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Archbishop Award recipients Aaron Espiritu, St Aloysius' College, Milsons Point and Olivia Jacobs, Loreto College, Kirribilli.

Vision of faith & charity

Our award recipients are like Spiritual Lego Masters, laying down blocks of faith, hope and love wherever they go.



Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

The winner of the Most Outstanding Entertainment or Comedy Program at the recent Logie Awards was... Lego Masters. The hit show's host, comedian Hamish Blake, also took home the prestigious Gold Logie for his role as the face of the program. Lego Masters is now in its fourth season and as the accolades prove, it's a real crowd pleaser. The show charts the ups and downs of high-end Lego construction.

Teams of contestants are given thematic briefs and tasked with designing and constructing masterpieces, but with time and brick restrictions, as well as other obstacles to navigate. Their efforts are then scrutinised by head judge and co-host Ryan 'The Brickman' Mc-

Naught, one of only twenty-one certified Lego professionals in the world. The eventual winners are crowned 'Lego Masters'.

Many of the works are truly mesmerising, the result of aesthetic vision and clever problem solving, hours of small, intentional steps, and strategic placement of thousands of tiny blocks. The latest Lego Masters, brothers Joss and Henry Woodyard from Newcastle, built 'Kaiju Monster vs Mecha Crab' for the final and it was rated by Brickman as one of the biggest and most technical builds in Lego Masters history.

I'm not sure how many of you have been in the past or are at present whizzes with Lego bricks, but one way or another you have produced bodies of work that are the result of vision, character, and many individual, intentional acts. Rather than Lego bricks, you worked with the raw materials of faith and charity, service and generosity. The first achievement that has made you worthy of recognition as a Spiritual Lego Master is the many people you've helped and lives you've influenced through your actions. I was delighted to hear



I pray that you will bring the face and hands of Christ to the different communities you will soon be part of, be it work, tertiary study, travel, friendships, volunteering, whatever."

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

of ways each of you applied your gifts for the betterment of local communities and the building up of God's Church. Among you are youth group leaders, altar servers, lectors and extraordinary ministers, cantors, musicians and prayer leaders,, catechists, social justice advocates, fundraisers and helpers of the poor, homeless, forgotten, disabled and more. I was enormously impressed and proud of each one of you as I heard the citations read by your classmates. As pleasing as were your spiritual equivalents of 'Kaiju Monster vs Mecha Crab', I was equally elated today by a second fruit of your work: the character you demonstrated but also chose to cultivate through those deeds. In our epistle St Paul compares you with athletes in training (1Cor

9:16-27). And so others today testified to the results of your training: it has made you gentle, caring and humble; generous, expecting nothing in return; role models of living out the teachings of Jesus; young people enlivened by the Holy Spirit, passionate about sharing your faith, generous in putting others first, energetic in making a difference. Almost to a tee you were described as exemplary Christian leaders, which is natural given that Christ showed us true leadership is about selfless service of others, especially the least among us.

To be sure, you are gifted and determined, but you also know you would not be or do what you have without others—as the Woodyard brothers generously acknowledged when they received their title.

You know that there are hundreds of equally deserving young people out there and that, while enthusiasms such as yours may come from within, they are also the result of the influence of your families, parishes and perhaps especially your fine Catholic schools.

You in turn have influenced particular others and your whole school community for the better, and I count that a third fruit worthy of accolade, as well as an indicator of other fruit-farmers worthy of our grateful recognition. On behalf of all our Award recipients I want to thank our families, teachers and fellow students for all your hard work in raising up young people of faith, and character, ideals and action. You are rightly very proud of them today, as they are grateful to you for the support you have been for them in their noble endeavours.

My young friends, today we recognise what you have done to build our Church. You haven't received a fat cheque and a glorious trophy like the winners of Lego Masters. But as St Paul said in our epistle, the joy of preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and deed

is reward enough. However, you are now on the cusp of a new chapter in your lives. The tiny blocks that have been laid over the last twelve years and that has developed into your masterpieces of service will now be applied in new places. I pray that you will bring the face and hands of Christ to the different communities you will soon be part of, be it work, tertiary study, travel, friendships, volunteering, whatever. As Jesus' disciples, you will be torches for the light of God's love and goodness for others to see. Our world today needs the courageous witness you have already demonstrated and so I encourage you to continue to build your masterpieces, and never stop laying down blocks of faith, hope and love wherever you go!

Congratulations and God bless you all!

This is the edited text of the talk given by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP for the Prayer Service after The Archbishop's Awards for Student Excellence St. Mary's Cathedral College Hall, Sydney, 9 September 2022



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KAL EVANGELISTA All Saints Catholic College, Liverpool



KAL EVANGELISTA is a young Christian leader of deep faith who fully embraces the Gospel call to spread the Good News. He contributes significantly to the liturgical and prayer life of All Saints Catholic College Liverpool and parish. Kal is a talented musician with a firm commitment to animating the Gospel through music ministry. He plays music at weekend worship at All Saints Catholic Church Liverpool and College events. In addition, Kal is an active member of Antioch and volunteers his time at parish Elevate and Encounter Youth Groups, actively supporting others to engage in faith initiatives. As Captain of the Patrick House and Leader of Culture, he is gracious and serves others to the best of his ability. Kal is a fine young man who has supported numerous College activities, including open days.

GEORGIA HAMILTON Aquinas Catholic College, Menai



GEORGIA HAMILTON is a committed Catholic who actively practises her faith within the parish community of Holy Family Parish Menai. She has volunteered her time and service in various roles in the parish including fundraising events (trivia nights), assisting with morning tea after Sunday Mass, counting the Mass offerings and assisting with the audio-visual presentations. Georgia also accepted the role of sponsor to a catechumen from another parish. While at school Georgia has been an active member of the Aquinas Catholic College Menai Social Justice and Youth Ministry groups. She has participated in fundraising initiatives including the St Vincent de Paul Society Winter and Christmas Appeals, Roses Day, and Project Compassion. Georgia's strong faith and love of Christ is evident through her engagement in parish and schools.

KATA BUKOVAC Bethany College, Hurstville



KATA BUKOVAC is a kind and compassionate young woman of deep faith who takes her Student Leadership role as Religious Education and Mission Captain of Bethany Catholic College Hurstville very seriously. She is actively involved in the religious dimension of the College undertaking reading and service ministries during liturgical celebrations and whole school events. Kata leads prayer in the College Chapel and gives regular witness to her faith at St Michael's Catholic Church, Hurstville. She has openly spoken of the impact her previous Parish Priest's passing has had on her faith journey. Kata was an enthusiastic participant in the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion course and is an active member of the community, living out the College Motto.

LOSALIO MATAELE Bethlehem College, Ashfield



LOSALIO MATAELE is a young woman of faith and action. She has a beautiful heart and is always willing to help others. Her commitment to her faith is clearly illustrated not only by her enthusiastic involvement and contribution to the Catholic life of Bethlehem College Ashfield but also through her very active participation in her parish and the wider Church community. Losalio is an active member of St Thomas of Canterbury Lewisham, St Patrick's Summer Hill and the Catholic Tongan Chaplaincy representing them at the Sydney Archdiocese Multicultural Masses. She is an altar server and along with her family regularly visits the sick and elderly and shares meals with them. As a Catholic Tongan Junior Youth member, she provides support to the younger children assisting in teaching Scripture.

TATIANA ATTARD Brigidine College, Randwick



TATIANA ATTARD is the epitome of spiritual leadership within the community of Brigidine College and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish Randwick. Her humble, understated approach to Catholic leadership encourages others around her to nurture and strengthen their own faith. Her deep spirituality, combined with her participation in liturgical activities, such as the sacramental program within her Parish, models a life of service. Tatiana brings her faith to life through her active participation in all aspects of the Parish and College community through her weekly participation in Mass and in various youth initiatives, including ACTiV8, the Australian Catholic Youth Festival and combined College Youth Masses. She has a real passion for social justice as evidenced in her contributions to initiatives at the College.

SIDNEY VELOSA Casimir College, Marrickville



SIDNEY VELOSA is a young man with a strong commitment to his faith and an unwavering dedication to social justice issues. He is a person of action who participates in all areas of the liturgical and evangelical life of Casimir Catholic College Marrickville. He is a valued and respected member of the Year 12 Student Leadership team, leading the College through the Spirituality portfolio. He encourages younger students to participate in all celebrations by being an authentic witness of his relationship with Jesus. Sidney is an active member of his Parish, St Brigid's in Marrickville. He personifies the Church's active participation by being part of the Mass readers group and often assists the priests by altar serving. In word and in action, Sidney reflects the true essence of servant leadership.

PATRICK GHAZAL Champagnat Catholic College, Pagewood



PATRICK GHAZAL has demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the spiritual and liturgical dimension of College life at Champagnat Catholic College Pagewood. He is to be commended for his leadership and involvement in various fundraising events at the College over the years, in particular Project Compassion and the College's annual Christmas appeal. Patrick has been an altar server for a number of years at the College and as School Captain, has led the College in liturgical events. Patrick has also represented the College community at local deanery events, the Sydney Catholic Schools Bicentennial Mass and various Marist schools events. Patrick has demonstrated an ability to live out his faith both as a role model to younger students and in the broader community through his involvement in parish life.

GEORGE HANNA Christian Brothers High School, Lewisham



GEORGE HANNA is an exceptional example of an individual who fulfils the message embodied by the Catholic Church through his ongoing participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic community. Within his local parish, St Joseph's at Croydon, he participates in Church life in multiple ways, for example, he is actively involved in the Church's religious movies sessions and the 'I seek' Church group. He demonstrates Christian values within the Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham environment through active participation in school liturgies, leading the Year 12 group in prayers on many occasions and he also actively promotes prayer life in other students. He is a very kind and caring student who demonstrates Gospel values in everything that he does.

GABRIELLE EL-AZZI Clancy Catholic College, West Hoxton



GABRIELLE EL-AZZI is an authentic witness to her faith, encouraging the Clancy Catholic College West Hoxton community 'To Love Like Christ'. She is regularly and actively involved in the St Rafqa Maronite Church, Austral community, attending various parish and youth activities. As a Leader of Catholic Life, she contributes significantly to the Catholic Life of the College, regularly participates in prayer groups, including assisting with the weekly Stations of the Cross during Lent. Gabrielle seeks to nourish and live out her own faith through participation in a variety of social justice, liturgical and youth ministry activities, including College Youth Ministry afternoons. She is a positive role model for all members of her community, striving to be the hands of Christ through her interaction with others.

SEAN MAQUIRAN St Aloysius College, Cronulla



SEAN MAQUIRAN is a dedicated and active parishioner of St Aloysius Cronulla, regularly altar serving at parish and school Masses and events since 2012. Within the parish Sean is an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Communion and is studying to become an acolyte. He promotes the mission of the Catholic faith community as a Catechist at Burraneer Bay Public School, teaching Scripture weekly. In 2021, he assisted in training young confirmation candidates to be altar servers, participated in the parish interfaith program with the Muslim community and assisted with live streaming of weekly Masses during COVID restrictions. Sean contributes to the Catholic faith life of the College as a Lasallian Youth Leader, promoting initiatives for Caritas and Lasallian Women of Hope.

JAKE PARISI De La Salle College, Ashfield



JAKE PARISI is a very impressive and prayerful young man of faith and is an active member of the parish of All Hallows, Five Dock. At De La Salle College Ashfield, Jake is an exceptional role model to both his peers and the younger students at the College. As a College leader, he attends and assists at weekly Mass at St Vincent's Church Ashfield and frequently leads morning prayer and the Rosary for other students. Jake leads several social justice initiatives at the College, such as the Red Shield Appeal which occurs outside of school hours. Jake is a humble young man who celebrates his deep faith in a most genuine way leading others to God through his commitment and the example he sets.

CALLUM HUSSEIN De La Salle College, Revesby



CALLUM HUSSEIN is a committed Catholic who actively practises his faith within the parish communities of St Christopher's, Panania, Our Lady of Fatima, Peakhurst, and St Declan's, Penshurst. He attends Mass regularly and participates in a weekly youth group at St Declan's Penshurst. To continue nurturing his faith, Callum has involved himself in a range of formation initiatives, such as Summer School of Evangelisation, iSTAND, Light to the Nations and Ignite Conference. He is able to share the beliefs and values of his Catholic faith through his personal experiences and by engaging in conversations with others. Callum's strong faith and love of Christ is evident through his engagement in both parish and school activities.



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From refugee to teacher

When Bushra Alsamani arrived in Sydney as a 13 year old teenager nearly six years ago, having fled religious persecution in Iraq and with no knowledge of English, she never dreamed that she would be honoured with a prestigious award in her final year of high school and aspire to a career in teaching religious education.

The Year 12 student from Mary MacKillop Catholic College at Wakeley is now a powerful role model not only for junior students at her own school, but across Sydney Catholic Schools more broadly for her selfless work in her parish and her social justice initiatives helping some of Sydney's most disadvantaged communities.

Bushra's principal, Ms Gilda Pussich says she is a very worthy recipient of an Archbishop's student award and an inspiration to others in her school community. "After fleeing Iraq where



Bushra Alsamani receiving her Archbishop Award medallion from Archbishop Fisher OP.

Bushra and her family struggled to practise their Catholic faith and lost their jobs, her family then spent two years taking refuge in a caravan in Jordan before settling in Sydney and then studying at an Intensive English Centre, before

she joined our school in Year 9", she explained.

"Now Bushra is a wonderful role model as a youth leader in her parish, Our Lady of Mercy Concord and as Justice Portfolio Captain, she leads so many great

"I will love teaching religion and inspiring the students to love their Catholic faith and make a difference in their lives"

initiatives from Vinnies Winter and Christmas appeals through to supporting struggling communities overseas through Caritas".

Bushra has won an early entry place in the Bachelor of Teaching program at ACU next year, specialising in religious education and is now focused on giving back to the community for the support she herself received which transformed her life.

"I will love teaching religion and inspiring the students to love their Catholic faith and make a difference in their lives since I'm so grateful to my own teachers who helped me overcome personal obstacles myself and so I want to be that same mentor to future generations of students as well", she said.

ELENA GIONTA

Domremy Catholic College, Five Dock



ELENA GIONTA is the College Faith and Mission Prefect. As a self-motivated, hard-working and caring young lady, she actively contributes to the Catholic life of the College and Parish communities she attends. Her commitment to many aspects of College life is outstanding. Elena assists with leading fortnightly Wednesday morning prayer and the Rosary on weekly Thursday mornings. Elena has also supported the Lenten Group and 'Mary on Mondays in May' at lunchtimes. During the COVID lockdown, Elena assisted with the Solais Sisters Connect Program, a digital way to connect with staff and students for spiritual nourishment and community spirit building. At her current parish of St Fiacre's Leichhardt, she assists with Music Ministry, Scripture Readings and is Cantor at Eucharistic celebrations.

MARCELLINO TABBICHE

Eileen O'Connor Catholic College, Lewisham



MARCELLINO TABBICHE is a young man who is faith-filled and Christ-centred. From a young age, his parents have seen his connection with Christ, often calming himself by looking at religious symbols and displaying many holy pictures in his space at home. At school, he endeavours to live out his faith by enacting the values of our school 'Dignity, Trust, Hope, Respect' with both compassion and reverence. Marcellino has been involved in the Pope Francis Award, working hard to help others and giving things a go. He enthusiastically sings and signs songs of praise, both in the classroom and at home. He brings prayers, songs and readings home to incorporate them into his daily family prayer sessions. Marcellino displays great care and gentleness when assisting in prayerful moments.

RHIANNON SMITH

Freeman Catholic College, Hoxton Park



RHIANNON SMITH is a young woman committed to her faith and immersed in parish life. Rhiannon is a longstanding member of the John the Baptist Parish, Bonnyrigg Heights where she has been an altar server for eight years, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, proclaims the Liturgy of the Word, assists in the Children's Liturgy, Youth Groups and Altar Server Camps. Rhiannon is committed to promoting the connection between school, faith and parish life. Her faith not only inspires her peers, it evangelises the broader community, especially in her role as a Catechist teacher. She lives her faith through social justice initiatives, charity work and participates in the Rosary each Friday. Rhiannon lives the College motto — Proclaim the Good News — to all she meets in word and deed.

MERNA BAYADH

Good Samaritan Catholic College, Hinchinbrook



MERNA BAYADH is an active parishioner of St Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bossley Park where she is part of the Chaldean women's group that caters and organises community events, and is a member of the youth group. She is a diligent student and is involved in numerous social justice activities, regularly assists younger students at Homework Help and is part of the Breakfast Club. Merna willingly volunteers to read at College liturgies and Masses. She is a diligent student who is a positive role model who justly 'Journeys with Compassion.'

DANIEL FERRETTI

Holy Cross College, Ryde



DANIEL FERRETTI illustrates responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic Faith Community by attending Masses at St Mark's Parish, Drummoyne. He is also a part of mentoring programs that guide younger parishioners in their Confirmation Sacrament and in their participation of the Pope Francis Award. Daniel gives witness to Christian values and actively contributes to the Catholic faith life of the school, actively participating in liturgy and prayer through being an altar server and readings at the College Masses. Daniel is part of the Holy Cross College Ryde social justice leadership group and has participated in the Patrician School Network seminar on personal development and leadership as well as leading youth afternoons. Daniel is the College Vice Captain and is always looking to foster and promote the ideals of servant leadership.

MARY DEEB

Holy Spirit Catholic College, Lakemba



MARY DEEB is an outstanding role model and witness of Christian faith to the youth of Holy Spirit Catholic College Lakemba. Mary reflects her faith in action through her active participation within the College's dual charism, and by being an active member within the Josephite Leadership Conference and Josephite retreat, as well as, being heavily involved in the LaSallian Youth leadership and encounter days. Mary continues to sustain her faith as a reader of the Holy Word at her local parish of St Jerome's Parish at Punchbowl. With an innate understanding that servant leadership and fellowship are our calling as Christians, Mary contributes selflessly to the school community as a Social Justice leader and has actively enlivened both staff and students with her implementation of initiatives such as Holy Spirit Minute and the Gratitude Wall.

LARA TOWLER

Kincoppal College, Rose Bay



LARA TOWLER is a Kincoppal - Rose Bay Boarder from Scone and holds the position of Head Boarder Student Representative Council. When she is in boarding, Lara attends Mass at St Mary Magdalene Catholic Church at Rose Bay, where she has read during a number of Masses and participated in other aspects of the liturgy. As an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Lara is actively involved in all school Masses and liturgies. She attends weekly prayer sessions with Sister Mary Shanahan rscj and has led some of these prayer sessions. Lara has participated in the school's social justice initiative, 'Kincoppal - Rose Bay Girls Cut Curly', raising funds for cancer research. She has contributed to the planning of the Year 12 Retreat and participated in major liturgies, such as the Procession of Lanterns.

JOEL PAUL TARABEY

LaSalle Catholic College, Bankstown



JOEL PAUL TARABEY is La Salle Catholic College Bankstown's Lasallian Captain. This role tasks him with being the senior leader of Catholic Life and Mission within our community which Joel has upheld with integrity, diligence, commitment and grace. He has planned numerous social justice events which demonstrate his Christian Values through his acts of service. One initiative led by Joel this year was the Ukraine Appeal Cultural Day where over \$5000 was raised for the Lasallian Foundations support of Ukrainian refugees. Joel helped lead the St Vincent De Paul Society Winter Appeal by raising awareness and collecting items for donation. He also led this year's various Project Compassion initiatives in support of the annual Lenten Program for Caritas. He has been an active member and leader in our school's youth group, Faith in Action.



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OLIVIA JACOBS

Loreto College,
Kirribilli



OLIVIA JACOBS is a regular reader, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and member of the music team at both All Hallows, Five Dock and Loreto Kirribilli. She has been a member of her Parish Youth Group and has passionately led and participated in parish and school social justice campaigns such as Vinnies Night Patrol, Refugee Week activities, Caritas Australia's Project Compassion, the Exodus Can Drive, House of Welcome, Mary Ward International and the Loreto Benenson Society and writing letters to Government members about issues such as the war in Ukraine. In her role as School Vice-Captain, she works closely with the school Environment Councillors in responding to Pope Francis' call for environmental stewardship, as well as leading whole school and small group prayer regularly.

LUCAS SHARPLEY

Marcellin College,
Randwick



LUCAS SHARPLEY is a respectful young man of great faith. Lucas is the College's Religious Leader for 2022 and is a passionate supporter of the College's Mission and Ministry Programs. He gives strong witness to his Christian values and contributes enthusiastically to the faith life of the school, particularly the College Marist programs. Lucas is an active member of the Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish, Pagewood, and as part of a strong family unit, is regularly involved in supporting Parish initiatives. Lucas is involved in all of our whole school College Masses, where he is a keen participant in the reading ministry. Lucas is a fine example of the Marist values of 'presence' and 'love of work'.

SAMUEL DONNELL

Marist Catholic College,
North Shore



SAMUEL DONNELL is a committed Catholic who lives out gospel values on a daily basis. He regularly attends Mass at Our Lady of the Way Parish North Sydney as well as Friday Morning Prayer, where he will often lead the school community in prayer. Samuel has recently completed the training course to serve the school and the parish community as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. As College Captain of Marist Catholic College North Shore, Samuel enacts a model of servant leadership through his interactions with all members of the College community. This is illustrated through his initiatives in fundraising activities for the marginalised (Caritas Australia) and his work promoting, through witness, the spirituality of younger students by attending their local parish Masses.

DEION SARKIS

Marist Catholic College,
Penshurst



DEION SARKIS is a faith-filled young man who gives witness to the Gospel values through his role as a College House Captain. He is actively involved in all dimensions of the religious life of the College, and attends Sunday Mass regularly with his family at St Charbel's Parish Punchbowl. Deion is a gifted musician and is actively involved in the Music Ministry in both his Parish and School communities. Deion's participation in the Social Justice Committee and contribution to various fundraising initiatives such as Project Compassion and St Vincent de Paul Winter and Christmas Appeals, shows his strong sense of justice. His participation in the various Marist Super Connect forums throughout his senior years and the 150 years Marist Mass demonstrates his commitment to his Catholic faith.

JOSHUA BLAINE

Marist College,
Eastwood



JOSHUA BLAINE is a humble young man who gives witness to his deep faith as the Leader of Religious Life at Marist College Eastwood. During his time at the College, he has been a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society Group and Lunchtime Prayer Group. He is always willing to assist with College liturgies, including as a reader at whole school Masses and Weekly Friday Morning Mass. Joshua is an active member of St Charles Borromeo Parish, Ryde where he serves as a youth group leader and was this year involved in the Good Friday Passion Play. Previously, he has also volunteered as an altar server and assisted at monthly dinners for the elderly run by the St Vincent de Paul Society. In contributing to the wider Church, Joshua was featured in a fundraising appeal for Mass for You at Home which his family watched during lockdown.

DANIEL RIZK

Marist Catholic College,
Kogarah



DANIEL RIZK is a young man of strong faith and deep commitment, evidenced by his authentic witness to the Christian faith both in his local parish, St John The Beloved, Greenacre, Melkite Catholic Church and the Marist College Community. As part of the Senior Student Leadership Team, Daniel demonstrates his commitment to the Christian ethos through his leadership of liturgy and social justice. He is an enthusiastic young man who has supported the various social justice initiatives within the College, including Project Compassion and the Annual Champagnat Day Fundraisers. Daniel lives out his Christian faith by participating in the College prayer, Eucharistic celebrations as a College Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion as well as sharing his faith through musical performance.

DOMINGO (NATASHA) VITHANA

Marist Sisters' College,
Woolwich



DOMINGO (NATASHA) VITHANA is a well-respected Marist Sisters' College Woolwich student leader and a 'Marist woman of action' who embodies the College motto 'Goodness Above All'. Her dedication to ministry and her faith are central to her role as Marcellin House Liturgy Captain. Natasha's responsibilities are about evangelisation - she regularly leads the College in prayer and passionately guides her peers in faithful contemplation and prayer during House Liturgies. Natasha is an active participant in the College social justice group, Marists in Action, where students initiate and implement the College's social justice initiatives such as Social Justice Week and Project Compassion. She also frequently attends the College's Marist Youth Ministry events where the focus is on prayer and peer-to-peer connections.

BUSHRA ALSAMANI

Mary MacKillop Catholic College,
Wakeley



BUSHRA ALSAMANI is a faith-filled, caring and altruistic young woman. She is a practising Catholic of the Syriac Catholic Church, Our Lady of Mercy Concord, where she is a reader, altar server, musician, youth leader and involved in the parish ministry. As a member of the parish ministry, Bushra assists with parish social justice and faith formation initiatives, including First Holy Communion where she prepares the children for Mass and teaches them the Syriac hymns and responses. For the St Joseph Youth Group, Bushra is responsible for leading meetings, planning and promoting activities and events, preparing prayer and welcoming new members. Bushra is a true MacKillop woman who actively leads more by example than word. This is evident in the compassion, generosity and commitment to others she exhibits.

OLIVIA LEE

Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College,
North Sydney



OLIVIA LEE is an outstanding nominee for the Archbishop of Sydney Awards for Student Excellence 2022. Olivia's election as College Liturgy Captain (2021-22) is testament to her ongoing commitment in faith and service within her Parish Holy Name of Mary Hunters Hill, her College and wider community. Olivia shares her faith by example in word and deed. A regular altar server and Mass attender in her parish, and at school liturgies throughout her secondary school years, Olivia takes her leadership seriously and is a strong model for Christian life. Among other things, she composes the daily student prayers and is committed to finding ways to meaningfully connect faith with life for her peers. Olivia volunteered to lead two student workshops on practices of Christian prayer and meditation.

ANGELICA JARDIM

Mount St Joseph Catholic College,
Milperra



ANGELICA JARDIM is part of the College Student Leadership Team in the role of Social Justice Captain. She has an integral role in College religious life and student faith development and commits to her faith formation through her regular presence at worship in the College Chapel with the school community. Angelica humbly gives active witness to her Christian values through her contributions to the wider faith community beyond the College. She is a member of St Christopher's Parish at Panania and is an active member of St Mary's Parish at Mays Hill where she coaches the youth sports team. Angelica is also an active member of Crossroads Disability Social Support and the St Vincent de Paul's buddies program with a number of local primary schools. Angelica is a committed young inspiration for our community.

ALLANNAH BOWEN

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
College, Kensington



ALLANNAH BOWEN is an inspirational woman of the heart who has been involved in the reading and serving ministry at her local parish of St Bernards, Botany as well as for the community of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Kensington. Her contributions as the Vice Captain of the College extend throughout the spheres of student leadership, liturgical leadership and justice leadership as well as her authentic Christian witness. Allannah's connection to the Heart of Jesus is apparent in her interactions with all, exemplified in her generous service to our community through Rosary Group, as a student catechist at Kensington Public School, training younger students, proclaiming the Word with deep faith and facilitating social justice outreach. Allannah particularly embodies the College values of excellence, compassion, integrity and our virtues of faith, hope and love.

JOAQUIM DOS SANTOS

Patrician Brothers' College,
Fairfield



JOAQUIM DOS SANTOS, who is a College Mission Prefect, personifies the humble and Christ-centered nature of the Patrician charism. Joaquim authentically lives out his Catholic faith, both within and beyond the bounds of the College. His leadership of the large and highly active student Mission Team, closely working alongside the Youth Ministry Coordinator, is testament to a deep-rooted and resilient faith that is lived humbly in service to God and others. He played a crucial role in the College's annual reenactment of the Stations of the Cross, selflessly volunteering many of his own hours in rehearsal to play the role of the centurion. Joaquim is also a proud member of his local parish, Our Lady of the Rosary Fairfield, where his regular reception of the sacraments and serving at Mass.



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Joanne
Education Graduate



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SAMUEL JAMES TANNER

Rosebank College,
Five Dock



SAMUEL JAMES TANNER is a young Christian man blessed by nature and grace with qualities of leadership, service and a concern for the well-being of others. Through the grounding given to him in his family life, his membership of his parish of St Mark's Parish Drummoyne, Samuel has grown into a young man respected and admired by his teachers and peers. His welcoming nature and his skills in drama, have helped promote a new way of evangelisation in the school making our Catholic faith attractive to other young people. Whether serving as an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Communion, helping with social justice appeals, the Luminos faith sharing groups, working with the College Ministry Team preparing and presenting prayer and pastoral support through lockdown or being a big brother to younger students, Samuel lives out the College motto.

VIVIENNE PHAM

Santa Sabina College,
Strathfield



VIVIENNE PHAM has been extremely present in the faith life of Santa Sabina College and her own parish for many years. She has been actively involved in the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement and is currently training to become a youth leader. Vivienne is a pianist for the choir in her parish, the Vietnamese Catholic Community of Sydney at Revesby and also contributes as a reader and facilitates the collection. She has demonstrated her commitment to ministry as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and as a reader for College Masses and Liturgies. She is also an enthusiastic advocate of prayer in her homeroom and encourages all students to become involved. Vivienne has actively participated in fundraising initiatives and outreach activities for Caritas, St Vincent de Paul Society.

CHANELLE MEKARY

Southern Cross Catholic College,
Burwood



CHANELLE MEKARY is a very committed and compassionate member of the College who always works with and for others. She is a voice for those who need support and is an outstanding advocate for students. Chanelle believes that as a student of the College she is called to participate in all activities that promote prayer, worship and the Catholic faith. For Chanelle, being in a Catholic College is important as everyday has an opportunity to promote 'agape'. Chanelle is a humble young person who acts out of love for others, always putting herself second and never expecting anything in return for her time and energy. Chanelle enjoys praying with and for her community and is strengthened through her love for God which she encourages others to experience by demonstrating participation, generosity, and servant leadership.

GEMMA KANNAN

St Ursula's College,
Kingsgrove



GEMMA KANNAN has been involved in almost every social justice initiative at the College since Year 7. She has volunteered a great deal of time to establish many new initiatives in 2022 to bring about social justice and leadership within our community such as The Annual Clothing Clearance, Fairy Bread Day and the Urshies Op Shop. Gemma demonstrated her leadership as College Captain, through her organisation of "Girls Night In" to support the many strong women suffering from breast cancer. She has participated in almost every liturgical celebration at school, as well as, being an Angelus reader throughout her junior years. She assists each committee with their initiatives - such as Peer Mediation, Harmony Week and School Spectacular - and is happy to help and support them just as God calls us to do.

AARON ESPIRITU

St Aloysius' College,
Milson's Point



AARON ESPIRITU who is Chair of the Student Representative Council at the College has a deep faith and is highly committed to sharing his faith either within his local parish, St Thomas' Willoughby or at St Aloysius' College Milson's Point. From an early age he has committed to altar serving, singing, or playing the violin in his parish and at the College. He has deepened this commitment as he has matured. This has included extensive youth ministry service in Peer Led Youth Ministry as an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Communion and as a leader in the Year 12 Kairos Retreat. He has put his faith into practice through community service involvement such as assisting the Magic Moments Foundation, Legacy, and Jesuit Mission. Aaron is a regular contributor to the Lower North Shore Parish Youth Ministry.

ELIAS BEJANI

St Charbel's College
Punchbowl



ELIAS BEJANI has attended St Charbel's College since Kindergarten and during this time he has exhibited leadership skills. In addition to his academic excellence, Elias has been a member of the Student Representative Council for seven years, demonstrating his faith by encouraging student and staff participation in prayer and worship. In his capacity as the House Prefect for St Mary of the Cross, Elias has proved to be an excellent role model by volunteering to assist at fundraisers, engaging in outreach programs such as Maronites on Mission, and the College's collections for the Beat the Cold Winter Appeal for St Vincent De Paul Society. Elias has also assisted with Corpus Christi events and is an active leader in the local parish St Jerome's Parish Punchbowl leading in weekend faith programs.



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ANTONIA LIJIC
St Clare's College,
Waverley



ANTONIA LIJIC is an outstanding candidate who gives witness to Gospel values in all she does. She is passionate about and participates in all social justice activities at school, and takes a prominent leadership role in the student leadership team. As Ortolana Vice-Captain, she assists with all liturgies and speaks with homerooms encouraging participation in prayer and worship. In 2022, she founded the Ortolana Podcast which gives voice to all the evangelisation opportunities happening inside and outside of the school for young people, delivered in a way that captures the hearts and minds of the students at the College. She incorporates the contributions of other students in her reflections and presentations at assemblies and encourages the community to reflect on Sacred Scripture and the importance of the school's charism.

HENRY MADIGAN
St Ignatius' College,
Riverview



HENRY MADIGAN is a committed young person who takes his faith seriously, especially within the context of the Riverview Boarding Community – his home over the last six years. Henry seeks to model his leadership on insights from Saint Ignatius of Loyola, seeking to be a person of faith who is a person of service, always striving for the magis – the more or greater depth – in his relationships and through his analysis and engagement with the world. In September last year, he participated in a voluntary four-day Kairos retreat and several months later was one of the student leaders on the next four-day Kairos retreat for Year 12 students. In Year 11, he was a participant in the Arrupe Academy and was elected as the 2022 Claver House Captain. In this role, he has been an excellent role model for other students.

DOMINIC ROCHE
St John Bosco College,
Engadine



DOMINIC ROCHE generously contributes to his St John Bosco Engadine community. As a lector, altar server and musician, he shares his creative gifts across parish life; including reading at 'on-line' Masses during COVID lockdowns. Dominic ministers in the parish Sacramental Program; formally welcoming families who are presenting their children for Baptism. Dominic has recently completed the parish ten week 'Alpha Youth' course, and graciously serves with the Sutherland Vinnies Conference. As a College Leader, Dominic is committed; passionately modelling his faith by sharing personal testimony in school liturgies and being proactively involved in senior retreats, evangelisation initiatives, social outreach opportunities and community service. Furthermore, he has been instrumental in the development of the College's 2022 Aboriginal Reconciliation Action Plan.

JACK WALKOM
St Joseph's College,
Hunters Hill



JACK WALKOM is an outstanding young man who not only leads others in a positive manner, he does so in an open and Christian manner. He shows genuine care for others and is always willing to put the needs of those around him before his own. This has earned him the deep respect of his peers, the younger students and the staff in our community. Jack is both an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and a liturgical leader and as a result plays a significant role in the religious life of the College. He has given of his time in the Marist Youth Game Changers program where he has assisted those less fortunate than himself, he has volunteered to assist Year 7 boys with their reading and he is a part of our Year 7/12 Peer Support program. Further, Jack was selected to be a leader at our outdoor education centre.

ALEXIS HIRANG
St Maroun's College
Marrickville



ALEXIS HIRANG lives his faith as an active and involved member of St Brigid's Parish Marrickville and St Maroun's College Community. Alexis' compassionate nature is evident in his ongoing contributions to all charitable initiatives including Project Compassion, Harmony Day, Lebanon Family Fundraiser and all Social Justice initiatives. Alexis also continues to maintain ties with his Parish in the Philippines, Our Lady of the Abandoned, where he provides for a communal dinner to the Parish Community on his birthday. Within St Brigid's Parish Marrickville, Alexis dedicates his time to guide younger children through the youth ministry as well as altar server on a weekly basis.

IVAN GREGURIC
St Mary's Cathedral College,
Sydney



IVAN GREGURIC has been a valued member of St Mary's Cathedral College since Year 4 and an esteemed member of the Cathedral Choir. Ivan's generous and compassionate demeanour equally matches his enthusiasm and commitment to his faith and school spirit. Ivan is an active parishioner at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Oatley, where he organises the Children's Liturgy every week. As an altar server, Ivan has served not only his parish but at every College Liturgy and Special Mass at St Mary's Cathedral since 2018. As the Ministry Prefect, Ivan has been heavily involved with the organisation of social justice initiatives such as Matt Talbot, Lenten Appeal and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine program. He also leads the Rosary every morning in May and October.

JOSEPH TANNOUS
St Patrick's College,
Strathfield



JOSEPH TANNOUS is an outstanding member of St Patrick's College Strathfield and is heavily involved with the faith aspects of the community. He displays this leadership through his participation as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and his presence at school Masses, as well as in his role as a College Prefect. He leads our Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet groups in the Chapel each week and he is a passionate and key member of the Social Justice Action Group. Joseph's approach to a holistic education can be seen through his excellent academic success and his commitment to the Social Justice Service program even in difficult times, earning him the annual Antherretyeke Award for Justice in 2021. Not only is Joseph a committed member of his local parish, St Patrick's Mortlake, he is also a regular member of the St Joseph's Croydon Youth Group.

ROBERT VARGA
St Patrick's College,
Sutherland



ROBERT VARGA is a faith-filled young man, who symbolises all that is good about the Catholic Church. This is evident through his participation within his parish and the College as an altar server at mass and through his ongoing commitment to attending the Sunday Eucharistic celebration at St Catherine Labouré. He has also contributed to the many social outreach opportunities at St Patrick's College Strathfield. Robert's witness to his faith is also acknowledged by his Parish Priest Father Greg Morgan when he says, "Robert has impressed me with his deep faith, critical thinking, and well-rounded nature". Robert is a wonderful role model and a credit to his family, parish and the College Community.

SABRINA MUNTZ
St Scholastica's College,
Glebe Point



SABRINA MUNTZ is a thoughtful young woman with genuine commitment to her faith and the values of justice and peace. An active member of St Bede's Parish Pyrmont, Sabrina is highly valued and exceptional in the manner in which she gives witness to her faith. She assists with the preparation of the weekly liturgy, providing musical support and as a member of the parish choir. Sabrina models her authentic faith to the College community assisting with liturgy and the prayer life of the College. As a longstanding member of the College Social Justice Group, Sabrina has engaged in raising funds for Caritas, St Vincent de Paul Society and the Good Samaritan Foundation. She has participated in the 'Big Sister' program, mentoring new students at the College. Sabrina's everyday interactions with the community reflect the true essence of servant leadership.

OLIVIA MITCHELL
St Vincent's College,
Potts Point



OLIVIA MITCHELL has attended Mass with her family since birth with special catechetics classes building a strong foundation in tradition while developing an intellectual fascination with scripture, theological literature, and devotional writings. She has a genuine appreciation for the Sacraments as moments of grace. Parish gatherings, involvement in liturgical events, serving in weekly reading ministry, and contributing as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion have allowed the great Christian story to grow and settle in Olivia, so that now the story of Christ is her story and it is her joy. Olivia has shaped liturgies, organised prayers for Ukraine, vigils in time of grief and planned formation experiences. This she does with care, compassion and expertise. Olivia expresses her faith naturally and this is deeply appreciated. She is an expert on various feasts which help grow her relationship with God.

MATTHEW CHENG
Trinity Catholic College,
Auburn



MATTHEW CHENG is a member of the Chinese Catholic Community at Flemington, where he has been an altar server for seven years. He now assists in organising the servers by preparing timetables and rehearsals. He participated in the ALPHA training program, and now networks with other Christian ALPHA leaders through the ecumenical meetings, as well as advocating for an ALPHA program for students at school. This year he has served as an Student Representative Council member, and assisted with leading prayer during Pastoral Care. He is a regular participant in the school's optional faith formation opportunities. He has contributed to social justice work since Year 8, and has entered the Clancy Religious Art competition three times. He sees his art as a powerful way of sharing his faith with the world.

JAY PALM
Waverley College,
Waverley



JAY PALM is an outstanding young man in every respect and has definitely been a positive role model in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community. Jay and his family attend Church regularly and are actively involved in their Holy Family Parish Maroubra. At school he has been an enthusiastic participant in all Eucharistic celebrations and took a lead role in our Holy Thursday Liturgy when our priest was ill. Jay was also a participant in our recent Kairos student-led retreat. He found this experience enabled him to look inside himself and reflect on his Christian values and beliefs. Through this experience he developed a greater awareness and appreciation of the impact his faith has had on his life. In the social justice arena, he has assisted his local Indigenous community.



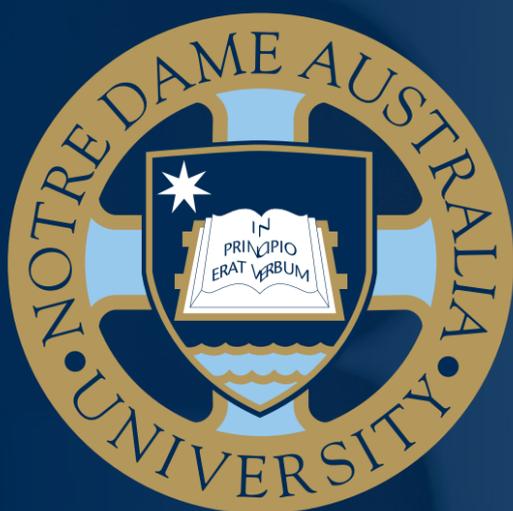
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