Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

Welcome back to students, parents and staff to Term 2 at Catherine McAuley. I hope all families enjoyed the two week’s school break and found time to spend with each other. A particular welcome to Ms Adele McGlone who joins the staff this term, replacing Ms Aneta Brennan who is on maternity leave for 2015. We also welcome Mrs Amanda Chahine as our new Careers Advisor and Ms Therese Jackson who will be working in the Performing Arts Department this term.

Monday of the first week of term was a Staff Professional Development Day, where staff were able to sharpen their technology skills and share resources and skills with one another. This training will enable better delivery of lessons to our students and ensure a wide range of strategies in the use of technology in the classroom continue to be developed here at McAuley. I would like to thank Ms Janet Cairncross for her organisation of the day and staff who were presenters on the day - Mr Bob Cavill, Ms Michelle Ribeiro, Ms Alison Finnerty, Ms Joanne Dae, Ms Dot Spiteri, Mr Paul Dinh, Ms Stevie-Lee Boardman and Ms Emily Grant.

Year 7 students have now attended a special “Boot Camp” to introduce them to the workings of their MacBook computers. The sessions were a wonderful opportunity for students to be familiarised with the basics as they embark on using technology in their learning this term.

Congratulations to Elyssa Vickers of Year 11 who was a finalist in the Blacktown City Council Youth Ambassador competition. Elyssa spoke at a dinner attended by Blacktown Councillors and fellow competitors last Monday. Elyssa was a wonderful representative of both Catherine McAuley and her local council area on the night.

Congratulations to Emily Rotunno who has been selected in hammer throw as a national representative for the Oceania Games. We wish her the best of luck.

I would also like to thank the staff and students who represented our school community at recent ANZAC Day events. We were represented at the Parramatta RSL ANZAC Dawn Service, ANZAC Memorial Service at Hyde Park, Memorial Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral and at Camp Gallipoli. All these events were all the more significant given the Centenary of ANZAC Day this year. At our school assembly students lead staff and students in a deeply moving remembrance and prayer service. Thank you to Ms Sharon Colling who organised history students for this event.

Regards

Ms Laetitia Richmond
Principal
Welcome back to Catherine McAuley for Term 2. I hope that you had an opportunity for rest, relaxation and reflection over the holiday break. I was very privileged to have been on pilgrimage with 35 Religious Education Coordinators from the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta. In the Holy Land we walked in the footsteps of Jesus and in Rome we listened to our Holy Father, Pope Francis. One of the most profound moments for me was listening to ninety year old Gabriel in Jericho as he spoke about the hardships experienced by Christians living in the Holy Land. May we remember to pray for peace, so that people of all faiths can live in harmony without persecution.

Our Year 11 students have commenced the new term with their half yearly examinations; we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide them during this period. During the school holidays our Year 10 representatives attended the second session of the Encounter Program. Friday morning Mass has recommenced in the Mercy Chapel with our Chaplain, Father Paul Cahill O.Carm and everyone is most welcome to attend. I would like to especially thank Father Paul for enabling so many students from Catherine McAuley to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent.

Last Sunday we celebrated the Fourth Sunday in Easter, commonly known as Good Shepherd Sunday. The Gospel reading (John 10:11-18) spoke to us about Jesus who is the Good Shepherd, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” The theme of shepherds is a recurring theme in the Bible. Psalm 23 is one of the best known psalms, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” People living in biblical times knew that being a shepherd was not an easy task. They were exposed to danger and the elements and lived a very lonely existence with very few home comforts. Despite these hardships, they took great care of their flocks. We remember how Jesus, the Good Shepherd, out of love sacrificed his life for us, so that we may have eternal life and we especially pray for those who are discerning a religious vocation that they may listen and respond to God’s call.

Traditionally the Catholic Church honours Mary in the month of May. At Catherine McAuley we are continuing this tradition with our Marian Prayer Group. Commencing in Week 3, this group will meet in Mary’s Garden on Friday at the start of lunch to meditate upon the Mysteries of the Rosary. On Mother’s Day Sunday, we remember all mothers and all those who have taken on the responsibility of mothering. Before her profession into religious life, Mother Catherine McAuley became the primary caretaker of some of her nieces and nephews. In her ministry of care for the poor and needy she followed Our Lady’s perfect example of mothering. Even on her death bed, Catherine’s concern was more for the Sisters than herself. Following Mary’s example we pray that all mothers and all those who mother may nurture and guide their children leading them to her Son, Jesus.

**Term 2 Units of Study**
The units of study for Term 2 are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>AREA OF STUDY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7RE</td>
<td>Literary Forms in the Bible, People of the Covenant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8RE</td>
<td>Continue Life and Times of Jesus, Reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>9RE</td>
<td>Continue Mary and the Saints, New Testament</td>
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<tr>
<td>10RE</td>
<td>Continue Eucharist, Reverence for Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>11SOR 2 Unit</td>
<td>Continue Religious Tradition Study 1: Judaism, Religious Tradition Study 2:</td>
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<td>Christianity</td>
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<tr>
<td>11SOR 1 Unit</td>
<td>Continue Religious Tradition Study 1: Christianity, Religious Tradition Study 2:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Islam</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Catholic Studies</td>
<td>Continue Spiritual Pathways, Living Texts</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 SOR 2 Unit</td>
<td>Continue Religious Tradition Depth Study 3: Islam, Religion and Peace, Religion and Non-Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 SOR 1 Unit</td>
<td>Continue Religious Tradition Depth Study 1: Christianity Religious Tradition Depth Study 2: Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Catholic Studies</td>
<td>A Christian Vision of the World</td>
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The term has gotten off to a very busy start with a number of exciting activities:

**Staff Development Day**

On Monday 20th April staff were involved in a professional learning day focusing on the effective use of technology in the classroom. The teachers participated in a number of different workshops to improve their understanding of Mac applications such as iMovie and Keynote - and Google drive applications including Google sites and Blogger. The highlight of the day was the afternoon ‘Teachmeet’ session, where a number of teachers outlined the ways that they had been using technology to improve learning in their own classes. It was inspiring to see such innovative teaching and I congratulate all of the staff that presented. Their enthusiasm and willingness to share their experiences with the rest of the staff was a testament to their dedication and professionalism!

**Project 21 Update**

Throughout Term 1 Year 7 have been enthusiastically participating in their Project 21 classes each fortnight. The focus of term one was ‘keys to successful learning’. They covered a diverse range of topics including file management, using Google docs for collaboration, cyber safety, managing homework and assessments and study tips such as how to make summaries.

The focus of P21 for the remaining terms will be on developing our students as 21-century learners. They will engage in a number of projects to assist them to communicate, collaborate and create effectively using technology.

To support Year 7 to use their mac laptops to their full capacity, all of the students participated in mac induction ‘bootcamp’ this week. Students explored to organisational features of their laptops and experimented with Keynote, Garageband and Imovie. These skills will be further developed during the P21 classes.

Year 7 students participating in the Mac bootcamp.

**NAPLAN**

Year 7 and Year 9 students will be sitting the NAPLAN Testing on Tuesday, 12th May to Thursday, 14th May. The NAPLAN timetable is below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday, 12th May</th>
<th>Wednesday, 13th May</th>
<th>Thursday, 14th May</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy (Number, Algebra, Function and Pattern; Measurement, Chance and Data; and Space)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ms. Janet Cairncross
Assistant Principal
(Learning and Teaching)
Permission Notes available on the School Website

Permission notes for excursions, incursions, sports activities and any other school activities are available to download from the school website and print at home should your daughter misplace the note provided by the school.

Permission notes can be accessed via the School’s Website, News and Events tab then click on to the Permission Notes menu item.

Unless parental permission is received by the due date, as specified on the permission note, students will not be able to attend the excursion and will attend normal classes at school or complete work as assigned by the teachers in a designated area.

Permission notes will outline the dress and equipment requirements for the excursion or activity. If the student does not meet these requirements they will not be eligible to attend the excursion or activity.

Attendance

In NSW attendance is compulsory for children over the age of six years until the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. At Catherine McAuley attendance each day is a priority. Parents are asked to make all appointments for their daughters outside school hours. If they are unable to do this a medical certificate needs to be provided on the students return to school. This also applies to partial absences. If students are late on three or more occasions in a term the student will receive an after school detention where they will complete school work. If you have any questions regarding attendance procedures at Catherine McAuley please contact your Daughter’s Year Coordinator.

Study Skills Tip

7 Steps to Make the Most of Classtime

So what are the advantages of using classtime efficiently? Well, you will complete more work in class and have less to do at home, your teacher will be pleased with your application and so will your parents when they read your report, and of course, you will learn more! And if you don’t use classtime efficiently? Well you will have to do more work at home, you will find you don’t always understand the work, your teachers will have to be continually disciplining you and you may even make it harder for other people in your class to learn. So what does working effectively in class mean?

1. Sit next to someone who will help you stay on task.
2. Ask questions whenever you are unsure, unclear or do not understand something.
3. Be polite and respectful of your teacher and your classmates.
4. Come to the lesson with all the books, technology and equipment you will need.
5. Contribute your thoughts and ideas at the appropriate times.
6. If you find yourself day-dreaming ask yourself questions about what is going on.
7. Try at all times to stay on task and be focused on the work you are doing.

Learn more this year about how to work effectively at home and at school by working through the units on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au. Our school’s access details are:

Username: mcauley
Password: 189results

School Photos Date

School photos will be taken on Friday, 29th May. During Week 5 students will receive a photo order envelope. Students are required to hand back this completed order envelope to photographers on photo day, alternately parents who place their order online do not need to return the order envelope. For more information please contact Mrs Lisa Richardson, Assistant Principals’ Secretary, on 9849 9109.

Ms Debbie Grigson
Assistant Principal
(Pastoral Care/Administration)
New Careers Advisor – Mrs Amanda Chahine

We welcome this term our new Careers Advisor who has replaced Mrs Judy Green who left last term. Mrs Amanda Chahine will be available for careers advice on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Mrs Chahine has written the following:

I am excited to be part of Catherine McAuley Westmead, and to play an important role within the pastoral care of the girls. We live in a fast-paced, ever-changing, technologically driven age and the skills and personal traits required for future careers are changing as well. I am looking forward to working with students and helping them to make connections with various tertiary and employment contacts to broaden their post-school options and continue on their path of life-long learning.

Mrs Amanda Chahine
Careers Adviser

Elective Geographers Go Exploring...

Our Year 9 and 10 Elective Geography students headed to the Blue Mountains National Park and Jenolan Caves on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th April to complete fieldwork related to their study of Physical Environments.

They certainly experienced our natural world in all its glory from the magnificent ancient vegetation seen during our bushwalks through the Jamison Valley to the amazing Karst topography of a variety of caves. Our trip on the scenic railway into the valley and the night tour of Lucas Caves were definite highlights.

Some comments from our Year 10 students include:

“It made us realise that our existence has only been that of a blink of an eye when compared to the natural world that we live in” Johanna

“I loved seeing the amazing formations of the caves” Sara

“It was so pretty - the rushing rivers and waterfalls were beautiful” Emily

A special thanks to Mr Otter for all the driving he did for us on the school bus.

Mrs Gloria Noud, Ms Rosanna Torresan and Mrs Teresa Wilson
Elective Geography Teachers
Our Year 7 Japanese students made fans last month as part of their study of the language and culture of Japan. It was a very pretty classroom as the students presented to the class what they had done.

**Year 11 Student Finalist in Youth Ambassador Program**

Congratulations to Elyssa of Year 11 who was a finalist in the Blacktown City Council Youth Ambassador Program. This program involves the Council selecting two young people to serve as Youth Ambassador’s for one year.

Elyssa was selected after submitting a written entry and was nominated as a finalist after being interviewed by a panel consisting of the Mayor and seven councillors. Only five finalists were nominated so this is a great achievement. Elyssa then had to present a speech on the topic “In what ways does technology influence the youth of Blacktown, and how can Blacktown City Council use technology to enhance the Sister Cities Program”. This speech took place at the awards ceremony in front of a large audience.

Unfortunately Elyssa was not chosen as a Youth Ambassador but she says she is grateful to have been nominated as a finalist and appreciated that councillors and politicians in attendance on the night have encouraged her to continue to pursue her public speaking and youth involvement endeavours.
Catherine McAuley students and staff attended a number of events in commemoration of the 100 Year Anniversary for ANZAC Day. The History Department organised a very moving ceremony here at school which took place on the Friday prior while students and staff attended the Dawn Service ceremony in Parramatta and represented the school in the march and laying of a wreath at the cenotaph in Prince Alfred Square, Parramatta. Twenty students and four staff attended Camp Gallipoli which was held at Moore Park on the Friday night and into ANZAC Day.

In the week leading up to ANZAC Day students, accompanied by Mrs Lisa Kemmis, attended the Memorial Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta while students, accompanied by Mrs Leanne Kempys, attended the RSL organised ANZAC Memorial at Hyde Park, Sydney. Reflections from the students on this important occasion and their involvement are below:

**Camp Gallipoli**

Twenty students, accompanied by Ms Laetitia Richmond, Ms Debbie Grigson, Ms Leah Morrison and Ms Debby Aquino, spent the Friday night before ANZAC Day at Camp Gallipoli, a coming together of people of all ages and background to commemorate the 100 year anniversary.

Johanna Jones, Year 10, has written her report on this event below:

> On the 24th of April, 20 students from Years 7 to 12 packed their bags, swags and beanies for a freezing cold yet proud night to commemorate and honour the fallen and standing ANZACs. Blessed with relieving weather, all of us attended concerts held by Jon Stevens, Mahalia Barnes and various other talented acts. The atmosphere soared as everyone was enjoying themselves. Everyone stood tall and proud as we all linked arms and sang the National Anthem under the glistening stars. As the night fell many fell asleep however for those nocturnal dwellers amongst us we saw shooting stars, the sky of the stars moving and just basked in the memory of all those who had fought and all those who are still fighting, mentally and physically.

> Never before experiencing a Dawn Service I was moved to see the respect and love from all those who had attended. Camp Gallipoli was a community gathering of peoples of all ages, backgrounds and cultures, and I was truly honoured to be a part of it.

**Amy Earl, Year 9,** says that she will remember her experience at Camp Gallipoli for ANZAC Days to come and has written her reflections below:

> We arrived at Camp Gallipoli in Moore Park on Friday afternoon ready for an Anzac Day experience we would never forget. We set up our sleeping bags on the ground, under the stars, trying to emulate the life of a soldier in the trenches.

> Peter Overton was the guest master of ceremonies and he began the night’s proceedings with an overview of the Anzac story and the history of WW1. This was followed by a series of documentaries highlighting the soldiers and their experiences fighting for our country over the years in various wars and conflicts.

> After a snuggled night in our sleeping bags we woke at 5am to the unique sounds of the bugle. It was so cold that there was frost on top of our sleeping bags but we made our way to the Hordern Pavilion for an extremely touching Dawn Service. The Dawn Service was quite emotional, hearing the stories and letters from some of the soldiers that served in WW1. I have been to several Dawn Services in recent years but this one was very memorable and a truly fitting commemoration of the Anzac centenary. It feels special knowing that I was there to mark 100 years since the first landings of the ANZACs at Gallipoli. Thank you to the teachers who organised this opportunity for us as I am sure I will remember this experience for ANZAC Days to come.
Mansha Singh, Year 12 also attended Camp Gallipoli and has written her reflection:

Camp Gallipoli was an extremely memorable experience, with thousands of schools and the general public coming together as a community to commemorate the achievements of the ANZAC’s 100 years ago. As we slept in our sleeping bags in the cold under the stars, a true appreciation was formed for all the sacrifices made by all the brave men and women. The Dawn Service which commenced early Saturday morning was very touching and inspirational and definitely a once in a lifetime opportunity. I am so thankful to everyone who made it possible.

Student Reflections on their ANZAC Day Experience

I attended the Dawn Service at Parramatta with my family. I was very motivated to attend due to it being 100 years since the Anzacs fought in Gallipoli. The Salvation Army performed the last post and many students, as well as other citizens, joined in the hymns and prayers. I was moved by the effort that was put in and the ceremony itself. Erin Bratovic, Year 9

I attended the Dawn Service at Parramatta with my family. To see the representatives from our school made me so happy and so proud to be a part of a school that really goes the extra mile to honour our amazing ANZACs. Marnie Tannous, Year 12

I enjoyed the school ANZAC Day ceremony. I was moved when watching the movie the students made and how people told their stories about their relatives. Simonette Lagare, Year 7

It was such an honour to be a part of the Anzac Centenary Ceremony at our school. Having been a part of the Australian Army Cadets for a little over a year, I am blessed to be able to wear the uniform, representing the thousands who were in battle in the First World War, and also the men and women that have fought in more recent wars. It was a very emotional day, although a very happy one as it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to be a part of the Centenary of Anzac and personally pay my respects. We Will Remember Them. Lest We Forget. Elyssa Vickers, Year 11

I attended the Dawn Service in Parramatta with a few teachers and other fellow pupils of Catherine McAuley. Placing a wreath with my fellow Year 12 classmate we felt a sense of pride and honour as we acknowledged the incredible fight that many Australians and New Zealanders took part in. It was an incredible honour to pay tribute, especially as I was wearing my Great Great Grandfathers medals. I felt a sense of connection and overwhelming heartbreak as I reflected on what struggles these soldiers must have endured. Samantha Knox, Year 12

I went to the ANZAC Memorial at Kellyville Rotary Club. There were various different return service men and women who attended. The memories that were shared was amazing and really brought you back to the time when the men and women were fighting. Elaina Angeloudis, Year 10

I was involved in the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Epping and the city march as part of my involvement with the Australian Air Force Cadets. I was also involved in the ANZAC Day Ceremony at school as I was holding the flag. Both events were an amazing experience for me as when we marched through the streets of Epping there were so many people clapping and cheering. At school I was proud to be the one holding the flag. It was my first ANZAC Day involvement and I will always remember it and be proud of that fact that I was involved in it. Dana Palackalody, Year 11
I attended the Parramatta Dawn Service and found that it was heartfelt and solemn, especially when we stood for a minute’s silence after the Last Post was played. I was sad during the school ceremony when staff and students told their stories about their ancestors. It is hard to imagine what people during the war went through but by their courage we are able to live in a free and great country today. Tram Nguyen, Year 7

With two of my fellow classmates I attended the Dawn Service held in Martin Place for ANZAC Day. The service was stunning and there was such a great atmosphere of respect and union amongst the crowd all being there to give thanks for those who have fought for Australia. Hearing all the crowd singing our national anthem at the end was my favourite part, it really makes you appreciate our position in being able to come together as a community because of brave people who have fought for our country. Loren Singleton, Year 12

We participated in the school ANZAC Day ceremony in our cadet uniforms to represent the armed forces of Australia. It was an honour for us to be a part of the service and participate in such an auspicious occasion. To be a part of remembering those who have died for our country and to be able to commemorate this gave us a great sense of pride. To be able to participate in a school service such as this really makes us feel proud of being part of the Australian Air Force Cadets. Tresa Jacob, Nidhi Dandiwala and Dana Digi Palackalody, Year 11
During the school holidays on 14th - 16th April, I participated in an aboriginal camp called Walking Tall Together. This camp ran for three days and two nights. We stayed at the University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury Campus and I can honestly say I learned so much.

We visited other UWS campuses to gain a taste of some of the courses that UWS provides; such as music, nursing and midwifery and many more. Along with getting a taste of university life, we also took time to have fun, having a trivia night on the first night and going out to dinner on the second night. The organisers had planned for us to go aqua golfing in Penrith but due to the rain it was declared unsafe but I still had a fun night by watching a movie. I have met so many awesome people on this camp and learned so much. I would definitely attend again.

Olivia Rotunno
Year 9

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Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interview Evening
Wednesday, 6th May 2015
3:45pm – 7:30pm

Year 12 student’s mid-year reports will be available for collection from 3.30pm on the same evening.

Information about Interview Bookings:
We request that you book an interview time with each of the teachers who you would like to meet. You can access a link to the online interview-booking site on the Catherine McAuley school webpage under the News and Events tab (upcoming events) or by using the URL

www.schoolinterviews.com.au

The school event code is V4SVT

The site will be open for bookings from Thursday, 30th April 2015. When making your booking you should include your daughters’ full name.

Interviews will last for 5 minutes to enable teachers to see as many parents as possible. We recommend that you leave a 5 minute break between each booking to ensure that you have time to move between interviews. Your daughter should attend the interview with you, dressed in her school uniform. She should bring her school diary with her.

Please complete all bookings and print your schedule by Tuesday, 5th May 2015, at 10:00pm. After this date, access to the site will be closed.

If you have any difficulties making interview bookings please call School Reception on 9849 9100.
Year 7 Vaccination Program

A reminder to parents that Year 7 students will be attending the Vaccination Clinic on Thursday 7th May 2015.

Students will be receiving the following vaccination:
2nd dose of HPV

Mother’s Day Stall

Dobson and Clare Houses are organising a Mother’s Day Stall to raise money for Mercy Works. All money raised will go towards educational programs in Timor Leste.

Gifts will range in price from $3 - $15. The stall will take place on Wednesday 6th May.

Parent’s Negative Maths Talk Can Affect Their Child’s Attitude to Mathematics

Our Mathematics Coordinator, Mrs Joanne Evans, encourages parents to read the following article which appeared recently in the Herald Sun. The article advises that when parents shrug off their own poor maths ability they are affecting the child’s attitude to the subject. A link for the article appears below:

Post-Separation Recovery Program

A series of seven workshops which help you begin to
- deal with intense emotions
- face & accept your changed life-situation,
- attend to your grief,
- learn lessons from the past
- redefine yourself
- forgive and let go
- set new goals & rebuild on a strong foundation

The Program
Each Session led by trained Facilitators follows a set agenda including
Video Input,
Personal Reflection,
Journaling,
Large & Small Group Sharing,

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<th>Non Exploitative</th>
<th>Non Directive</th>
<th>Non Judgemental</th>
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Venue: Presbyterian Church Hall  
150 Macquarie Rd  
Springwood NSW 2777

Time: 7.30pm – 9.45 pm  
Including Supper break

Dates: Seven Wednesdays  
6th May – 17th June, 2015

Fee: $80.00

Bookings essential.

Solo Parent Services  
Ph. 02 9933 0205  
soloparentservices@ccss.org.au
CCSS PARRAMATTA DIOCESE
SOLO PARENT SERVICES - CATHOLIC TRIBUNAL OFFICE

Understanding the Process of Annulment of a Marriage within the Catholic Church Seminar

Date: Tues 05th May 2015
Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Venue: Mamre House 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills

Marriage breakdown is usually a traumatic experience for all concerned.
The Church reaches out in support of those whose marriage has broken down, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage.
Many separated and divorced people and their families wonder about their status within the Catholic Church, and begin to ask such questions as ...
What is the basis for an annulment?
How does an annulment differ from a divorce?
How long does it take?
Are children of a marriage declared null considered illegitimate?

On this Information Night you will have the opportunity to have these and other such questions clearly answered.

PRESENTERS
Canon Lawyers
From the Catholic Tribunal Office Parramatta

REGISTRATION
Solo Parent Services
Ph. 9933 0205
or soloparentservices@css.org.au