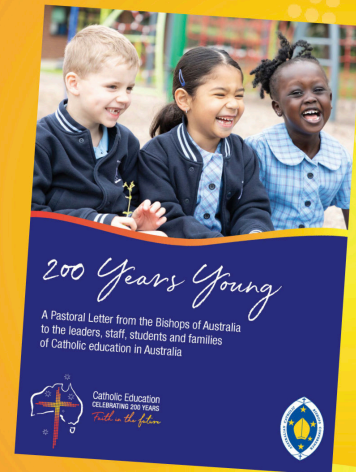


Formed in Prayer

*Let us be still
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us*

Dear Father,
Be with us as we pray.
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain us in our mission.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Gospel

John 6 1-15

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover. Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, ‘Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?’ He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, ‘Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.’ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said, ‘There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Make the people sit down.’ There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, ‘Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.’ So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, ‘This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.’ Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday’s Gospel reading?
What might God be saying to you in and through the Gospel?*

Reflection

“...but what is that between so many?” There must be times as a leader, teacher or minister when you have wondered how you could possibly achieve or complete what you have been asked to do with the comparatively seemingly meagre resources, time available and small number of people assigned?

Could pioneer Catholic clergy like Fr Tennison Woods or educators like George Marley or Mary MacKillop, have dared dream that Catholic schools would, one day, grow to become the largest provider of non-government schooling in Australia with one in five school age students attending a Catholic school. Could they ever have imagined that in 2021 they would educate 777,000 students in 1,755 schools across the country and employ over 100,000 teachers and staff? What has been achieved in 200 years of Catholic education in Australia may well be one of those works, foretold by Jesus, that would surpass even his works. (Jn 14:12-14)

What follows this miracle of the feeding of the five thousand men, is Jesus’ declaration, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” The Church’s millennia-old commitment to education, from pre-schools to universities, has fed the human hunger and thirst for meaning and truth and a peace and joy that coin cannot purchase. At our best, we educate young people to give *themselves* away as bread for a world hungry for the bread of life. (Greg Wilson, CSYMA Manager)



Formed in Prayer

***Let us pray in gratitude for the faith, hope and love witnessed
by all Catholic educators – past, present and future.***

200 YEARS - FAITH IN THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA

Almighty and all-loving God,
with gratitude for the endeavours of Catholic education in the past,
with confidence in our Catholic pre-schools, schools and universities today,
and with faith in their continuing contribution in the future,
we celebrate 200 years of Catholic education in this Great South Land.

As our Heavenly Father,
we thank you for your providential care for your children in this land
in inspiring priests, religious and lay people
to found and staff our schools in ages past.
Through them the Good News of your Son was brought to the young
even in colonial times – and ever since.

As Christ the Teacher,
you grace the staff and leaders of Catholic education today.
As they build on the achievements of their predecessors
direct them in their present efforts
to ensure that every young Australian has the opportunity
for an excellent education and formation in faith.

As our Inspiring Spirit,
you lead us into the future.
In the century ahead grant those teaching and
learning in our schools,
those planning and leading,
and the families and community that entrust
their young people to us,
a love of learning and a willingness to be the
face of Christ
in the world of tomorrow.

Pour out your abundant blessings upon all involved in
the ministry of Catholic education. Amen.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross – pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Patron of Catholic
Education in Australia – pray for us.

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Catholic Education
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

Faith in the future