



Dear parents, caregivers, and friends of Berne

Martin Scorsese recently released the movie *Silence* in which he grapples with the issues of faith. It is a powerful portrayal of the conflict of faith and the necessity for belief to fight the voice of experience. The voice that always urges the faithful - the questioning faithful - to adapt their beliefs to the world they inhabit and their culture. Believing and questioning go hand in hand; one nourishes the other. As Scorsese says, "questioning may lead to great loneliness but if it co-exists with faith - true [and] abiding faith - it can end in the most joyful sense of communion."

The main character, Fr Rodrigues, was tested in an especially painful way. He is placed in the middle of a hostile culture during a protracted effort to rid itself of Christianity. It is a story of a man who learns painfully that God's love is more mysterious than he knows, that He leaves much more in the ways of men than we realise and that He is always present even in His silence.

This film was set in 16th century Japan but the same question needs to be asked today: are we ridding ourselves of Christianity in our culture? Sunday's scripture from Isaiah is a timely reminder of the faithfulness of God: "But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.' Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you." The promise made to us is taken in faith.

With a new academic year well and truly underway I wish to commend your efforts in supporting the work we do for the education of your children; it requires an act of faith and commitment on your part to bring growth to fruition. We have completed the first Parent Evening for the year and started an evening workshop for parents to tune into teenagers' needs and I believe we are travelling well in ensuring the best opportunities for education are in place. The programs on offer in 2017 were outlined at the Parent Evening. These are designed to complement the core curriculum, tap into their gifts, extend the students and build resilience in them. Our friends of Berne continue to

be great supporters of these programs and we welcome them on board again.

You may have noticed that we have refreshed our website with more to be done to provide current and up to date information on the school. I invite you to browse the site and also the two other media platforms, Facebook and Instagram, that we are using. In this age of increasingly accessible information we hope that we can keep you more fully informed. We see it as a means for parents to engage more with the happenings in the school and for our supporters to understand what we are doing.

Each year educational institutions put in place strategic priorities. We have three key priorities: literacy and numeracy, school refurbishment and investigating new models of learning. We are well underway with these priorities and trust we can achieve even better outcomes for the students.

This year we celebrate Marist 200, our bicentennial. It is an opportunity for us to reflect on our Marist traditions and look to what the future can become. A number of bicentenary events are being planned for the year. I shall keep you posted on these as they draw closer. We also welcome new staff, students and all those who are to journey with us this year. May it be a blessed year for all of us!

Br Mark Paul fms
Principal



Issue 1 2017

Upcoming Events

1 March

Ash Wednesday

1-3 March

Year 8 Activities

6-10 March

Year 10 Work Experience

8-10 March

Year 9 Camp

20-24 March

Year 9 Work Experience

20-24 March

Year 10 Camp

7 April

Stations of the Cross at Mittagong
Students' Last Day Term 1

26 April

Students' First Day Term 2

5 May

Annual Berne Luncheon
Pupil Free Day

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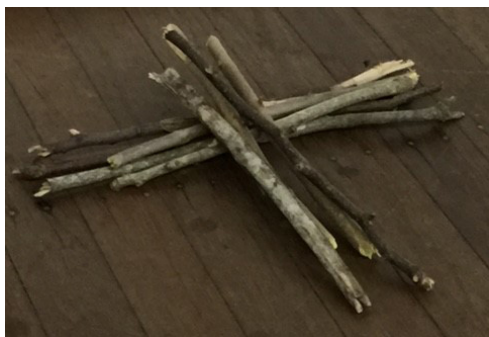
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Opening School Mass

Two hundred years ago Marcellin Champagnat founded the 'little Brothers of Mary'. The dream he had continues to and has always been anchored by and in Mary; Marcellin called her "our good mother". From the beginning Marcellin had the vision of a family atmosphere. The Marist Brothers order was to be uncomplicated and



Fr Erick's homily during the opening Mass



One stick on its own is easily broken but a bunch of sticks together is unbreakable.

relational; based on simplicity and love.

The Mass was a wonderful opportunity for the whole school to come together as we begin the new school year. In addition, the Mass provided us with the opportunity to formally welcome Father Erick to The John Berne family. Fr Erick delivered an engaging homily that very

clearly demonstrated that we are stronger together. One stick on its own is easily broken but a bunch of sticks together is unbreakable. By awakening to the needs of those in our family and community we can be that unbreakable bundle.

— Tanja Dunne, Year 10 Coordinator.

Student Behaviour on Public Transport

The students at The John Berne School are supervised in the morning and afternoon by staff when on the train station at Lewisham. The school does not condone or accept poor behaviour at the train station or whilst travelling on public transport and will enforce consequences if students' behaviour is deemed unacceptable.

Below are requirements listed by transport NSW whilst travelling on public transport and a link to Student Codes of Conduct:

- be mindful of safety
- respect transport staff, transport property and fellow travellers
- offer their seat to paying customers
- always travel with a valid ticket or Opal card
- tap on and tap off every time if they are travelling in Opal areas.

Student Codes of Conduct are available at www.transportnsw.info

I would appreciate your support in ensuring students travel respectfully and follow the guidelines as outlined above.

— James Le Huray, Assistant Principal

Welcome New Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new staff members: Kelly Wafer and Cameron Craig. Both staff have many years experience in teaching and are passionate about working at Berne.

Kelly will join the the Year 9 team and the literacy team this year. Kelly has many years of experience working one to one with students and staff to lift student literacy and has a passion for ensuring student work be individualised in an effort to meet their needs. We look forward to Kelly working closely with staff and students in developing innovative classrooms.

Cameron will join the Year 8 team this year. Along with the teaching of core subjects, Cameron has a passion for and background in music. Cameron will introduce Music into the Flexible Learning classes and, in time, develop a comprehensive music program for students at Berne.

I would also like to welcome back

Tania Henderson from sick leave and thank Karen McCarney for her hard work and contribution in the canteen whilst Tania was absent.

— James Le Huray, Assistant Principal

Parent Information Evening Monday 13th February

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all parents and carers who were present at the Parent Information Evening. The evening began with a presentation from Br Mark outlining the many programs we offer at The John Berne School and how these will impact on the students' lives. There was emphasis placed on literacy, numeracy, work experience and the Tuning in to Teens program.

Br Mark spoke of the importance of working collaboratively ensuring staff, parents and carers, and students were all receiving the same message. The support parents and carers give to students and staff will further build positive relationships and in turn will lead to more positive outcomes. Br Mark concluded his presentation with a short clip of past students who had successfully completed the Berne program.

The year coordinators and pastoral care teachers were then given the opportunity to talk to the parents and carers of those students entrusted into their care. This gave the staff the opportunity to outline the year ahead in detail, answer any questions and meet on a more intimate basis with parents and carers.

At the conclusion of the individual year group meetings everybody gathered in the hall for a light meal and the chance to continue discussions. I would like to thank Tanja, Donna and the Year 10

Thank you

The John Berne School gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Burwood RSL Club for their grant to purchase recreational equipment for our students including fishing tackle and equipment for our pool tables. We thank them for this support which is greatly appreciated by our school community.

students for the preparation of a wide variety of salads. There were many positive comments from both staff and parents and carers whilst having dinner.

Once again I would like to thank all who were present on Monday and emphasize the importance of working together as we are a small Marist community that prides itself on building positive relationships and achieving success with the students entrusted to us.

— James Le Huray, Assistant Principal

Year 9 Flexible Learning

Year 9 Flexible Learning students Ewan, Paul and Jaydyn have been busy replanting the garden beds. So far they have removed old weeds and rubbish, built up the soil with new nutrients, turned and watered the soil and planted new plants.



Paul and Ewan enjoying their gardening

They have planted Roma and Cherry tomato seedlings and rocket, parsley, strawberries, carrots, spinach, snow peas and sunflower seeds. They have been diligently watering them so that they survive the heat and hope to share the fruits of their labours in the near future!

— Kristina Allan, Year 9 Teacher

Drumbeat

We are very lucky to have Sally Riley from Catholic Care Lewisham, delivering the DRUMBEAT program to Year 10.

The DRUMBEAT program is the world's first structured learning program using music (drums), psychology and neurobiology to reconnect with ourselves and others. The brand name DRUMBEAT is an acronym for Discovering Relationships Using Music, Beliefs, Emotions, Attitudes, and Thoughts.



DRUMBEAT workshop in the Champagnat Room

Each DRUMBEAT session uses the drum and focuses on different relationship themes such as identity and social responsibility, values, dealing with emotions, peer pressure, harmony, communication and teamwork. The program will end with a final performance. We are currently in the second week and the students and staff are thoroughly enjoying it.

— Phoebe Mitsak, Counsellor

Aikido with Darren Friend

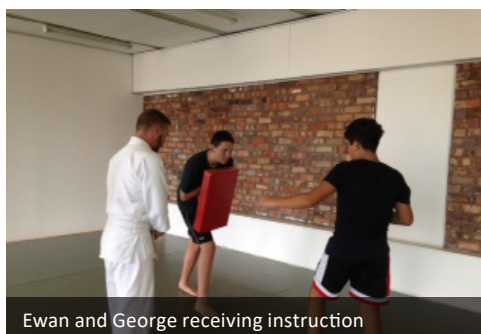
Year 9 will be learning the Japanese martial art of Aikido each Friday this term. Their instructor is Darren Friend a well known and well respected professional in his field. Last week we had our first of six sessions at Marrickville with Darren and his team learning about conflict resolution and the benefits of Aikido. We are really looking forward to the sessions ahead.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Petersham RSL Club for their generous grant to sponsor the Aikido Program this term.

— Nicole Arathoon, Year 9 Coordinator



Kerry and Paul train together



Ewan and George receiving instruction

Tuning in to Teens

The first session of the six week Tuning in to Teens program the counselling staff are running for parents was held on Monday 20th February. This program has been designed here in Australia at Melbourne University with research indicating significant improvements for participants especially in helping parents and carers have a greater understanding of their child's emotions, managing their own anger and developing increased empathy and decreased reactivity. Previous participants have reported calmer households, an increased level of communication and decreased conflict situations.

Accessing support is often difficult as we feel that we have somehow failed - in fact, it is well known that it is a sign of strength that you have decided to make changes for the sake of your family. The counselling staff



are very excited to present this program to you and are confident in the support we will be able to show you along with the other members of the group. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either Phoebe or myself here at the school. If you are unable to attend this term there will be another opportunity in Term 3.

— Chris Langridge, Coordinator of Counselling Services

ASX Art Union Raffle

We're still in need of your help to be able to receive a donation of up to \$35,000 from the ASX Thomson Reuters Charity Foundation. These much needed funds will go towards the Counselling Program at Berne. In order to receive these funds, we need to sell a large volume of tickets for this raffle. We have not yet reached this target.

The raffle will be drawn in less than three weeks. For your chance to win, and at the same time to help support the school, please click the link below for more information.

[ASX Art Union Raffle](#)

Year 10 Friday Program

The Friday Program for Year 10 students is off to a great start. The students have had the opportunity to go fishing, swimming and rock climbing so far. The program is designed to encourage teamwork, teach students new skills and provide the opportunity to succeed in learning situations outside the traditional classroom. So far William holds the record for the catch of the day with a 32 cm tailor caught off the Balmoral Wharf. The students have been given some choice in which activities they select and we have had great engagement and behaviour as a result. We are looking forward to a new adventure each week.

— Tanja Dunne, Year 10 Coordinator



Eryn hauling in his catch

Welcome New Student

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to new student, Kerry Luong, who joined our Year 9 group this Term.

Please Save the Date

The Annual Berne Luncheon 2017 will be held on Friday 5th May from 12 noon to 3.30pm at Doltone House Hyde Park. Invitations will be sent out soon.



Indoor rock climbing

Maths Pathway

In 2017 Maths Pathway is being used at The John Berne school to engage students in Years 7, 8 and 9 with Mathematics. With a focus on moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach to a fully differentiated model, Maths Pathway allows students to access suitable learning at their individual levels. Further information about Maths Pathway can be found at www.mathspathway.com

— Anthony Rooskie, Maths Coordinator



Trent and Kerry enjoying a guitar lesson

PARENTS' CORNER

Helping Your Children Develop a Good Work Ethic

Think about how you speak about your work. Is it drudgery, or something you do because you enjoy it? The language we use at home plays a large part in determining how our children will approach their own working lives. Even in an uninspiring workplace there are positive experiences that we can re-lay in our everyday conversation.

The school work-experience program is a valuable tool to help your child get to know something of what they like or don't like in a workplace. Seemingly obvious questions such as, "Do you like working inside or outside?" will be answered.

Sometimes young people are overcome with the responsibility of simply making a decision about where to seek work experience. Let them know this is not a life altering decision, just an opportunity to try something new—have a go.

Chances are that the jobs we have some years after leaving school are not the jobs we thought we would have when we were 16. We ask young people all the time what they want to do when they leave school—rarely are they able to give a definite answer. We should not be frustrated by this as it is not necessarily a lack of interest or direction, rather an honest answer. We can help our children by providing opportunities for them to learn about different jobs. Use the school's work experience program. The internet is a great source of information too—if you can, work with your child and check out the numerous employment vacancies to start.

— Chris Langridge,
Counselling Coordinator

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