



## Dear parents, caregivers, and friends of Berne

In a recent Sunday gospel story, images of fear and trepidation run wild through the text. We hear of a rather unnerving encounter between Jesus and his disciples on a turbulent sea where they are being battered by the waves on the outside and fear on the inside.

We are Peter as he steps out of the boat in response to an invitation from Jesus. But as he gets closer to Jesus, he begins to sink. We have a desire to be open to Jesus' invitation to come to him, but falter when he gets too close for comfort. He might ask too much of us. Perhaps it's safer to know him from a distance.

There is real irony in all this, for our faith in Jesus matures as it is challenged in the rough and tumble of everything happening within us and around us. Moreover, closeness to Jesus will often mean venturing into turbulent waters and taking the risk of "rocking the boat". Living the way Jesus invites us to live, translating his message into action will involve us in actively confronting some of the agents of fear, disruption and injustice that unsettle our faith in the first place.

One of the obstacles we encounter as our faith struggles to grow and develop is to be found in the excuses we can make when the Gospel looks to be too demanding: "I'm not good enough, I'm not properly qualified, I'm no saint, I don't have what it takes, I can't do what's expected".

We know we can put God off and shrink from the demands of the Gospel by a false humility that proclaims that we are not worthy. We want to forget Paul's observation in his letter to the Corinthians: "...God chooses the weak to shame the strong" (1 Corinthians 1:27).

Perhaps one of the reasons why Peter faltered and began to sink was that he did not have enough self-confidence, he did not think he was good enough for what Jesus wanted of him.

Even if our faith in God, Jesus and ourselves might not be all we would like it to be, we

can find consolation in Jesus' words of encouragement to Peter and to all of us: "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

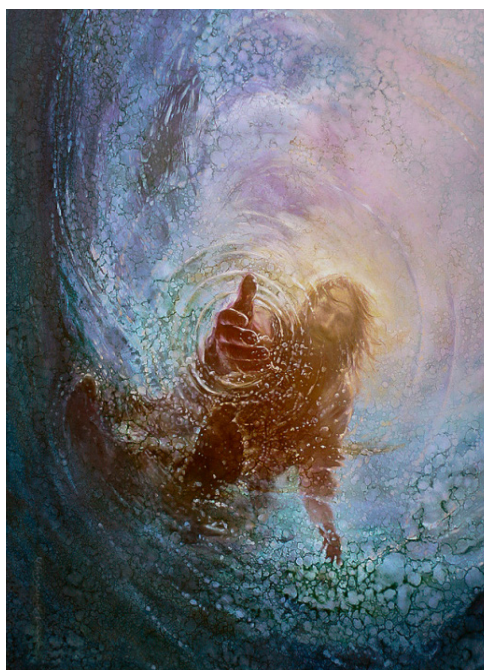
Having faith and confidence is what we continue to nurture in this environment. Yes, we have all faltered but it is in the belief that hope prevails to make it worthwhile to be encouraged to continue.

For Marists throughout the world the celebration of a mission of 200 years of good intent continues to give us hope despite faltering that has taken place along the way.

For our own part in this journey we trust all of us will work together, staff, parents, volunteers, supporters to ensure the opportunities are given to the young people in our care to live the Gospel with joy and gratitude even when it seems demanding of us.

Blessings,

Br Mark Paul  
Principal



## Issue 5 2017

### Upcoming Events

**22–25 August**  
Snow Camp

**23–25 August**  
Science Workshops

**4 September**  
Parent/Teacher Interviews

**4–8 September**  
Years 9 and 10 Work Experience

**6–8 September**  
Years 7 and 8 Activities

**8 September**  
Berne Trivia Night — fundraiser for Santa Teresa Immersion

**13 September**  
Whole school visit to La Perouse

**22 September**  
Students' last day Term 3

**11 October**  
Students' first day Term 4

**14–22 October**  
Santa Teresa Immersion

### In This Issue

Principal's Address  
Sydney Theatre Company  
Rewarding Regular Attendance  
Thank You Campsie RSL Club  
Year 9 Trip to Cabramatta  
Alumnus Visit  
Marist Bicentenary Mass  
Drug and Alcohol Awareness  
Marist Bicentenary Paintings  
Acting Up?  
Bullying  
Aspire Program  
Santa Teresa Immersion  
Welcome Sue Manns  
Welcome New Students  
Parents' Corner

## Sydney Theatre Company Drama Program

Beginning this term the Year 8 boys have the great opportunity of working with Felix Jozeps from the Sydney Theatre Company. The boys will work closely with Felix over the next 10 weeks where they will use drama exercises to develop their descriptive language skills, comprehension and inference and narrative writing.



Harry, Myles, Felix and Wilson getting into character

The boys have enjoyed the last two lessons and the course is allowing them to gain confidence and empathy for others by covering the concepts addressed in the book *The Island* by Armin Greder. This program is run every Thursday morning during Periods 1 and 2.

— David Stevens, Year 7 and 8 Teacher

## Rewarding Regular Attendance

The John Berne School offers a varied program for students. It is essential students attend school on a regular basis to achieve success and fully participate in the program. In an effort to further encourage student attendance the staff have introduced a \$100 Westfield voucher as a prize to be drawn at the end of the term for students who attend school regularly.

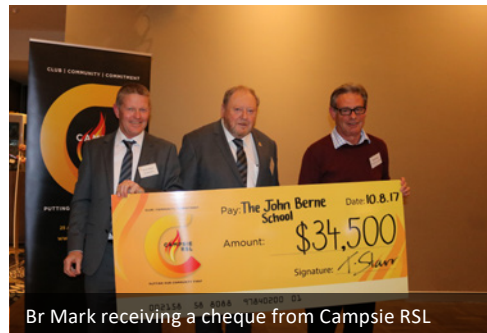
Students will receive a ticket each Monday if they have attended school for an entire week or have shown a vast improvement in their attendance. The draw for the voucher will take place on the last day of term and students must be present on the day if they are to claim their prize.

I would like you to encourage your son to attend regularly as they will achieve greater success here at Berne.

— James Le Huray, Assistant Principal

## Thank You Campsie RSL Club

Sincerest thanks and gratitude once again to Campsie RSL Club for their generous support of our school through the ClubGRANT Scheme, a shared State Government-Club Industry program, funded by a 2.25% gaming machine tax rebate provided by the State Government to those registered clubs with gaming machine profits in excess of \$1 million per annum.



Br Mark receiving a cheque from Campsie RSL

This year Campsie RSL Club has provided us with funding for new furniture for our classrooms, our Outdoor Education Program and resources for our special education literacy program and our library.

— Br Mark Paul, Principal

## Year 9 Field Trip to Cabramatta

At the end of Term 2, Year 9 attended a Geography field trip to Cabramatta to consolidate their learning in their unit of work on Changing Places. We discussed what we would see, feel and hear and completed a timeline on the history of Cabramatta and how it has changed since its European settlement in the 1800s.



Matthew, Michael, David, Joseph and Jaydyn in Cabramatta

Once we were in Cabramatta we walked up the main precinct on John Street looking at the European and Vietnamese influences on the architecture and shop fronts. We took photos of the architecture and enjoyed a Vietnamese lunch of noodle soup.

— Nicole Arathoon, Year 9 Coordinator

## Alumnus Visit: Ben Noonan

Over the years The John Berne School has been blessed to have many ex students reach out and reconnect with the school. We are always very excited and intrigued to see what life beyond

Berne has offered our students.

Ben Noonan was only at the school for one year in 2001, but that one year at The John Berne School proved to be a major turning point for Ben.



Br Mark Paul and Ben Noonan

Ben is now 31 years old and currently travelling between Africa and Australia after an offer he accepted to aid a few close friends who he met during missionary work in Darwin.

For Ben, the journey of healing began at The John Berne School. He did not feel accepted or a sense of belonging in his mainstream school so he decided he needed a switch and new perspective on life. The John Berne School opened many doors of opportunity for Ben which included work experience, church, sport and counselling.

We are so proud to have played such an important role in Ben's teenage life.

"People always hear about behavioral schools and they don't always have the best reputation but I keep telling them, this is not like any other behavioral school, it's not like one of those government ones, it's completely and utterly different."

On behalf of The John Berne School and the wider community, we would like to wish Ben the very best of luck in his future endeavours.

— Br Mark Paul, Principal

## Marist Bicentenary Mass

On Saturday the 12th August, the Marist community gathered together in Parramatta, Melbourne and Brisbane to celebrate Mass for the bicentenary of the Marist Mission.

On the 2nd January, 1817, Marcellin Champagnat, along with two other young men began the first community of Marist Brothers in Lavalla, France.

This celebration was certainly a testament to the reality of Marcellin's dream coming to fruition and encourages us to continue following in his footsteps: to work with the young, the marginalised and the poor — "To love them as our own".



During the service, Br Peter Carroll, the Australian Marist Brothers Provincial, reflected on the Marist journey over the past 200 years and in particular how Marcellin's focus was on community and the importance of relationship — something that we constantly strive for here at Berne in Marcellin's honor. In particular Br Peter reflected on three words, which should shape our celebrations: gratitude, forgiveness and commitment.



Bicentenary Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral

All present were certainly proud of the tradition that we are helping to keep alive every day by sharing this ministry with the families of Berne.

— Chris Langridge, Counselling Coordinator

## Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program

We are very lucky to have Sally Riley from CatholicCare Lewisham, co-delivering a drug and alcohol awareness program with myself to Year 10.



Sally Riley from CatholicCare

The program is run over six weeks and employs self-reflective and awareness raising activities in a highly interactive style. The program invites the students to discover more about themselves, and link this with how to manage challenges associated with alcohol, drugs and other addictive behaviours.

Topics covered include basic information in regards to the various drugs with which young people may come into contact, with specific reference to the major physiological and psychological effects.

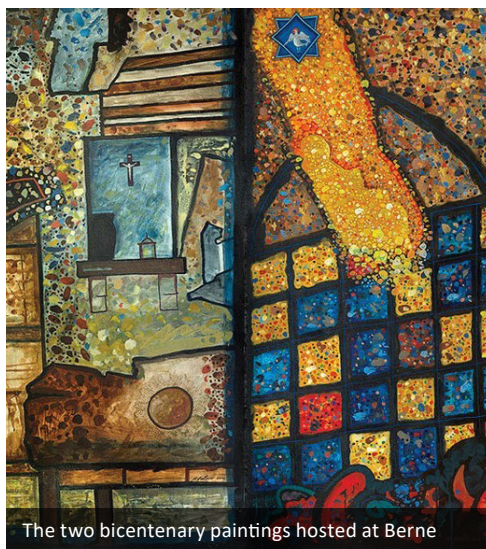
Sessions also focus on the impact substances have on relationships, personal values, mental health and self esteem.

We are currently in the third week of the program and all students have been engaged and learning during this time.

— Phoebe Mitsak, Counsellor

## Marist Bicentenary Paintings

To mark our Bicentenary, four paintings were commissioned to reflect our journey as Marists. This journey of the four paintings was launched at Santa Teresa in Central Australia in February and two have now been on display at The John Berne School.



The two bicentenary paintings hosted at Berne

Throughout Week 5 students and staff had the opportunity to further engage, reflect and pray around them. The two paintings were on display in the church hall which is shared with the St Thomas Becket Parish. If you are interested in viewing all the icons please visit the [Marist Association website](#).

— Tanja Dunne, Year 10 Coordinator

## Acting Up?

No, The John Berne School's students were up there, acting! The Belvoir Theatre: centre-stage, under racks of lights, before tiered seating packed with 70 pairs of curious eyes.



The Berne cast waiting for their turn on stage  
Photograph: Patrick Boland

For ten weeks they had devised their script, performed acting drills, learned their lines and rehearsed the action. They were ready.

The result? *Frenemy*, their story about a student out of control, discovering a better way to journey through life. Christian played the lead character with grit. He was ably supported by the acting team of Costa, Will, Max, Zane and TJ, who all portrayed their characters believably and commendably. The show was dark but hopeful and peppered with well-delivered humour. The audience loved it.

Huge thanks go to everyone at the Belvoir Theatre, especially to James Winter, the students' mentor and director, and to Belvoir's Education Manager, Jane May.

— Grant Lee, Year 10 Teacher

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PUTTING OUR COMMUNITY FIRST

Sincerest thanks to our supporters  
at Campsie RSL Club

## Bullying

Bullying is the ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical, and social behaviour that causes physical or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power over one or more persons. Bullying can happen in person or online, and it can be overt or hidden.

The John Berne School does not accept or condone bullying. When an incident of bullying takes place the student will be sent home for the day, he will spend the next full school day in the Support Unit and participate in a Restorative Justice meeting with the other student involved. Should the bullying continue a further two day suspension will follow and a parent interview will be required upon return to Berne.

I appreciate your support in this matter and trust you and your son will inform the school of any bullying that may occur whilst at school or after school hours.

— James Le Huray, Assistant Principal

## Aspire Program

This term the boys of Years 7, 8 and 9 have travelled to the Hermitage at Mittagong to participate in the Aspire Program. The Aspire Program is designed and delivered by dynamic former Canberra Raiders captain Alan Tongue.

Alan delivers this program in Canberra but after learning about Berne, agreed to travel up each week and meet us at Mittagong to deliver his program.



Staff and students in a session led by Alan

The physical-based mentoring program is hands on and focuses on building self-esteem, explores strategies to tackle adversity and equips young people with some skills and knowledge to achieve their goals.

— Anthony Rooskie, Year 7 and 8 Coordinator

On enrolment, 95% of our students assess into one or more of the lowest national bands in reading, writing, language and literacy.

## Santa Teresa Immersion

Following on from last year's immersion a group of staff and students will again visit the Ltyentye Apurte Community, via Alice Springs in Central Australia, home to indigenous people of the Arrernte nation.

Students have been invited to make written submissions expressing their desire to be involved in the immersion which will take place during Week 2 of Term 4. Applicants will be interviewed and selected based on their written submissions, interviews and also their suitability, attendance, behaviour, progress at school and willingness to be involved in fundraising.

During the remainder of this term there will be opportunities for the school community to get behind the immersion and support the team.

— Michael Muranty, Immersion Coordinator

## Welcome Sue Manns

The John Berne School would like to extend a very warm welcome to Sue Manns who joined our staff this term as a Year 7 and 8 teacher.



We welcome Sue to the Berne community

Sue is an accomplished PDHPE teacher, and in recent years has worked in a number of special education schools. She brings with her a wealth of experience and we are very excited to have her as part of our team.

— Br Mark Paul, Principal

## Welcome New Students

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to new students who joined our school in recent months: Myles, Patrick and Joel in Year 7; Daniel and Wilson in Year 8 and Thomas in Year 9.

## PARENTS' CORNER

### The Importance of Resilience for Adolescents

Young people need resilience to prepare them for the difficult situations they will face as they journey through the adolescent years.

Resilience helps them to face situations that they cannot change, the ability to bounce back when things go wrong and develops strengths to face the next challenge.

Resilience helps when difficulties arise at school, with friendships and their own frustrations. Unfortunately though, we find that some young people run away from challenges, hide when things go wrong and avoid any kind of decision making.

It is important as the adults in their life that we encourage them to develop resilient skills. For some this will entail undertaking a specific program, such as the Resourceful Adolescent Program (RAP).

Generally all young people need to be supported by positive relationships within their family, have strong role models within their community and at school and be encouraged to understand the needs of others and develop empathy.

— Chris Langridge,  
Counselling Coordinator

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