Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

During the season of Lent, we are asked to look at alms giving as a way of doing Penance. There are many ways in which we can give alms and it doesn’t all have to relate to money. The obvious way is to look at giving money to people who are less fortunate than ourselves. We as a College do this through our Lenten Collection which goes towards MAPS which is the Marist wing that works for Marist Missions. The boys who participate in the Solomon Islands Immersion get to see where this money goes and to see and meet the people that are in need of this money. When the boys return from the Immersion experience, they do a presentation for the College Assembly so that others can see how the money is spent. The boys are encouraged to financially support the fund raising activities that are promoted during Lent so that they can make a practical contribution.

Almsgiving can take other forms such as giving of time to people who are in need. One simple example of this practical activity, could be participating in the Claymore Homework Club Program. The boys who volunteer to do this activity, give their time on a Tuesday afternoon to help young children from Claymore with their homework after school for an hour. Other forms could be taking the time to listen to each other. Many times, I come across young men who are more than happy to talk but just need the encouragement and be given the opportunity. I imagine it could be difficult for families to find the time to listen especially when everyone is working hard to survive, but we do have to make the effort to find the time.

A lot has taken place over the last two weeks, for example Parent Forums, Year 11 Dinner Dance, Toastmasters, College Cross Country, Boarders’ Free Weekend, Year 7 Camp, Shows, Winter sports trials, Summer sports concluding and I am sure that there are many other events that I have not named. I believe that it is the sign of a vibrant College when there is so much life on display and it is a very positive aspect about being part of this Community. Thank you to everyone, parents, staff and students for your contribution to the life of the College.

Congratulations to our Open Cricket Team who are now the reigning MCS Open Champions as well as being the NSW Downie Trophy Champions. They now enter the All Schools Championship later in the year. Congratulations to Mr Jamieson and Mr Kennaugh who have worked with this team throughout the summer. Thank you also to Mrs Keegan and Mr Lantz for their support through scoring for the team throughout the season.

The Maroon and Blue Parents Dinner Dance evening takes place tomorrow night and I look forward to seeing many people in attendance. Thank you to the committee who have worked to ensure that this event goes ahead.

Congratulations to Brother Virgilis who is a member of the Brother’s Community here at the College. Brother turned ninety last week and now joins Brother Luke who, as you know, turned ninety last year.

Mrs Meagher will be leaving the College today to take up a position at De La Salle College, Cronulla. Thank you to Mrs Meagher for her contribution to College life over the last eight years. She has been heavily involved in the College Basketball and also as our E-Learning Coordinator. We wish her well in her new position.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
I desire mercy, not sacrifice. I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.

Matthew 9

Mission

We are now settled into the period of Lent and there is no doubt that the St Greg’s community is good at almsgiving. There are fundraisers happening regularly and, although the doughnuts and pizzas don’t help our Lenten promise to fast, it certainly raises much needed funds for our fellow Marist communities around the world. We also know that there is much more to the concept of fasting in the Christian tradition than just food.

As I recorded last newsletter, Lent is also a time to try to pray more and to build up our personal relationship with our God. There are many ways of praying, both as individuals and in community and the young men of St Greg’s are encouraged to attend our Friday morning Mass. We have recently invited student volunteers to reflect on the Gospel reading during these Masses and the results have been inspiring and humbling. I congratulate the students who have been able to express what the Gospel message is and what they think it is saying to them as a young man. I have included below some words from last Friday’s reflection which was prepared by Josiah in Year 10:

“I believe that Jesus’ words are directed at us here today. There is no point praying without living out the rules of Christ, especially that to love one another. Offerings and sacrifices mean nothing if we are not, as Jesus says, merciful to one another. Faith is dead without good works from good hearts.”

Please encourage your sons to continue to join us each Friday morning for Mass at 8.05.

Cathie Clarke, Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Teaching and Learning

Assessment is well under way in all Year groups with Year 12 preparing for their Semester One exams. A reminder to use the assessment calendar and the Study Skills website to help plan your study schedule. Starting early and breaking the task down into smaller parts is a useful approach.

The Board of Studies Pilot Program, Up 2 Now

During 2013, the College took part in a Board of Studies Pilot programme called “Up 2 Now”. This website allowed students in Years 10, 11 and 12 to build a portfolio where they could record, store and share evidence of extra-curricular activities.

As an adjunct to the Record of School Achievement (RoSA), the up2now website gives Years 10, 11 and 12 students the opportunity to develop skills describing, organising and presenting their broader learning, community service and volunteering involvement, and other awards and achievements.

Students can use up2now to share this information with prospective employers or use it to access other education or training pathways.

For schools, up2now is a useful tool for Careers Advisors working with students intending to leave school prior to the HSC.

The Board of Studies is currently working to further improve the site. It will be available again to students early in Term 2.

For our students in Year 10, we will take them through the process of accessing and using the site in Term 2.

Catherine Keegan, Director of Teaching and Learning

Student News

Congratulations to Jacob Mitchell (Year 12) who was elected to the NSW Youth Parliament as one of the local members for Campbelltown on the Legislative Council. Jacob will attend two camps during the Easter break and mid-year holidays to discuss Social Justice issues and Women’s Rights.
This Public Speaking season has again been a very successful one. In the CSDA Public Speaking competition we had two of our students progress to the Final at Marcellin College, Randwick; Alessandro Comin in Year 7 and Alexander Mangion in Year 8.

On 12 March, we hosted the Rostrum Voice of Youth Public Speaking competition with Alessandro Comin and Jack McNally progressing to the Regional Final.

Tonight our Debating teams will travel to St Pius X College in Chatswood for a friendly debate with the Debating season beginning on Friday March 28.

Mrs Maria Santos
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator

The full report on Public Speaking and Debating can be found at Public Speaking

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Student Profiles

Congratulations to Nicky Craze (Year 11), Benjamin Hall (Year 12) and James Pratt (Year 7) on their successes as shown below.

Nicky Craze
1st Grade Debut for Campbelltown Ghosts Cricket

Benjamin Hall
Opens Swimming Champion

James Pratt
12 years Swimming Champion

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Year 10 News

It has been a fast and action packed Term 1. The Lenten Appeal was met with great enthusiasm and commitment by all the Homeroom teams. The boys were involved in many fund raising activities.

I am very grateful for the way the students in Year 10 have conducted themselves this Term. Students were pushed to excel in their education by submitting a number of assessments and completing tasks in their respective subject areas. Some boys did feel a little ‘under the pump’, but all managed to get through these last few weeks with flying colours.

It is also very exciting to announce that this Term Year 10 have started a community service program at St Greg’s. The idea behind the program is to promote awareness in our boys by helping others in our community. The students will need to commit to a number of hours of community service to complete the program effectively. I am certain it will be met with great enthusiasm and determination from all the boys as they endeavour to make a difference. I would like to thank Mrs Monte and Mrs Clarke for organising the event.

Baldino Vetrano, Year 10 Coordinator

Mr Vetrano’s full Year 10 and Pastoral Care Report is available at Year 10 and Pastoral Care
ST GREGORY’S ANNUAL CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

Following are results of our Annual Cross Country Carnival that was held last Friday:

House Results:  
Individual Age Champions:  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Champion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kilian (Green)</td>
<td>1085</td>
<td>12 years</td>
<td>Cameron Lawrence (KI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donovan (Yellow)</td>
<td>974</td>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>Stjepan Brcic (KI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molloy (Blue)</td>
<td>878</td>
<td>14 years</td>
<td>Iain Carlisle (KI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurentian (Red)</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>15 years</td>
<td>Brent Rushworth (MO)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>Flynn Fielding (DO)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17 years</td>
<td>Daniel White (KI)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Opens</td>
<td>Jack Davey (DO)</td>
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MCS BASKETBALL AND CRICKET

With the First XI Cricket team defeating Eastwood in the postponed MCS Grand Final, St Gregory’s has defended and won all divisions of the MCS Cricket competition this year.

DOWNIE TROPHY CRICKET

A great team effort saw St Gregory’s First XI defeat Edmund Rice, Wollongong by five wickets to win the NSW CCC Downie Trophy Open Cricket competition.

MCS FOOTBALL AND RUGBY LEAGUE

The MCS Football competition has started with St Gregory’s having teams in all 8 divisions. We had an excellent start to the season with all teams defeating Marist College, Parramatta in the first round. The MCS Rugby League 13 years and 14 years “Weight for Age” competition saw both teams defeating Greystanes and Auburn in the first week.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

Kellund Jeffries (Year 10) has been selected to the MCS Open Tennis team.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

A more detailed sport report can be found at Sports News

Moss Vale Show 2014

This year the College participated in the annual Moss Vale Show. Again we had a very successful day bringing home some pleasing results and an array of ribbons, including three 1st place, two 2nd place, two 3rd place, two Reserve Senior Champion Females, Junior Champion Shorthorn Bull and Grand Champion Shorthorn Bull. We also had good results in the Junior and Senior Paraders competitions.

We will next be competing at Camden Show on Saturday 5 April. Good luck to all involved.

Michael McGuiggan, Agriculture Teacher

A complete report of the Moss Vale Show can be found at Moss Vale Show

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