
THIS MONTH IN *Mission*

Head, Heart and Hands



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Be More Formation Day

Inspired by the words and witness of St Óscar Romero, our Senior and Junior Be More students gathered for a meaningful Formation Day centred on our 2026 Social Justice theme, Signs of Hope. The day provided students with an opportunity to reflect on their collective purpose, to live out faith through action and to commit to our inspiration to “aspire not to have more, but to be more”.

We were blessed to welcome Father Bernie Lane, who shared powerful reflections on his more than 40 years as a missionary in Peru. Through his stories of faith, service and human dignity, students were invited to consider how hope can be found in the lives and struggles of others, and how each person is called to respond with compassion and love.

A lasting impact was left on our students, a call to profoundly live out our magnificent humanity in the words of Pope Leo XIV’s first encyclical ‘Magnifica Humanitas’. This was followed through with a reflection on how our students can commit to being a sign of hope, along with a greater development of their values.

Students also heard from College alumni Naomi Deb and Jack Zeng who returned to speak about their involvement in the Rerum Novarum initiative, highlighting the ongoing importance of Catholic Social Teaching in shaping a more just and compassionate world. They assisted students in the formation of their Social Justice initiatives which aim to address the cost-of-living crisis within our local community.

Throughout the day, students explored how they can become signs of hope through practical action, thoughtful reflection and a commitment to the common good. The Formation Day concluded with a commissioning ceremony, where students were formally recognised as members of Be More with their badges blessed by Father Bernie Lane. Be More was invited to continue living out the Gospel values of love, humility, generosity and service.

It was a day of faith and formation, reminding our students that small acts of justice and kindness can become powerful signs of God’s presence in the world. Most importantly, it was a powerful moment of presence for both our groups to collectively work together.

Student Testimony

Peruvian. In multicultural Australia we are exposed to a multiplicity of cultural identities, yet today, Father Bernie had the chance of introducing us to a new one. It was not the cuisine, the cultural attractions or the rituals that was shared, but a common thread that transcended all these that bound us to his frank account of the people he met in this Latin American nation.

What Father Bernie relayed to us most beautifully, was what it means to offer preference to the poor in a place abundant in stories sometimes forgotten, missing, lost. The story of Rosa and Louisa, of Oscar Romero's faith amidst the violence, of building one's language skills with its awkward and fun moments ... of pure bravery against circumstance.

If Father Bernie's account left me with one thing: signs of hope are what sustain the human spirit. Shreyas - Year 12

Be More Formation Day was a profound reminder of what it means to be a sign of hope in a world that so desperately needs one. Reflecting on Father Bernie Lane's witness, I was struck by his unwavering commitment to walking with the marginalised, not from a place of charity, but from a place of genuine solidarity and friendship. At the same time, the life and words of Saint Oscar Romero resonated deeply in my heart, especially his radical call to love the poor and his insistence on the preferential option for the poor. These discussions grounded us in the Catholic Social Teaching of human dignity and the common good, principles that felt more urgent than ever as we confronted the cost-of-living crisis that is pushing so many in our community to the brink. As I was commissioned today, I was sent forth as disciples, aspired "not to have more, but to be more."

Theresa - Year 11



This Month's Events



Student Council Meetings
Year 8 Class Masses
Mission Team Meetings
Year 8 Retreat Day
SGC Young Vinnies Conferences
Recitation of the Rosary
DSC Youth Ministry

DRC Archives Committee Meeting
DRC and DSC Be More Meetings
First Nations Fortnight
Senior Interfaith Excursion
DRC Fire Carriers Meeting
Junior & Senior Council Workshop
Year 8 Retreat Day

Oxa Care Aged Care Service
San Carlo Aged Care Service
High Street Bells Choir
Merriang Special Development School
Junior Council Meeting
DSC Be More Formation Day
Hearts on Fire Procession
Student Council Ostia Formation Day

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Pictured below are our College Leaders and Senior Council representatives Luca Thomas, Matteo Demarte, Teresea Luu, and Noryline Maraan, proudly representing SMC at this special event.



Senior Interfaith Al Siraat EID Dinner

On Friday, 12 June, a delegation of Monican staff and students were invited to the annual Al Siraat Interfaith Eid Dinner. This wonderful event brought together the local community, particularly drawing upon the various faith communities of the North, to come together and break bread as part of Eid Al-Adha festivities. The various guest speakers and members of parliament reflected on common themes community, connection, and interfaith tolerance, all important

messages for our College leaders. It was a beautiful evening of delicious food, friends new and old, and coming together of cultures. The evening served as a powerful reminder that our future leaders, who one day will lead our community and nation, all agree upon the critical importance of fostering Interfaith respect, dialogue, and tolerance. Our warmest thanks and best wishes go out to the Al Siraat community for their hospitality and ongoing friendship.

Student Testimony

The interfaith dinner was deeply immersive, revealing how important community and friendship is. It was amazing to meet new people and share an amazing meal together; it truly was a sign of hope in our community.
Teresa - Year 12

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San Carlo Aged Care Morning Tea

The College is proud to work in partnership with San Carlo Homes for the Aged, through our Intergenerational Program. This initiative was born from conversations between Father Luciano Toldo and Mr Brian Hanley, who shared a vision of bringing younger and older generations together in a meaningful way.

At its heart, this program creates opportunities for connection, understanding and mutual learning. The residents bring a wealth of life experience, wisdom and stories, while

the students contribute fresh perspectives, enthusiasm and energy.

Together, they demonstrate that meaningful relationships can be formed regardless of age.

Through regular visits, the students have spent time with residents, listening to and recording their life stories. These stories have been transformed into personal books that will be treasured by the residents and their families for years to come.



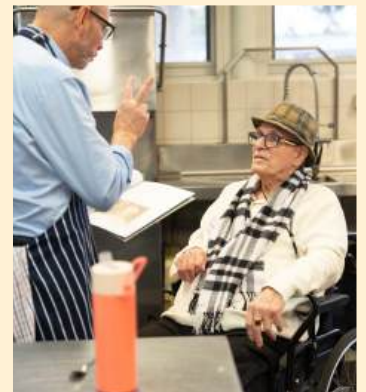
Talk To Us

If you would like to attend a Community Service Program please contact Mrs Styring in Room Q37 or on w.styring@stmonicas-epping.com

It has been a privilege to witness the genuine connections that have developed throughout this program. The students have shown remarkable respect, compassion, and curiosity, while the residents have embraced the opportunity to share their experiences and reflect on their lives. In doing so, we have fostered friendships, strengthened our sense of community, and created memories that will last well beyond this project.

Programs such as this remind us that learning does not have an age limit. They highlight the importance of preserving personal histories, celebrating lived experiences, and building bridges between generations.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of this program. Your commitment and participation have made a meaningful difference, and we look forward to continuing this partnership into the future.



Student Testimony

Working with the residents at San Carlo and helping to write their life stories has been one of the most meaningful community service experiences the girls and I have been involved in. Listening to the rich lives they have lived, the challenges they have overcome, and the incredible experiences they have shared gave us a new appreciation for the older generation.

What stood out most were the life lessons they passed on about family, resilience, kindness and making the most of every opportunity. Despite everything they have experienced throughout their lives, they welcomed us with warmth, patience and genuine interest. Their willingness to share personal memories and advice made us feel privileged to be part of their journey.

This project has shown us that community service is not just about helping others; it is also about building connections, learning from people in our community and making a positive difference in their lives. The relationships we have formed with the residents have made this project truly special, and we are grateful for the wisdom, kindness and friendship they have shared with us.

Phoenix and Julia - Year 12

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Student Testimony

Although I was a little nervous at first, visiting Sri Guru Singh Sabha was an incredible experience that provided me with so much insight into Sikhism and how it differs from Catholicism. Gurinder was so welcoming and it was inspiring to hear her experiences and knowledge as she took us through the Gurdwara, even sharing the origins of certain foods as we shared a meal together - Georgia Year 11

Senior Interfaith Excursion

On Friday, 12 June, The College Senior Interfaith Ambassadors were accompanied by Mr Bliss on a visit to the Sikh Gurdwara in Craigieburn, Sri Guru Singh Sabha. We were very appreciative of the hospitality of their community, particularly our host for the afternoon Gurinder. Our Senior Interfaith group is aiming to broaden our College Interfaith network and learn about the diverse faith community in our local area and in broader Melbourne.

Our students enjoyed a tour of the

Gurdwara and learnt about the core tenants of Sikhism, noting the interesting parallels and differences from our own Christian faith. We were also able to enjoy a hot vegetarian meal in their community kitchen or Langar. The Langar beautifully captures the essence of Sikh beliefs and way of life, rooted in community and the selfless service of others. Our Interfaith Ambassadors look forward to learning more about diversity of faith and sharing their newfound revelations with the broader Monican community.



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Year 8 Retreat

The Year 8 cohort came together for a meaningful and uplifting Retreat Day centred on the theme “We Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus.” on Thursday, 4 June. Designed as a time for reflection, prayer, and community building, the day invited students to pause from their usual routine and explore what it means to live with compassion, courage and faith.

The purpose of the retreat was simple yet profound: to allow students to spend intentional time together as a year level, strengthening friendships,

deepening their understanding of Christian values and recognising the presence of God in their everyday lives. Through shared activities, guided reflection and moments of quiet prayer, students were encouraged to consider how they might follow Jesus’ example in their choices, relationships and actions.

The retreat was enriched by the presence of guest speakers Kyle Correya and Jian Samuel, whose engaging presentations resonated strongly with the students.

Kyle Correya spoke with warmth and authenticity about the challenges young people face today and the importance of grounding one’s identity in faith. His stories highlighted how small acts of kindness and integrity can reflect the heart of Jesus in the world.

Jian Samuel invited students to think deeply about their personal journey, sharing experiences that illustrated resilience, hope and the power of trusting in God’s plan. His message encouraged students to recognise that walking in Jesus’ footsteps often begins with simple, everyday decisions.





Both speakers brought energy, honesty and encouragement, helping students connect the retreat theme to their own lives in practical and meaningful ways. As the day concluded, students were invited to carry the retreat's message into their daily lives—to act with compassion, to seek justice, to show kindness and to remember that following Jesus is a journey walked step by step.

The Year 8 Retreat Day was not only a pause for reflection but a reminder of the kind of people students are called to become. With the guidance of speakers Kyle and Jian and the support of their teachers and peers, the students left with hearts inspired and a renewed commitment to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.



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Be More and Fire Carriers carrying candles, banners, and a statue of the Sacred Heart. Hymns filled the air, blending with moments of quiet reflection.

The Hearts on Fire Procession continues to grow as a beloved annual tradition, drawing the College into deeper reflection on the Sacred Heart's message of love, sacrifice and compassion. Under the guidance of Archpriest Michael Kalka, this year's celebration once again illuminated the heart of the students.

Hearts on Fire

The DSC Campus gathered in reverence and joy on Friday, 19 June, for the annual Hearts on Fire Procession, a cherished celebration honouring the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Led by Archpriest Michael Kalka, the event brought together the whole campus in a moving expression of faith, devotion and unity.

The Feast of the Sacred Heart invites the faithful to contemplate the boundless love of Christ symbolised in His heart—burning with compassion,

pierced for humanity and overflowing with mercy. This year's procession embodied that message with renewed vibrancy.

Archpriest Kalka presided over the celebration reflecting on the tenderness and strength of Christ's love. His words set the tone for the prayerful procession that followed.

The Year 12 students processed through the College grounds led by members of the Student Council,





This Month's Events



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Mission Team Meetings
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DSC Youth Ministry

DRC Archives Committee Meeting
DRC and DSC Be More Meetings
First Nations Fortnight
Senior Interfaith Excursion
DRC Fire Carriers Meeting
Junior & Senior Council Workshop
Year 8 Retreat Day

Oxa Care Aged Care Service
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High Street Bells Choir Cast Visit

Each year, some of our production cast members, look forward to a very special tradition, visiting the High Street Bells Choir. This inspiring choir creates a welcoming space where music becomes a powerful tool for connection, confidence and expression. Our annual visit has grown into a meaningful partnership that both groups genuinely cherish.

From the moment our cast arrives, there is a palpable sense of excitement and warmth. The High Street Bells Choir welcomes our

students with open arms, and in return, our performers bring their enthusiasm, energy and love of the stage. Sharing songs from our current production, “High School Musical” joining in group numbers, and simply spending time together creates a vibrant and uplifting atmosphere.

For our cast members, the visit is far more than a performance opportunity, it is a chance to connect with a community that demonstrates the true impact of music, as a source of support, joy and empowerment.

Equally, the members of the High Street Bells Choir clearly look forward to the visit each year. They delight in meeting a new cast, and sharing in the enthusiasm our students bring. The mutual respect and enjoyment are evident, highlighting how music can bridge different life experiences and create lasting connections.

This annual tradition is a reminder that our school musical extends beyond rehearsals and performances. It is about community engagement, empathy and sharing joy through the arts. Both our cast and the High Street Bells Choir eagerly anticipate this special visit every year — a celebration of music’s ability to uplift and unite.



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SGC Assembly and Pin Presentation





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Junior and Senior Council Workshop

Student Testimony

On June 3, the Junior Student Council, alongside the Student Council, participated in an enriching leadership workshop run by Yellow Arrow Leadership. Our time with guest speaker Rachel Enright focused on challenging and developing our collaboration skills and confidence as student leaders. Through the interactive activities, I was able to meet and connect with members of the Junior Student Council, allowing us to discuss various areas of the College we are passionate about improving. Overall, the workshop provided us, as student leaders, with an opportunity to build strong bonds with one another while developing essential leadership and problem-solving skills for our future endeavours. Noryline - Year 12

The Yellow Arrow Workshop was a great experience, and I enjoyed working with the Senior Council during it. They welcomed us to their campus with open arms and were happy to work with us throughout the entire workshop. We discussed how we can build leadership skills and worked in groups to create a proposal regarding how we could help solve a problem within the school community. Overall, it was great working with the Senior Council and developing our leadership skills, and I think every student who attended can agree with me when I say that the workshop was a success. Danijela - Year 9

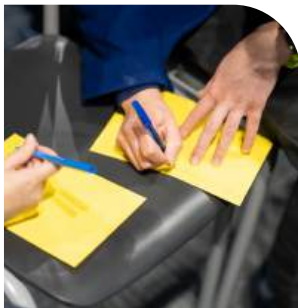
Student Testimony

The Yellow Arrow Workshop was an engaging and important experience that changed how we look at our roles as Junior Student Council (JSC) leaders. When Rachel ran the session, she truly made us stop and think about how big of a job we have in our school.

The workshop showed us that being a leader is more than just wearing a badge. It is about working hard, listening to others, and being an approachable person. Rachel's great ideas showed us that the things we implement and do, really matter to the other students. By doing the group activities, we learned how to stand up for our classmates and help make the school a better place.

In the end, this experience inspired us to continue to do what we do and implement new things. It taught us to take our roles seriously and always do our best to help everyone.

Evan - Year 7



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DSC Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry gathers every fortnight during Blue Week, providing students with a regular opportunity to come together in faith, reflection, and fellowship.

During one of these sessions, Fr Isaac Zaki, Assistant Priest of St Peter's in Epping, and Xavier Ryan, a seminarian on placement at St Peter's, joined the group. They shared their personal journeys of faith and vocation, offering inspiring insights into their calling and service to the Church.



Talk To Us

If you would like to know more about DSC Youth Ministry, please contact Sr May Flor in Room Q37 or on m.gedalanga@stmonicas-epping.com

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2026

1 June - 4 June

1 June

2 June

2 June

3 June

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9 June

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26 June

26 June

First Nations Fortnight

Student Council Meeting

Year 8 Gold SGC Class Mass

SGC Young Vinnies Conference Meeting

Junior and Senior Council Workshop

Mission Team Meeting

DSC Be More Meeting

Year 8 Retreat Day

San Carlo Aged Care Community Outreach Program

Junior Council Meeting

Oxacare Aged Care Community Outreach Program

Year 8 Green SGC Class Mass

SGC Young Vinnies Conference Meeting

DSC Recitation of the Rosary

DRC Fire Carriers Meeting

San Carlo Aged Care Community Outreach Program

DSC Youth Ministry Meeting

DRC Recitation of the Rosary

DRC Be More Meeting

Senior Interfaith SGSS Sihk Gurdwara Visit

Senior Interfaith Al Siraat Eid Dinner

Student Council Meeting

High Street Bells Choir Inclusion Week Sausage Sizzle DSC

Merriang Special Development School Community Outreach Program

DSC Be More Formation Day

San Carlo Aged Care Morning Tea Community Outreach Program

DRC Archives Committee Meeting

Hearts on Fire Procession

DSC Fire Carriers Meeting

High Street Bells Choir High School Musical Cast Visit

Junior Council Meeting

Oxacare Aged Care Community Outreach Program

Year 8 Indigo SGC Class Mass

SGC Campus Assembly and Pin Presentation

SGC Young Vinnies Conference Meeting

Merriang Special Development School Community Outreach Program

DRC Fire Carriers Meeting

DSC Recitation of the Rosary

San Carlo Aged Care Community Outreach Program

DSC Youth Ministry Meeting

DRC Be More Meeting

Student Council Ostia Formation Day