



*Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 11 Term 1, 2022*

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

This Sunday, is known in our Christian calendar as *Palm Sunday* or *Passion Sunday* which marks the beginning of Holy Week. Jesus was welcomed to Jerusalem with palms being laid on the road by the townsfolk. Within one week, he would be crucified. ***The most important, significant and greatest event in our calendar is Easter Sunday.*** For without the resurrection, we would not exist as we currently do - ie an inclusive and evangelising learning community, where the College provides an authentic and professional Catholic education to all.

Yesterday our Catholic College Learning community gathered together in *The Light of Christ Centre* as some of our Year 10 students led us in a Holy Week Lenten Liturgy. The liturgy was based upon the Stations of the Cross - which takes us through the (14) events from Palm Sunday to when Jesus was crucified and laid in the tomb (Good Friday).

On Easter Sunday, by Jesus rising from the dead after three days, He has given us new life and purpose. **We are a people of Hope and Easter Sunday gives us that basis for Hope.**

I believe the following paragraph from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference gives a great contemporary insight into the significance of Palm Sunday, particular in light of current events both locally and globally:

***Pray for Justice and Peace***

***On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus accepts death on a cross rather than engaging in violence. The contrast between the Prince of Peace and the powers and dominions of his day could not be starker. This is the basis of the Palm Sunday tradition of action in favour of peace and non-violent alternatives for addressing social, ecological, economic and political issues.***

As we complete our Term One voyage, it has been let us say a "*unique*" experience for all members of the community. The tail end (hopefully) of Covid19, the family lockdowns, the floods (including yesterday afternoon - pretty much right on 3pm), but more so the many positives, support, adaptability and resilience that has been shown in our community has been very heartening.

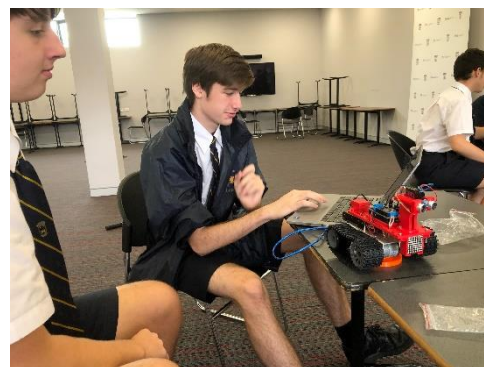
On this 11 week voyage, many of our students - and all of our staff have experienced a different type of learning; a type of learning (if students were at home) that depended more on the individual student (as in many cases, parents and carers were at work). Staff were (and are) doing what was necessary to ensure the many students throughout Term One who missed *blocks* of learning, are not left behind. In many cases - these efforts are on-going.

Our voyages over the past two years will lead into our **“Reset Program”**. The Reset program will incorporate our learnings from the past two years and allow the wind to fully fill our sails, in all aspects of our development - spiritual, academic, cultural, environmental, social/emotional and physical growth domains for students - and even some for parents/carers. You will hear more about our program early next term as we are currently finalising the details.

- *Just over 1700 formal lessons taught*
- *150 parents/carers involved in our Parents in Partnership Evening*
- *College Open Evening with 220 students volunteering to assist and over 1500 visitors from 72 different schools*



- *passing through our gates to experience the St Leo's community*
- *Ash Wednesday Liturgy and Launch of Project Compassion by our Vinnies Group*
- *Weekly lunchtime Mass in the Chapel and weekly Rosary as some of our spiritual activities*
- *Social Justice opportunities including Street Retreat, Vinnies Youth Meetings,*
- *A number of excursions across Visual Art and and Digital media*
- *Project Compassion fundraising*
- *Year 7 Camp and Year 11 Abbey Retreat*
- *GPs in Schools program for Year 11*
- *Our Pathways Program including STEM incursion on robotics and coding*
- *Participants progressing through the Duke of Edinburgh Award program*
- *Our CAPA Cubs program for Year 7 students and the rest of the music ensembles available to our students*
- *The Sport for Life program included Intake 2022 participating in cricket with Sydney Sixers' coaches and Self Aware Self Defence classes, while other year groups participated in a range of other activities*
- *Our students assisting with running a number of feeder school and cluster swimming carnivals*
- *Representative aerobics team training in full swing and a wide selection of trials for other representative sports including swimming, sprinting, soccer, netball, girls rugby league and touch football.*



**What we have been able to accomplish together in this term has been inspiring.**

PS - the College welcomes back **Ms Fiona Milkins** (Leader of CAPA) after her serious illness. It's great to be able to see Fiona back in action "conducting" all things CAPA!

On behalf of the College community I wish everyone a Blessed Easter Season and some quality time with your families in the next two weeks.

Stay safe.

**Tony Gleeson**  
**Principal**

# From the Assistant Principal – Evangelisation and Catechesis

Mr Peter Grace

## Easter Liturgy and Preparations

This week, the full student body of the College gathered to reflect respectfully and reverently on the events of the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ. The prayerful liturgy, which was a reflection on the biblical Stations of the Cross, was led by members of the Year 10 Religious Education Youth Ministry class. They did a wonderful job. Special mention must go to **Michael D** who both provided the music for the liturgy and used his expert technological skills to thread together all the various parts of the presentation.



As we draw near to the end of Term 1, and as the Season of Lent draws to a close, we can reflect on our efforts in regard to the Lenten themes of prayer, fasting and almsgiving (refer last week's edition of *The Lion Roars*). As usual, members of the St Leo's Catholic College community have been getting right behind Caritas Australia's Project Compassion campaign. We will provide a full report early next term on the various activities undertaken and the total of funds raised.

Another consideration for us all as we enter Holy Week is where and when we will celebrate the various liturgies of Holy Week. For your convenience, here is a table of the schedule of events at our neighbouring parishes:

	Hornsby Cathedral Parish		Holy Name Parish Wahroonga	Pymble Parish		St Agatha's Parish Pennant Hills	Ku-Ring-Gai Chase Catholic Parish	
	Our Lady of the Rosary Waitara	Queen of Peace Church Normanhurst		Sacred Heart Church Pymble	Our Lady of Perpetual Succour		St Patrick's Asquith	St Bernard's Berowra
<b>Palm Sunday 10 April</b>	5:00pm Sat vigil  8:00am 9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	5:30pm Sat vigil 7:30pm Sat vigil (K)  8:00am 11:00am (K) 5:00pm (K)	5:00pm Sat vigil  8:00am 9:30am 5:30pm	5:30pm Sat vigil  7:45am 9:30am 6:00pm	5:00pm Sat vigil  9:00am	6:00pm Sat vigil  7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 6:00pm	6:00pm Sat vigil  8:00am 10:00am 6:00pm	5:00pm Sat vigil  9:00am
<b>Diocesan Chrism Mass Tuesday 12 April</b>	7:30pm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Holy Thursday 14 April</b>	8:00pm	7:30pm (K)	7:30pm	7:30pm	-	7:30pm	7:30pm	7:30pm

<b>Good Friday 15 April – Stations of the Cross</b>	10:00am	11:00am 3:00pm	10:00am	9:30am	11:30am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am
<b>Good Friday 15 April – Lord’s Passion</b>	3:00pm	7:30pm (K)	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm
<b>Easter Vigil Saturday 16 April</b>	7:00pm	7:30pm	7:00pm	7:00pm	-	7:00pm	7:00pm	6:00pm
<b>Easter Sunday 17 April</b>	8:00am 9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	8:00am 11:00am (K) 5:00pm (K)	8:00am 9:30am <i>No evening Mass</i>	7:45am 9:30am 6:00pm	9:00am	7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 6:00pm	8:00am 10:00am 6:00pm	9:00am

Please also refer to your parish website and weekly bulletin. (K) denotes the service is in Korean.

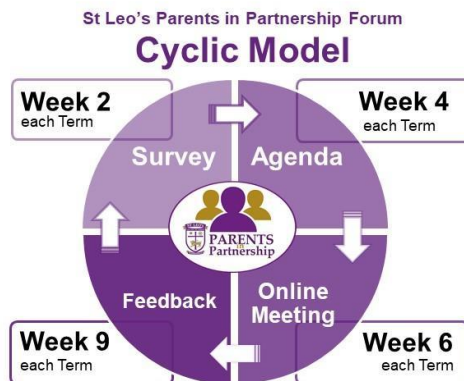
### Parents in Partnership Feedback

We had an excellent response to our first Parents in Partnership meeting for the year last week, with 152 families attending via Zoom.

The diverse agenda was largely in response to the survey that had been circulated to parents and carers in an earlier edition of *The Lion Roars*. Mr Gleeson presented a report on the ongoing phases of COVID-19, particularly in terms of the delivery of the curriculum, and on the fraught topic of staffing (refer last week’s edition of *The Lion Roars*). He included a reference to the Diocese’s *Towards 2025* strategic plan and I spoke to the importance of the relationship that exists between teachers and parents and carers. I then spoke to the model we plan on using for our Parents in Partnership gatherings in the months ahead. (also included in last week’s edition of *The Lion Roars*). It remains to be seen whether this will best serve our purposes as we emerge from COVID-19 restrictions and return to more face-to-face meetings. This also applies to social events, which we are keen to resume as soon as we can.



Based on the cycle below, our next Parents in Partnership meeting will be held in the week commencing 30 May 2022.





I also gave a presentation on the need for a 'College Re-set' in terms of student conduct, uniform and the use of personal electronic devices. The last of these topics is covered below in this newsletter. It was very pleasing to see that the parents and carers in attendance were very supportive of the adjustments the College is making in response to some of the habits that were developed in the height of the pandemic, before, during and after learning from home.

Mr Ashley Johansen shared the rationale behind the College's Adjusted Mobile Phone and Device Guidelines. This was met with the strong approval of the parents and carers at the meeting.

Mrs Carolina Murdoch addressed the gathering on a number of topics, many of which were in response to questions raised by parents and carers in the survey circulated a few weeks ago. The topic of Cybersafety was addressed, which is picked up on in Mrs Murdoch's *Adjusted Mobile Phone and Device Guidelines* item below. She addressed the topic of student recreation and study spaces, and initiatives such as the Mathematics Help Desk (open every Thursday morning from 7:30am). Mrs Murdoch also addressed questions concerning the 2:50pm finish time that was a necessary COVID-smart measure at the time, student assessment loads, holiday workshops for Year 12 students and Work Experience opportunities for students in Year 10.

Two items on which parent views were sought included a Year 7/8 disco and a College bucket hat. There were mixed responses from parents on these topics. In Term 2, the College will look further into these suggestions and report back at the next PiP gathering.

I'm very pleased to report that the parents and carers that attended the PiP meeting were very appreciative to the College for keeping them in the loop. I look forward to engaging more closely with the families of St Leo's in the weeks and months ahead. It's just as Mr Gleeson said when he quoted from Paragraph 15 of the most recent publication of the Vatican City's Congregation for Catholic Education: "The success of the educational path depends primarily on the principle of mutual cooperation, first and foremost between parents and teacher..."

## **From the Assistant Principal – Student Achievement**

*Mrs Carolina Murdoch*

### **Adjusted Mobile Phone and Device Guidelines**

As part of our RESET program and Digital Safety Strategy (returning from the Covid experiences), we addressed the students on the adjusted *Mobile Phone and Devices Guidelines*. This included a presentation in a special whole school assembly on Tuesday morning. The aim of this presentation was to explain the reasons for the policy adjustment and clearly outline the changes to students so that they can return to school in Term 2, fully aware of the new guidelines and how to follow them.

The guidelines were devised with student learning and wellbeing at the very heart of our decision making and this was made clear to students. We made the point that we are aware that mobile phones and devices are a part of our lives and that they provide us with opportunities to engage with each other, to communicate over vast distances and give us the capacity to access information in a way that many adults could not even dream about when they were teenagers.

We went on to state that despite all the opportunities that mobile devices provide we are becoming increasingly aware of the challenges they present to our mental health and to our capacity to focus. Researchers are finding that mobile devices are changing the way that our brains work, the constant flow of information, notifications and communication are creating a dependence on short sharp bursts of communication that does us no favours.

### **Supporting Wellbeing**

We then went on to address how harmful and dangerous some online activity can be. It is clear that some of the social media platforms allow for cowardly acts of anonymous bullying, where people choose to be abusive and hurt others. Our College needs to be a safe environment and we need to make sure that when you walk through the College gates we are doing everything we can to keep them safe, allowing them to make good decisions and develop positive relationships where they support each other and celebrate their successes.

We take the safety of our community very seriously, we want students to create community through conversation and involvement in College activities, taking advantage of all the opportunities offered by a St Leo's education. We want our students to look after their physical well-being and enjoy exercise and the outdoors. St Leo's provides young women and men with a Catholic education and that places Christ's teachings at the centre of our community, this means that we recognize that we are all made in the image of God and that we should show each other respect, care, and kindness in person and *online*. We were very clear in stating to the students that bullying, harassment, cruelty has **no place at St Leo's**.

### **Supporting Learning**

Mobile devices provide us with tools we can use for our learning and that's why students can and will continue to use devices for their learning in the classroom as directed by their teachers. We made the point that if we spend too much time on our devices particularly on the forms of social media that give us constant stimulation, we are not developing the parts of our brains that we need to develop focus. Focus and concentration are what we need to take on difficult or challenging new information – focus and concentration are what we need to tackle a complicated maths problem, finalise that artwork, or ultimately successfully sit a 3-hour exam in the HSC.

### **Consultation**

The policy has been adjusted and in consultation with parents including at the Parents in Partnership evening earlier this term, teachers and student leaders (Student Representative Council)

### **Key features of the adjusted policy**

- Students will not access their mobile devices including phones between 8.30 and 3pm unless directly instructed to by a teacher for their learning
- If students need to contact parent/carers, they should do so at student services or ask a teacher.
- If parents/carers need to contact students, we ask that this happens before 8.30 or after 3pm. If there is an emergency, we encourage parents/carers to call the school and we will get a message to your young person.
- We are aware that at times students call or text their parents/carers when they are at school it is important that they seek support from teachers here at the College where we are able help them. We will then work with parents/carers to let them know of any issues that have arisen.
- Students will not be permitted to use their phones or mobile devices at recess or lunchtime unless they are using them for learning in the Aquinas Resource Centre or participating in another sanctioned activity.
- Students are not permitted to access social media platforms at the College.
- Students are not permitted to use their own mobile data to bypass school network settings.
- If students are seen with a mobile phone without teacher permission, it will be confiscated, and they will be able to collect it at the end of the day. A Compass note will be made to record the incident.
- If the phone is confiscated on a second occasion parents/carers will be contacted. A subsequent infringement will result in a parent/carer meeting.
- Repeated refusal to follow the guidelines could result in a formal school suspension.

A full version of the policy will be uploaded to Compass.

In order to further support students and their families in making good decisions about digital safety we are also announcing two further elements to our *Digital Safety Strategy*

- **Student Wellbeing Seminar: Let's Get Real!** - What you really need to know about staying safe online Digital Safety talk for students in years 7-10 on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April by **Susan McLean**: <https://www.cybersafetysolutions.com.au/>
- **Parent Wellbeing Seminar: Raising Screenagers – Realistic strategies to navigate the online world with your adolescent** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 6-7.30pm with **Dr Kristy Goodwin**: <https://drkristygoodwin.com/>  
Location : TBC. More information on this event will be available at the start of next term.

## Winter Uniforms and Grooming Next Term

Students are expected to be dressed in full Winter uniform at the commencement of Term 2, which includes wearing the College blazer to and from school.

It is an expectation that any student not in correct uniform reports to their Year Leader before 8:30am with a valid note/diary entry from their parent or carer so that a Uniform Pass can be issued.

As we enter the cooler months, other garments (including hoodies and tracksuit tops) are not to be worn. The College uniform and grooming requirements are outlined on pp. 28-31 of student Personal Planners. As part of enrolling at the College, students and parents undertake to wear the uniform correctly and with pride and to adhere to the College grooming expectations. We appreciate your support in reminding your son/daughter of these guidelines.

Please note that College spray jackets are now available from our supplier (Cowan & Lewis) for inclement weather.

## Covid-19 Update

Below are our COVID numbers for this week

### Current Covid Numbers

Year Group	Covid Positive	Close Contacts
Year 7	6	4
Year 8	5	4
Year 9	12	1
Year 10	7	2
Year 11	2	4
Year 12		1
Staff	3	3

## Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

### Year 7 and 8 Vaccinations

Vaccinations for Years 7 and 8 will take place on **Monday, 2 May**. NSW Health will be offering the following vaccinations at our school clinic:

- **Year 7** – Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) dose 1 (dTpa will be given later this year.)
- **Year 8** - HPV dose 2 and catch-up HPV dose 1 & dTpa vaccination.

Please read the [important details here](#).

### Free Teen Mental Health Program

The KYDS Youth Development Service will be running free online workshops for teens during Term 2 to help them become happier and more resilient. Find out more at: ['KYDS Mental Stealth Online Wellbeing Program'](#).

### Youth Week and Holiday Activities

This week is Youth Week and there are various events being held this week and during the school holidays for 12-24 year olds to celebrate. [Find out more...](#)



## Important Dates – Term 2, Weeks 1-4

Week	Date	Event
	Fri 8 April	Last day of Term 1
	Sat 9 – Mon 25 April	School Holidays
<b>TERM 2</b>		
1A	Mon 25 April	ANZAC Day
1A	Tue 26 April	First day of Term 2 - Students in Winter Uniform (scheduled late start)
1A	Tue 26 April	ANZAC Day ceremony during College assembly
1A	Tue 26 - Thu 28 April	Y12 Retreat, Stanwell Tops
1A	Tue 26 - Fri 29 April	Duke of Ed – Silver Hike
1A	Wed 27 - Fri 29 April	Y11 Bundanon Visual Arts Camp
2B	Mon 2 May	Y7 HPV1 & Y8 HPV2 Vaccinations
2B	Tue 3 – Fri 6 May	Y10 Camp, Colo River
2B	Friday 6 May (Mother's Day Sun 8 May)	Mother's Day Liturgy and Breakfast
3A	Mon 9 – Wed 11 May	Y11 Retreat, Namaroo
3A	Mon 9 – Wed 11 May	Y8 Camp, Tea Gardens
3A	Tue 10 May	Morrisby Parent Information Evening
3A	Tue 10 – Fri 20 May	NAPLAN Testing – Y7 and Y9
4B	Mon 16 May	Duke of Ed – Bronze Hike
4B	Mon 16 – Wed 18 May	Y12 Abbey Retreat, Jamberoo
4B	Thu 19 May	College Athletics Carnival, Foxglove Oval



# What's Been Happening?

## Jamberoo Retreat

It is the mountains that first welcome you to the Benedictine Abbey. A quiet remote setting on the edge of Jamberoo. The setting is scenic, and silent. The welcome is resounding in its peace.

Fourteen year 11 and year 12 St Leo's boys embarked on a pilgrimage to explore their faith and connect with the Divine. We were met by the Sisters and embraced their lifestyle of silence and prayer for 3 days. Our faith grew stronger as our community bonded. Each sought a pathway to God, in preparation for the Easter journey.

Our days were punctuated by purposeful sessions, followed by thoughtful reflection. Whilst our journeys were individual, we experienced a shared connection with our God and the Sisters of the Abbey.

Meeting Mother Hilda was the highlight of our sessions. Her wisdom, genuine faith and common-sense discussions of faith and Christian community will stay with us as we grow into the leaders our Christian community needs.



## Student Reflection on the Abbey Retreat

"I came to the Abbey with the expectation of having a break from the repetition associated with high school education, what I didn't expect to happen was to be a series of life altering experiences. The services of the nuns were not of any other stereotypical I had been to. It was a warm, friendly environment which I found extremely engaging. My encounters with the nuns were nothing short of lovely as they were all kindhearted people who were shown to be extremely dedicated to their lifestyle. The experiences I have gained from the Abbey have inspired me to further engage and educate myself within faith and my spiritual side. I'd personally urge anyone religious or not to take up this wonderful opportunity and go to the Abbey as myself and all the other people who came have only had positive things to say about it." *Ethan E*

## Year 10 Morrisby Testing

Year 10 this week completed Morrisby careers suitability testing to help them gain a better understanding of their strengths and interests beyond school. In Term 2, we will hold a Zoom meeting with parents prior to releasing the results to help you decipher the results and make sound subject preferences for Stage 6.

**Ms Tynan**



## Art Express Excursion

Last Friday, **Ms Schneider** and **Ms Stevenson** had the pleasure of taking Years 10, 11 and 12 Visual Arts students to visit the NSW Art Gallery and view *Art Express*, the top HSC visual artworks from 2020.

Through their observations, students developed an understanding of the standards required for a successful Body of Work and gained inspiration from the various mediums and concepts exhibited.

The rain did not stop us! An absolutely thought provoking and fabulous day for all.

## Extended Mentor Activities

In the last Extended Mentor classes for Term 1, our Year Groups were this week involved in a number of different activities.



These included a driving safety workshop for Year 11, discussions about cyber-bullying and respect for Year 9, camp preparation for Year 10 and 'coin chain' fundraising activities for Project Compassion with Year 8.



## Liverpool Academy – Are you Ready?

After a delayed start this year due to Covid restrictions, Liverpool FC International Academy will finally kick off at St Leo's Catholic College in Term 2!

Commencing in Week 2 of next term and utilising content taken directly from Liverpool Football Club, the official program based at St Leo's can help develop your game to the next level.



- **For St Leo's students:** Ages Under 12 to Under 16 – Monday afternoons 4:15–5:15pm starting **Monday, 2 May 2022 (Week 2)**
- **For our Priority Feeder School students:** Ages Under 6 to Under 11 – Wednesday afternoons from 4:15–5:15pm starting Wednesday, 4 May 2022 (Week 2)

For more information or to register click [here](#).

## REMINDERS:

### CAPA Co-Curricular Program

All information regarding our CAPA Co-Curricular Program is available via our [St Leo's Co-Curricular CAPA Website](#), we encourage you to bookmark this page. Our Term 2 timetable will be made available on the website from Friday, 8 April. Our programs and ensemble will commence from Tuesday, 26 April.

Thank you for your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to email Ms Skea for further information.