

Lasallian 300

Three-hundred years after the death of St John Baptist de La Salle, Melbourne's four Lasallian schools have been celebrating the life and legacy of their founder in 2019.

De La Salle College, Malvern, St Bede's College, Mentone, St James College, Bentleigh East, and St John's Regional College, Dandenong, united under a single Lasallian banner for a series of events aimed at engaging different year levels in different ways.

All Year 7 and 8 students went to St John's Regional College, Dandenong, where Fr Andrew Jekot helped to unpack the theme and significance of the tercentenary, followed by a musical mystery ride through the values of the gospel with Andrew Chinn.

Year 9 students, hosted by St James College, Bentleigh East, took part in a Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral celebrated by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli. Following Mass, the students went to Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy, to discuss equality, homelessness and ways to make positive change.

Year 10 and 11 students gathered at St Bede's College, Mentone, for a day of prayer, reflection and hope. Beginning with Mass, celebrated by former collegian Fr Chris Monaghan, the experience continued with Fr Rob Galea sharing his story of transformation through song.



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For Year 12 students, the day at De La Salle College, Malvern, combined prayer, conversation and music. With Mass celebrated by former collegian Monsignor Stuart Hall and concelebrated by Fr Peter Matheson, the event provided a chance for the most senior students from the schools to discuss their role as leaders of faith communities to maintain the vision of the founder.

There is something quite energising when you are among such a large gathering of young people and enthusiastic staff. With the colleges interacting together, the phrase 'we are Lasallian' had an added dimension. As St Bede's College Principal John Finn said, 'I think the founder would like to have been among the students.'

Words of the Founder

As part of the tercentenary, St Bede's College, Mentone, coordinated the development of the *De La Daily* app.

De La Daily draws its inspiration from the spirituality of St John Baptist de La Salle (1651-1719), who recognised the centrality of prayer as a way to remember that we are always in the midst of our ever-present God. St John Baptist de La Salle was a prolific writer, and his theological, spiritual and pastoral works continue to affirm, challenge and inspire all Lasallians and beyond.

De La Daily is a collaborative, grassroots project, created and resourced by a coalition of six Australian Lasallian schools, emanating from St Bede's College.

