

80th ANNIVERSARY MASS – PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Good morning everyone and a very warm welcome on this beautiful day.

I welcome our celebrants Bishop Peter Comensoli, Bishop of Broken Bay and Deacon Kevin from Our Lady of Dolours Parish.

I offer the apology from our Parish Priest Fr Paul Finucane who has another Diocesan obligation today but he is always our greatest supporter as have all the Parish Priests of Our Lady of Dolours.

We are so very fortunate to share this time together today.

To our many special Guests of Honour. I begin with the Christian Brothers. We warmly welcome previous Headmasters of the College Mr Tom Casey (1979-81) and his wife Helen, Br Brian Moylan (1982), Br Myron Byrne (1983-85) and Br Michael Walsh (1986-94). I also welcome the many Christian Brothers who have come here in significant numbers today. Br Paul Coster (Old Boy), Br Carl Sherrin (Old Boy 1953 and the College Archivist) and Old Boy. Br Tony Whelan (former CSO Director), Br Brian Murphy and Br John Henry Thornber, one of our school's greatest supporter, former teacher, Board member and resident in the Chatswood Brothers community for many, many years. These men represent the 166 Christian Brothers who have lived and served here at Chatswood.

I welcome Mr John Honner, Member of the Edmund Rice Council Australia, our EREA Regional Director Mr Brian Roberts also representing our colleague Edmund Rice schools and he is the former Principal of both CBHS Lewisham and St Patrick's Strathfield.

Welcome to Mr Peter Hamill Director of CSO schools in Broken Bay.

Welcome to Mr Philip Ledlin Principal of Our Lady of Dolours Primary School and Mr Adrian Pulley, Acting Principal Corpus Christi.

We have many Board members past and present - Mr Peter Hughes College Board Chair, Mr Brian Populin, Mrs Therese MacLaine, Mr David Kennedy and Mrs Melissa Kennedy, Mr Tony Masone. I am pleased to welcome former Board Chair, Mr John Hunt and former Board Member Mrs Jan Hunter. I welcome members of the College P&F.

There are a good number of Old Boys and their families present – Mrs Judith Ryan, wife of first day pupil Mr Philip Ryan student No 91. Mr Kevin Mutkins first day pupil who celebrated his 90th birthday yesterday. Mrs Jan Brodie, wife of Alan Brodie (started 1938). Mr Dermot Hoy and his wife Jean, class of 1957 and one of 3 generations of Hoy's at Pius. Mr Tony Lennehan, class of 1954 and one of 3 generations of Lennehan's at Pius. Mr Ken Hammond, Major Roderick White, Mr Jim Fitzgerald, Mr Bill Gleeson, Mr John Quirk, Mr David Bradley class of 1951. Mr Phil Chaplin and his wife Mary, son of Mr Chaplin the original surveyor of Chaplin Oval at Lane Cove whose name is honored here in Chaplin Oval. Mr David Bullard, President of the Old Boys association, great stalwart of the College and Old Boy of 1982.

A special welcome to all our parents, ex-students, staff and students.

I warmly welcome each one of you to our Mass today.

In this week of the Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice we honour in every way the Ministry of the Christian Brothers. So too for 80 years we honour the vision of our Parish priests from Our Lady of Dolours. Today too I wish to acknowledge the many long serving lay staff who have followed in the footsteps of the Christian Brothers and a good many of them are ex-students themselves.

People such as Mr Patterson and Mr Pawlak who have 39 years of service. Mr Pawlak also was an Old Boy. Mr Cunneen and Mr Masters, both Old Boys who are currently on staff and served 38 years, Ms Black an ex-student of the co-instruction years and staff member of 24 years. Mr Kiaran O'Byrne an Old Boy and staff member for 22 years. Mr Sean Brannan Old Boy and staff member of 17 years. We remember My Bryan Hoy who passed away while a staff member. He too was an Old Boy. Other staff members who are Old Boys include Mr Donnelly, Mr Carson, Mr Manson and Mr Garvey. Let us not forget that Br Sherrin, our present Archivist is an Old Boy (1949-1953).

There are many other long serving staff members of over 20 years but time limits my mentioning them all by name. Just to name a few Mr Anderson, Mr Olson, Mr Gibson, Mrs Millar, Mrs Martin, Mrs King, Mrs Maxine Hunt, Mr Cogan, Mr Russo, Mrs Leonardi and Mr Quilty. Thanks to them all and all staff.

I sincerely hope that all our guests can all join us for lunch following Mass.

But young men of Pius and for all of us – what are we celebrating today?

- Tradition – yes!
- The legacy of the Christian Brothers – Yes
- Catholic education, teaching and learning in the Edmund Rice Tradition – Yes

But there are truly 2 main causes for our celebration:

- Community. We all belong and we love this school
- But above all we celebrate our Catholic faith – our love of Jesus

Pope Pius X is best remembered for his devotion to the Eucharist and his Papacy centered on peace, love and the Eucharist. We are called.

In this special Eucharist, we gather to ask God's blessing in appreciation and thanksgiving for St Pius X College for the past 80 years. We recognise with deep appreciation the foresight and constant pastoral leadership of the Parish Priests of Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood. In particular the Christian Brothers and their dedication, commitment and leadership remain as an inspiration for the College. From a small Brothers community of 5 led by Br Quirke (first Headmaster) in 1937, this community has grown into this dynamic, faith-filled community. From 140 students in 1937 to 1140 students in 2017.

How did we do it?

Though Fide et Labore - faith and hard work.

We pray today for the grace to continue the on-going call that Christ makes to us to spread the Good News to all.

We ask for God's blessing on all Christian Brothers and Edmund Rice communities on the Feast Day of Edmund Rice this Friday 5 May.

Let us wholeheartedly in this Eucharist celebrating our faith together in the joy that this gives to us and for generations past. Let us raise our hearts and voices in praise and thanksgiving.

Mr John Couani

Principal