



BRIGIDINE COLLEGE  
MISSION REPORT  
2022







# 1 INTRODUCTION

## Our mission...

### *Brigidine College St Ives*

Enriching and enlivening our Brigidine Community in faith and service.

This calls us as a College community to instil a living and contemporary Catholic ethos modelled on Jesus Christ and the vision of Kildare Ministries in our students and staff. This strategic area will continue our work in the realms of faith, social justice and advocacy, prayer, reflection and formation.



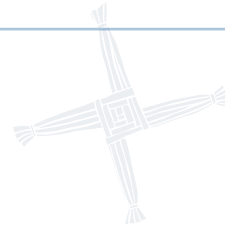
## This is supported by the goals which:

- Strengthen the contemporary spiritual life of students so they grow in faith and hope
- Develop empathy and advocacy for those who experience social injustice or who live in the margins of society
- Inspire and nurture connection with, and understanding of, the Catholic Church and Kildare Ministries
- Enrich the faith experience through innovation in liturgical, prayer and sacramental opportunities promoting stillness and deep reflection
- Extend Religious Education to inform, engage, stimulate and challenge students
- Prioritise the professional formation of Brigidine staff as witnesses and educators in faith

The Deputy Principal Faith and Mission, in consultation with the Principal and the Leadership Team, oversees the implementation of the Faith Strategic Plan. The Annual Management Plan based on the Strategic Plan goals puts into practice due process to achieve outcomes and to embed faith in all aspects of College life.

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## 2 LITURGICAL LIFE OF THE COLLEGE



*In 2022 the liturgical and prayer life of the College resumed under lessening Covid-19 restrictions. This enabled the opportunity for whole school gatherings to return and in turn, Mass was celebrated once again in the College. Only the Easter Liturgy was affected by the impact of the virus and with the College closed at that time the Easter Liturgy was withheld for 2022.*

The theme of the Kildare Ministries (KM) value of Compassion was able to be fully celebrated in activities and forums throughout 2022. It was certainly a year for making new connections and continuing to be inventive with spirituality and connection within the community.

The Commencement Mass was celebrated in February. Father Greg Chee presided at the Mass and offered blessings and relevant prayers with our community. Both new staff and new students were especially welcomed and acknowledged at this Mass as we started the new year.

In Term 1 we celebrated Ash Wednesday as a community. In Term 2 we had a Mother's Day Liturgy in May, with many Brigidine mothers and carers attending after not being able to in 2020 and 2021. Founders Day, at the end of Term 2 also proceeded as a communal celebration and we appreciated the presence of Father Greg Chee from Corpus Christi Parish St Ives with us on that day. The Mass also featured the announcement of the 2023 student leaders.

In August Term 3 we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption at Corpus Christi Parish St Ives. The whole school, except for Year 12 who were completing their Trial HSC Examinations, attended the Mass together. In late Term 3 we were overjoyed to be staging a Graduation Mass and Dinner for our Class of 2022 and their parents. The Mass also featured new graduation candles which were personalised for each student with their name included on each candle. These were an important keepsake for the students

and a clear reminder for them to share their 'light' with the world beyond Brigidine. We also celebrated with our fathers and carers, a special Father's Day Liturgy in September.

In Term 4 we celebrated together with a Thanksgiving Mass at the end of the term. The Mass included special prayers in multiple languages, the blessing of new Eucharistic Ministers and the farewell and blessing of departing staff.

Chapel time in 2022 followed a regular structure of hymn singing in preparation for Masses and upcoming Liturgies, followed by a short reflection from the Deputy Principal Faith and Mission on central themes and seasonal church times throughout the year. Chapel time created space for quiet reflection, time for peaceful prayer and for a quietening of the soul for the relevant cohort. The improvement in student engagement and participation in quiet reflection continued to enhance their own wellbeing and sense of purpose.





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# 3 PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

## *Retreats continued to offer quality reflection and service for the girls.*

Year 12 attended their retreat at Elanora in Term 1. The experience built on their Year 10 and Year 11 experiences and extended the students' reflection on their emerging self in relationship to their family, their peers and God. Their spiritual retreat with the theme, *To Everything there is a Season*, was designed to prepare the girls for the stresses and challenges of the HSC year and beyond. With time for a beach walk, reflection on their own lives, prayer, meditation, yoga, music therapy and special Liturgies, the group encountered a deeper understanding of their faith and their relationships.

Year 11 attended a Street Retreat, adopting the theme, *My True Self – Rediscovering myself and others*. It was intended to stimulate and engage students as they prepared for their final years of secondary education. Normally, the purpose is to assist students to recognise the importance of their holistic development, and to give them further understanding of the fullness of life. In 2022 these opportunities were restricted as the severe weather limited the chance for students to safely visit placements.

In lieu of individual placements, the students experienced a day here at the College with an emphasis on the awareness of the issues of the marginalised along with guest speaker presentations. The presenters from William Booth had a profound effect on the students with the openness and honesty about their own personal stories. The students participated in an overnight stay at the College, 'sleeping rough', and then took part in experiences and visits over two days to organisations including Our Big Kitchen and Kids Giving Back. Later in Term 3 this cohort again took on the special responsibility of leading the whole College in support of Homelessness Week in August.

Year 10 participated in a Spirituality Retreat in Term 4 that was held for two days in Wollongong. The two day retreat followed two days of camp for a one-off combined camp retreat experience due to the Term 1 cancellation of camp due to poor weather. Students were provided with the opportunity to reflect on their life journey and experiences,

their relationships with each other, their families and God. This was achieved by small discussion groups, personal reflection time, one-on-one discussion, quiet prayer time and a Liturgy with the whole group. This short experience gave the students a taste of the benefits of a retreat and to find time in life to nurture one's inner self. The affirmation activity built a strong foundation of connection within the cohort leading into senior schooling.

For Year 7 and Year 8, a Student Spirituality Day was organised in Semester 2. Year 8 enjoyed a day of reflection, music and joyful celebration with Chris Doyle from Kairos Productions. In Term 4 Year 7 celebrated a Spirituality Day at Oxford Falls focusing on the theme of *Brigidine and Me* and their connection to the College and its spiritual heritage.

## *Staff Spirituality Day*

At the start of Term 3 the whole staff engaged in a Spirituality Day with a strong focus on Indigenous Awareness and deepening our understanding of First Nations people. The day commenced with a smoking ceremony with Indigenous Elder, Les McLeod, then a talk from Les about his own journey and his own spirituality. Later we heard from alumni, Nikki Kuper and Hannah Cheeseman about their own experiences and work among Indigenous communities since leaving school. These were inspirational talks and a strong affirmation of the foundational work done in the College to set these young women on their vocational paths. The staff also enjoyed using a Yarning Circle to create awareness and connection amongst one another. It was a well-received day and has set the foundation for a committee to begin the process of creating a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) within the next two years at the College.







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# 4 COMMUNITY SERVICE

*Once again, Covid-19 restrictions led to many initiatives and normal outreach programs being re-imagined in 2022.*

The College community were fortunate to have Refugee advocates speak at the whole school Assembly in Refugee Week. The community also supported both Reconciliation Week and Homelessness Week. These whole school weeks bring a renewed focus on these critical areas of social justice and outreach to our community.

In keeping with our holistic focus and the core values of Kildare Ministries, we instigated a compulsory Community Involvement Program for Years 7 to 10 in 2022. Driven by the College Social Justice and Leadership Coordinator, Skye Wachter, the students were required to log a range of service hours in community settings and complete this before the end of Term 3. With some minor tweaks in 2023 it is hoped this compulsory program will deepen the student's connection with the local community and enable them to develop qualities including compassion, gratitude and advocacy for others.



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# 5 SOCIAL JUSTICE



*Year 12 supported The Indigenous Literacy Foundation in 2022. \$29,485.00 was raised which was historically the highest amount collected by Year 12 students. This was a great achievement in another Covid-19 year where opportunities for fundraising had to be safe, well organised and creatively set up.*

Year 11 promoted the issue of Homelessness in 2022. A special Homelessness Week activity divided the whole College into a range of activities supporting 'Dignity Dishes', cooking meals for the homeless and marginalised, or 'Days for Girls', providing support for young girls overseas with menstruation support kits and other toiletries. Both aspects were very well supported and ably led by the Year 11 students in Term 3.

In 2022 the College continued its close affiliation with 'Dignity Dishes'. With the support of the Social Justice Coordinator Skye Wachter, the dishes swelled greatly in number across the College as more and more families and students came on board with cooking meals for the homeless and disadvantaged in 'Dignity Dishes' care. This has been a remarkable success for all involved in another year where so much of life was restricted and lessened due to the pandemic. Over the year it was noted that over 10,700 dishes had been cooked and prepared by the community.

The normal Year 9 Pink Day and Daffodil Days were run this year. Year 8 supported the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. They organised food packs of non-perishable and practical items to be stored for emergency use by those on the streets struggling to manage daily life. Year 7 organised more than 70 Christmas Hampers for families in need. These were split evenly between two centres and enabled the College community to work in conjunction with Corpus Christi Parish at St Ives with their hamper collection. Each Mentor Group looked after a particular family's needs.

## *Social Justice Forum*

The 2022 Social Justice forum was unfortunately cancelled as an onsite event. The social justice students took part in online forums wherever possible and encouraged student advocacy and action throughout 2022 in online presentations and online assembly items. Notable days included a 'Cultural Awareness Week' where respect and appreciation for the diversity of cultural backgrounds in the College was celebrated.









## TOWARDS 2023

We hope that through 2023 opportunities to return to full engagement with external organisations will continue to happen. We will continue to build our student's capacity to engage with marginalised people and create both support and advocacy for them where possible.

**Brian Loughland**  
Deputy Principal - Faith and Wellbeing







# BRIGIDINE COLLEGE MISSION REPORT

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2022

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