

2018 COMMENCEMENT MASS

Good Morning and a very warm welcome to each of you to the 2018 College Opening Mass. We welcome our celebrant and new Parish Priest Fr Jim McKeon. Fr Jim know that we are so excited about you joining the community and leading our Parish. We look forward to getting to know you and learning from you. We look forward to your homily today. We ask for God's blessing on you and your Ministry here in Chatswood and with our school. We are packed in today and ask for your blessing.

We also welcome Br Sherrin representing the Christian Brothers. Welcome to Mr Brian Roberts, EREA Regional Director.

I love our opening Mass and it is a joy to see our new students in Year 5, 6 and 7 especially when many are gathered here on the altar. Welcome our new students and to all our students and staff.

We give special thanks for our school community and we gather to start the year exactly as the College has done here in this Church every year for 81 years.

In this Mass today and on the eve of Ash Wednesday tomorrow we offer our 2018 school year to God. We commit our work – yours and mine – students and staff, parents and friends - to do our very best in study, sport, performing arts, cultural activities - in our friendships and family. We have all set goals for this year and we would only offer God the best we can do.

Our theme for 2018 is "Stewards of Creation".

What does this actually stand for? In essence it means that we have been given our world as a gift from God. Our environment, our lives, the people of all cultures and races, the relationships we have with nature, with each other and all other people, our Indigenous communities and every living thing in relationship with one another. It is sacred and we are sacred. We must look after our environment and each other.

So we will learn more about this and about ourselves. We ask God to bless us and all we do and all those we love and give thanks today. We must live it out.

In this Mass let's demonstrate our faith by the way we all sing together and offer Mass genuinely and reverently. Let us welcome Fr Jim by the way we answer in the responses and show him our great school spirit through our singing.

Today is an important day in the beginning of our 2018 school year as we ask God's blessing on all we will do. Let us together put our faith into action!

Mr John Couani - Principal