

Brigidine College Newsletter

6 May 2011
#005



COMING EVENTS

**TUESDAY 10 MAY 2011 to
THURSDAY 12 MAY**

* NAPLAN Tests
Years 7 & 9

FRIDAY 13 MAY 2011

* NAPLAN Tests
Catch up day
* YEAR 11 Exams end

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2011

* YEAR 12
Parent Teacher Interviews
2.00pm to 6.00pm

FRIDAY 27 MAY 2011

* ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

**P & F MEETING
11th MAY 2011
7.00pm in DC5**

Welcome to our May Newsletter

The Catholics are in the secular media again because the Bishop of Toowoomba, Bishop Bill Morris, has been forced into retirement by Pope Benedict. When I was doing my teacher training in Brisbane in the 1970's, Fr Morris was the curate of my parish, then he was made the Archbishop's secretary and I sometimes saw him at Catholic Education functions and then, later, when I was living in Toowoomba he was made Bishop and I met him again. With all his other defenders, I can say that I experienced him as a very decent, sincere human being who loved God and all Godly things passionately. He got into conflict with the magisterium of the Church because he said in a pastoral letter that it might be good if the Church keep an open mind about who can be ordained to preside at Eucharist. I guess there were other things said and written that I don't know about; a handful of Toowoomba Catholics used to write regularly to the Vatican to complain about things in the diocese. The Pope has given very clear instructions that the ordination to priesthood by other than celibate males, especially the ordination of women, is not to be spoken or written about. Given Bishop Morris' great love for the Eucharist, his love for its scriptural truths, language and the invigorating presence of God, I can only think that he got close to disobedience because he doesn't want to see the people deprived of The Eucharist. In his diocese there are many Catholics who are so far from a town with a priest that they are not able to attend Eucharist and there are no priests to go to them.

I lay in bed this morning and thought about what Bishop Morris must be going through. I thought about how growing up I reckoned that we Catholics were the good guys; it was such a great thing to be a part of a Church that had a wonderful vision for how a human life is lived to the full. Now I know first hand that many young people are pretty sure that we aren't the good guys. They don't want to be tainted by what they view as a repressive set of people and a repressive set of beliefs. If they are to be a part of the Church they want it in their eyes to be perfect and changeable as they change. I thought about all the people I know who have left the Church and all their reasons. I thought about Fr Hearne telling me the story of Good Friday in our parish here in Randwick how he got to bed very late because people kept coming in off the street to sit in the candle lit church, listen to the quiet music and think about their lives; perhaps think about the God who knows how to suffer and how to live. And then I thought about my mother.



My mother had her rosary and her bible stories and the commandments. She loved the Sacred Heart. She knew that God intended, indeed expected, her to be a kind person. Living in country Queensland, we only had Mass once a month in the little nearby town. We never had a priest as a family friend nor were individual priests discussed in the home. My parents knew nothing about Church politics, or theology for that matter. The clergy were of little or no interest to my mother; it was God she loved and was seeking and her prayers and the Mass were about God, not about the clergy or about the comfort of an unchanging ritual. That ability to differentiate between the things of God and the things of human beings and to turn the heart to the things of God was Mum's great gift to me. During the recent holidays I saw her happy disposition and gift for friendship again in my brother and on Sunday my daughter will reveal Mum's love of hospitality as she makes a fuss over me for Mother's day. I loved my mother very much and the good news is that I see her all the time in my siblings and children. She and other people of Faith taught me early and deeply "Seek God, look at your own flaws, experience how sincerely you have to try to be better, and you will learn not to be angry at those of other people."

And so I will always be a faithful daughter of the Church. I believe that even though I feel aggrieved by members of the Clergy and members of the laity who do not live up to their baptismal promises and the vision of human life and relationships given in the Gospels and in Christ's spirit within us, the Church is still a place where I can sincerely seek and find God in a way that strengthens similar seeking and finding in creation and society. There is plenty of evidence and inspiration within the Church from people who are loving compassionately as God has asked. When addressing the girls on Assembly about the whole sinful mess that is the context for the assassination of Osama bin Laden, I suggested that such violence surely only makes us become more determined to become people of peace and justice and wisdom. With all its painfully obvious imperfections, the Catholic Church is a great place to learn how.

Our new statue of St Brigid

Last Sunday twenty three Brigidine Sisters joined with over one hundred ex students for the annual ex student's luncheon and this year, the installation and blessing of our statue of St Brigid. The ex students donated money along with the school to come up with enough to engage a sculptor, Richard Sutchbury, who made the statue out of marble. Fr Hearne msc who blessed the statue, also gave a generous donation from parish funds. The statue of our Patron, Brigid of Kildare, is a long lasting tribute to the loving service of the Brigidine Sisters at Brigidine College and in the Randwick parish since 1901. The statue is not quite life size and stands on a sandstone block. We have installed her against the brick wall in the Kilbride courtyard near the canteen area. Kilbride means "place of Brigid". The courtyard is a little spartan at the moment and as I save the money we will landscape it so that the statue is the obvious focus and that the courtyard becomes a place of peace for the girls.

At the ex student's luncheon, prayers were said for the Quigley family. Mrs Monica Quigley and here five daughters attended Brigidine. Two of Mrs Quigley's granddaughters are here now and tragically their cousin Louise Brown (daughter of Odette Quigley) was killed in a fire in Paris on Thursday 14 April. Louise was studying at University in Paris and had a wonderful future ahead of her. May she rest in Peace.



Debating 2011

Our debating Coordinator Miss Mansfield is very keen and organized, we have very enthusiastic girls to form teams but we are unable to get coaches. **Are there any parents who might have the time to go through topics with a team and help them with ideas?** It would mean about an hour a week until the team is knocked out of the competition. On Monday Mrs Michaela Mustapic gave all our debating teams a two hour workshop on successful debating. The girls need mentoring and someone with whom they can talk about their performance and this year we have been unable to attract coaches for the money that the school can afford to pay. Friday 6th May is our first debating night.

Uniform

Many thanks to the parents who send their daughters to school so beautifully presented in their uniform. Our winter skirt, when it is worn long enough to show the effects of the pleats, is very flattering. The girls should be in navy stockings (not black and not sheer stockings); the best and most long wearing are on sale at the uniform shop.

Please do not allow your daughter to have a facial piercing while she is at Brigidine. This is mentioned specifically in our uniform code. Parents and students, and I often remind the students of this, promised to abide by our uniform regulations when they were enrolled at Brigidine.

May Brigid bless the house wherein you dwell,

Ms Kate Edmondson

Principal

AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to *Jessica Thornton and Molly Blakey* who were selected to represent NSW at the Australian Little Athletics Championships.

Molly Blakey was named as Captain and received Gold and 100m Silver 400m.

Jessica Thornton received Silver 100m and Silver 200m

Both Jessica and Molly won Gold in the 4 x 100m Relay.

Fantastic results and congratulations to you both!

NSW CCC BASKETBALL

Congratulations to our Open Basketball Team who won the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges' Basketball Championships.

The team consisted of students from Year 7 to Year 12 and convincingly defeated Monte Saint Angelo in the Final. This is an incredible achievement for the girls who have also been awarded a cheque for \$3,000 from the Australian Sport Commission to attend the National Championships in Ballarat in December.

Thank you to Kathy Mavrantonis for managing the team and Lloyd Dory for coaching.

TEAM:

– <i>Jasmine Smith</i>	Year 12
– <i>Alexis Mavrantonis</i>	Year 11
– <i>Victoria Nikitanos</i>	Year 11
– <i>Vanessa Panousis1</i>	Year 11
– <i>Natalie Katsionis</i>	Year 9
– <i>Kate Ryan</i>	Year 9
– <i>Tamara Moskaleva</i>	Year 7
– <i>Tatyanna Pogonza-Dumas</i>	Year 7
– <i>Eloise Hall</i>	Year 7



CCC SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to the 5 girls who represented CGSSSA at the NSW Catholic Schools Swimming Championships. *Hannah Denney, Gabrielle Raymond, Stephanie Thornton, Natalie Watts and Lily Wilson.* *Stephanie Thornton* was selected to read the prayer at the Opening Ceremony and all reports said she did an excellent job and all girls were great ambassadors for Brigidine.

AUSTRALIAN SURF LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Brigidine College had many students compete in the Titles on the Gold Coast with fantastic results. Congratulations to girls from North Bondi who won the Gold Medal in the U17 March Past: *Cara Loby, Tara Biollo, Lainey Crowe, Emma Brophy, Krysta McMah, Aisling Power and Kate McQuaid.*



North Bondi has won this event since its inception in 2007 and Brigidine girls have played a major role in this success over the past 5 years.

ST CATHERINE'S NETBALL

The netball competition has begun on Wednesday nights at St Catherine's with 12 teams entering. Good luck to all the teams and remember correct uniform must be worn for each game.

Uniform:

- navy shorts or pleated skirt
- white school sport shirt
- white socks
- predominately white shoes.

COMING UP:

CGSSSA Basketball	25 May 2011
CGSSSA Cross Country	20 May 2011
CGSSSA Gymnastics	8 June 2011

Ms Kate Emerson
Sports Coordinator



BRIGIDINE RANDWICK



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