



## CHILDREN ARE A HERITAGE FROM THE LORD

Psalm 127: 3



Our College has returned from a week of enforced school closure and two weeks of term holidays, and once again Victorians are confronted with the very difficult situation of lockdown, this time for six weeks.

In the school context, our Years 7 – 12 students have had to contend with extremely different modes of learning, some on-site whilst others are at home or at other locations. There is much online learning, enforced independence and personal decision-making, regardless of the assistance from home or school. And still the confusion and the uncertainty affect them.

It makes me realise how precious our children are. The psalmist proclaims children as the heritage given to parents from God, 'offspring a reward from Him'. It can be argued quite sensibly that for the majority of students, they have never needed the love, comfort, assurance and companionship of their parents as they do right now.

Parents recall with vivid memory the first time they cast eyes on their child, the treasured son or the beloved daughter. Regardless of whether the new born was the first, second or even further down the line, each birth, each sound first heard, each initial touch of parent and child fingers, each breath heard from the sweet mouth of the child, the presence of a child in the life of a parent is rightly called a heritage, and a gift.

Today, parents see their child and often a mere word, swift gesture, sudden realisation will relive the wonder of birth and that first encounter. Whether it be the primary aged child, his Year 7 sibling, her older sister studying VCE, the individual child remains precious in the mind and heart of the parent. Probably that is why we do not like to see them suffering or stressing or panicking at this time of COVID-19 and all that it brings with it.

Many Monican parents are doubly blest when their child provides them with grandchildren. The image of the three children plus a babe in arms published to accompany this article, are sculptures by Leopoldine Mimovich R.I.P. that I own, and they are placed on the edge of my desk in Augustine House. They represent for me our two granddaughters and whoever joins their family in the future (yet another in October).

Children bring joy and pride: satisfaction and delight into the life of a parent. That is why they are a heritage. Children are all created by God through their parents and straight away the 2020 College theme 'Gifts on the Table' comes into bright, glorious light. Children are God's gift to parents and life is the gift the parents give to their children.



We are fortunate to know a little of the child Jesus through Scripture, His birth in Bethlehem, his first journeys into his missionary life, and we receive glimpses of Mary and Joseph as the concerned parents, the loving parents, the nurturing mother and step father raising a son.

As educators at St Monica's College, Epping, I commit the whole staff to the care and growth of your children.

## ENROLMENTS

Close off date of Year 7, 2022

9 October 2020



### **Enrol Now**

For Year 7, 2022 And 2023  
Limited Places Available For  
Years 7 - 12 For 2021.

#### **St Monica's College, Epping**

[www.stmonicas-epping.com](http://www.stmonicas-epping.com)

T: 9409 8800

Junior Campus Years 7 - 9

400 Dalton Road, Epping VIC 3076

Senior Campus Years 10 - 12

16 Davisson Street, Epping VIC 3076



## CAREERS CORNER



A number of universities are now offering early entry into some of their courses in 2021. Year 12 students who are intending to apply for courses at these universities should seriously consider applying for these early entry programs. You may end up receiving an offer to study at the university even before exams begin!

### ACU – Community Achiever Program

**\*applications close on 12 August**

The program offers future students who are active in their community, early entry to their undergraduate course of choice.

<https://www.acu.edu.au/study-at-acu/admission-pathways/i-volunteer-regularly>

### La Trobe – Aspire Program

**\*applications close on 31 August**

The Aspire program rewards you for your leadership, volunteering or community contributions.

<https://www.latrobe.edu.au/study/aspire>

### Swinburne – Early Entry Scheme

**\*applications close on 31 August**

A different way to enter university that will not depend on your ATAR. (For Semester 1, 2021 only).

It has been a tough year (tougher for some than others). And so, to restore balance in the universe, we are making early conditional offers (as early as August!)

You will still need to complete Year 12 and achieve specific subject study scores to receive a full offer, but you will not have to sweat the ATAR you end up with.

<https://www.swinburne.edu.au/alerts/coronavirus/future-student/early-entry-program/>

## FOR OUR SENIOR STUDENTS

This is a **BIG CONGRATULATIONS** to our senior students and Year 10 VCE students on how they have coped with most unusual circumstances since their return to face-to-face learning. Bravo to them on temperature control daily, wearing of masks, social distancing and hygiene practices.

## TO OUR YEARS 7 – 10 STUDENTS

**WELL DONE** to our students undertaking remote learning at home or elsewhere and those being supervised at school. Bravo to them as they attend classes per their timetabled periods, sign in each time, and have contact with their Minders.

## TO OUR MONICAN STAFF

We say a special **THANK YOU** to teaching and non-teaching staff, those who are working at the College and those who are working remotely. This is a challenging and difficult time for all workers in the State of Victoria.

## FOR OUR PARENTS

Students and staff are very grateful to parents for their support of our efforts, so it is a sincere **YOU ARE WONDERFUL** message we want you to receive. Circumstances might be tough but the value of a Monican education remains, and parents will be supported to offer this to their children.

## COUNSELLING SUPPORT

I reiterate to College families that our counselling team is working to support any Monican who might benefit from their services in whatever form. All counsellors are available to be contacted – Mrs Diana Murphy, Mrs Michelle Miller, Ms Sarah Malseed, Ms Belinda Sudano and Mr Oliver Jones.



### BABY ARRIVALS

- ♦ Ms Laura Guirguis and Stephen on **William Peter**
- ♦ Mrs Kate McIntyre and Craig on **Chloe**
- ♦ Mr Josh Ye and Joanna on **Zicheng**
- ♦ Ms Christina Puccio and Martin on **Valencia**.

## STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE

The Staff Member of the Month for June was Mrs Corina Ragona for her valued event management of the Blessing and Opening Ceremony of the Learning and Teaching Building on 19 June. Her attention to detail and hard work enhanced the function. Her Promotions and Events Office work is also recognised.



# LAUDATO SI'

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY YEAR

24 MAY 2020 – 24 MAY 2021



## LAUDATO SI' ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The booklet is available in 6 languages (EN, ES, FR, IT, DE, PT)

The introduction to the schedule says “The fifth anniversary of the encyclical comes in the midst of another watershed moment—a global pandemic—and *Laudato Si'*’s message is just as prophetic today as it was in 2015. ... Truly, Covid-19 has made clear how deeply we are all interconnected and interdependent. **As we begin to envision a post-Covid world, we need above all, an integral approach.**

In promoting the anniversary, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development invites everyone to join this “**peoples’ movement**”, saying that the urgency of the situation calls for immediate and holistic responses at all levels—local, regional, national and international.

After announcing the celebrations and special projects to be launched during the anniversary year, the programme then goes on to outline the multi-year *Laudato Si'* roll-out plan, with its aim “To make communities around the world totally sustainable in the spirit of the integral ecology of *Laudato Si'*”. **The number seven** features strongly in this roll-out

plan: first, it is a 7-year journey towards total sustainability. Seven types of institutions are called to make a commitment to embark on this 7-year journey towards integral ecology.

These will be:

1. *Laudato Si'* Families
2. *Laudato Si'* Dioceses
3. *Laudato Si'* Schools
4. *Laudato Si'* Universities
5. *Laudato Si'* Hospitals / Health care centres
6. *Laudato Si'* Businesses / Agriculture farms etc.
7. *Laudato Si'* Religious orders

## THE SEVEN MEASURES OF INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

*All of these goals are presented in more detail in the program.*

1. Response to the **Cry of the Earth** (greater use of clean renewable energy and reducing fossil fuels in order to achieve carbon neutrality, etc.)
2. Response to the **Cry of the Poor** (defence of human life from conception to death; attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, migrants, children at risk, etc.)
3. **Ecological Economics** (Sustainable production, Fair Trade, ethical consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels, etc.)
4. Adoption of **Simple lifestyles** (sobriety in the use of resources and energy, avoiding single use plastic, greater use of public transport etc.)
5. Ecological **Education** (re-think and re-design educational curricula and educational institution reform in the spirit of integral ecology, etc.)
6. Ecological **Spirituality** (recover a religious vision of God's creation, encourage greater contact with the natural world, etc.)
7. Emphasis on **Community involvement and participation action** to care for creation at local, regional, national and international levels, etc.)



### PLASTIC FREE JULY

Are you looking for ways to reduce the amount of single use plastic in your daily lives? As we are required to spend more and more time in our homes, why not look into what practices you could start to reduce your waste.

Here are a few ideas:

- Start a compost worm farm or bokashi bucket
- Experiment with fermenting and pickling your own sourdough or excess produce
- Remember to use those reusable shopping bags

Refer to the article "64 ways to reduce plastic use at home" at [pipmagazine.com.au](http://pipmagazine.com.au) or do your own research for more ideas.

### THE PARLIAMENT PRIZE



Students from Years 7—12 are invited to enter this Year's Parliament Prize, where you create a 90 second video about an issue you are passionate about in your local community.

Please see the information on the Student Portal or contact Mrs Turner for more information.

Entries close on Friday, 14 August at 5.00 pm.

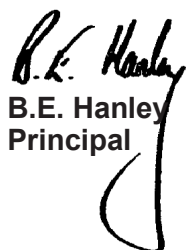
## MARVELLOUS MONICANS



Well done to Gabrielle Godinho, College Captain (Year 12) and Adam Galletti (Year 11), for representing the SMC student cohort so well in the recent interview conducted by Channel 7 News.

The responses to the reporter's questions were well considered and representative of the senior students, back on campus during Victoria's second wave restrictions associated with COVID-19.



  
B.E. Hanley  
Principal



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