Our Theme - “The Joy of the Gospel - Putting our Faith in to action”

Sunday 20 March, 2016 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – “...Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord...” (Lk 19:28-40)

Dear Parents, Guardians, Care Givers, Grandparents and Students,

We hear in Luke’s Gospel that on Palm Sunday the crowd who cheered on Jesus proved to be a fickle lot. Within 5 days they moved from cries of adoration to sneering, disrespect and denigration.

Have we changed as the crowd did over 2000 years ago?

Try being black in a white world
(We tell the original inhabitants of Australia that they have some claim on the land and then change the rules when they make such a claim)

Try being a woman in a man’s world
(In reference to the numerous pay inequity stories that still abound in our society)

Try being Asian in a Eurocentric world
(Supposedly equality for all, yet many stories report differently)

Try having a private orientation in our diverse world
(Our acceptance of a diverse range of people)

Try being someone who has mental health issues in our accepting world
(In reference to the “stigma” of mental health)

Palm Sunday is not just a day that happened 2000 years ago. Rather we hear proclaimed that:
– our God knows what it's like to be heralded on Sunday and condemned on Friday;
– our God loved us so much that he laid down his own life so that we might live;
– our God showed us that the price of walking on palm branches is in the taking up of the cross.

How do we do that; be more like Christ in our life, not only in our community at St Leo’s but globally?
We are also told in yesterday’s Passion Gospel – Jesus did 5 things -

– He healed the ear of the High Priest’s servant;
– He spoke the truth to Pilate;
– He empathised with the women of Jerusalem;
– He forgave those who condemned him;
– He had compassion toward the other criminal being crucified.

If we take heed and inject these 5 things (even a little) into our daily lives and actions then we can offer solace, comfort and support for those who are facing their own Calvary.

Chair of our College Board – President of Diocesan Parents’ Council!
Congratulations to Mrs Maria Smith who is first and foremost a parent here at St Leo’s. Maria is also Chair of our College Board and has served on the Diocesan Parents’ Council for a few years. Maria has now been elected President of Diocesan Parents’ Council. I would strongly suggest that all parents and care-givers have a look around their website for lots of great resources, readings and practical tips. (http://www.brokenbayparentcouncil.com)

Tonight Maria and her team are hosting a meeting of all school boards, P&Fs and Principals at the Catholic Schools Office.

The topics for discussion this evening are:
• Involvement & Engagement;
• Learning Partnerships and
• Collaborative Relationships

Well done and good luck to Maria for taking leadership of this Diocesan wide parent role.

Those Representing the College in Various Sports at State Level
Congratulations to those students who are representing (or being in the selection process) for a myriad of sports!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sport</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Anderson</td>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>Cricket Boys U19 CCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keeley Bowen</td>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Touch Boys Open NSWCCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia Simmonds</td>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Touch Girls Open NSWCCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Drum</td>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>AFL-North NSWCCC</td>
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<td>Sam Italiano</td>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Baseball NSWCCC</td>
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<td>Adam Ornatowski</td>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Baseball NSWCCC</td>
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<td>Oliver Browne</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>AFL-North NSWCCC</td>
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<td>Billy Pollard</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Rugby League U15 CCC</td>
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<td>Jo Stevens</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Baseball NSWCCC</td>
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<td>Deven Flanagan</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Triathlon Ind Boys Junior (12-14) CCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Hoare</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Triathlon Ind Boys Junior (12-14) CCC</td>
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Also congratulations to Jess Richards of Year 11 who won The 60cm Derby (Showjumping and Cross Country Combined) at Dural last month. This event involved two phases; one where you manoeuvre fixed and loose obstacles; and the second phase was traditional showjumping. Her horse Royal Gala is a stockhorse grey and they have been partners for the last 2.5 years. Jess and Royal Gala are now off to the State Championships at the end of August. We wish them well.

Our Intermediate Girls Touch Team was recognized in our Assembly last week. They were beaten in extra time by just one point in the Grand Final against Barker last Friday. Congratulations girls on a huge journey from Year 7, when you didn’t even want to touch the ball, to the champions you are now! Thank you to Mr Privett and Mrs McMahon who were the coaches of this team.

Year 12 English Studies – Mock Job Interviews
Last week I had the pleasure of being on a panel for the Year 12 English Studies class with Ms Sarah Price (class teacher). I was impressed with each student’s honesty, maturity, integrity and passion. They have been preparing their resumes and references over the past few weeks. They have also been furiously (and nervously) preparing for their interviews.

I noticed that only one or two were showing signs of being nervous, as they had done their homework and preparation for the interview panel. Students had prepared actual mock examples of their work experience in industry and demonstrated a passionate desire to succeed in the interview, for the benefit of the mock company and themselves. It was very impressive.

At the end of two hours we were able to give each student feedback. The participants also had to rate their presentation and answers which proved enlightening and useful. Well done to all.

60th Year of Catholic Education at St Leo’s - 2016
It is worth recognizing and celebrating the original custodianship, by the Darug people, of the land on which St Leo’s College resides. These Aboriginals are a group of indigenous Australians that were united by a common language, strong ties of kinship and survived as skilled hunter–fisher–gatherers in family groups or clans in the Wahroonga area and beyond.

St Leo’s on Social Media
Join our Facebook page – St Leo’s Catholic College. Twitter - @stleos
Also – don’t forget to download the Satchel (either iOS or Android) app – where notices for parents (and students) are posted, including The Pride, Absentee Notes etc. It is now fully operational.
Three Events to Mark in Diary
1) Open Day for Year 6 Catholic Primary Feeder Schools – Friday 1st April – commencing at 9.15am
2) St Leo’s Production – Disney’s High School Musical – 19-21 May The Light of Christ Centre
3) 60th Anniversary Dinner Dance – for all parents, past parents, past students and friends of the College on Sat 18 June 6.45pm – Hornsby RSL. Please refer page 10 for all the necessary event information.

Mr AF Gleeson
Principal

“…How very good God is to us all…”
St Mary of the Cross Mackillop (2/8/1870)

From the Assistant Principal
Easter
This week we celebrate Holy Week - the final week before Easter and the last week of Lent. Holy Week, which commemorates the Passion of Christ, began yesterday, on Palm Sunday, and includes Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Holy Week ends Holy Saturday. Easter Sunday, marks the greatest feast in the Christian calendar. On this Sunday, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

The College will be holding a very special Easter Liturgy in The Light of Christ Centre this Thursday from 11:15am. Students from St Leo’s will be leading a prayerful and moving Liturgy focused on the Stations of the Cross. Students and staff from OLOR will be joining us. Stations of the Cross represent events from Jesus’ passion and death. At each station we use our senses and our imagination to reflect prayerfully upon Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection. The stations grew out of imitations of Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, which is believed to be the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary. The object of the stations is to help us to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ.

Project Compassion
Lent is a time during which we seek to become more conscious of the needs of others. The College is supporting Project Compassion throughout Lent. This fundraising effort is a practical way in which students can put their faith into action. Project Compassion 2016 is focused on providing vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Each Wednesday the College Prefects will be collecting money to support Project Compassion. They have set a fundraising target of $10 000. This equates to a donation of about $2 per student each week. I would encourage each family to support this very worthy cause so that we can provide assistance to those most in need.

Year 12 Mid Course Examinations
Year 12 will commence their Mid Course Examinations at the start of next week. All students have received an Examination Timetable. It is important that students carefully read this document and ensure that they are on time for their examinations. Please keep Year 12 in your prayers as they complete their final preparations for these important assessments.
**PAW Print Merit Awards**

As outlined in the last edition of the Pride we have now launched a new Merit Award system. The College Merit Award system is designed to provide students with encouragement and recognition for their achievements and efforts. Students can receive immediate feedback via a Merit Certificate Award (also known as a “Paw Print”)

Students can receive a Merit Award (also known as a Paw Print) for:

- Academic Achievement
- Academic Effort
- Putting faith into action
- Living the College Values
- Sporting Achievement
- Sporting Effort
- Music Achievement
- Music Effort
- Co-Curricular Achievement
- Co-Curricular Effort

When a student has accumulated ten Paw Print Merit Awards they can take these awards to the Student Reception. This will lead to the student being issued with a Yellow Merit award. Students who achieve a Yellow Merit award are presented with these awards at a Year Assembly by their Year Leader.

Students who achieve five Yellow Merit awards will be issued with a Purple Merit Award. Purple Merit Awards are presented at a Year Assembly.

Students who achieve five Purple Merit awards, including at least ten Merit certificates for Putting their faith into action and/or Living the Gospel Values, will be awarded with a Gold Merit Award. These awards are presented at a Whole School Assembly.

Students who achieve three Gold Merit awards, including at least ten Merit certificates for Putting their faith into action and/or Living the Gospel Values, will be awarded with a Leo’s Pride Merit Award (Medal and Certificate). These awards are presented at a Whole School Assembly.

The achievement of Yellow, Purple, Gold and Leo’s Pride Merit awards are entered into Edumate so that it appears on a student’s record of achievement.

Anthony Mahoney
Assistant Principal
Catholic Life and Mission

The holiest week in our calendar serves as a reminder of the inexhaustible love of Christ for every single one of us. The events leading up to Christ’s death and resurrection have been re-enacted for the last two thousand years, yet continue to move and inspire us.

Let us remember that this week is not just about remembrance….it is a call to “act justly and love tenderly”

The days we commemorate

Palm Sunday
In the life of Jesus, the solemn entrance into Jerusalem was the only visible triumph. Six days before the Passover, He not only accepted to be glorified, He Himself provoked and arranged this glorification by doing what the prophet Zacharias announced: "behold, Thy King cometh unto thee... lowly and riding upon an ass..."(Zac. 9:9). We call this day Palm Sunday in remembrance of the branches that the followers of Jesus waved in celebration, as they thought that he was entering Jerusalem in order to establish a whole new order; what they did not realize, was that the Kingdom that Jesus spoke of, was not of this world. The palms that we use today signify our readiness and willingness to follow Him on this sacrificial way and our acceptance of sacrifice and self-denial as part of the great sacrifice that he was about to make.

Especially important for Catholics is the Easter Triduum. This is the three days just before Easter.
Holy Thursday: The Last Supper

On Holy Thursday, we re-enact the Lord's Last Supper, which He shared with His apostles on the night He was betrayed and arrested. This is one of the most beautiful liturgies of the entire liturgical year. At the Mass, the priest will wash the feet of twelve men, just as Jesus did. Also on this night, priests all over the world will renew their sacred vows. This is because, at the Last Supper, Jesus not only instituted the Mass (Eucharist) but also the ministerial priesthood.

Good Friday

On Good Friday, the day of the crucifixion and death of our Lord, we have the veneration of the Cross. A service is held at three o'clock in the afternoon (the hour He is believed to have died) and another later in the evening. We go forward and kiss the Cross in order to show honor and respect for Christ's sacrifice for our sake. There is no consecration of the Eucharist on this day, and the Communion we receive will be from the night before, which has been reserved in the tabernacle.

Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday is a vigil. We keep watch for the expectant rising of Our Savior. This was the day He went down into the netherworld in order to bring back up with Him into heaven those who had died before His coming. Up to this time, the gates to heaven were closed and no one could go there because of the original sin of Adam. Jesus changed all that. By paying the price for our sins on the Cross, He gained for us our eternal salvation, and heaven was opened once more.
**Easter Sunday**
The pinnacle of our journey, this day celebrates our liberation from sin, through an act of such immense love, that its power restored our relationship with God, and each day that we remember and focus on the risen Christ, we are reminded that we are people of HOPE….no matter what, no matter who we are, no matter where we began our journey, we are freed from our past, and the fullness of life in the risen Jesus, is ours.

**Prayer, Sacrifice and Almsgiving - Lent 2016**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF PROJECT COMPASSION

Together we made a big, big difference in the lives of so many people

Winners of the Easter baskets and the total funds raised, will be announced in the next Pride.

**Stations of the Cross at the College**
**24th March, Holy Thursday 2016**
**Curriculum**

**Legal Studies Excursion**
The Year 11 Legal Studies classes went to the Downing Centre law courts in the city to observe the legal system in action.

The students saw a number of cases and saw a slice of life that we do not usually see. There were a lot of drug related matters, traffic infringements and assault. There were jury trials to see as well as people on remand for more serious crimes.

The students were surprised to see the use of video link for those on remand to attend electronically. The case involving a cache of weapons including mace, knuckledusters and a blade concealed in a walking stick was like something from a TV drama.

The students got useful insights into how life works for ordinary Australians when they have a brush with the law.

Mrs Champ  
HSIE Teacher

**Year 11 & 12 Ancient History Incursion – Dr Estelle Lazer**
On Friday 26th February the Year 11 and 12 Ancient History classes were especially fortunate to have world renown Australian forensic anthropologist, Dr Estelle Lazer, address them on her work at Pompeii.

Dr Lazer is the world authority on the skeletal remains at Pompeii, having had exclusive access to them and publishing her ground breaking findings in her book *Resurrecting Pompeii*. She has continued to work at Pompeii, recently leading the Pompeii Cast Project, which involved x-raying the plaster casts that contain the remains of over another 100 victims. This project was also filmed for a recent BBC documentary.

It was a wonderful experience for the students to meet and learn from such an inspirational and significant archaeologist, whose work is studied as part of the Pompeii Core Study for the HSC. She presented her new and unpublished findings, and discussed the ethical aspects of archaeology when dealing with the study and display of human remains. Her presentations will be an invaluable resource for the Year 12 exams and HSC ahead.

Margaret Smallwood  
Ancient History Teacher
St Leo’s Catholic College
60th Anniversary
Dinner Dance

Date: 18 June 2016
Time: 6.45pm
Place: Hornsby RSL
Dress: Smart
Band: 8 piece band
Ticket Price: $80

For more information: leosddbooking@gmail.com
To book: http://www.trybooking.com/KQHM
Tel: 9487 3555
How to use your Opal Card correctly

Remember,

You only need to Tap On and Tap Off once for each Journey, then find a seat and sit down to travel safe on the bus, train or ferry.

Contact 131500 for all Timetable and Opal Enquiries
**Around the Grounds in Sport**
What a fantastic last few weeks it has been at St Leo’s for our representative sporting sides. We have had a number of teams compete at Broken Bay Gala Days, along with individual students succeeding in their sports.

**NSW All Schools Triathlon**
The NSW All Schools Triathlon was held at Penrith Regatta Centre and we had two year 7 students (Daniel Hoare and Deven Flanagan) compete in the Junior Boys age division. Both boys achieved fantastic results, and were the first students at St Leo’s in a number of years to compete at the Championships. Along with the two Junior Boys, the College entered a Senior Boys relay team in the competition that consisted of three Year 11 students (Thomas Peregrina – Swim, Harvey Timms – Bike, and Lachlan Rose – Run), but due to hot weather conditions the competition was called off before our boys had the opportunity to compete.

**Broken Bay Rugby League Selections**
On Wednesday 9th March, the Broken Bay U/15 and Open Rugby League Selection trials were held at Wyong on the Central Coast. Billy Pollard (U/15) and Jack Dempsey (Opens) represented the College at these trials and showcased their exceptional talent. It gives me great pleasure to announce that Billy Pollard was selected in the U/15 Team that will compete at the Sydney Independent Trial on Wednesday 23rd March. Good Luck Billy.

**Barker Touch**
St Leo’s has a strong tradition in the Barker Touch Competition that is run on a Friday afternoon during Term 1. For years our girls sides have competed in the Senior and Intermediate division under the watchful eye of Miss Portia Beattie. This year the Intermediate Girls made the final of the competition and played against a strong Barker side. The girls played this side during the regular competition games and were beaten 4-0 however our girls lifted for the occasion of a grand final and raced to an early lead before Barker hit back. At full-time the scores were locked at 3-3 and this led to a drop-off situation where every minute one player from each side was taken off. When the sides were down to 3 players each Barker scored the winning try and it was a narrow loss for our girls. Congratulations to all girls, and also a special mention to Natasha Nichols who was named player of the match, and this is a big achievement especially coming from a losing side.

Coached by Mr Andrew Privett and Mrs Melissa McMahon, the girls have come a long way since starting playing touch for the College in Year 7. Well done girls, and we look forward to hearing about your results in future competitions this year, and also building on your success in your senior years.

Natasha Nichols, Jessica Younan, Mia Hing, Lauren Millar, Georgie Durnian, Darcy Watt, Megan Nitzsche, Claudia Bourke, Claudia Jenkins, Olivia Jenkins, Hayley Manktelow, Penelope Chan, Hannah McFadyen, Chelsea Williams, Jenny Wylie, Madeleine McMahon.

**Northern Districts 20/20 Cricket Grand Final**
At the last assembly it gave me great pleasure to announce that our Open Boys Cricket side had made the final of the Northern Districts 20/20 competition after a semi-final win against Knox Grammar. The boys played Knox off the park and after posting a reasonable total, bowled Knox out for 60 runs, which meant a 42 run win for our boys.
This meant a final appearance at Mark Taylor Oval against Hills Sports High. With regular captain John Anderson (representing NSWCC) and Ryan Tullia (injured) and thus unavailable, our younger boys needed to step up and they did this with a strong performance in the field. Captain Joseph Robinson made good decisions with his bowling choices and at the change of innings St Leo’s were right in the game with a total that was going to be difficult but achievable. With the bat, the boys played gallantly and put on a good run chase but did fall short. It was a fantastic match to watch and I congratulate all the boys on their efforts this season.

John Anderson, Ryan Tullia, Joseph Robinson, Justin Hardy, Nicholas McMillan, Mark Tobin, Russell Yates, Joshua Hayes, Tyger Fitzpatrick, Michael Phoebus, Cameron Lobo, Nick Wilson, Jordan Hayes, Daniel Jones

**Sport for Life Program**

Over the next few two weeks in the internal Sport for Life Program, Year 7 to 10 students will be competing in the College Cross Country during sport. Results from these races will be posted in the next edition of the Pride along with the current House Points, and Accelerated Sports Program results.

**Representative Sport Trials and Training Days**

**Netball Trials** – Wednesday 30th March (After School)
**Cross Country Training** – Every Friday Morning 7:00am
**Open Boys Soccer** – Ball Work (Every Monday morning 7:00am), Fitness (Every Wednesday morning 7:00am)
**Open Girls Soccer** – Fitness (Every Monday morning 7:00am), Ball Work (Every Wednesday morning 7:00am)
**U/13 & U/15 Boys Soccer** – Ball work (Every Tuesday morning 7:00am), Fitness (Every Thursday morning 7:00am)
**U/13 & U/15 Girls Soccer** – Fitness (Every Tuesday morning 7:00am), Ball Work (Every Thursday morning 7:00am)
**Rugby** – Tuesday morning 7:15am
**Athletics (Sprints)** – Friday Mornings 7:00am

For more information on any of the upcoming competitions, or to find out more information about a particular sport, or to inform the College about recent sporting performances outside the College please don’t hesitate to contact me on michael.kember@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Michael Kember
Leader of Sport