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# Kildare Ministries Newsletter

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# Editorial

## Justice - The Work of Right Relationship

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2026. As we begin a new year across Kildare Ministries, I extend a warm welcome to all who are joining our community - students and families beginning a new chapter, staff commencing new roles, and those who take up leadership and governance responsibilities. We are enriched by your presence and by the gifts you bring to our shared mission.

Each new year carries both promise and responsibility. In 2026, our core value and theme is **Justice**. It is a word that is often heard, sometimes debated, and always significant. Yet justice is more than a response to wrongdoing or a reaction to crisis. Justice is about relationship - about how we choose to live with one another in dignity, fairness and mutual responsibility.

This year, we are invited to see justice not simply as action in moments of urgency, but as daily practice. Justice is the steady work of aligning our hearts, our structures and our decisions with what is right.

The prophet Micah offers words that remain both simple and demanding:

***"... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8***

Justice, kindness and humility are not abstract ideals. They are relational commitments. They shape how we speak to one another, how we exercise authority, how we allocate resources, and how we make decisions that affect others. They call us to examine whether our policies,

practices and priorities truly reflect dignity - particularly for those who are vulnerable or unheard.

Our *Living Justice Living Peace* Charter reminds us that justice has always required courage and imagination:

***Jesus called for creative and revolutionary changes. He taught by word and example that our compassion, love and reconciliation would lead to Justice and Peace. To the outsiders of his society, he offered a place at the table.***

Justice, then, is not passive. It is creative. It is courageous. It reshapes tables so that those previously excluded are welcomed. It asks us to look carefully at who feels on the margins in our communities and whether our structures genuinely make room for them.

At a time when conflict and violence are increasing both overseas and within our own country, we are reminded how fragile peace and social cohesion can be. While we cannot resolve every global crisis or heal every division, we can attend faithfully to the spaces entrusted to us. Justice begins in the decisions and relationships that shape our communities each day. It is expressed in the way we build inclusive communities, form young people with conscience and compassion, and make decisions that place dignity at the centre.

As ministries shaped by the courage and compassion of Brigid, Nano and Bishop Daniel Delany, we inherit a tradition that understood justice as lived reality. Their leadership was relational and generative. They created communities where dignity was protected, education was accessible, and hope was tangible.

We are called to be enablers of justice. Not in dramatic or performative ways, but in steady, faithful ones. We enable justice when we create space for another's voice, when we exercise authority with humility, when we design policies that protect the vulnerable, and when we form young people who can think critically and act compassionately. Justice is rarely the work of one person alone; it is cultivated in communities that choose dignity over convenience and relationship over division. In this way, justice becomes not an initiative, but a shared way of being.

As we begin this year, perhaps the invitation is this: where does justice begin for us? In our leadership? In our classrooms? In our governance? In our relationships?

May this be a year in which justice is not only spoken about but practiced. Not reactive, but relational. Not abstract, but visible in the way we lead, teach, serve and accompany one another.

And may we walk humbly, together, in the steady work of right relationship.

With every good wish for the year ahead,



*Nicole Mangelsdorf*  
*Executive Director*



## Introducing Our New Trustees

The Kildare Ministries Members Council recently announced the appointment of three new Trustees of Kildare Ministries. We are delighted to introduce our new Trustees and look forward to the wisdom, experience and mission-centred leadership they will bring to the work of the Trustees and to the ongoing stewardship of Kildare Ministries.

### Jeff Burn



Jeff has had a long and significant association with Kildare Ministries and its educational ministries. As former Executive Officer of Kildare Education Ministries and a member of the Members Council, Jeff brings deep insight into the story, governance and lived mission of Kildare Ministries, together with a strong personal commitment to our Vision, Mission and Values.

Jeff is currently Deputy Chair of Edmund Rice Education Australia Victorian Schools Ltd. (EREA VSL) and has a distinguished history in Catholic education. Over many years, he has served in senior executive and governance roles, contributing to strategic leadership and mission-focused oversight within Catholic education. Jeff commenced as a Trustee of Kildare Ministries in February.

### Andrew Carman

Andrew serves as Chief Financial Officer of the Catholic Development Fund (CDF), where he contributes to the organisation's strategic direction and financial stewardship in support of



Catholic communities. With more than 20 years of experience across the private and public sectors, Andrew brings strong expertise in financial leadership, operational management and strategic planning. Prior to joining CDF, he served as Chief Financial Officer at BankVic.

Andrew brings board experience through his roles with the Emergency Services Foundation, CDF, Community Fund & Australian Financial Services License (ASFL) Boards. He is a Fellow Certified Practicing Accountant

(FCPA) and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (MAICD). Andrew holds a Bachelor of Business in Accounting, Economics and Finance.

Andrew was educated at Whitefriars College in Donvale and maintains a strong connection to his faith and family links with the Presentation Sisters in Victoria.

Andrew will commence his role as trustee in May.

## Rhonda O'Connor



Rhonda brings a breadth of knowledge and experience from her current role as Director of Mission Integration at St John of God Health Care, along with previous roles as Pastoral Associate at St Francis Xavier College Berwick, St Paul Apostle Parish in Endeavour Hills, and with the Association of Pastoral Associates.

Rhonda holds qualifications in Theology, Ministry Leadership and Pastoral Care, and is passionate about ministry and mission. She has been involved in a range of initiatives including social outreach in Timor-Leste, youth mental health, support for refugees and asylum seekers, adult education, and mission development. Rhonda will also commence as a Trustee in May.

## Welcome back to Erica Pegorer!

We also welcome Erica Pegorer back to Kildare Ministries, having recently been appointed to the Members Council as a Representative for the Brigidine Southern Cross Community.



Erica is well known across the Kildare Ministries community, having served as the founding Executive Director from 2014 until July 2025. Through her leadership during these formative years, Erica played a pivotal role in establishing Kildare Ministries as a well-recognised and respected ministry of the Church.

We are grateful that she will continue to share her wisdom and experience in this new role on the Kildare Ministries Members Council.

# Welcome to our New Leaders

## **Christopher Shelly, Chief Financial Officer, Kildare Ministries**



We warmly welcome Christopher Shelly as the new Chief Financial Officer of Kildare Ministries.

Chris brings extensive experience in senior financial and operational leadership across Catholic education and the not-for-profit sector. Prior to taking up this role, he served as Business Manager at Kilbreda College and previously held senior roles with Fairtrade ANZ Ltd and the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare.

He has significant experience advising Boards on financial and risk matters, has completed the AICD Company Directors Course, and was appointed Chair of Catholic Education Business Administrators Ltd (CEBA) in September 2025.

Chris is an active member of his parish and has also been actively engaged with Kildare Ministries, including as a key member of the 10 Year Anniversary Conference Planning Committee. He brings a deep commitment to our Mission and Values, together with a thoughtful appreciation of missional governance and the balance required between mission, financial stewardship and corporate governance.

We congratulate Chris on his appointment and look forward to his leadership and contribution as part of the Mission and Ministry Team.

## **Kate Quinane, Principal, Brigidine College, St Ives**



We warmly welcome Kate Quinane to Kildare Ministries as the new Principal of Brigidine College, St Ives. Kate brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to the education of young women, having served in a number of leading girls' schools, including Ascham School, Roseville College, Santa Sabina College and Mount St Benedict's College.

Immediately prior to this appointment, Kate held several leadership roles at St Aloysius' College, serving as Director of Teaching and Learning from 2016 to 2022, Deputy Principal from 2022 to 2024, and Acting Principal in 2025.

Kate's expertise in curriculum and pedagogy has been central to her leadership. She has developed innovative educational programs and championed best practice to support strong academic outcomes and student engagement. Her collaborative leadership style and commitment to excellence in education have made a lasting impact in every community she has served.

Kate was commissioned as Principal of Brigidine College during the gathering of the College community for their commencement Mass.

We congratulate Kate on her appointment and look forward to the leadership she will bring as she continues to nurture a community of learning shaped by the values and spirit of Kildare Ministries.







# Crossing New Seas Oration 2026

We are looking forward to our second Kildare Ministries Crossing New Seas Oration to be held on the evening of **Wednesday 18 March** at Star of the Sea College, Brighton.

Introduced in 2025, the annual Crossing New Seas Oration brings members of the Kildare Ministries community together to reflect on pressing issues at the intersection of faith, social justice, education and contemporary global challenges. It provides an opportunity to deepen our shared mission and renew our commitment to justice and peace in our world.

Our 2026 speaker is Kate Kennedy AM, a graduate of Star of the Sea College, who has dedicated her career to addressing complex human rights challenges, including modern slavery, child protection and systemic disadvantage. In alignment with both her work and our 2026 Core Value of Justice, Kate will speak on the topic:

*“Seeking Justice: Slavery Is Closer Than We Think.”*

Members of the Kildare Ministries community are warmly invited to join this important conversation as we continue to deepen our commitment to justice and to responding to the needs of our world.

To register your attendance please [click here](#).

# KILDARE MINISTRIES CROSSING NEW SEAS ORATION



*Seeking Justice:  
Slavery Is Closer  
Than We Think*

**KATE KENNEDY AM**



Kate Kennedy AM, a graduate of Star of the Sea College, is a highly respected cross-sector leader who has dedicated her career to addressing complex human rights challenges, including modern slavery, child protection and systemic disadvantage.

Kate has held senior roles in Australia, Southeast Asia and the United States, including Strategic Director at World Vision, CEO of Hagar Australia, Program Director at The Pratt Foundation, and Managing Director of the Freedom Fund in New York. She has worked closely with the United Nations, governments and corporations to drive collaborative reform, particularly in supply chains and labour exploitation.

Kate was inducted into the Victorian Women's Honour Roll in 2021 and appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2023 for her leadership and service.



Star of the Sea College,  
80 Martin St, Brighton



Wednesday 18th March 2026



7.00pm *Gather*  
7.15pm - 8.15pm *Oration*



# From our Mission Leader

## Lent: Keeping our Hunger and Thirst for Justice Alive

*“Lent... invites us to place the mystery of God back in the centre of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.”*

Pope Leo, Listening and Fasting: Lent as a Time of Conversion

If we open ourselves to Lent, it can be a time of re-committing ourselves outwardly; rather than focusing on the challenges of our own day, we can lift our gaze and focus on our interconnectedness to the whole of life around us. We become aware of the needs before us, and then we choose what’s ours to do. In this way, observing Lent can help us to *“keep our hunger and thirst for justice alive and free us from complacency.”* (Pope Leo)

Justice is one of Kildare Ministries’ core values, and our specific focus across all the schools and community works in 2026. We are all fortunate to be part of a community that can draw on the long tradition of making the needs of the vulnerable paramount – through the stories we have of both Brigid and Nano who shone their light in the darkest crevices of our world. Both women stepped defiantly through the despair of their times towards hope; showing up for those most in need, and by doing so, acknowledging their dignity. Brigid gave away all she could for the poor, including her father’s precious sword. Nano defied the oppressive penal laws, putting her own life at risk by teaching Catholic children in secret schools. And the Brigidines and Presentations who followed these incredible woman have done the same for their time and place across the world.

Our mission at Kildare Ministries is to continue this drive for justice – to show every person that they are worthy of our deep respect – through our deep listening, our kind words and our bold actions of hope.

## Formation Program

### Faith Leaders Network

Faith leaders from across our schools gathered recently for their first network meeting for the year.

Fr Elio Capra SDB presented on the theme of Justice. Drawing on his rich knowledge of art history, Elio explored the theme *Jesus: Human and Divine*, highlighting how artworks across the centuries reveal dimensions of justice and invite reflection on faith in action. His presentation also included reference to Pope Leo's *Dilexit Nos*, encouraging the group to consider how art and theology can help students engage with the realities of our world with hope and compassion.



### Justice and Ecology Leaders

Our school staff who support students in their commitment to Justice and Integral Ecology came together to reflect on how we can engage our students' passion for justice through our 2026 student programs. We have Hana Assafiri OAM joining us at our first program at Saltbush. Hana will share her story of navigating her deep commitment to her Muslim faith, in a world where religious stereotypes and judgements dominate. Hana speaks strongly against those who use religion to justify domestic violence and silencing women's voices.

### New Leaders Formation

This year we provided focused formation for those new to their Senior Leadership Team through the New Leaders Formation. Leading in a Kildare Ministries school is unique in Catholic education, as it is inspired by the courageous and counter cultural approaches of St Brigid and Nano Nagle and the brave women and men who have led the Brigidine and Presentation Ministries since. Rosemary Copeland shared what she's learnt from her years in Senior Leadership at Clonard College Geelong and St Joseph's College Echuca, and as co-chair of the Trustees of Kildare Ministries since its inception. Our new Leaders had the opportunity to reflect on their own leadership journeys that have brought them to today, and listen for where this new calling as Leaders of Kildare Ministries is leading them.



### First Nations Network



With relationships as our core priority, staff gathered in person from across the ministries in February to track our progress in creating cultural safety for First Nations students and staff, as well as strong Teaching and Learning outcomes across Kildare Ministries. With a mix of Elders, student, support staff, teachers and leaders, we collaborate to benefit from each

others' experience, knowledge and skills. Tracking our progress in a shared online forum allows us to continue supporting each other between our gatherings, and enables us to ensure our First Nations Elders, staff and students are engaged each step of the way.



*Jane Collopy*  
*Mission Leader*



## Commencement of the year Masses around the Ministries

Across our schools, Commencement Masses have marked the beginning of the 2026 school year. These gatherings are a visible expression of who we are - communities of faith, learning and relationship. As students and staff returned and new members were welcomed, each celebration offered an opportunity to pause, give thanks and embrace the year ahead with hope and purpose. The following photos reflect the joy and shared purpose that continue to define our ministries.

### Brigidine College, Indooroopilly



### Brigidine College, St Ives



Clonard College, Geelong



Kilbreda College, Mentone



Kildare College, Holden Hill



Killester College, Springvale



Marian College, Ararat



Marian College, Sunshine West

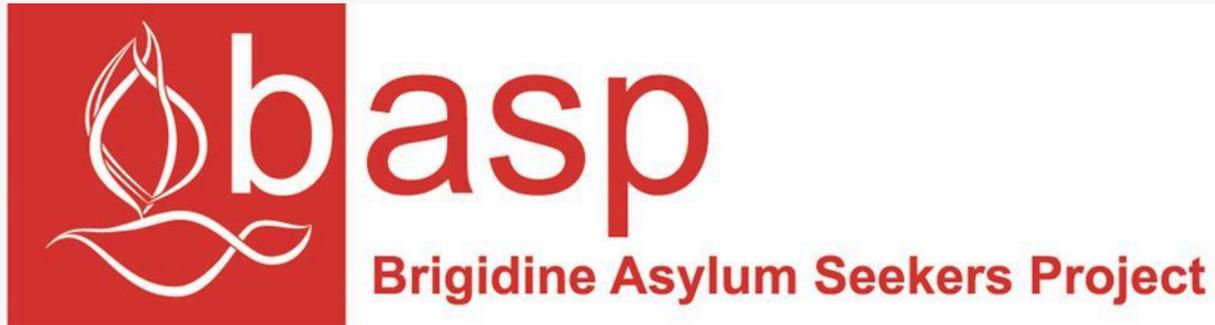


Star of the Sea College, Brighton



St Joseph's College, Echuca





## Supporting BASP

### **BASP Online Trivia Night**

St Mary's Hampton online trivia event in support of the **Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project** is back on Friday 1 May.

We aim to provide a fun night for you and your friends and raise money for a good cause, and we'd love your support. To take part, sign up as a team host, and get your team together for a light-hearted night of trivia and conviviality. Suggested minimum donation of \$30 per team member.

#### **When**

Friday 1 May 7.30pm to 9.40pm

#### **Where**

Your place! Invite a group of friends to your home, up to 10 people - small groups are welcome. If you prefer you can form a distributed team in several locations and use our online breakout rooms to talk over your answers.

#### **How**

You don't need to be a tech wizard. You need a smartphone, tablet (iPad, Android) or a computer with sound (a webcam would be nice but not essential). You'll get a link for the Zoom online chat service and use your web browser to answer the trivia questions. Check the website for more details.

**Booking and more information:** [cohdig.au/trivia](http://cohdig.au/trivia)



**We are grateful for any of the following food items (or vouchers to buy food and household necessities)**

**We currently have enough tinned food, except for cans of fruit, peas, carrots, corn.**

The following are still very much appreciated:

- 1 kg sugar, oil (olive and vegetable), salt, pepper, tea, coffee
- Herbs and spices, especially coriander, cinnamon
- Blocks or individual wrapped cheese
- **Eggs are really appreciated**



At present we need full cream long-life milk, noodles, tuna, basmati rice, dates, (), cans of fruit



Gladwrap, tinfoil

Flat bread in sealed wrapping, as people often ask for bread

Sweet and savoury biscuits, snacks for school lunches (even when home!)

Shampoo, shaving cream and shavers, toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, deodorant

Garbage bags and bin liners (small and large)

**We seemingly never have enough washing powder, dish washing detergents or cleaning products.**



**STRONGER  
TOGETHER**

# Walk for justice, respect and kindness

**Palm Sunday 29 March 2026**

**2 - 3.30pm – Speakers and music at Lower Terrace, Birrarung Marr**

*Prior to the program: 1pm – Gather on Princes Bridge with banners and placards*

**1.30pm – Walk to Lower Terrace, Birrarung Marr**

**Welcome Refugees**



Queries: [info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au](mailto:info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au)

**# justice4all # respect # kindness**





## New website for Kildare Ministries

We are delighted to share that our new website is now live. With improved navigation, refreshed content and a contemporary design, the site offers easier access to information about our schools and community works, our mission and values, governance, formation opportunities, and news and events from across Kildare Ministries.

We hope the website provides a welcoming place to learn more about our ministries and the people and stories that bring our mission to life.

We invite you to explore the site: <https://www.kildareministries.org.au/>



# 2026 Calendar Dates

## *Network Meetings*

### **KEM Business Managers**

20 August

### **KEM Principals**

12 March

21 May

13 August

### **KEM Risk Coordinators**

24 February

21 August

### **KM Business Managers**

14 May

6 November

### **KM Principals & Community Works Leaders**

13 March

22 May

20 November

### **KM Risk Coordinators**

6 May

29 October

**Faith and Learning Leaders**

12 May

1 September

**Faith Leaders**

19 February

17 November

**First Nations Network**

24 February

*May TBC\**

18 August

**Justice and Ecology Leaders**

13 February

*Staff Retreats & Immersions*

**Crossing New Seas Oration**

18 March (Star of the Sea College)

**Staff Integral Ecology Retreat**

29 April to 1 May

**Kildare Ministries Conference**

26 to 28 August (St Joseph's College Echuca)

*Induction*

**New Staff Induction (Part 1)**

17, 24 or 25 March

**New Staff Induction (Part 2)**

9 September (online)

*Student Programs*

**Social Justice Seminar**

11 to 12 March (Saltbush)

**Social Justice Seminar: First Nations Immersion**

13 to 15 May (Araluen Camp)

**Network Zero**

6 to 7 August (Saltbush)

**Senior Leadership Retreat**

7 to 9 December