Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

**Palm Sunday**
This Sunday is Palm Sunday, the day when Christ enters Jerusalem astride the donkey and to be feted by the crowd which will, a week later, demand his death. One can only imagine how Christ must have been feeling when he knew what lay ahead of him. The fact that he was going to betrayed by one of his own, denied by Peter who he wanted to lead when he had gone and then the horrific death on the cross. Not a great outlook for the week from a personal point of view. To be a follower of Christ, we know that this is an important week in the life of the Church because this is the time when Christ triumphs over death and lets us know that there is life after death.

When I reflect on Christ’s friends, betrayal and denial come to mind and I would ask the same question of ourselves. Do we say we are Christians and followers of Christ and yet do we stand by and fail to speak up for others as they face oppression, bigotry and injustice because we are afraid of the consequences? I wonder how we have added to their suffering because of our unwillingness to challenge a cruel remark or stop the spread of malicious gossip. These examples might not seem major problems but from the person’s point of view who is suffering, they are can be monumental and they are 100% for that person.

**Thank you**
Thank you to the students who have been encouraging the collection for the Marist Missions during the Lenten season as they have done a wonderful job and exceeded last year’s totals. Thank you to the young men and their families who have supported them.

**Easter Holidays**
The students will break for Easter at 2.30pm on Thursday and the College will reopen for the students to return to classes on Tuesday.

**Co-curricular**
So much has happened since the last newsletter – Sheep and Cattle Shows at Camden and Sydney, Rugby 7’s, Year 10 Cocktail Evening, Information Evening for Year 7 2017, CDSA Public Speaking Final, Year 7 Camp, Parent Forums, Country visits, Cricket Finals to name a few occurrences. We have had some outstanding results in the competitions and had the support of so many boys to ensure that a lot of these activities flow smoothly. Parents, students and teachers came from all over Sydney last Friday evening for the Public Speaking Finals and feed back to me how impressed they were with the facilities of the College but more importantly how impressed they were with the boys who offered assistance with car parking, showing people around and hosting them. Thank you to everyone for your support of the above activities.

**Congratulations**
Congratulations to Liam Marshall and Lawson Eva on their recent selection in the Australian U15 Cricket side to play Pakistan in Dubai later in the year. Congratulations to Tom Sowden who was selected to captain the NSW All Schools U16 Cricket team to play Queensland later in the year. The NSW CCC side was undefeated in the competition which Tom also captained.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Today we celebrated Harmony Day, a day which coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This year’s theme of **Our diversity is our strength** is particularly true for our community here at St Greg’s. In our prayer to begin the assembly we recognised and thanked God for the different gifts and strengths we have:

“At St Greg’s we are of Aboriginal descent, Islander descent, we are European, Asian and African. At St Greg’s we are scientists, mathematicians, historians. We are cricketers, footballers, athletes, swimmers, musicians, artists, debaters and public speakers. Our diversity is our strength.”

We recognised the stories of our own students who come from a range of backgrounds – our Islander students performed a haka and one of our recent arrivals, Kuzivakwashe Jaravani, straight out of Tamworth, but born in Zimbabwe Africa, shared some of his story.

Our special guest, Mohamed Bangoura, shared music from his homeland of Guinea in West Africa and our College band were superb in the performance of John Lennon’s Imagine, which perfectly suited the event.

In the lead up to the season of Easter in our Church calendar, it is a timely reminder of the promise that is there for all of us because of Christ’s resurrection.

**Sacramental Programme 2016**

Lessons for the College Sacramental Programme will commence for participants after school on 6 May and the Celebration of the Sacraments will occur at 8.00am on Friday 29 July.

Parents/carers who would like their sons to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation or would like more information regarding this programme should email judith.walsh@stgregs.nsw.edu.au.

*Cathie Clarke*, Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

**Teaching and Learning**

**Year 12 Semester 1 Examinations**

The examination schedule for Year 12 Semester exams has been emailed to all students and is available on the College website.

If a student is unable to attend an examination due to illness, the Year 12 Coordinator, Mr Jamieson, should be advised by phone (46294216) before 8.15am. A medical certificate must cover the entire period of the absence.

Students should be prepared to sit for a makeup exam in the first available timeslot.

*Catherine Keegan*, Director of Teaching and Learning

**Upcoming English Incursions**

The English faculty at St Gregory’s College is committed to providing opportunities for students to participate as audience members for live performances which have an educational focus. On 4 and 26 April boys from Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will experience performances by Poetry in Action. These performances will involve students viewing a range of poetry, brought to life as performance pieces. The performances aim to build student knowledge of, and engagement with, poetry.

On 4 April Year 9 and 10 students will be viewing the performance “Silence to Speech”. In Term 2 the actors will return with two shows: Years 7 and 8 will be viewing the performance “Poetry at Play” and Year 12 will view “Words of War”, to supplement their study of the poetry of Wilfred Owen.

More information will be emailed to parents closer to the dates of the performances.

*Michele Arentz*, Assistant English Coordinator
Congratulations to the following students for their achievements as shown:

**Student Profiles**

Harry Ellis  
(Year 7)  
Year 7 Camp — Leadership Potential

Sam Hackett  
(Year 12)  
Rostrum Public Speaking Competition

Marcus Bombardiere  
(Year 9)  
Rostrum Public Speaking Competition

Tom Sowden  
(Year 11)  
Selected as Captain of the NSW Schoolboys Cricket Team

Liam Marshall  
(Year 10)  
Selection to the Australian U15 Cricket Team

Lawson Eva  
(Year 9)  
Selection to the Australian U15 Cricket Team

---

**Year 8 News**

On Sunday 14 March the Year 8 Boys and Blokes afternoon was held at the College. This is a time where the Year 8 boys and the important males in their lives are able to come together and compete in a range of sports and activities.

The day began with the team sports of Volleyball and always competitive Dodgeball where each group demonstrated their abilities to work cohesively as a team. This was followed by the individual and team challenges of tug-o-war, basketball shootouts, pass the footy and soccer shootouts. Once again teams showed their determination in trying to gain as many points as possible whilst encouraging those around them.

The final part of the day was a relaxing and well earned swim in the pool to cool off after participating in all of the activities in the heat of the day.

After getting changed into some dry clothing we headed over to the dining hall where the final challenge took place. This challenge required each group to come up with a song or chant for their house, with Donovan the clear winners.

This was followed with a much earned hamburger and chips. After dinner the day came to a close with the all-important announcement of which house would be named the winner of the 2016 Boys and Blokes.

Congratulations to Laurentian who were the victors on the day.

Overall a most enjoyable afternoon that would not be possible without my dedicated Year 8 homeroom team, I cannot thank them enough for being there on a Sunday for your boys. Many people are required to make this day possible and I would like to extend my thanks to them.

I look forward to the other events this year where the Year 8 St Gregory’s College community will come together.

*Loren Keir, Year 8 Coordinator*

Additional photos of this event can be found in Galleries.
TERM 1 – WEEK 8

ANNUAL CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL
The College’s Annual Cross Country Championship, this year held on Friday 11 March, is our second sporting house carnival during the year and, again, all students are required to participate. Any student completing the course in 60 minutes was allocated points toward their House’s aggregate points. Congratulations to the winning House Kilian (Green) closely followed by Donovan (Yellow), Molloy (Blue) and Laurentian (Red). The Cross Country training squad will be announced this week and training will commence to defend our MCS Championship.

MCS BASKETBALL AND CRICKET
The MCS Cricket Grand Finals were played with wins in three of the four MCS Divisions: First Grade, Second Grade and Year 8. In an outstanding season the First XI have now won the MCS, NSW Downie and the Marist Open Cricket Championship. They will now contest the NSW All Schools Championship later in Term 3.

Further results in the MCS Grand Finals in Second Grade had our Third XI defeating our Fourth XI by two runs in the last over to win the MCS Second Grade Championship.

Our final Grand Final win was in the Year 8 division with a one run win in the last over. This was the seventh consecutive Championship winning year in this division for the College.

NSW ALL SCHOOLS TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP
Our participation and success in the NSW All Schools Triathlon Championship continue to grow. Eleven students participated in the Individual event and fifteen teams in the Team event with some excellent results.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
In preparation for the MCS Swimming Carnival our squad competed in the North Shore Marist Invitational Carnival. Since competing in the carnival under the guidance of Mr Dixon the squad has improved from 3rd place in our initial carnival to now winning it. The team now prepares for the MCS Carnival at Homebush.

MCS RUGBY 7s COMPETITION
In the first week of the two week MCS Rugby 7s competition our 14 years team had two wins and two losses; the 16 and 18 years teams had seven wins without loss. This was a good starting effort in the championship.

MCS FOOTBALL (SOCCER) COMPETITION
Four of our Football teams played in Round 1 of the MCS weekly competition against All Saints College, Liverpool. The winning teams were Year 7A: 3-0, Year 8A: 5-2, Year 9: 8-0 and Year 10: 4-2.

Congratulations to all teams, coaches, managers and officials.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

Agriculture News

Another very successful Camden show with our cattle winning two junior Champions and two reserve champions and the sheep winning Champion ewe and Reserve Champion ram. Elijah Moss won the Junior handlers and Zak Hackett winning the Junior Rural Ambassador of the show.

The St Greg’s team of Ned Mulholland, Alex Pace, Sam Hackett and Will Cadden won the Young Farmer’s Challenge on Saturday afternoon, convincingly defeating teams from Chevalier College and Loreto Normanhurst.

They had to complete a series of challenges including catching and determining the age and gender of a sheep, putting on full firefighting safety gear then shooting a target with the fire hose, an egg search and toss (that got messy), correctly fitting a saddle and a hay bale relay and stack.

Sandra Hackett, Show Team Organiser