On Palm Sunday at St Peter’s Basilica in Rome, Pope Francis called on the world to practice mercy and forgiveness. In Bishop Peter Ingham’s Easter message below he reflects on this theme in light of the Pope’s homily and the example of Pope Francis himself.

I am particularly grateful each year when the media give me the opportunity to convey an Easter message to you all. Some of my parishioners would know that a special text of Scripture that has inspired my ministry is from Acts Chapter 14 where it says that the Apostles Paul and Barnabas “put fresh heart into the disciples encouraging them to preserve in the faith.” (Acts 14:22)

We all need fresh heart from time-to-time, me included. I am reminded of a quote, “Aspire, to inspire, before you expire!” The events over the past couple of weeks with the election of our new Pope Francis have given so many people fresh heart and encouragement. His humility has inspired me and I feel like I have a new spring in my step.

In his unassuming way, the Pope has already shared many profound ideas such as our need to be protectors of life, protectors of the environment and protectors of those in most need in our society – such as our children. The Pope is calling the Church to continue to face its failings of the past and to ensure it always protects the most vulnerable in our society. He has spoken about how protecting each other demands goodness and calls for a certain tenderness which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength.

Pope Francis says that, “If we look upon others with tenderness and love, it opens up a horizon of hope; it lets a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds.” Christian people deal in hope because Jesus conquered our two great enemies, sin and death, by dying on the Cross for us and by rising again. Easter is about God’s mercy and forgiveness; bringing new life and hope.

Pope Francis has said that the Lord’s most powerful message is his mercy and forgiveness, “But it is not easy to entrust oneself to God’s mercy, because it is an abyss beyond our comprehension.” I hear people tell me, “I am too far gone Bishop, I am beyond forgiveness, I am a great sinner.” But, the Pope says, “All the better! Go to Jesus: he likes you to tell him these things! [Jesus] has a very special capacity for forgiving… he embraces you and he simply says to you: ‘Neither do I condemn you; go, and sin no more.’ (John 8:11)… The Lord never tires of forgiving: never! It is we who tire of asking for God’s forgiveness.” So my Easter message to you is: never tire of asking for forgiveness! God is our loving Father who always pardons, whose heart is merciful to us all so we in turn may learn to be merciful to each other. Have a blessed Easter.

This week at the School Assembly I had the pleasure of announcing the John Joseph Pollock Science Scholarship recipient for 2012. The scholarship was awarded to Nicholas Gandy who accomplished excellent results in Physics and Chemistry in the 2012 HSC. Nick is an outstanding example of a young man committed to the values of the College who was passionate about Science and imbued with a wonderful work ethic.

Below is the text of the inspiring speech he made to Years 11 and 12 at the Senior School assembly this week:

Firstly I would like to extend my thanks to Mrs Elizabeth Pollock for her bequest which has enabled this scholarship to be established in honour of her brother, a Science teacher and true advocate of Edmund Rice’s core theme: boys’ education. It is in remembrance of Mr John Joseph Pollock that I stand here today as the privileged recipient of this scholarship for 2012. To think that I began my Science education at this school by receiving a C in my first half yearly exam, I can assure you it was a result I reflected upon with amazement after I topped both the Physics and Chemistry HSC exams for our year group, receiving an ATAR of 96.25. I tell you this not because I am ostentatious or to justify laziness in junior school, but because I can understand all you battlers out there who deserve every ounce of praise for the energy you put into your work. Just as the first law of thermodynamics states that energy cannot be created or destroyed, your energy will not be in vain and will hopefully be transformed into success. However, on the flipside from nothing, nothing comes.

For all those who wish to succeed but can’t be bothered, you are not condemned however. Newton’s laws of motion are against you. You will have to force yourself to work harder so as to accelerate up to speed, but it is possible, anything is, especially when Science is enabling us to revive extinct species, see further and dig deeper. But enough of the Scientific parallels, all I’m saying is go proton style and remain positive. Year 11 and 12 are...
probably groaning as I reinforce this but you do need to work hard, time limit, balance and live healthily as they are all prerequisites for success, encapsulated most succinctly by the wise oracle Mrs Masters “there will be blood, sweat and tears”. But so far into the term I am sure all students have established some routine, good or bad, and therefore I will offer one alternative bit of advice which most Scientists would label as unscientific.

Max Planck, for those who are deprived in not having studied Physics was one of the famous founders of Quantum physics, an area of significant influence on the entire understanding of Science particularly on a sub-atomic level. Nonetheless Planck, like many others, realised that an unbreakable bond existed between science and faith. Planck himself stated that “over the entrance to the gates of the temple of Science are written the words: “Ye must have faith”. This faith that Planck mentions, is, with Science, a key for unlocking the questions of why and how. But amidst all this philosophy the underlying concept I am trying to convey is that when one has faith in one’s self and faith in God anything is achievable. By trusting in a greater power, whoever you deem this power to be, it is amazing how much pressure can be alleviated from your shoulders especially when the going gets tough.

However, this is not the only means of alleviating pressure. Teachers, friends and family will all play a part in helping you along. I personally am indebted to all the people who have guided me in my high school education, my success is your success. In particular I thank my teachers for their faith in me and I thank my parents for my faith, it will most definitely be a source of courage as I pursue a career in Mathematics and Science education. Therefore, I am especially grateful to my teachers, Mrs Elliott, Mr Dixon and Mr Ireland all of whom have inspired my interest in education by manifesting it as a noble duty of enlightening the ignorant just as Blessed Edmund Rice had sought to do 200 years ago. Nevertheless, this school embodies the faith of Edmund Rice as well as his educational aspirations and consequently I would like to conclude by emphasising the fact that this school is symbolized by the emblem you see on your diaries, your bags and everything that associates you with this College. And on this emblem is a motto which I call on all students to embrace “Deus Fortitudo Mea”, “God is my strength”.

PARENT FORUM

Our next meeting of the Parent Forum takes place next Tuesday, April 2 at 7.30pm. Our guest speaker will be Mr Ted Dixon, the Head of Mathematics. It would be wonderful to see many parents there. It is a great opportunity to find out more about what is happening in the College. Our remaining meetings for the year are:

TERM 1 April 2
TERM 3 July 23, September 10
TERM 2 May 14, June 25
TERM 4 October 15, November 26

Congratulations to:
A traditional event on the College calendar is the Royal Easter Show Principal’s Reward Trip which takes place on Holy Thursday each year. I take this opportunity to congratulate the following boys who have been recognised for their endeavours at the College:


Congratulations also go to:
- Max Hughes (Year 11) and Jack Rowe (Year 12) for their selection in the NSW CCC Hockey Team.
- Bailey Antrobus and Joseph Dickson (Year 7) who will be touring New Zealand and Tonga with the Illawarra Rugby Union team.

PETER MCGOVERN
Director of Identity, Mrs Hurley
Focus on Liberating Education

“We open hearts and minds through quality teaching and learning experiences, so that through critical reflection and engagement each person is hope-filled and free to build a better world for all.” Through education, people become free: free to develop their talents; free to contribute to the world; free to make choices. However, a liberating education is about more than becoming free to do things; it is about liberating ourselves from the dominant culture of selfishness and greed. A liberating education should fill us with hope and allow us to see that we can use our talents and resources to contribute to creating a more just society. Through focusing on this touchstone, the College enables students to experience and value a critical awareness of justice and peace issues through the curriculum, service and solidarity learning, environmental practices and the culture of the school. During this Holy Week in the Church’s calendar, it is appropriate to consider what needs to die in each of us for the Kingdom of God to be born. We hope that our students can respond positively when asked how their education enables them to make the world a better place.

Christian Service Learning, Mrs Lothian
The Christian Service Learning Program supports students in Years 7-12 on their journey to become aware of the needs of others and to provide them with practical opportunities to express care and concern for those around them. This commitment to service is an indispensable feature of a life lived according to the Gospel. An Edmund Rice education aims to enrich the lives of students by becoming, as Pope Benedict stated, “the fruitful link between evangelization and works of charity”. Consequently, the service project allows students to place their faith commitment into action and to gain a deeper understanding of themselves, their community and society. Following in the spirit of Edmund who devoted his life to prayer and charitable work, our students have also been demonstrating that the Gospels are a living testimony of a servant community. All of our young men in Year 11 are currently undertaking important roles within the College and local community. They are serving the disadvantaged, the marginalized, the disabled and the environment. They have begun to make a difference as they engage in a variety of opportunities to practically serve others.

“Over the past few weeks for CSL I have been working with kids with Autism and Down Syndrome as well as adults, teaching dance, at the moment Hip Hop dance. My role is to teach some steps to the kids and to also make sure that they are having fun. It is a rewarding experience as we are teaching people to gain confidence and to learn coordination. It is a great thing to do, and working with Big Dream Dance has taught me how to be a teacher and a better man.” Antonio Musumeci, Year 11

Mission Collections as of Week 9
Year 7 - $559.05; Year 8 - $141.35; Year 9 - $308.40; Year 10 - $658.80, Year 11 - $138.45; Year 12 - $327.35

Community Notice - iStand Camp – Wollongong Youth Mission Team
There will be a retreat / activities camp for people between 14-18 years of age Wednesday 17 – Friday 19 April, 2013 at Cataract Scout Park, Appin Road between Appin and Buli Tops. The cost is $98 which includes food, room and activities. Students are to find their own transport there but can contact the Youth Mission Team if they have difficulty with transportation. More information can be found at http://www.ymt.com.au . See Mrs Hurley for application forms.

World’s Greatest Shave/Crazy Hair Day – Friday, 12th April
On the 12th of April the College will be running the World’s Greatest Shave which raises money and awareness for those living with various blood cancers. Students are encouraged to register, raise money and brave the clippers on the last day of term to support fellow students, family, friends etc who have suffered cancer. Students can register on the World’s Greatest Shave website: www.worldsgreatestshave.com under the group “ERCBoyz”. Any parents who are barbers/hairdressers, and wish to donate their services and assist on the shave day, are asked to contact the College. The College will also be holding a “Crazy Hair Day” on the same day for those not brave enough to shave! Students who choose to take part will pay $5 per colour to have their hair spray- coloured for the day. Mr Persian and Jonathan Saba
Enrolments - Year 7, 2014

If you are aware of any parents intending to enrol their son at Edmund Rice College in 2014 please ask them to contact the College and an enrolment form will be mailed to them. Applications for enrolment must be returned to the College no later than Friday 12 April.

Guided Tours of the College

These tours are hosted by senior students and give you and your son the chance to inspect the College grounds and facilities. The tour lasts about 40 minutes and will be offered each Wednesday morning at 9.05am until the end of Term 1. Contact the College office to book your tour or book online at www.edmundricecollege.nsw.edu.au.

COLLEGE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL – THURSDAY, 4 APRIL AT BEATON PARK

- Normal Attendance times 8.00am – 2.05pm
- Compulsory attendance
- All school buses will transport to and from Beaton Park. All bus times are unchanged.
- Students who find their own way to school are required to find their own transport to and from Beaton Park.
- Bring your own lunch – canteen facilities are limited
- All students are required to wear full PE/Sports uniform and bring a change of shirt/T shirt in their House colour
- Students are required to remain for the duration of the Carnival.
  Parents/carers – please do not request an early exit.
- In the event of inclement weather a cancellation announcement will be made on WAVE and I98FM at about 6.00am. If the carnival is cancelled normal classes will run.
- There will be no Homework Club next Thursday due to the Athletics carnival.

ALL PARENTS/CARERS/FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON THE DAY

Technology Corner, Mr Frank Sirianni, IT Coordinator

Year 7 Backing Up Data Lesson

All Year 7 students will have a lesson this week on how to backup data on the iPad using Dropbox, iCloud and their home personal computer. Each student will bring home a booklet so that parents will also have information on how to regularly backup student work. Any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the College or e-mail me: fsirianni@edmundricecollege.nsw.edu.au

Australian Mathematics Competition, Mr Dixon

The Australian Mathematics Competition will be held on Thursday, 1 August, however, entry details need to be submitted this term. Maths teachers will be collecting the $5.50 entry fee in Maths lessons next week (2 April – 5 April). Students from Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 who achieved a grade A in Mathematics last year are expected to enter the competition. Other students are invited to enter. Every participant receives a certificate (High Distinction, Distinction, Credit, Proficiency or Participation) as well as a summary sheet of his results.

Cricket Clinic

The Andrew Hicks Easter Cricket Clinic will run on the 15th and 16th April, 2013 at North Wollongong Indoor Sports. The clinic will cater for boys and girls aged from 8-14. For prices, discounts and other information phone 0402 510425, email andrewhickscricket@gmail.com or visit Facebook page at www.facebook.com/andrewhickscricket

Careers, Mrs Hodson

Want to work in a club, hotel or restaurant? 27th March 2013 (Year 12) - www.ctcts.com.au

RSA and RCG courses available 15-17th April, 2013 at Smith's Hill High School. For more information contact 1800 706 306 or admin@ctcts.com.au

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.

From the Canteen, Wine Trip to Cowra

Book your seat now on this year's Wine Trip to Cowra, Young, Canowindra to be held on 6-8 July. Cost is $450 per person which includes accommodation for 2 nights, full buffet breakfast, 2 three course dinners and 3 lunches as well as wine tastings and entry to the Japanese Gardens. Wineries include: Ballina Clash, Grove Estate, Freeman Winery, The Mill, Taste Canowindra, Swinging Bridge, Rosnay, Tom's Waterhole, Kalari, Riverpark.

Canteen Roster for week commencing Tuesday 2 April – Group 2

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<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>S Cayley, H Mills, M Sierra Onofri, B Males, I Quintal, S Vicoroski</th>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>H Mindzas, T Leussink, D Ramsey, F Carlisle, V Murada, K Delle Vergin</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>NO CANTEEN DUE TO ATHLETICS CARNIVAL</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>J Dale, P Russo, S Torilo, R Sears, A Daly, M Harvey, S Stemberger, M Bellinato</td>
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Uniform Shop Opening Hours: Tuesday 2 April, 1.00-4.00pm, Thursday 11 April, 7.45-10.45am
Parishes Working Together ~ Regional Consultations, April 2013

In February this year all households were provided with a Workbook called ‘Parishes Working Together’. Parishioners then had the opportunity to discuss the issues raised in the Workbook at Parish Education Sessions. Across the Diocese more than 1000 people participated in these sessions and gave their initial feedback about possible changes in the Diocese. In April parishes will combine with neighbouring parishes in their region to give more particular feedback about:

- Parish boundaries and configurations
- Rationalising Mass times in some parishes to free up priests to serve in new locations of the Diocese
- Sharing ministries across parishes to use limited resources more efficiently
- Additional lay roles to collaborate with the clergy to meet the pastoral needs of faith communities.

These are big questions and Bishop Peter would like as many people as possible to be involved in the April regional consultations. At the Regional Consultations parishioners will receive models for discussion about which parishes might be grouped together in the coming years and in what ways parishes might work together. All people in The Diocese need to have the opportunity to put forward their views and hear what other people might be proposing for their parishes. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to have your say; we want school families to be part of the planning process for future change! For catering and organisation purposes please email: jane.edwards@dow.org.au or ring 4222 2404 to indicate your attendance. Remember: change happens when ordinary people get involved!

- **Southern Illawarra** - 4 April, All Saints Parish Hall, 19 College Ave, Shellharbour City
  (Parking in Church grounds with access to hall through the Church carpark), 7.30pm – 9.30pm
- **Central Illawarra** - 9 April, Xavier Centre, **Wollongong**, 7.30pm – 9.30pm
- **Northern Illawarra** - 11 April, St Joseph’s Church, **Bulli**, 7.00pm – 9.00pm
- Can’t make your regional time? **24 April**, Xavier Centre, **Wollongong**, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Holy Week Services

**HOLY THURSDAY - 28 March**
Immaculate Conception .........................6.00pm
St Therese Parish ...............................7.00pm
St Francis Xavier Cathedral .................7.30pm
St John Vianney Co-Cathedral .............7.00pm

**GOOD FRIDAY - 29 March**
St Francis Xavier Cathedral (Morning Prayer - 9.30am)

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
Immaculate Conception .......................10.00am
St Therese .......................................10.00am
St Francis Xavier Cathedral ................10.00am
St John Vianney Co-Cathedral .............10.00am
St Brigid's Parish ...............................10.00am

**SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD’S PASSION GOOD FRIDAY - 29 March**
Immaculate Conception .......................3.00pm
St Therese ......................................3.00pm
St Francis Xavier Cathedral ...............3.00pm
St John Vianney Co-Cathedral .............3.00pm
St Brigid's Parish ..............................3.00pm

**THE EASTER VIGIL Holy Saturday - 30 March**
Francis Xavier Cathedral (Morning Prayer - 9.30am)
Immaculate Conception .......................7.30pm
St Therese ......................................7.00pm
St Francis Xavier Cathedral ...............7.30pm
St John Vianney Co-Cathedral .............6.00pm
St Brigid's Parish ...............................6.00pm

**EASTER SUNDAY- 31 March**
Immaculate Conception .......................7.00am, 9.00am and 5.00pm
St Therese ......................................9.00am and 11.00am
St Francis Xavier Cathedral ...............7.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am and 5.00pm
St John Vianney Co-Cathedral .............8.30am
St Brigid's Parish ...............................9.00am
Mater Dolorosa ...............................10.00am