

Spirit

Catholic Education Sandhurst



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From the Director...



“The only constant in life is change”

So wrote the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus (535-475 BC). If this is true (or even partly true) then it is essential that we prepare for change. Planning for the future is one of the skills which all good leaders need to exercise on a regular basis. There is an energy which comes from preparing for change, but in some instances, there is also a degree of sadness. Why? At times the change which is looming involves greatly respected and loved people.

In the coming months, the Diocese of Sandhurst will bid farewell to some very influential citizens who have touched and improved the lives of so many. *Sr Patricia George RSJ (Sacred Heart Parish Corryong), Mrs Joan Short (Holy Rosary School Heathcote), Mrs Joan Moriarty (St Joseph's School Cobram)* have each indicated that they are moving on to new fields of endeavour in their lives. In July this year *Fr Ted Harte (Parish Priest of Holy Rosary Parish White Hills)*, will celebrate his Golden Jubilee as a Priest. It is impossible to gage the immense good that has flowed for so many people through the devotion to duty of such people. Each is inspired by their love of the vocation which has helped to shape their lives, whether that be in pastoral work, education or priestly ministry. What a poorer society we would be without the influence of such committed role models, good women and man, each seeking to serve others as we know God would have us do. In a world which so often promotes a different set of values, these Sandhurst citizens remind us that life is not just about ourselves, that we should never be fooled by desires of the moment, that a greater happiness will emanate from striving to better the lives of others.

In reflecting upon the commitment of people such as Sr Pat, Joan, Joan and Fr Ted, I am reminded of the words of the Quaker Missionary, Etienne de Grellet:

“I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”

My knowledge of each of these people is that humility lead them to tell me to stop. But we should celebrate goodness at every opportunity. We should allow ourselves to be reminded that God wants us to be people of integrity and, in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we should highlight the love of good people who have extended the hand of mercy so quietly and gently to those in need.

Life moves on. Changes happens. Role models come and go but their influence, their good example and their great achievements live on long after they are gone.

“Your soul is dyed the colour of your thoughts. Think only on those things that are in line with your principles and can bear the light of day. The content of your character is your choice.

Day by day, what you do is who you become.

Your integrity is your destiny - it is the light that guides your way.”

Heraclitus

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Desmond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr Paul Desmond

Director of Catholic Education Sandhurst

Education front and centre

How government policy supports quality teaching and learning and how schools are funded will be an important focus of the federal election campaign, National Catholic Education Commission executive director Ross Fox said.

On May 8th Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull attended Government House to advise the Governor-General to issue writs for a double dissolution, thereby starting the countdown to a July 2 election.

“Over the next six weeks, political parties and candidates will outline their vision for the future of Australia, and that future is dependent on how students and schools are supported,” Mr Fox said.

“With the ‘Quality Schools, Quality Outcomes’ policy and the ‘Your Child. Our Future’ policy, the Coalition and the Australian Labor Party have given their respective blueprints on school education over the short and medium term.”

Mr Fox said those policies and any other announcements during the election campaign will be assessed through the lens of the new Funding Principles for Catholic Schools document.

“Education policies should be assessed holistically, with a recognition that funding is significant for school education, but it is part of broader considerations of what schools and students need,” he said. “How funding reflects the needs of students and schools is crucial. How quality teaching is supported is crucial. How policies support the learning of each child is crucial.”

Mr Fox said parents of school students and those who value school education should take a keen interest the federal election. In 2014, the Commonwealth spent more than \$14 billion to support students in all schools.

For Catholic and independent schools, in particular, Commonwealth funding is hugely important.

“With 70 per cent of the cost of educating a Catholic school student, on average, coming from governments, and mostly from the Commonwealth, school funding policy is a very important election issue for the 765,000 students in Catholic schools and their families,” Mr Fox explained.

“And with the level of fees required by schools directly linked to levels of government funding, families will also be affected by the funding policy implemented by whichever party forms government after the upcoming election.”

Mr Fox said neither major party has yet addressed how increasing demand for school places in the coming years will be met.

“As many as 180,000 additional students are expected to be receiving a Catholic education by 2025, and how new schools are paid for and how existing schools can provide places for additional students is an issue of national significance,” he said.

“There is a need for financial support from the government to construct and expand schools to meet the growing school-aged population.”

Mr Fox said more than 70 new Catholic schools are planned to start construction in the next five years, as part of a \$3.3 billion capital works program. Under current arrangements, parents will pay the vast majority of that cost, but a lack of funding means many of those schools may not be built.

The new Funding Principles for Catholic Schools document provides Catholic education’s vision for how all schools should be supported by governments. Principles include funding certainty, funding equity, needs-based funding, parental choice and religious freedom.

The National Catholic Education Commission has also launched a new website – SchoolFundingFacts.com – to inform parents and the community about how Australian schools are funded and to explain the important role of Catholic education in Australia.

“The 1,731 Catholic schools across the country are seen as ‘Partners in Australia’s Future’ – partners with students and families, partners with governments, and partners with government and independent schools,” Mr Fox said.

“Catholic education is focused on how government policy supports all students in all schools, and students with additional learning needs should receive extra support for their education, regardless of which school they attend.

“Over the past decade, the number of students with disability and the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Catholic schools has doubled.” Mr Fox reiterated the importance of education in the upcoming election campaign.

“We understand that Australia’s future is brightest when all students and schools receive the necessary support to create quality learning opportunities in every Australian school. This election will shape how those opportunities are created,” he concluded.





Bound for Poland



One cannot fully appreciate World Youth Day without fully comprehending what is involved in “pilgrimage”. Pope John Paul II was the first to bring the idea of pilgrimage to successive generations of young Catholics when he invited the youth of the world to join him in Rome in 1986 for what became the first World Youth Day. While World Youth Day is celebrated every year on Palm Sunday the focus tends to be on the International World Youth Days which occur every two or three years in some parts of the globe, like Sydney in 2008. There have been 13 International World Youth Days overall.

This year, over 300 Victorians (including 32 Sandhurst pilgrims) continue the tradition as they head to Krakow, the spiritual capital of Poland. Saint John Paul II was ordained in Krakow, was Archbishop there, and considered it his home. At a time when religious practice was heavily oppressed by Soviet Russia, Pope John Paul II not only symbolised the Poles’ identity as a people but also inspired them to keep believing in ultimate victory for their history, culture and national unity. Pilgrimage was a central theme of his famous speech in Warsaw in 1979 on his first visit back to Poland as Pope, when he inspired his countrymen to pursue freedom against Soviet rule.

In that speech Pope John Paul II also said “Without Christ it is impossible to understand the history of Poland.” Christ is the central unifying figure of the Polish nation. It has been this way since the birth of Poland as a nation in the tenth century after King Mieszko I was baptised (in 966) and declared all his subjects Christians. Today approximately 85% of Polish people profess to be Catholic.

Historically Poland has always been vulnerable to the forces that surround it. Sandwiched between Russia to the east and Germany to the west, it has long been a political and mercantile crossroad and has often found itself the centre of power struggles. By the late 18th century Poland had been partitioned among Russia, Prussia (Germany) and Austria. In one of the most painful chapters in its history Poland had been wiped from the map of Europe. Poland was not there and yet ... Poland was still there.

How does a country exist when it can’t be spotted on the map, when it is ruled by people who do not speak the language or share its customs? How can a nation without borders exist? Answer: a nation stays alive in its culture and in its faith. Pilgrimage became the cornerstone of the Polish people’s cultural and faith experience. Pilgrimage kept the Polish people connected to one another and to the heart of their faith and so their identity. Pilgrimage provided space for the people to be free to practice their faith – how were the Russians supposed to know that Poles walking and seemingly talking amongst themselves were actually praying together? Pilgrimage has truly been a sustaining force for Poland.

The Polish people are a pilgrim people. Seven million Poles - that’s one in seven - make a pilgrimage each year. One in twenty of the world’s pilgrims - and one in five Europeans who make a pilgrimage - is Polish. Poland has around 500 pilgrimage destinations; chief among them is Czestochowa, the home of the Black Madonna. Recently I was told that it is common practice for Polish expats on their return to relatives in Poland to find themselves journeying home via one of these sites.

With all this in mind it should not be surprising that Saint John Paul II was the one who encourage pilgrimage - to the climactic Vigil and Final Mass - as a central activity in the weeklong World Youth Day program. Our Sandhurst pilgrims, and the family and friends they leave behind, should be reassured that they will be in safe, experienced, faithful, loving hands in Poland.

The pilgrimage has already begun for those travelling to Krakow with the completion of the first Pilgrim Formation sessions locally. Their spiritual and practical preparations continues...

David Walker
Education Officer: Secondary Religious Education
Catholic Education Sandhurst

The remaining dates for Pilgrim Formation sessions are as follows:

Sunday 19 June	12pm - 3pm	Shepparton	Monsignor Jeffrey Centre (Knight St)
Sunday 3 July	11am - 3pm	Melbourne	Mass of Commissioning - ACU (Cathedral Hall) then St Patrick’s Cathedral

Being Father Brian

The Very Reverend Dr Brian Boyle EV

During childhood summers spent on the Kennedy farm in Barnadown, Fr Brian Boyle never imagined that one day he would return to the Sandhurst Diocese as the Episcopal Vicar for Education.

Fr Brian was born in Melbourne in 1950 and grew up in the north western suburb of Coburg. His mother Joan was a nurse at St Vincent's Hospital in Fitzroy and his father Bill worked with the Melbourne Fire Brigade in East Melbourne. With an older brother and younger sister, it was a typical childhood in a happy family home.

"I remember as a child early Sunday mornings at 8 o'clock. All these families would start coming out of their houses to walk down the street for Sunday Mass, so we all knew who was Catholic in the area and who wasn't."

Father Brian attended St Fidelis Catholic Primary School in Moreland followed by Christian Brothers in North Melbourne until the end of year 10.

"When I started school at St Fidelis, I was in a class of 64 students and we were taught by a young Mercy Nun who was probably only in her early 20's at the time... it was a typical Catholic school with overtly Catholic families."

His final two years of schooling were completed at Monivae College, a boarding school in Hamilton, Victoria. Fr Brian's elder brother attended boarding school in Sunbury but his father had heard about Monivae College and thought it would be suitable.

"They supported my education there for two years. My parents did so through personal sacrifice. They weren't wealthy people and dad would have taken on extra jobs to pay for my education, all to his credit."

Monivae College was run by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC). There were 350 students at the College with 280 boarders. According to Fr Brian, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart showed great human kindness and care for the students. It was their manner and actions that inspired him to priesthood.

Following matriculation, Fr Brian entered the MSC seminary in Croydon, Victoria aged 18. Second Vatican Council had an effect on how the seminary was structured in the late 1960's and so Fr Brian had his first year at the MSC Seminary at Croydon before moving to Canberra for four years. During this time he completed a Bachelor of Arts at the Australian National University.

A return to Melbourne in 1976 preceded his ordination the following year. He completed a Bachelor of Theology (B Theol) from the Melbourne College of Divinity. His first appointment was as a member of a roving Religious Education team together with a fellow Priest several years his senior. The MSC's had five schools in Australia from Darwin to Hamilton and the job of the roving team was to run all the school retreats. This was ground breaking work and the team spent most of the year travelling from one school to the other.

"It was a lot of hard work but very enjoyable. We ran retreats for students from year 7 to year 12. I knew the name of every student in year 12 from all of the five colleges. I used to learn them from the books as we were driving from one place to the next. I still keep in touch with a few of them."

After three years on the RE team, Fr Brian spent time studying in Rome. He obtained a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) from the Pontifical Gregorian University.

After returning to Australia in 1985, Fr Brian was appointed head of the MSC seminary in Sydney. It would be another eight years before he would return to Melbourne and to his first and only appointment as a Parish Priest.

"In 1993 I spent a year as the administrator of the parish of Park Orchards, Warrandyte. This was my only time in a Parish and I loved it."

Fr Brian returned to Rome the following year where he gained a Doctorate in Sacred Theology (STD) at the Gregorian University with research on synchronic and diachronic readings of narrative in two chapters of the Book of Jeremiah.

In 1998 Fr Brian was appointed to St Paul's National Seminary in Sydney where he taught scripture. 12 months later he would cross the country to take up an appointment as Dean of the College of Theology at the University of Notre Dame in Fremantle, Western Australia. It would be five years before he would return to the east coast where he spent 12 months on sabbatical in the USA and central Australia.

For the past 12 years, Fr Brian has been in Melbourne at the Catholic Theological College, initially as Academic Dean and currently as a senior lecturer. The role of Academic Dean is a four year term which he served twice before finishing in the role at the end of 2013.

Today Father Brian has many extensive and varied roles to which he dedicates the majority of his time. He holds the position of senior lecturer in Scripture at the Catholic Theological College and is Academic Dean at Corpus Christi College in Carlton, the seminary for the dioceses of Victoria and Tasmania, where there are currently 47 students.

"I have responsibility for all of their studies. You really have to get that right because that's the future of the Church in many ways."

Appointed as the Episcopal Vicar for Education in the Sandhurst Diocese in November 2013, Fr Brian divides his time between Melbourne and Bendigo. He is also Pastor of the German Catholic Church in Camberwell where he lives when he is in Melbourne, Chair of the Professional Standards Committee of the Sandhurst Diocese, and Chair of the Sandhurst School Education Board (SSEB).

"The role of Episcopal Vicar for Education enables me to support Paul Desmond, the Director of Catholic Education Sandhurst, in his work and to represent the Bishop in all matters relating to Catholic Education in the Diocese."



Fr Brian (pictured at back) with a friend at Kindergarten



Fr Brian pictured with his father Bill at the Seminary in Sydney

“Being Chair of the SSEB has helped a lot, because it gives you a formal role right in the centre of Catholic education. You don’t have to know the answer to everything but you need to know what’s going on and you have a voice in that.”

A great believer in the value of tertiary education, Fr Brian has gained a greater appreciation of the importance of primary and secondary education, especially through his role as Chair of the review committee of the Catholic Education Office of our Diocese.

“The review has given me privileged access to how the schools operate and work, their ethos, values and spirituality. I think that has certainly given me more fire and energy for this job.”

A man of many talents, outside his extensive responsibilities Fr Brian has a passion for the Arts, especially theatre and the Opera. He loves collecting antiques (when time and money permit!) and loves overseas travel. Although time is limited, Fr Brian likes nothing better than attending a theatre performance or symphony concert.

Despite his busy workload, Fr Brian is relishing the opportunity to be more involved in Catholic Education and when he celebrates 40 years as a Priest next year, he can both look back proudly over the past four decades of service, while looking forward to his continued ministry within the Church.





Catholic Identity

Disciples of Jesus

When I was a child if any of us were fighting or being mean my mother would sing the hymn which may be familiar to some of you "They'll know we are Christians by our love". I am not sure whether this had an immediate impact but it has had a lasting impact for me and my siblings. There are many passages in the bible that speak of God's love but in John's first letter he tells us that "God is love" 1 John 4: 8. This love is not an emotion but rather an action and a commitment. Love is described well in St Paul's first letter to the Corinthian's. Love is patient, kind, and rejoices in the truth. Love is not envious, boastful, arrogant, rude, resentful, irritable or insisting on its own way.

This gives us a helpful and challenging introduction to what it means to love. But in this year of mercy we can find even more practical suggestions of what it means to love in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The corporal works of mercy describe how through love we can care for the bodily needs of people in our community and in the world; feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and burying the dead. The spiritual works of mercy are acts of loving compassion which cater for the emotional and spiritual needs of people in our community and our world including counselling the doubtful, instructing the unaware, calling sinners to repent, comforting the afflicted, forgiving offenses, bearing wrongs patiently and praying for the living and the dead.

At critical moments in each era the Pope and leaders of the church have used encyclicals, statements and other documents to interpret Jesus teaching for the times so that Catholics could be faithful in their daily lives as disciples of Jesus. These writings have been distilled into principles of Catholic social teaching which in a way provide guideposts or standards to assess our actions and decisions. Different authors provide differing numbers and versions of these but the first principle in all the lists is human dignity. In all our actions and decisions do we treat people as though they are made in the image of God? Do we love them?

As we strive to recontextualise our understanding of Catholic Identity and what it means to be disciples of Jesus in 2016 we are called to look at our world through the eyes of Jesus and consider what it means to love and live out the works of mercy for our era. The challenges for our time are refugees and the conflicts destroying their homelands, the unequal distribution of wealth in the world, poorer educational outcomes for young people in economically poor communities, sexual and physical abuse of children, violence against women, the necessity of reclaiming culture for indigenous communities, the drugs

epidemic, mental health problems amongst our youth and the destruction of the planet to name a few.

There are plenty of large cries for love in our world. The good thing is that we do not have to respond alone. Through our baptism and confirmation, we received the gifts of the Holy Spirit; wisdom, understanding, right judgement, courage, knowledge, reverence and awe and wonder in God's presence. But just like other gifts they are not much use if we do not nourish them, care for them and take responsibility to use them. We also belong to a community and we can support one another to be more loving and more like Jesus. The Josephites have a saying, "Where one is we all are" and that is certainly my experience as we support one another in prayer, with words of encouragement and financially. The description of the early Christian communities in the Acts of the Apostles provide many examples of how the first disciples supported one another to live lives of love for Jesus and one another. They demonstrated that we can do much more in community than we can alone.

Whatever Jesus asks of us he provides the grace for us to respond to his call. Not everyone is called to do ground breaking or spectacular feats of bravery and in fact sometimes it is harder to do the mundane every day actions of love. Smiling at people in the morning even when we do not feel like it. Listening to the concerns or sicknesses of others when we have our own problems. Taking time to visit someone in hospital even though we are busy. Forgiving others when they hurt us. Recognising when we have upset others and asking for forgiveness.

To be Catholic is to be a follower of Jesus with other disciples who identify as Catholic. Are we disciples of Jesus in our everyday lives? Do we support those like Caritas and St Vincent De Paul who represent us in the situations where Jesus love is most needed? Are we part of a community that cares for one another and challenges one another to be more loving? Do we come together to praise and thank God for his gifts and to draw strength from one another?

After the resurrection when Jesus came to Peter who had denied him Jesus did not admonish Peter but rather asked him three times "do you love me?" and then directed Peter to feed his sheep. This seemed to frustrate Peter but provides an important message for us. If we love Jesus and want to be his disciples, then we are called to love Jesus's people. So as my mother and the song say "they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love" (Scholtes).

Sr Geraldine Larkins RSJ
Deputy Director: Catholic Identity & Mission
Catholic Education Sandhurst



Faith in Life

My first year as a Seminarian

It's now well over a year since I started studying for the priesthood at Corpus Christi College Melbourne. Yet it still seems like yesterday that I was working in youth ministry in schools and parishes across the Diocese.

I am now in my second year and the challenges of theology and philosophy are well and truly alive, but I am enjoying the challenges that the study presents.

The study, however, is just one of the many aspects of our formation in our journey towards priesthood. Other areas include pastoral, spiritual and human formation.

Our days typically begin with morning prayer in the chapel at 6.45am, followed by meditation and Mass. Our day then continues with classes at university, personal study or pastoral work, before we regather again for further prayer in the evening and dinner as a seminary community.

The opportunity to go to the seminary to deepen my relationship with God has been something which I have cherished. It is my hope that my studies will assist me in sharing God's love with others through my life and future ministry.

One of the great joys of my time at the seminary so far has been the opportunity to share this journey with my year mates.

Last year I was part of the biggest intake of students at Corpus Christi College for approximately 40 years. Thirteen of us joined the seminary to study for the priesthood; nine for Melbourne, two for Adelaide, one for Darwin and myself for Sandhurst. We have developed a fantastic bond between one another and I have no doubt that this will continue to be strengthened in the years ahead.

Another major highlight has been the opportunity to engage in pastoral work. This has involved working in a parish assisting students prepare for the Sacraments, as well as at a nursing home, where I had the great privilege of hearing the life stories of so many residents.

I was also pleased that last year we had the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Penola where Australia's first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, set up her first school with Fr Julian Tenison Woods, who both co-founded the Josephites. This four-day pilgrimage included walking part of the 'Aussie Camino.' We walked approximately 30 kilometres across two days through bush and along the coast in Victoria's south west. It was spectacular scenery and provided for a prayerful journey.

Other opportunities for spiritual formation include regular spiritual formation and retreats.

This year has started well and assignments are certainly coming through thick and fast.

I'm sure that 2016 will continue to offer plenty of great opportunities, which I look forward to continuing to embrace.

Jackson Saunders



Song of Mercy

To celebrate The Year of Mercy Catholic school students in the Sandhurst Diocese will enjoy singing a song written especially to commemorate this merciful year.

The song titled *'Open the Doors'*, was commissioned by Catholic Education Sandhurst for use in the diocesan performing arts program in 2016, *'Open the Doors'* was inspired by Pope Francis' symbolic launching of the Jubilee year for 2016.

Composed by Mark Puddy (pictured below), from the Australian School of Performing Arts, *'Open the Doors'* is a rousing gospel style piece that brings life to the Year of Mercy invitation to love, kindness and unbounded generosity.

Sandhurst students will perform *'Open the Doors'* at Sandhurst Arts on Show in September this year. The performing arts festival involves students from both secondary and primary schools from across the Diocese.

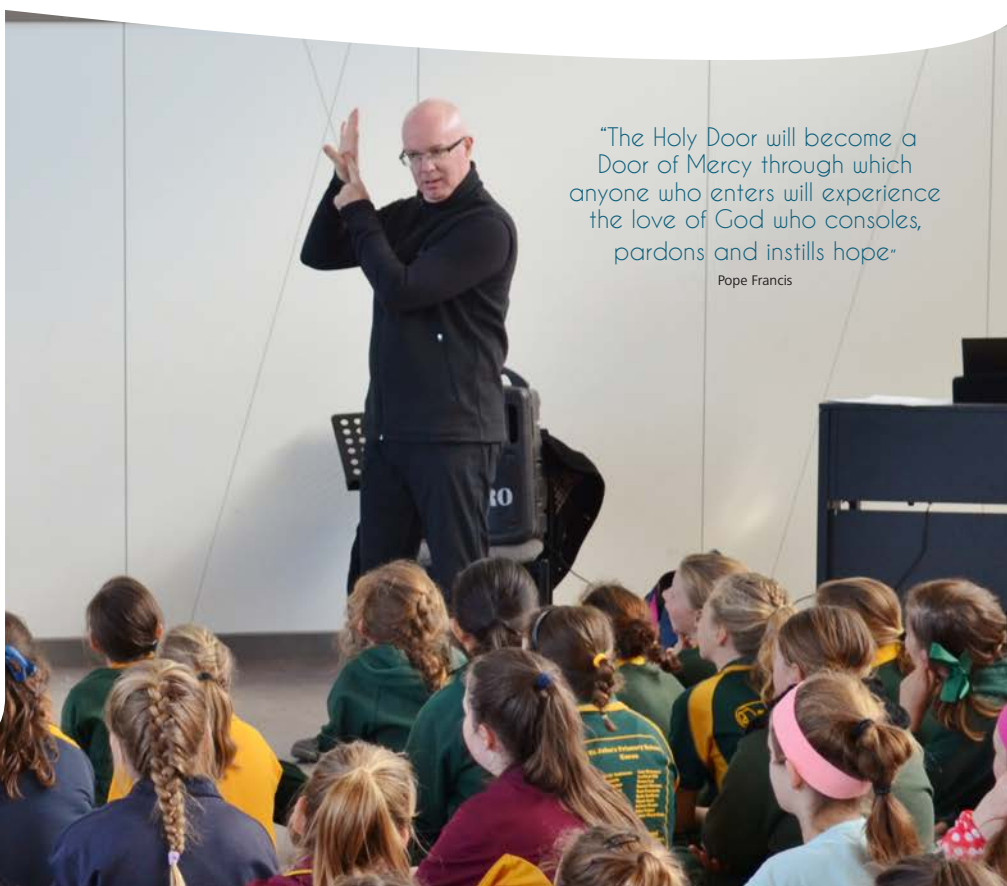
'Open the Doors' provides students with cross-curricular learning opportunities which include Performing Arts and Religious Education as well as enabling students to have a specially commissioned song to perform at school, parish and community events throughout the year.

"Catholic Education in Sandhurst has been gifted with the professional partnership developed with a3 through the Australian School of Performing Arts. The growth in the performance culture for our students, teachers and system has been incredible. We are delighted to have found another avenue to build on our substantial partnership with the commissioning of *'Open the Doors'* in this Year of Mercy. We couldn't think of a better expression of all that is sacred and that will engage our children and teachers."

Phil Bretherton

The official logo, designed by Father Marko I. Rupnik, shows Jesus, personification of Mercy, carrying on his shoulders a "lost man", emphasizing how deep the Savior touches humanity; his eyes are merged with those of the carried man. The background is filled by three concentric ovals, with lighter colors outwards, meaning that Jesus is carrying the man out of the darkness of sin. On one side the image is also joined by the official motto: Misericordes Sicut Pater (Merciful Like the Father), derivative from Luke 6:36, which stands as an invitation to follow the example of the Father by loving and forgiving without limits.

The **2016 Jubilee** was first announced by Pope Francis on March 13, 2015. It was declared in the Pope's April 2015 papal bull of indiction, *Misericordiae Vultus* (Latin: "The Face of Mercy"). It is the 27th holy year in history, following the ordinary 2000 Jubilee during John Paul II papacy.



"The Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope"

Pope Francis

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