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ST THOMAS AQUINAS  
 COLLEGE

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## COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### Word from the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the College,

Our school year is rushing to an end with only three weeks left to go for our students. There are a few important dates that parents should be mindful of.

1. On Thursday 2nd December we will be holding the Year 6 Graduation Mass and Breakfast. A special thank you to the parents helping us make the breakfast possible.

2. On Friday 3rd December we will hold the closing School Mass in the morning and the Presentation Night in the evening. We are planning this event in such a way that all of the community will be able to attend.

3. On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December in the morning, we will host the Foundation Orientation Morning. In the evening of the same day, we will hold the Year 12 Formal. Since it is taking place on the Feast of St Nicholas it will have a decidedly Christmas theme.

Our students are doing well in the current circumstances. Parents have been contacting us and asking us for support and we have been providing it as best as we can. The arrangements in the Primary school although not ideal, are working. The CRTs are doing a good job and the teachers are successfully working with their classes as groups and one on one as arrangements demand. Even if the teachers are working remotely, they are still very much in charge of the teaching. They can see their children all the time and are constantly directing their learning while

using the CRTs as their arms and legs or as Teacher Aides to support individual learning as directed by the teacher.



This approach is expensive for the school, exhausting for the teachers and far from ideal for the students; that is why it is only a short term fix, not a long term solution. Neither teachers, students nor parents wish this arrangement to go on beyond the end of Term 4, even if they did, the College could not afford to. The Board is well aware of these issues and so has announced that the College will return to full onsite learning from day 1 of next year. This announcement has raised concerns amongst some parents as to how the College will be staffed next year. We are working through these issues with our staff and doing everything we can to retain all of them. On an industrial level, this is very complex and confidential so I cannot go into detail, but I can assure parents that the Catholic Ethos of the College is my first concern and that I am using every means available to protect and preserve it during these turbulent times.

Sincerely yours in the Two Hearts,

Father Cranshaw  
 (Principal)

### VIRTUE THIS WEEK

### SERVICE

*"Rather die than serve God half-way!"*  
 Bl. Edward Poppe

### COLLECT - 24th Sunday after Pentecost

In Thine infinite goodness, we beseech Thee, O Lord, to watch over Thy household, that even as it relies solely upon the hope of Thy heavenly grace, so it may ever be defended by Thy protection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.



Instaurare  
 omnia in  
 Christo  
 To restore all  
 things in  
 Christ

## Important Notice Regarding End of Year Dates

- Term 4 Concludes - Friday 3 December at 12.30 pm
- Presentation Night - Friday 3 December at 6.00 pm
- Grade 6 Graduation Mass and Breakfast - Thursday 2 December.

### LOST

Lost Red Cap  
Name: Lucas Yassa is inside  
the rim. Please hand in at of-  
fice if found.

### ST GERARD LEAGUE

Whilst in lockdown we are  
unable to have the Food  
Friday Food Collection.

These collections were an  
enormous help with the  
work that the League does  
to help families in our  
community.

If you are able to contribute  
a donation transfers can be  
made to the following  
account.

**St Gerard League**

**BSB: 063 532  
Account: 10382071**

### Year 2 - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Over the last 3 Sundays the children from the Year 2 class have been  
making their First Holy Communion.



Congratulations to  
each and every  
one of them. They  
have waited so  
long for this very  
special occasion.



### ALL SAINTS DAY

We were sent these great photos  
from a family for all Saints Day.



### HATS FOR 4th TERM

For those students who need to be at the College, we remind them and parents, that the wearing of  
hats whilst outside during recess and lunch is compulsory in 4th Term.

## ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

*To form in each youth the true and perfect Catholic*



**ENROLLING  
NOW**



Ph:5629 2500 [office@stac.vic.edu.au](mailto:office@stac.vic.edu.au)

## SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS - Missionary Bishop 9th November

Saint Martin, born in Pannonia (Hungary), followed his father, a military tribune in the service of Rome, to Italy. Although he was raised in paganism, he felt nothing but contempt for its cult, and as though he were Christian by nature, he took pleasure only in the assemblies of the faithful, which he attended despite his family's opposition. When he was fifteen years old, he was forcibly enrolled in the Roman armies and went to serve in Gaul, the land he was predestined to evangelize one day. What would become of this young boy, when exposed to the libertinage of the camps?



Would his faith not be obliterated? No, for God was watching over His vessel of election.

The most famous episode of this period in his life is his meeting with a poor man almost naked in the dead of winter, and trembling with cold. Martin did not have a penny to give him, but he remembered the text of the Gospel: "I was naked, and you clothed Me." "My friend," he said, "I have nothing but my weapons and my garments." And taking up his sword, he divided his cloak into two parts and gave one to the beggar. The following night he saw Jesus Christ in a dream, clothed with this half-cloak and saying to His Angels: "It is Martin, still a catechumen, who covered Me." Soon afterwards he received Baptism.

Disinterested charity, purity, and bravery distinguished the life of the young soldier. He obtained his discharge at the age of about

twenty. Martin succeeded in converting his mother, but was driven from his home by the Arians. He took refuge with Saint Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers. After having given striking proofs of his attachment to the faith of Nicea, he founded near Poitiers the celebrated monastery of Ligugé, the first in Gaul. The brilliance of his sanctity and his miracles raised him in 372 to the episcopal throne of Tours, despite his lively resistance. His life thereafter was but a continual succession of prodigies and apostolic labours. His flock, though Christian in name, was still pagan at heart. Unarmed and attended only by

his monks, Martin destroyed the heathen temples and groves, and completed by his preaching and miracles the conversion of the people. His power over demons was extraordinary. Idolatry never recovered from the blows given it by Saint Martin.

After having visited and renewed his diocese, the servant of God felt pressed to extend his journeyings and labours beyond its confines. Clothed in a poor tunic and a rude cloak, and seated on an ass, accompanied only by a few religious, he left like a poor missionary to evangelize the countryside. He passed through virtually all the provinces of Gaul, and neither mountains, nor rivers, nor dangers of any description stopped him. Everywhere his undertakings were victorious, and he more than earned his title of *the Light and the Apostle of Gaul*.

### 2021 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
<b>8 Nov</b>	<b>9 Nov</b> Yr 10,11 Exams commence	<b>10 Nov</b>	<b>11 Nov</b>	<b>12 Nov</b> Yr 10,11 Exams finish
<b>15 Nov</b>	<b>16 Nov</b>	<b>17 Nov</b>	<b>18 Nov</b>	<b>19 Nov</b>
<b>22 Nov</b>	<b>23 Nov</b>	<b>24 Nov</b>	<b>25 Nov</b> Yr 7 - exams commence	<b>26 Nov</b>
<b>29 Nov</b>	<b>30 Nov</b> Yr 7-9 exams finish	<b>1 Dec</b>	<b>2 Dec</b> G6 Graduation Mass & Breakfast  Secondary Activities Day	<b>3 Dec</b> Term 4 Concludes at 12:30pm  6pm Presentation Night

#### OFFICE HOURS

**8:15am - 3:30pm**  
MONDAY - FRIDAY

#### TERM DATES

	4th Term:	Wed 6th Oct - Fri 3rd Dec
2022	1st Term:	Monday 31st January