

Participants are judged on their handling of the fleeces, their judging and placing of the fleeces in the correct order and on their ability to describe the fleeces and to justify the order in which they placed them. Brandon placed the fleeces in the same order as the judge and received the highest points for his handling. He unfortunately received a deduction of 2 points for the length of his speech, despite making some excellent observations and relevant comments. Brandon was placed third overall in this competition.

This is an outstanding result for Brandon as he was the youngest competitor at 16, and was competing against university students and others who work in the wool industry. Brandon is the sixth student from St. Gregory’s to have won the State Final and competed at this level. The Agriculture staff and the College wish to extend our congratulations to Brandon on this excellent result.

Adrian Harrison, Agriculture Coordinator

Photos can be viewed in Galleries
Well done to the following Year 10 students who represented the College at the recent Vietnam Veterans Day Memorial Service:

- Edward Mulholland
- Jake Gilbert
- Tysonne Stone
- Jaedon Cooper
- Nathan Levi
- Murray Cooke

Term 3 is a very busy one for all students.

Our Year 12 boys have just completed their Trial Higher School Certificate exams. For all boys, this was an opportunity to improve their ranking in each course and to test themselves under more strenuous exam conditions. While some are disappointed with their results, it is important to stay focused and use their remaining time at school well in order to improve on these results.

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 user name: forstgregsonly, password: 60results). 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.

The Years 7, 8 and 9 boys have swapped their History and Geography classes for Semester 2. Each boy has also been issued with a copy of the assessment schedule for Semester 2. 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
MCS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP
The tremendous sporting successes this Term have continued with the College defending the MCS Athletics Championship by winning the Junior Shield, placing second in the Senior Shield and winning the special Aggregate Trophy. The College won the 14 years, 15 years and Open Age Divisions and placed second in the 12 years and 17 years Divisions.

NSW CCC RUGBY LEAGUE AND FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS
In the Quarter Finals of the NSW CCC Rugby League Cup a strong first half effort saw St Gregory’s win 26-16. Man of the Match was Justin Stewart who scored two tries.

As winners of the MCS Knockout Competition, the First Grade Soccer team will play St Edward’s College, Gosford in the Quarter Final of the NSW CCC Open Championship.

MCS AFL AND TOUCH
An excellent start to this year’s MCS Touch Competition had our three teams – 13 years, 15 years and 17 years – defeating Auburn and Dundas in all games.

Both AFL teams, continued their undefeated start to the season.

TERM 4 BASKETBALL AND CRICKET TRIALS
Basketball trials continue and initial Cricket trials began this week for the start of the Term 4 MCS Competitions.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS
We have had several students selected to participate at: the NSW team for the National Cross Country Championship; the Golden Gloves Boxing Event; Australian National Indoor Cricket Championships in South Australia; the Australian All Stars Indoor Cricket team; the NSW CCC Softball Championship.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator
The full Sports report can be found in the News section of the College website

Other News

“ROC” Seminar
(Resilience, Optimism and Confidence)
For Parents of Teens
6.00pm—8.00pm
Friday 12 September 2014
At Narellan Library

Hear Claire Eaton, Australia’s Positive Voice for Teens, speak about what parents can do to nurture “ROC” strengths in their children. This session is for adults only. Young people can book to attend one of the teen workshops on Saturday 13 or Sunday 14 September.

Further details from:
kim.white@camden.nsw.gov.au
or 4645 5039.
To register, go to

Year 7 Boys and Blokes Trivia Evening
Saturday 6 September 2014

Invitations were recently emailed to families of Year 7 students.

Contact Judith Walsh on 46294.224 or judith.walsh@stgregs.nsw.edu.au if you did not receive an email or for further information.

The next YOUTH MASS® St Anthony’s Church, Tahmoor is @ 5-00pm VIGIL MASS on Saturday, August 23. Come along and be part of this AMAZING celebration as we have 2 FLUTES, 5 GUITARS 1 CLARINET and of course the SPLENDID NEW DRUM KIT!! Sing along with the 60 voices in the YOUTH CHOIR and share THE JOY. There will be refreshments after Mass.

Have you changed address, contact numbers or any other details?
A link is available on our website to a form which can be used for updating Family and/or Medical information. This can be accessed via the Current Families tab. Alternatively, the information can be emailed to the College Registrar:
kate.stott@stgregs.nsw.edu.au