This week, on Thursday 15th August, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption. The Assumption of Mary commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven, a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time.

Because it signifies Mary, Mother of God, passing into eternal life, it is the most important of all Marian feasts. As we reflect on the importance of Mary, we are reminded of the unique role that Jesus’ Mother had in the history of God’s dealings with the human race.

At a time where worsening economic conditions bring rising unemployment and greater debt for many, and an awareness of the plight of so many around the world who face national dislocation, homelessness and poverty, a focus on Our Lady is a natural reflection for many Christians as we seek God’s intercessions to support those in need.

The timeliness of a Federal Election on September 7, 2013 brings to Australians an opportunity to further reflect on policies of the major parties, particularly in respect to those that affect the plight of the suffering such as in areas of economic and social policy.

It is also a significant time for education in this country. In the watershed of a period of much uncertainty around funding, the major parties are moving towards giving greater clarity around educational policy as they begin to articulate their educational policy for the future.

The Federal Government has introduced new funding arrangements which will apply to all Independent and Catholic schools from 1st January 2014. NSW government schools will also be funded under the new system following an agreement between the Federal and NSW governments. The Australian Education Bill was passed by the Australian Parliament on 26th June, 2013. To be implemented from January 2014 it is based on the Gonski Report from the Review of Funding for Schooling. The new funding model replaces the existing SES model for non-government schools and, for the first time, incorporates state government funding.

The new funding model provides a base level of funding for all schools and additional funding (called ‘loadings’) for disadvantaged students such as those with a disability, indigenous students and others with special needs. The loadings include additional funding based on the size of the school and for schools in regional, rural or remote areas. Independent and Catholic schools such as Edmund Rice College will receive, at a minimum, their existing level of government funding.

The phase-in of the new funding arrangements will generally see schools receiving small increases in funding from 2014 to 2016, with larger increases for most schools from 2017 onwards. Independent schools will no longer receive targeted program funding for students with a disability or other disadvantaged or special needs students – these funds will be ‘rolled into’ their recurrent per student funding. Schools will be required to source or purchase any required support for students from providers of such services.

Against this backdrop it is important for parents to consider the Educational policies of the three parties as we move towards the September election.

The Australian Labor Party articulated their policy in the following way. All non-government schools are covered by the Australian Education Act and will be funded according to a model based on the Schools Resourcing Standard (SRS) with additional funding provided for disadvantaged students through ‘loadings’. The new funding arrangements commence at the beginning of 2014, with the additional funding (loadings) being phased in over six
years from 2014-2019. All schools in NSW will receive funding according to the new funding model as result of the NSW Government’s agreement with the Commonwealth Government.

The Better Schools Plan (previously called the National Plan for School Improvement) provides a framework for a wide range of measures and policy settings that schools will be required to implement and adhere to. This includes the five broad reform areas of: quality teaching, quality learning, empowered school leadership, meeting student need, transparency and accountability.

If elected, the Liberal and National Party Coalition states that it will ensure Commonwealth schools funding committed by Labor for the school year 2014 will flow to all states and territories irrespective of whether they have signed a deal with the Rudd Government.

The Liberal and National party have stated that they will amend the Australian Education Act to ensure the states, territories and non-government sectors keep authority for their schools; and match the Commonwealth funding for schools committed by Labor over the forward estimates.

The Liberal policy promotes a commitment to work cooperatively and constructively with all states and territories to negotiate a fair and sustainable national funding model that, they argue, will deliver better outcomes for students.

The Coalition want schools to deliver better quality education through better teaching, better teachers, more community engagement, and more principal autonomy as well as through fair funding. With this policy the Coalition argues, it will work cooperatively with all the states and territories to deliver this.

Although The Australian Greens in their policy state that they are committed to the new funding arrangements as contained in the Australian Education Bill they call for a redistribution of funding away from the independent sector and more weighted to public schools. The Greens education policy states, among other things, that they seek to end public funding for ‘wealthy non-government schools’ and to reduce the capacity for new non-government schools to be established.

For schools, as we commence our budgeting process for 2014 and beyond, we still await accurate funding details from the major political parties. Hopefully finer detail will emerge as we near next month’s election.

Congratulations to Mr Daniel Breeze and Mr Troy Champion who have become new fathers this week!

PETER MCGOVERN

HSC PROJECTS SHOWCASE
Thursday 22th August 2013, 6.30-8.30pm

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY – TIMBER, GRAPHICS AND AUTOMOTIVE
Projects will be on display in the College Hall for parents and friends to view.

The TAS Department welcomes you to attend.

DRIVING INTO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS
For safety reasons during construction of the sports hall, we have been asked to keep traffic on the driveway to a minimum. In order to do this parents are requested not to drive into the Mt Keira Road entrance. Please drop off / pick up your son using the car park adjacent to Keira Park at the back of the College. This carpark is accessed via Keira Mine Rd off Robsons Road.
Social Justice & Peace Coordinator, Mr Persian

**FOCUS ON JUSTICE & SOLIDARITY**

A number of events last week, exemplified how Edmund Rice College addresses the Justice and Solidarity touchstone:-

“We are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the Earth itself.”

Year 10 have been studying a unit that integrates the themes of justice and peace, underpinned by Catholic Social Teaching in Religious Education called “Working for Justice in Australia”, culminating in their attendance at Social Justice Day at the College. During this day, students and staff were able to work with, and walk alongside, the Indigenous peoples of Australia, advocating justice and promoting reconciliation through a smoking ceremony to cleanse the spirit, mind and body and an opportunity to walk with Aboriginal Elder, Uncle Roy ‘Dootch’ Kennedy where he demonstrated the need for “a deep respect for and partnership with the environment, promoting eco-justice and working towards a sustainable and regenerative future for all creation”. Our keynote address was delivered by Mr Paul Power from the Australian Refugee Council, where students were given an opportunity to “recognise that they are part of a global community and were actively encouraged to support the development of all humanity”. A variety of presenters addressed small groups of students and allowed both staff and students to “nurture a culture of critical reflection and prayerful discernment in justice and peace issues”. During these sessions, a number of opportunities were suggested for possible involvement in immersion programs, in which “both students and staff could form relationships, work with, and learn from, those on the margins in our society”.

The afternoon saw the students participate in a session on the integration of modern technology, such as social media to adopt a “prophetic stance in the light of Gospel values and be involved in advocacy for just causes”. The day culminated with a liturgy that challenged students to reflect and act upon what they had experienced throughout the day.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Aboriginal Elder, Uncle Roy ‘Dootch’ Kennedy and Mr Paul Power for their keynote addresses as well as our small group presenters especially Mr Paul Power, Mr Phil Crawford, Mr Richard Zamora, Ms Maria Chi-Fang, Dr Alistair Reid and Ms Sharyn McKenzie along with other people who assisted on the day, for their time and effort. I would also like to thank the supervising teachers Mr Bates, Mrs O’Neill, Mrs Frappell, Ms Dawes, Mrs Knowles, Mrs Timmins and Mrs Cappetta for their time and effort.

The following day, the College conducted our annual Winter Sleepout. Edmund Rice students raise money for and experience the Winter Sleepout in the College Hall as a way to promote participation in service and solidarity learning programs in partnership with those on the margins. This year saw 25 students, Mr Preeo, Ms Watkins and Mr Persian experience the coldest night of the year so far with students constructing cardboard shelters for the evening. I would like to thank the two guest presenters on the night, Ms Erin Nichols from Eddy’s Place and Mrs Linda Anderson from St Vincent De Paul for addressing the students on the issues associated with homeless people. Thank you to also Mr Preeo, Ms Watkins and Mrs McDonell for your assistance in this event.

**The Year 10 Social Justice Day has been an annual event for many years for the students in Year 10 and Wednesday 7th August was no exception. This day displayed many significant aspects of social justice and provoked many different issues around the world that currently impact on us as a generation such as asylum seekers, public housing and single mothers, awareness of Aboriginal culture and children’s health in Uganda. A workshop including the use of symbols for storytelling was also an area of interest.**

**The boys from the start of the day were split into 8 groups, each assigned to two guest speakers for two different workshops. Each of these groups had 2-3 student leaders, who effectively assisted both the group and the running of the day in general. However, at the very beginning of the day, the entire form participated in a talk by Paul Power about asylum seekers and the general overview of the situation that faces Australia and the myths that surround it. The boys and I had our eyes opened to the realism of the issue ever-presently unfolding before our country’s eyes, and can say that this talk was a brilliant start to an ever better day.**

**We then split off into our personal groups and had the ability to query either first hand witnesses or the speakers themselves. We had the chance to indulge completely in our minds and brainstorm as a group ways that we can both make a change to these issues, and to make them known to whoever will listen. Once the first workshop had finished, each group then attended their second workshop in a row with the same opportunities as before, Once the second workshop concluded, each student hopped in the line for the lunch provided for us courtesy of the fantastic work by the Hospitality students and staff.**

**After lunch we proceeded to the hall to participate in a presentation conducted by myself and Dane Lautrec on the grounds of using Social Media for Social Justice and an Era for Change. We stressed upon the fact that many if not all the Year 10 students have instruments for Social Justice (i.e Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc) they are just either not aware of how they can act upon it, or are simply not willing to try.**
Everyone can make a difference simply by liking a page, reblogging a photo or tweet, posting their own material and simply being aware, as awareness is the basis for all change. Dane and I made the point of suggesting the boys put aside their social reputation, put aside how they are viewed by others, and to put their best foot forward and say “Yes, I want to make a difference.”

Each leaders then gathered their group, found their own area to reflect, and answered questions, wrote a prayer and a tweeted about their experiences of the day, including what they learnt and what they were then going to do about it. This part of the day, personally, was the most important activity, as students can sit through talks and presentations all day, but having the ability to write down their views and show what they took away from the day takes the cake.

The Year 10 Social Justice day, was not only a success for each student, but a stepping stone into the world of activism and change, where by simply listening to each guest speaker talk, influenced them in ways that they possibly won’t realise yet. Understanding the issues around us is the first step to standing up for the rights of those who seek justice. On behalf of Year 10, I would like to thank Mr Persian, Mrs Hurley, the guest speakers and the teachers, that all gave up their time and effort making the day as productive as it was. Isaac Hayne

On a fittingly cold and windy Thursday night, boys from all year groups participated in Edmund Rice’s 8th Annual Winter Sleep Out to raise awareness for the plight of some 150,000 people who spend winter without a permanent roof over their heads and also as a way to promote participation in service and solidarity learning programs in partnership with those on the margins of society. As usual the night was well attended, and the hall was filled with cardboard shelters of all shapes, sizes and degrees of practicality.

The fairness of the shelter building competition was called into question after the Year 12 commune was overlooked in favour of another year group that built on a pre-existing structure, but the frivolities were soon dispensed with as the boys sat down to listen to the guest speakers from Vinnies Van and Eddy’s Place, organisations from Wollongong that have strong links with advocacy and programs to help the homeless. The presence of a first-hand perspective was very insightful for those attending, and of course led us to reflect on how quickly our comfortable, secure lives can change due to unforeseen or uncontrollable circumstances.

While the hall was far warmer and safer than what most homeless people experience, the hard ground and chilly draught was enough to really hit home how lucky the majority of us are. On behalf of all the boys we’d like to extend our thanks to all the teachers who volunteered to forgo their comfy beds for a night to supervise: Ms Watkins, Mr Preeo and Mr Persian. And a special thanks to Mrs McDonell, Mark Jones and James McBeath for coming in early to cook us all breakfast!

**Missions for Week 4:**
Year 12: $40.45, Year 11: $11.25, Year 10: $210, Year 9; Year 8: $12.45, Year 7: $73.30

**Helen Lothian – Christian Service-Learning**

On Tuesday, 6 August, Sean Donovan, Projects Manager from Missionary of the Sacred Heart spoke to all Year 7 boys to thank them for their generous contribution towards the cost of drilling for a well in Kisenso, a suburb of Kinshase, the capital city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

One of the major problems the people of the Congo have had to face is the problem of drinking water and proper sanitation. Until recently people have had to go a long distance and even climb over hills to draw unsatisfactory water from distant wells and rivers. As a consequence, they now suffer from typhoid fever, cholera and intestinal worms, and many children have died from these diseases.

Work has begun on the well and moulds from Oxfam have been hired to make huge rings of cement and gravel which will eventually become the walls of the well. As no mechanical machinery is available work is performed manually, digging with picks.

The generous donation from the Year 7 boys is making a difference to the total cost of $30 000 that is required to provide the well for the people of the Congo.

**Reflection on Christian Service-Learning**

**Steven Varga** (Year 7.14) is to be commended for his completion of 53½ CSL hours within the community.

“This year I have learnt a lot about being patient and reliable. I have also learnt that it is important to be part of a team and work together. When we all work together towards a common goal, what we achieve can be amazing. I like working in the theatre. I like being one part of what makes the show on stage look good. I am not the type of person who likes to be in the spotlight but my work at the theatre can be in the spotlight. This relates to the verse I chose. God tells us to cover ourselves in compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience...

I hope I can teach someone else these things by my own good example when it is my turn to train someone in lighting at the theatre.”
MAJOR FUNDRAISER
As part of our fundraising for the Edmund Rice College Sports hall, due to be completed in March 2014, we are holding a Guessing Competition to assist with the funding of furniture and equipment for the new building. A raffle book is being distributed on Tuesday to each family. The book contains 25 tickets which sell for $2.00 each. We are asking students and their families to support the guessing competition by assisting in selling tickets. Raffle books and monies raised to be returned to the College by Friday, September 20. Additional books are available at the College office.

Careers, Mrs Hodson
POINTS TO UOW (Year 12) - Act by: 27th September 2013
If Year 12 students do well in relevant HSC subjects, they may be eligible for up to 3 extra points for doing well in subjects relevant to their chosen UOW degree. There is no application needed. UAC will facilitate this process. For more information on the program, including a point’s calculator visit the bonus points website.

NIDA Information Night (Years 10, 11, 12) - www.nida.edu.au/info2013
Date: 22nd August, 2013 Time: 6:00PM - 9:00PM
Venue: NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Art) Contact: Eleni Carkagis, marketing@nida.edu.au. Want to know more about applying and studying at NIDA? NIDA Info Night gives you the chance to find out all of the information you need to know about studying at Australia’s leading dramatic arts institute. Find out first-hand about the school’s elite undergraduate courses, world-class training facilities and graduate success stories. If you’re unable to make it, stream the broadcast live and submit your questions online in real time. Register to attend.

2014 William Blue Industry Scholarship (Year 12) - Act by: 20th August 2013
Contact: Jake Brown: jbrown2@williamblue.edu.au. William Blue College of Hospitality Management invites all aspiring Hospitality Managers, Event Managers, Tourism Managers and Executive Chefs to apply for the industry scholarship of a lifetime. Developed and chosen by the hospitality industry, this scholarship offers applied education – the recipients will get the chance to work with industry in the field. Visit www.williamblue.edu.au for a list of scholarship instructions and an application form - applications will be available from April. Applications close Tuesday, 20th of August @ 5.00pm.

Air Force Cadets Wollongong (Years 7-12) - www.aafc.org.au
The Australian Airforce Cadets [AAFC] is an air minded youth organisation open to young people aged between 13 and 18 years. Your local unit 314 Squadron is now recruiting. Information session will be held on Tuesday, 27th August and Tuesday, 3rd September at 7.00pm. Visit website for more information.

ADFA Open Day (Year 10,11,12) - Defencejobs.gov.au
Saturday 31st August 9.00-4.00pm, Northcott Drive, Campbell, Canberra, ACT. Find out what it is like to study and live at the Australian Defence Force Academy [ADFA]. Meet midshipmen, officer cadets and staff, watch military demonstrations, enjoy live music and more.

UOW Scholarships - 14th August 2013 (Year 12) - Act by: 28th September 2013
Applications are now open online and will close 28th September. Over 300 different types of scholarships are offered. Information on the UOW Scholarships website as well as application details. Hard copies of the scholarships brochure available at Year 12 information evening.

The Bachelor of Creative Arts [Music] is a new contemporary offering in 2014. A launch will be held prior to the Wollongong Year 12 Information evening. Venue: FCA Gallery Foyer Building 25. RSVP to Jacinta@uow.edu.au. More info on website.

UOW Information Night (Year 12) - www.uow.edu.au/futture/events/year12-info-evenings/index.html
Year 12 students and their parents are invited to attend on Tuesday 20th August commencing at 6.30pm. This is an event to learn about UOW programs such as early admission, bonus points and scholarships. The event will also cover important dates and processes between now and university enrolment in 2014. There will be an opportunity to speak to faculty reps. Register your attendance at the site.

If you would like to receive these alerts automatically via email, just subscribe to the free service at www.erc.careersalert.com. The information available at this site is a summarised service to the families and students attending Edmund Rice College. It is the responsibility of the reader to verify the currency and accuracy of information. Edmund Rice College denies any liability for incidental or consequential damages resulting from the use of this service.

COMMUNITY NOTICE: BULLI SHOW SOCIETY INC. 60th Annual Show is being held 14 and 15 September at the Bulli Showground, Princes Highway, Bulli. For more details go to www.thebullishow.com.

Canteen Roster for Week Commencing Monday 19 August – Group 2

| Monday   | C Tyson, S Munday, K Van Weerdenburg, A Riley, M Hiscox, N Cranny, M Roman |
| Tuesday  | S Cayley, H Milis, M Sierra Onofri, B Males, I Quintal, S Vicorosi, M Ballard,  |
| Wednesday| H Mindzas, T Leussink, D Ramsey, F Carlisle, K Delle Vergin, A Muir         |
| Thursday | A McKay, L Watling, C Porto, M Brown, J Tzortzis, M Florek, M Willcocks    |
| Friday   | J Dale, S Torilo, R Sears, A Daly, M Harvey, S Stemberger, M Bellinato   |
Father’s, Grandfather’s & Carer’s Breakfast

Thursday, 29 August 2013

The Edmund Rice College Parent Forum, in cooperation with Years 11 and 12, warmly invites you and your son/s to attend the inaugural breakfast on Thursday 29 August 2013. Come and join us for an informal BBQ breakfast in the new Covered Outdoor Learning Area (adjacent to the senior classrooms) in celebration of Father’s Day.

Special thanks to Mrs Narelle Ockenden, Canteen Manager, and her helpers who will be organising the breakfast.

Time: 7.00am – 8.00am

Date: Thursday, 29 August 2013

Entry & Parking: Keira Oval car park & surrounding streets

(If inclement weather the breakfast will be moved to the College hall)

RSVP: Please complete the following details by Friday, 23 August and return via your son’s Home Room admin folder or the College office.

Father/Grandfather/Carer’s Name(s):

__________________________________________________________

Son’s Name: ________________________________________________

Son’s Year/Home Room: _________________________________________

Number of people attending breakfast: __________________________

Founded 1926 – Proudly Catholic and Comprehensive – Boys Succeed at Edmund Rice College