Mark Gibbs – Acting Principal

Stewardship

Last week I attended a seminar on Stewardship run by Ed and April Laughlin, a remarkable couple who have made it their lifestyle and helped to implement it in their home parish of Port St Lucie in Florida.

Stewardship is a practical expression of the central themes of Christianity, and as a result directly contradicts many of the messages sent by contemporary culture. It is a reminder we exist in a God-centred creation and that whatever talents and possessions we have are gifts from God that carry with them the obligation to share freely with others. Of the thirty-five parables used by Jesus throughout the Gospels twenty-two of them deal with possessions and how we gain, store or use them. Of course, God’s gifts to us are much more than material.

As generous distributors of God’s manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure received (1 Peter 4:10)

Stewardship requires an attitude of gratitude, which is a mindset that daily offers thanks to God for what we have and which determines the generosity with which we share. It is outward focused rather than inward. It asks what we can do for others first rather than second. It challenges the contemporary culture of complaint and recognises that gratitude isn’t the result of happiness; it is the cause. This is central to the message of Christ.

Our students are growing up in an increasingly secular Australian culture which is heavily influenced by the me-first mentality that needs to be promoted by advertisers to justify the purchase of their products. Unfortunately, in the absence of religious principles, selfishness can easily define the way we live and become our default behaviour. Stewardship is a way of life that directly rejects that materialism. It asks not What do you own? but What owns you? It advises us to possess loosely - to not cling to objects and habits that diminish our capacity to give to others.

Two brothers shared a wheat farm together and equally divided the harvest. The brother who was single and had no-one to support reasoned that his brother who had a wife and children was more needy than he was, so at night he regularly crept to his brother’s barn and left extra bags of grain. Meanwhile, the brother with a family reasoned that his single brother had no one to look after him in his old age, and he needed to save his resources, so he also crept out at night and left extra grain in his brother’s barn. Neither understood why their stocks were not diminishing until one night they bumped into each other. Realising what was happening, they fell into each other’s arms in joy, gratitude and love.

This story illustrates the joy of giving and the bonds that true generosity develops. While human beings can be naturally selfish, there is also a strong trait of generosity in us - the response to the Brisbane floods clearly demonstrated that. Unfortunately, in a secular world, widespread generosity seems to need to be legitimised by disaster while in a Christian world of stewardship it is simply part of our daily life.

My prayer is that our students come to realise that generosity of spirit is one of the fundamental characteristics of not only Christians but also happy, healthy and well balanced individuals who can contribute to their families, their communities and their church.

Stewardship Prayer

Gracious and loving Father, we rejoice in the gifts of love we have received from the heart of Jesus your Son. Teach us to see Christ in the lives we touch, to offer him living worship by love-filled service to our brothers and sisters. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send your Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing Your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus’ name. Amen.
Weekend Masses

P & F meeting
Parents and friends might like to note that because of the holidays our next P & F meeting has been moved forward to Tuesday 13 September at 7:00 pm in the college board room. As always, all are welcome.

This week’s readings: First reading: Ecclesiasticus 27 : 30 – 28 : 7; Second Reading: Romans 14 : 7 - 9; Gospel: Matthew 18 : 21 - 25

Lesley Fraser – Assistant to the Principal: Religious Education
As a Catholic school, retreats are at the very core of what we do and who we are, providing a time for students to focus on their spiritual lives. In the first week back next term, both the Year 11 & 12 students will be attending retreats on Thursday the 6th and Friday the 7th of October. The Year 11’s will be focusing on Leadership and the Year 12’s will be focusing on the future and how they can continue to develop their “Christianity” once they leave school.

A narrow view of Christianity may be to relate it to what happens in Church. However, Christian Spirituality extends to the very heart of all our relationships and dealings with people; at home, in business and in all of life. To identify and develop ones Christian spirituality makes us fully alive and fully human.

Christianity
In the home it is kindness;
In the business it is honesty;
In society it is courtesy;
In work it is fairness;
Toward the unfortunate it is sympathy;
Toward the weak it is help;
Toward the wicked it is resistance;
Toward the strong it is trust;
Toward the penitent it is forgiveness;
Toward the successful it is congratulation;
And toward God it is reverence and obedience. Amen.

Details of the Retreats:
Year 11:
- The retreat is compulsory
- It will be run by the Passionists from Brisbane
- It will be a one day retreat
- The year 11 cohort will be split into two groups; one group will be on retreat in non-uniform while the other group will work on QCS, wearing their full academic uniform. The next day will be reversed, if you were on retreat on the Thursday, you will be doing QCS on the Friday and vice versa. When attending the retreat day wearing non-uniform, make sure that you wear appropriate casual clothes (including closed in shoes).
- The retreat and QCS practice will be held at school and in normal school time
- Normal school tuckshop will be available for lunches

Year 12:
- The retreat is compulsory
- It will be run by Michael Fitzpatrick
- It is a two day retreat
- Students are to wear non-uniform, which are appropriate casual clothes (including closed in shoes).
- Please bring a cushion to sit on
- Bring some pens
- Normal school tuckshop will be available for lunches

McGarry Social Justice Bursary
Last week at a Year 12 assembly students were spoken to about the McGarry Social Justice Bursary for 2012. The bursary is awarded to one year 12 student who intends to undertake a community service project in Australia or overseas during 2012. The criteria for receiving the award include:
1. Demonstration of previous commitment to Social Justice Activities.
2. Enrolment in a tertiary course in the 2012 academic year (University or TAFE). The name of the course and the educational institution that the student is planning to study at are required.
3. A clearly outlined plan for a social justice experience:
   a. Dates, Place
   b. Name of supporting organisation
   c. Purpose
   d. Evidence of research into the project and its practical arrangements
4. Worthiness of intended visit
5. Suggestions for further work with the St Patrick’s community upon return from the Social Justice experience. The successful applicant will be expected to address the student body and to offer further encouragement and awareness raising activities.

In addition to the above, the application should include: two letters of reference, at least one from a member of the broader community outside of St Patrick’s College.

Applications are due: Monday 31 October 2011

If you have any questions in relation to the bursary please do not hesitate to contact Ms Lesley Fraser.

Year 12 Study of Religion students:
There will be a tutorial held on Friday 9 September at 11:45 am in B2. For students completing exams at this time you will be able to see Ms Fraser after you have finished your paper.

Edna Galvin – Assistant to the Principal: Curriculum

Senior exams
Parents are reminded that these exams are the most important group of exams for:
Year 11 - Monitoring
Year 12 - Certification – Panel meetings in October

Moving exams is NOT an option for:
   i. Security
   ii. Equity
   iii. Justice for all
Please do NOT ask to shift exams unless for exceptional circumstances.

Exams Rules
1. Read your exam timetable carefully and note all exams. This is YOUR responsibility.
2. Turn up in plenty of time – half hour before most exams or at 8.25 am for morning exams.
3. Wear full academic uniform.
4. Phone the college if you are going to be late or are ill. Illness will usually require a medical certificate to be presented when you return to school. You will still be required to complete the exam.
5. Bring all necessary equipment – spare pens, calculators, rulers, erasers, extra batteries etc in a clear container. You will not be allowed to borrow anything during the exams. Do not bring other materials into the exam.
6. When called over the PA, line up in alphabetical order so that rolls can be marked. This order is also the order that you will sit in for the exam. Follow teacher directions.
7. Dispose of any study notes before you enter the exam room.
8. Once you enter the exam room you must remain silent and not communicate with any other student in any way. TO DISRUPT AN EXAM IS A SERIOUS BREACH OF THE COLLEGE BEHAVIOUR CODE.
9. During perusal, you may not write your answers, but, in some subjects, you may be able to write notes on the exam. Remember perusal means read thoroughly, not skim.
10. Read the whole paper during perusal and ask questions at that time.
11. Do not ask teachers how to answer questions – they cannot tell you and it wastes your valuable time.
12. At St Patrick’s you may not leave the exam room until the set time, ie the end of the exam.
13. No food is to be taken into exam rooms and water bottles must be kept on the floor.
14. If you wish to speak to a supervisor you must stand in your place. Do NOT raise your hand.
15. MP3s, Ipods, Mobile Phones etc are strictly forbidden in the exam room at all times.
16. We are under State and National requirements for the qualifications gained by senior assessment including exams – these require the college to conduct exams under strict, secure, ethical conditions.

17. Rearranging an exam can only be done under very exceptional circumstances which MUST be disclosed to the Administration of the college – it is not desirable because of the reasons stated above.

18. SCHOOL NOTICES will be posted on noticeboards each day. Please check these for any important information.

Uniform
Reminder – all students to be in academic uniform AT ALL TIMES during exam period. This is a security issue – please take note.

Sean Geoghegan – Assistant to the Principal: Student Welfare

Africa 2012 – Don’t deny yourself the experience!
Not too long ago, Dr Phillip Harter of Stanford University School of Medicine calculated that if we could shrink the earth’s population to a village of only a 100 people, there would be: 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 North and South Americans, 8 Africans, 6 people would possess 59% of the world’s wealth, and all 6 would be from the United States, 80 would live in substandard housing, 70 would be unable to read, 50 would suffer malnutrition, one person would have a college education, one person would own a computer.

That’s all well and good, but the problem with this calculation is that it provides such a chronically distorted notion of the world. It perpetuates the idea that, outside our little world, most of humanity live lives of misery, want and deprivation. The media has helped construct the notion that the world is embroiled in a perpetual state of war, a world best avoided – consequently we holiday in Canada! I have nothing against Canadians, and Canada has some nice mountains and lakes …… but frankly it’s the gourmet equivalent of eating peanut butter when salmon and caviar are on offer!

Tourists look at landscapes and frankly it doesn’t matter if they don’t know that the Matterhorn is not a wind instrument. At St Pat’s we travel, and that my friends, is something entirely different. Travel suggests possibilities yet undreamed of, of improvements previously unimagined. Travel is a rich source of information and altered perspectives. In the past travellers spread news and knowledge by bringing home observations from abroad. They told tall tales sometimes, (and sometimes brought the plague); but most of mankind’s technological and agricultural improvements resulted from the travels of individuals.

The benefit of knowledge accrues only to the true traveller, not the tourist – a vital distinction. The traveller is an active being. He has understood Dr Johnson’s remark that “in traveling a man must carry knowledge with him, if he would bring knowledge home”. He goes to look and see, to be taught, to sympathize and understand. The tourist is not an active being, he is passive, he expects to be carried abroad, conveyed from the airport to his hotel, provided with entertainments and refreshments, and protected from foreign annoyances. He does not learn the rudiments of the local language before going, relying instead on his package-tour guide or on speaking English loudly. The traveller seeks adventure, not least of the mind; the tourist expects nice things to happen into him. To give him his due, the tourist has gone abroad expecting differences; but as a spectator, not a student of them; and for that one might as well watch television.

I believe providing travel is an integral and essential part of the curriculum of any good school. Armchair travel, reading and looking at pictures are simply no substitute. The reason is simple. People touch us in a way books don’t. Staying at home does not afford opportunities to meet and talk to people whose life experience and worldview differs dramatically from our own and these are the encounters that touch us most profoundly. All true educators know that our most meaningful learning occurs when our emotions are touched.
Travel provides opportunity for spiritual and intellectual growth. Travel should be aimed at assisting interior growth and self-realisation as much as it should be aimed at the acquisition of knowledge and a widening of perspectives. Travel is about ‘opening windows’ to your soul and your intellect. It has to be informed and reflective. It was in the context of the tour to India in 2003 that the expression ‘travellers, not tourists’ was coined, and it is a motto we have clung to.

Many young Australians do end up travelling, but the vast majority make Europe and the UK their destination. In the process the culture and values they encounter are broadly similar to those of Australia. Australia is the product of European society. Those are democratic societies, the products of Greco-Roman civilisation, the enlightenment, the French and Industrial revolutions. Western Europeans, despite language differences, all share a very similar world view and outlook. Travel to Africa reveals a much fuller kaleidoscope of the human experience, it’s the cradle of mankind with a rhythm and soul that no continent can duplicate. And the wildlife ...........

We believe real educational benefit of travel comes into play when one encounters societies that are profoundly different. Africa is so different, so exotic …… and so exciting. Travel, if it’s to be more than a holiday, should offer experiences that challenge and possibly even disturb us. Many travellers return changed people. Usually the only things ever damaged are stereotypes and generalisations. Perspectives are forever altered.

Do yourself and your children the greatest favour of your and their lives – come as a family. The tour costs have been revised. Please consult the itinerary on the College website for the substantially lowered cost.

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Bianca Johnston - Cultural Coordinator

Eisteddfod Rehearsals:
The Eisteddfod is fast approaching and the co-curricular groups need to rehearse. Over the next two weeks (during exam block) students in the choir, stage band, handbells and percussion ensembles are required to attend the following scheduled rehearsals. These rehearsals are compulsory. Students are required to wear formal school uniform to these rehearsals. Please ensure you attend rehearsals as stated below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>07/09/11</td>
<td>Percussion Ensemble</td>
<td>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>07/09/11</td>
<td>Handbell Ensemble</td>
<td>3:00 pm – 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>08/09/11</td>
<td>Stage Band</td>
<td>3:15 pm – 4:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>09/09/11</td>
<td>Choir / Novelty</td>
<td>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>12/09/11</td>
<td>Folk Group</td>
<td>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>13/09/11</td>
<td>Choir</td>
<td>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Choir / Novelty</td>
<td>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All groups will recommence rehearsal as usual in the first week back of next term. A reminder of the days follows:

- Choir (Tuesday 7:00 am)
- Percussion (Wednesday 7:10 am)
- Handbells (Wednesday 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm)
- Stage Band (Thursday 7:00 am)

During the first few weeks of term 4, there will be extra sectional and group practices for each ensemble and eisteddfod item. Please watch this space for details.

We thank you in advance for your talent, commitment and support to the Co-curricular Arts Program at St Patrick’s College. We wish all the groups the very best for the upcoming Eisteddfod.
Co-currucular performance uniforms:
As the Eisteddfod commences during week one of next term, it is important that students and families have organised performance uniforms. Below is a list of uniform requirements.

Choir and Handbell Ensemble:
Female choir students are required to wear:
- Blouse - Poly-Shantung (Rich Red). Covered buttons down the centre front. Lining not necessary, however the garment will keep its shape better if lined. Perspiration shield essential.
- Skirt - Micro crepe – navy. Darterd or elastic-waisted. Lining not essential but definitely preferred. Kick-pleat enough to allow movement. Comfortable fit. Must NOT be tight! (Length – 10 cm from the floor with shoes on)
- Accessories - Shoes - black with low heels (school shoes are fine). No high heels or strappy sandals, black stockings (essential), gold jewellery only and black or red hair accessories. (Patterns are available for loan at reception. Female Choir uniform material available at Needleworx, corner Sams and Willets Roads, North Mackay. Ph: 4942 1644).

Male choir students are required to wear:
- Long black dress pants, a white long sleeve collared business shirt (with school tie), a school blazer with polished black school shoes and black socks.

Stage Band, Percussion Ensembles and Handbell Ensemble:
Students are required to wear long black dress pants, a long sleeve collared black dress shirt with enclosed black shoes and black socks. Performance accessories will be supplied if required.

EISTEDDFOD OWN CHOICE MATERIAL REMINDER:
(Music and Speech and Drama)
All own choice material must be submitted at the Eisteddfod office, Parish Hall, Corner Gordon and Wood Streets from Monday 12 September to Saturday 17 September (9:00 am – 2:00 pm).

Competitors unable to submit Own Choice material on these dates may forward their pieces by registered mail. No late own choice submissions will be accepted.

The College will submit all group entries; however individual performers must submit their own material. If you have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to see Mrs Johnston.

FOR SALE: This 3 year old Bernstein upright piano unfortunately needs to find a new home. The piano, model number (121C), also comes with a dehumidifier and adjustable height stool. For further information and details, please contact Mr Mark Rapson on 0413 958 100.

Brendon Brauer – Sport Coordinator

Open Boys Football (Soccer)
Congratulations to the open boys’ football team who have qualified for the grand final of the Mackay District Boys’ Football competition after defeating Pioneer High School 3 - 2 in last week’s semi-final. The team will now play North Mackay High School in the grand final tomorrow afternoon at Rangers with the game to commence at 4:00 pm. All spectators are welcome to come along to support the boys in the final game of the season. The college would like to acknowledge the efforts of Mr Robert Sparks and Mr Joel Ikupu who have prepared the team well throughout the competition.

Mackay Secondary School Triathlon Series 2011
The Mackay Triathlon Club is running a secondary school triathlon series in 2011 that will involve two races attracting series points with the highest participating school being crowned the Mackay Triathlon Secondary Schools Champion. Races will be held over a 350m swim, 10km bike and a 2.5km run. These races can be contested by both individuals and teams, however, individual competitors will attract more points for their school and for the individual awards that will be presented at the end of the two race series. The series will be held in
conjunction with the Mackay Harbour Triathlon and Sarina Beach Triathlons which will be held on the dates listed below. The club is also offering interested students an opportunity to compete in a ‘Come and Try’ event which will be held at Halliday Bay providing students with a good opportunity to test their fitness prior to contesting the series. All interested students must see Mr Brauer for more information about the series. We would love to see many students representing the college in this series.

- ‘Come & Tri’ Halliday Bay (no points) - Saturday September 24, 2:00 pm
- Championship Race 1 – Mackay Harbour - Sunday October 16, 6.30am
- Championship Race 2 – Sarina Beach - Saturday November 5, 2.30pm

**Brisbane Lions Cup AFL**
The Open Boys and Girls AFL competitions will commence early in term 4. St Pat’s will be nominating teams in this competition that has been very popular in recent years. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

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**Edie Weiss: Guidance Counsellor**

**Young Endeavour**
Australia’s national sail training ship *Young Endeavour* is now accepting applications for youth to join eleven day voyages departing between January and June 2012. Young Australians aged 16 to 23 can apply for the ballot at [www.youngendeavour.gov.au](http://www.youngendeavour.gov.au) until 30 September 2011. No sailing experience is required.

**Aircraft maintenance engineer scholarship**
Any Year 12 student who is interested in becoming an aircraft maintenance engineer and wishes to apply for one of three $4500 scholarships needs to see Mr Giumelli THIS WEEK. You will be required to produce a 4 minute video and complete an online survey. Study will be at Aviation Australia in Brisbane and is for a Certificate 4 in Aeroskills.

**Nursing Scholarships**
Students considering studying nursing next year are advised to check to see if they are eligible for RCNA scholarships at [www.rcna.org.au](http://www.rcna.org.au). Closes 16 September.

**BHP Billiton Mitsui Coal (BMC) - CQUniversity accommodation scholarships**
BMC are offering $1.1 worth of accommodation scholarships for the greater Mackay region students to study at CQUniversity, Mackay campus. Full accommodation and meal expenses will be paid to the successful applicants who can be studying a wide range of courses. See Mrs Weiss for application forms. Closes 20 October.

**Bernadette Guthrie - Science News:**
Scholarships in Agricultural Science and Agribusiness are on offer from the University of Queensland for 2012. These scholarships are valued at $6,000 for the first year of study. Applications are available at [science.uq.au/agscholarship](http://science.uq.au/agscholarship) and they close on 31 October.

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**Excursion to Black Duck Kitchens (Mr Simon Korneliussen)**
Last Friday, 10 students with teacher, Simon Korneliussen, were given the opportunity to see the Cabinetmaking industry first hand. Black Duck Kitchens kindly opened their doors and demonstrated their facility for the students. Demonstrations included: edging machine; 3 axis milling machine; panel saws; computer job material management system; spray painting booth and associated equipment. These demonstrations were “hands on” and enabled students to get in and have a go themselves.

The students fully appreciated the comprehensive explanation provided by staff, the cleanliness of the factory and gained a greater understanding of the workings of a cabinetmaking facility. Thanks goes to Black Duck Kitchens for also providing a flat packed bedside table and all required hardware for each student to assemble and keep.
Furnishing students at Black Duck Kitchens

kidztri3
YOUTH TRIATHLON SERIES

2011 MACKAY SECONDARY SCHOOLS TRIATHLON SERIES

SWIM 350m • BIKE 10km • RUN 2.5km

‘Come & Tri’ Halliday Bay (no points)
Saturday September 24, 2pm

Championship Race 1 – Mackay Harbour
Sunday October 16, 6.30am

Championship Race 2 – Sarina Beach
Saturday November 5, 2.30pm

Random Draw Prizes
Prizes for top three placegetters in each category of Championship Races
Championship Points for every competitor will determine the overall winner of Mackay’s Secondary School’s Championship Shield

www.mackaytriclub.com.au

Entry Fee $5pp per race. Students must register and pay with their school triathlon coordinator

Categories: Girls U15yrs, Boys U15yrs, Girls Open, Boys Open
Girls Open Teams, Boys Open Teams