



# Maronite College of the Holy Family NEWSLETTER

23-25 Alice Street, Harris Park, 2150  
Tel: 9633 6600 Email: [Admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au)

**Term 3 - Week 8: Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

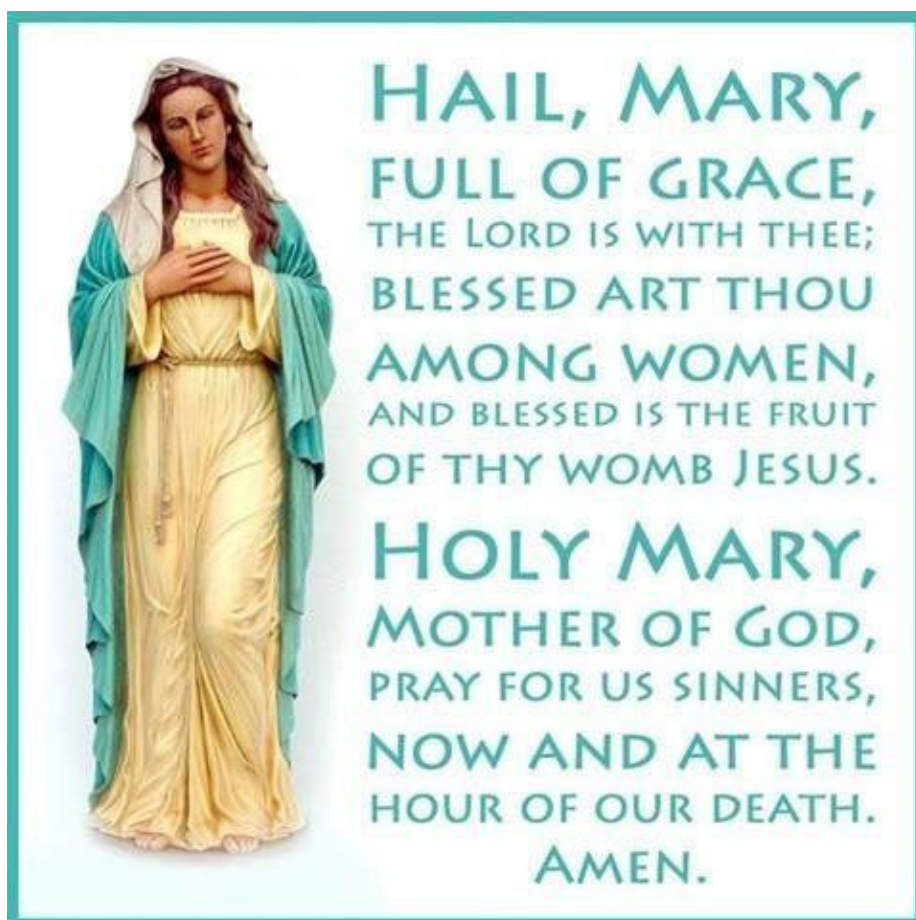
A special thankyou to all parents and students for your generous donations towards our fundraising in the last few weeks. All money raised was sent to Lebanon to assist all affected by the Beirut tragedy.

The Primary Father's Day stall raised over \$2300 and the Secondary cake stall and Jersey Day raised \$2200. This is a fantastic effort by everyone!

As we are approaching the end of Term 3, I would like you to keep all the students in Year 12 in your prayers. They are currently preparing for their Graduation and are studying hard for the upcoming Higher School Certificate Examinations. May our Lady guide and be with them during this time.

**"Don't lose sight of your goals.  
Your countless hours of studying and sleepless nights  
will pay off in the end."**

On Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September we celebrated the Birthday of the Virgin Mary. May she protect all our families and our community. May she shower her blessings on you all.



**Sr Irene Boughosn  
PRINCIPAL**

Bishop Tarabay has met with the Bishop of Parramatta and the committee responsible for revising the Religious Education Curriculum for the Diocese of Parramatta.

Consultation and negotiation with key stakeholders is currently taking place. Bishop Tarabay has informed the College that he will be consulted throughout this revision process.

It is anticipated that the revised curriculum will be completed by 2022. Should you have any concerns, please direct them to the Principal, Sr Irene Boughosn.

## HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE

This week, Primary staff became actively involved in R U OK? Day. This is a nationally recognised day of action dedicated to reminding everyone that any day is a good day to ask, 'Are you ok?' and support those people around us who may be struggling with issues in their life. Raising awareness, that starting a conversation with somebody could change that person's life in the most positive way, is the main aim of the day. Looking out for one another and lending support is an important life skill for all. If you ever have the feeling that someone you know or care about isn't behaving as they normally would, is perhaps agitated, withdrawn or simply just not being their usual selves, then it's time to ask, 'R U OK?'. A big thank you to Mrs Sleiman and Ms Rizk for organising and promoting this very important event. The students joined in the spirit of the day by assisting their class teachers in distributing secret tokens of appreciation.



### Staff Professional Development

Each week all teachers in the Primary Department participate in Professional Learning Meetings so that they can expand their knowledge and keep up to date with current educational practice. These meetings are paramount to ensure our students receive the targeted learning that they require and develop the skills of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner. Our learning over the past couple of weeks has focused on Purposeful Talk. Just like a Mathematics or Science lesson, student discussion within the classroom is carefully designed to develop specific academic conversational skills. This includes how to be an active listener, rigorous thinker and clear communicator.



### Social Media

The inappropriate use of Social Media by students has been highlighted over the past few weeks. Although we



have explained the dangers of the internet and provided positive strategies to assist at home, we are still dealing with several issues arising from students posting inappropriate comments and images online. These incidents are happening at home but are unfortunately continuing to create issues at the College during the school day. It is a parent's responsibility to ensure they teach their child the dangers of the online world and monitor their behaviour when using any device, especially phones and iPads. Yesterday, Fr Danny spoke to Year 5 about the appropriate use of technology and how to make the right choices when online. He also discussed various strategies that the students could implement that will help to prevent the wrong decisions being made. All students responded well to Fr Danny's guiding words.

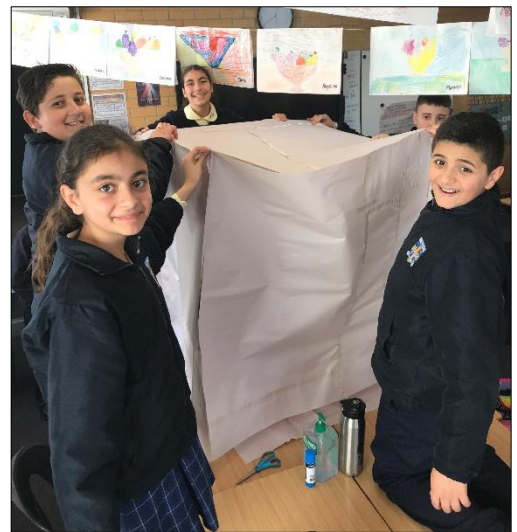


### Making Maths Fun

This week, Year 5 were learning all about the cubic metre. To understand the actual size of a cubic metre, students in 5 Rainbow had to construct their own model. The students worked collaboratively in groups to produce one side of the cube. The sides were then combined to create a cubic metre. This hands-on activity allowed the students to visualise the size of a cubic meter and apply their knowledge of its attributes to estimation tasks.

### Poet's Corner

This term, our Year Five classes have been immersed in a world of poems. They have explored all aspects of poetry and engaged in creative writing sessions as young poets. 5 Sapphire are proud to share some of their wonderful ballads.



#### When They Came

**A ballad by Amber Fasavalu and Charbel Jabbour**

It was a normal day, till I went to the cliff,  
And I saw a mysterious liquid in the sea.  
I stared at the ocean as my back became stiff,  
Then the object turned towards me.

There was a sickening smell of smoke,  
And it got into my throat.  
It was making me choke,  
And as the object got closer, I knew it was a boat.

As the boat got closer, I called my friends.  
We thought it was harmless, until it began its attack!  
At that moment, we knew we made a mistake, and that our life ends.  
But my people had courage and might and they said "NO" as they fought back!

#### The Scary Trap

**A ballad by William Taouk**

I once got a dare  
Just from a stare,  
To go to a place  
That gives me a scare.

The temple was dark,  
But I saw a spark,  
And on a nearby tree,  
Was a big lark.

When I saw food on a brick,  
I had to give it a lick.  
That's when I fell  
Just after a click.

I was in a dungeon of stone,  
With someone's skull bone.  
I was so scared  
That I could only groan.

When my friends came,  
They called me lame,  
For falling for that trick,  
And made me a shame.

#### A ballad by Jocarlo El-Kadi

When I looked up in the sky,  
I saw a plane up high.  
It was trying to spell a word,  
But I got distracted by what I heard.

I turned around to see what it was,  
But all I could hear was a little "buzz".  
Next to my ear was a big bee,  
Then I ran away with all my fear.

#### A ballad by Jason Azar

The beauty of nature  
Was a splash of green  
And, with a wonderful creature,  
The trees started to lean.  
Fragrant wind flowed through the leaves.  
It perfumed everything in its way,  
And there it went, past all the trees.  
There it is now, dancing away.  
Petals fell to the ground,  
It's coming to an end so fast.  
They are falling since then and now,  
It can never come back from the past.

### Communication with Teachers

Just a reminder that all communication with teachers is to be conducted via phone or email through the Primary Office. Alternatively, you can write a brief note for your child to pass on to their teacher. This will ensure that any queries or concerns can be addressed promptly. In line with new health and safety procedures, we ask you not to communicate with teachers at the end of the day as students are dismissed.

### Student Attendance

Student attendance has a great impact on their academic progress and social development. Regular absences whether for the whole day or part of the day, have a detrimental effect on your child's learning. Being late to school or leaving early also has similar effects to a student's academic progress. Please make it a priority to schedule any appointments outside of school hours to limit disruption to your child's learning. Collecting students early from school for reasons such as avoiding traffic, is not permissible. A reminder that any student absent from school requires a letter of explanation specifying the reason for non-attendance. More detailed documentation such as a doctor's certificate with the student's name, needs to be submitted for prolonged absence. This procedure is mandated by the government.

**Mr D. Day**

**Head of Primary**

## HEAD OF SECONDARY MESSAGE

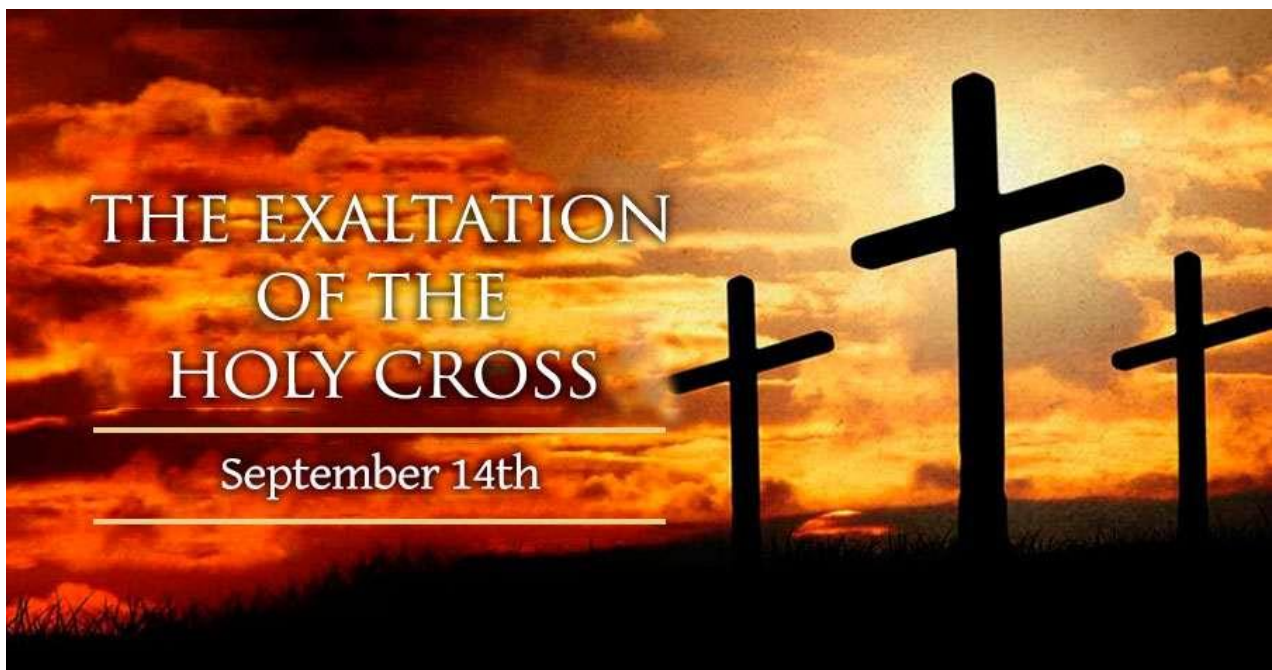
### Keep Praying for Lebanon

On Thursday evening we have seen a second fire erupt in the Port of Beirut just over a month after the explosion that rocked Lebanon and the world. We are saddened to continue hearing of the pain and suffering the people in our homeland are facing. We ask you to continue praying for Lebanon and its people that they may be able to get through these challenges they are constantly facing.



### Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

This weekend is the last weekend of Pentecost. Next week we commence the final liturgical season in our Maronite Liturgical calendar with the Season of the Holy Cross. We will be celebrating the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross with a special Mass on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 8am in St Elias Chapel.



### New Furniture

This week we received new furniture for our Visual Arts and Drama Room. The upgrade of the furniture has certainly made a difference to the learning environment in these rooms.





### Footy Jersey Day and Cake Stall

Last week our SRC and Class Captains hosted Jersey Day and a Cake Stall to continue our efforts raising funds for Lebanon. The students also organised a Lolly Guessing Competition which Elissa El Katrib was the winner. I was proud to see the enthusiasm and efforts the students put in to organise the event. It was even more pleasing to witness the support the organisers had from the remainder of the students. The students raised \$2200 which has been added to the total amount donated to Lebanon. A fantastic effort by all involved. A special thank you to Ms Abdul Ahad, Mr Julius and Ms Khattar for working with the students in this event.

### Mock Trial Round vs James Ruse Agricultural High School

On Tuesday our Mock Trial team competed in their round 3 case against James Ruse Agricultural High School. Unfortunately, our team suffered a narrow loss by a mere 6 points. Despite the loss, the MCHF team put up a remarkable fight showcasing their grand efforts throughout the four-hour process. Both teams were referred to as being the

strongest teams the magistrate had witnessed in the Mock Trial and the MCHF team were referred to as being polished exceptionally well. In regards to the actual case, the plaintiff (MCHF) won the case against the defence (James Ruse). Despite this, the point system declares the winning team.

The College is very proud of the talents of Celine Harb and Wadih Tannous (Barristers), Grace Sleiman (Solicitor), Patricia Harb and John Massoud (Witnesses), Georgia Khattar (Magistrates Clerk) and Stephanie Atie (Researcher). We also would like to

thank Mr Chahine of Chahine & Associates Solicitors, who gave up his time to help guide the team. His expertise is highly valued and appreciated. We congratulate the Mock Trial team led by Ms Esber-Dayoub.



**WINNER of Lolly Jar guessing competition – Elissa El Katrib**



### RUOK? Day

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020, we joined with the Australian community in RUOK? Day. Flyers, information and decoration was placed around the College – there was even a special display in the Secondary Staffroom and the staff joined together at lunch. This day is our national day of action dedicated to reminding everyone that every day is the day to ask, “Are you OK?” and support those struggling with life's ups and downs. This year's message is ***'There's more to say after R U OK?'***





### Year 12 Graduation, Formal and Day Out

A letter was issued to all parents/guardians and year 12 students regarding the College's plans for Year 12 Day Out, Graduation and Formal. The Day Out has been cancelled and will not go ahead. The Graduation will go ahead but will only be attended by students and selected members of staff. Unfortunately, no parents/guardians or guests are permitted to attend. The College will livestream the Graduation via the College's YouTube channel. The formal is still going ahead as planned unless restrictions change next term.

### Year 11 Leadership Session

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Year 11 students participated in their leadership session as they prepare for the College Leaders to be elected for 2021. I led the session along with Ms Abdul Ahad. The students completed an activity and were provided information about this year's voting process. Students and staff will be voting for their leaders. Voting closes on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020.



### Year 8 Celebrating Mass

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Year 8 students celebrated Mass in the Primary Hall. It was an opportunity for Year 8 students to gather together and to celebrate Mass.

### Year 11 Preliminary HSC Exams

The timetable for Year 11 Preliminary HSC Exams has been released to students and included as an attachment

with this newsletter. The exams will commence on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and are scheduled to conclude on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020. Students are only required to be at the College for their exams during this time. We wish Year 11 students all the very best in their exams and we keep them in our prayers.

### **Year 11, 2021 Enrolment Interviews**

Year 10 students were issued this week their enrolment documentation into senior years. These documents will need to be completed and submitted back to the College by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Please note the documents and the enrolment fee must be paid to secure your child's place in senior years. The interviews to finalise the enrolment will be held in Term 4.

### **Social Media and Use of Mobile Phone**

A reminder that use of mobile phones at the College are not permitted. Students are to keep their phones away. A further reminder that students are not permitted to upload any photos or videos taken at the College or of any student in College uniform. Breaches of this policy will result in automatic suspensions.

### **Uniform and Grooming**

It is great to see a big improvement with the majority of students taking extra pride in their appearance. However, we need to remind you of our expectations in regards to uniform and grooming:

- Students must be wearing their Blazer to and from the College. This displays a professional image of our College in the wider community.
- The College does not accept hair colouring or streaks or foils etc. Students must display their natural hair colour at all times.
- Boys haircuts must be clean, neat and tidy.
- Boys must ensure they are cleanly shaven. The College will be focusing on this in the next couple of weeks.

Students at the College must demonstrate a sense of professionalism at all times and their appearance and presentation is a key and important factor of demonstrating professionalism. We thank all our parents/guardians who comply and support our expectations.

**Mr E. Asmar**

**Head of Secondary**

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- ★ Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September – Year 11 Exams
- ★ Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September - Final day of classes for Year 12
- ★ Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September - Year 12 Graduation Assembly
  - 9am: Preparation for Assembly
  - 10am: Graduation Assembly (Live streamed on College YouTube Channel)
  - 11:30pm: Conclusion - Students dismissed
- ★ **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Term 3 Ends for Students**
- ★ **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October – Term 4 Begins**
- ★ Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November – HSC Exams
- ★ Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Year 11 Leadership Camp
- ★ Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Year 4 First Holy Communion
- ★ Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Years K-3 Swimming lessons
- ★ Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Catch-up Immunisations
- ★ Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Years K-6 Remembrance Day Ceremony
- ★ Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Year 3 First Reconciliation
- ★ Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Year 6 Graduation
- ★ **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Last Day for Students**

## **★★★ CONGRATULATIONS ★★★**

### **All Rounder Awards:**

- ★ Peter Boutros, Joseph Charlie Khoury, Jaz Sahyoun, Anthony Bou Assi, Savannah Bazouni, Marielouise Bachlaani, Jade Bechara (Kindy)



- ★ Ciena Abdou, Pio El-Khoury, George Fahad, Mabelle Khoury, Laurice Zoghaib, Christian Abboud, Raphael Merheb, Michael Saba, Jacob Tawadrous, Dona Sleiman, Zayn Akkaoui (Year 1)
- ★ John Paul Khoury, Olivia Khouri, Marie Youssef, Nicolas Atie, Joe Sassine, Bakhos Bou-Francis, Charlie Taouk, Gaia El-Khoury (Year 2)
- ★ Eliana Al-Somsom (Year 3)
- ★ Sienna Younes, Annalise Khoury (Year 4)
- ★ Mykal Abdou, Rene El-Khoury, William Taouk (Year 5)
- ★ Tony Khoury (Year 6)
- ★ Elias Bechara (Year 7)
- ★ Celine Al Draibi, Maria Ebeed, Amanda Katrib, Samantha Georges, Jorge Dayoub (Year 10)

#### Bronze Awards:

- ★ Brendan Bazouni, Antonio Dib, Izabela Abdou, Elizabeth Azzi, Jacinta Sassine, Joseph Dababneh (Year 1)
- ★ Chanel Chahin (Year 6)

#### Silver Awards:

- ★ Salma Abou-Azar (Year 6)

## THIS AND THAT

Ms Zaferis' 7.4 science class making parachutes to test air resistance force as part of their physics assessment task.

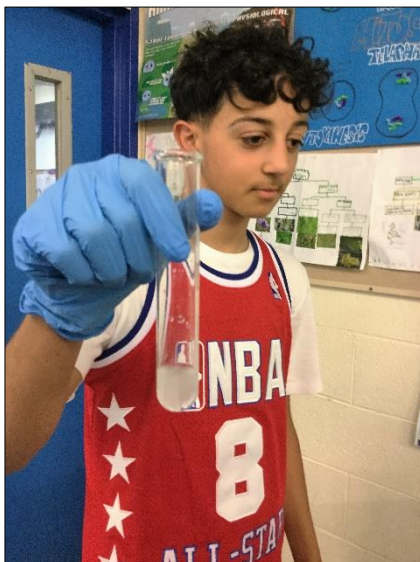


Year 3 students are having fun in the vegetable garden and learning some great life skills. We are looking forward to making some spinach pastries with Mrs Botros soon. – Mrs Ramsey





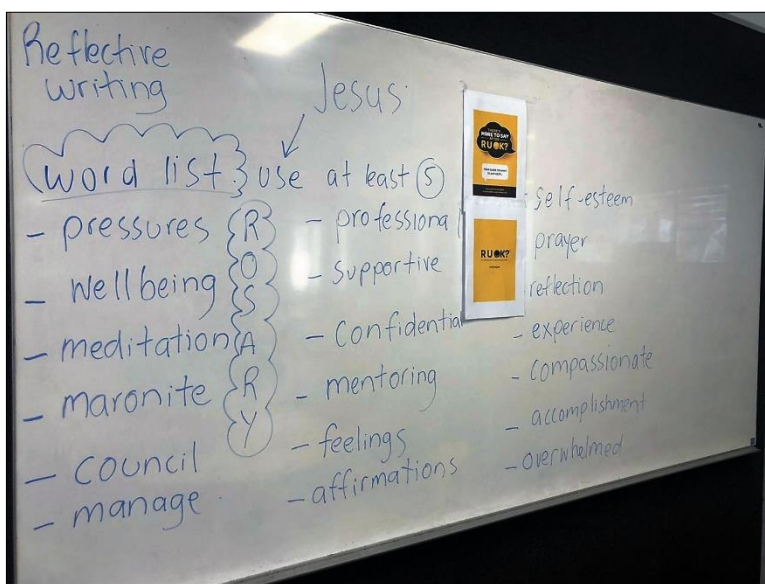
Ms Pietak's eager Year 10 Science students have been investigating exothermic and endothermic reactions.



Year 8 Science student learned how to perform dissection of a heart. Students examined a sheep heart, looking closely at the heart chambers, valves, and blood vessels. — Ms Pietak



R U OK? Day - Year 9 English students engaging in reflective writing using a key terms word bank to facilitate a response to how they can make sure their friends are OKAY.



Ms Cordina and Ms Delimetros presented a session to Year 7 girls on social etiquette and respectful friendships with one another. The girls were asked questions during the "Line Activity" to highlight their similarities and differences and identify ways to communicate with each other respectfully.





Mr Elhage presenting to Year 10 about Career Choices



## PARENT CORNER

### Message from Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Dear friends,

Two days ago, on Tuesday, I visited the new Chancery offices in the Diocese of Parramatta. The invitation was extended by my brother, Bishop Vincent Long, after a letter I sent to him. The visit provided an opportunity for me to also meet with the Chancery staff for the first time.

I was welcomed with great hospitality and charity. I was also surprised to be presented with a donation towards the relief efforts in Beirut, generously raised by the Parramatta Diocese. It was a kind and compassionate gesture and I thank them for it. This money is going directly to our charitable work in Lebanon and is not tied to any funding for our Eparchy.

During the visit, we discussed the new Religious Education curriculum that is being developed in the Diocese. The curriculum is currently in the first draft, out of a 4 draft process. I understand that some parents have concerns. However, I am confident that a process is in place which will ensure that schools in the Catholic



Diocese of Parramatta will continue to deliver Catholic Education which inspires our children to Christ and teaches in line with our Catholic Church.

Despite some media reports to the contrary, the program does not teach gender theory or gender studies. As clergy and laity, we all want our teachers to be equipped to answer questions that the students ask them. That comes with formation and direction. It does not come with vilification. More importantly we want our children to be equipped for the questions that the world is going to ask them and in the end we want to have confidence that our children will go out into the world and choose Christ and give witness to him.

We will be afforded the opportunity to read and provide feedback on the coming drafts of the curriculum as they become available.

I ask you all to be prudent in your use of social media, your comments, your words and what you share. If you have questions, please direct them to the Diocese of Parramatta with charity, remembering that every staff member of the Diocese is worthy of our respect and should not be attacked or abused while they perform their job.

As we are closing this season of Pentecost, let us not forget the Scriptures we have heard in the Maronite Lectionary. Our job as a Church is to build each other up in love and to seek God's mercy in humility.

Finally, I assure you that I will not allow any teachings against our faith and Maronite spirituality or moral values in any Maronite school. Please remember that we are all working towards the same goal, that is to raise a future generation of saints, formed in conscience, equipped to take Christ with them wherever they go and to make a difference for a better world.

**Dear parents and friends, we are constantly looking into ways to ensure our College environment remains a safe place for all to enjoy. College staff, students, parents and visitors are encouraged to report any hazards they may see while on campus grounds. In order to make this reporting process a little more accessible we have created an eform in our SkoolBag App. As always we look forward to working closely as a College community.**

**If you have changed any of your contact details, including your email address, please remember to *make the change/s through the parent portal.***

**This is extremely important, especially at this current time, as you will receive important documentation and urgent messages via email.**



**It is imperative that road rules are obeyed during drop off and pick up times. The College expects parents who cannot locate a legal car park on the street, to park in the Church car park. Parents should then walk to collect their children from the College grounds and accompany them safely back to their vehicle.**

**Police have been requested to patrol this area after a community complaint was received regarding illegal parking in front of the College.**

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