



# ARCHBISHOP'S AWARDS

FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE 2023



PHOTOS: GIOVANNI PORTELLI



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# ARCHBISHOP'S AWARDS 2023 For Student Excellence



Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and Sydney Catholic Schools' Executive Director, Tony Farley with the recipients of the 2023 Archbishop's Awards for Student Excellence at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, on 8 September 2023. PHOTO: GIOVANNI PORTELLI

## Students praised for faithfulness

On the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, Catholic students were celebrated for their 'yes' to God through faith, love and service.



Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

Christopher Nolan's film *Oppenheimer* has now grossed \$850M in box office sales and is likely to top \$1B, even out-performing some of our Batman films. The three-hour epic focuses on the life of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the brilliant but complicated American physicist and "father of the atomic bomb."

Oppenheimer was a prodigy. He was proficient in philosophy, classics, poetry, French literature and minierology by Year 7 at school. He studied at Harvard, Cambridge and then Göttingen, where after successfully passing the oral defence of

his doctoral thesis, his examiner remarked "Thank God it's over, he was at the point of examining *me!*" He was an intellectual peer of Bohr, Heisenberg and Einstein, taught at UC Berkeley and Caltech, and was recruited to lead the Manhattan Project.

Yet the film isn't so much about Oppenheimer's genius, the nuclear bombs and explosions, or the nail-biting race with the Nazis, as it is about Oppenheimer's personal struggles: his grief over the suicide of a former lover who was also a communist, his conflict with various scientific peers and bureaucratic overlords, his anxieties about the risks and damage of the nuclear age, and the bitter campaign of his rivals to label him falsely as a Soviet spy.

In one of the film's most haunting scenes, after announcing that an atom bomb had just been successfully detonated over the Japanese city of Hiroshima and would likely bring an end to the Pacific war, Oppenheimer's vision of a jubilant and congratulatory crowd quickly morphs into the harrowing screams of bomb victims as their skin

“Through your commitment to living out the Gospel, you've made your school, parish community or family a place of love and communion ...”

- Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

is burnt by the nuclear blast. Soon after the bombings in Japan, he became a vocal opponent of nuclear proliferation and confessed in a meeting with President Harry Truman to feeling as though he had blood on his hands.

Oppenheimer was undoubtedly a brilliant scientist and successful in carrying out his mission brief. Yet to be remembered as "father of the atomic bomb" is to be remembered for death and devastation, and for initiating a threat of nuclear annihilation that still hangs over our planet today. Intellectual brilliance is not always matched by moral.

Two-and-a-half thousand years before Oppenheimer, another prodigious talent and polymath named Aristotle distinguished excellences in sport and craft, from intellectual and moral excellence. Intellectual excellence requires

study, instruction, experience, and eventually theoretical know-how. Moral excellence requires training and making good choices, repeatedly doing those things that contribute to human flourishing. So "practice makes perfect," whether in playing a musical instrument, sport, languages but especially in the moral life. Hence the saying often attributed to Aristotle that "excellence is not an act but a habit."

To put it another way: *we are what we do, we become what we repeatedly do.* Dear awardees, you are here because of the habits you have cultivated and demonstrated as faithful children of God; for the repeated acts of leadership and service that you have so generously offered to your communities; for putting the Good News of Jesus Christ into practice. You are not here

for being prodigies—though you are undoubtedly all very gifted—but for what you have done with your talents in the building up the kingdom of God.

It was inspiring to hear the citations of your classmates describing the many things you've achieved. Among you are catechists, altar servers, youth group leaders, lectors and extraordinary ministers, cantors, musicians and prayer leaders, social justice advocates, fundraisers, and helpers of the poor, homeless, disabled and more. Each of you has displayed the selflessness at the heart of Jesus' teaching. Through your commitment to living out the Gospel, you've made your school, parish community or family a place of love and communion; you've evangelised countless people through your witness to God's goodness; and you've inched closer to becoming what you were created for, total union with the God who *is* love.

There are only three birthdays in our liturgical calendar: that of John the Baptist three months after the Annunciation, that of Jesus six

months later which we call *Christmas*, and today's Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary or *Marymas*. Given that her fiat or yes to God changed the course of history, not in the direction of death, destruction and danger, but life, peace and salvation offered to all, celebrating her birth is very natural. Of all of God's creatures, she gave herself most completely to the service of God and humanity, playing a unique role in the greatest love story ever told, that of her Son Jesus.

Here in this cathedral we celebrate her as the Patron of the church in Australia and Help of Christians. By faith, love and service may you continue to follow her example. Keep choosing the way of goodness and charity, of moral excellence, that your legacy may be eternal! And may Our Lady Help of Christians pray for us!

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, 8 September 2023



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## ALEXANDRA FARHAT St Vincent's College, Ashfield



Alexandra is a faith-filled young woman who takes an active role in leading the spiritual life at St Vincents' College, and is an enthusiastic member of St Joseph's Maronite Church, Croydon. As Faith Formation Prefect, Alexandra has been an altar server and a member of the Liturgy Team, introducing the Rosary as a regular prayer opportunity in the College. Alexandra has also volunteered for the Red Shield Appeal and sandwich making for Vinnies' Night Patrol. In her parish Alexandra participates in the Assistant Catechist program and volunteers with St Vincent de Paul. Alexandra is an outstanding role model to both her peers and the younger students, using the gifts she has been given for the benefit of the entire community.

## GORAN KOVAC Trinity Catholic College, Auburn



Goran Kovac is a highly respected young man who models strong Catholic values in his words and actions. As a Leader of Catholic Life and Mission at Trinity Catholic College, Goran is a member of the Student Representative Council and has initiated and supported faith activities for students and staff, including daily prayer, weekly Mass, the Rosary, a Lenten spiritual program and talks by local priests. He clearly articulates and shares his faith with peers and is an exemplary witness to the Gospels. Goran is an active member and altar server at St Anthony of Padua Croatian Catholic Church at Summer Hill. Goran is respected throughout the community as a young man of outstanding faith and virtue who leads by example.

## ISABELLE WEEDEN LaSalle Catholic College, Bankstown



Isabelle Weeden is a worthy nominee for the Archbishop of Sydney's Award for Student Excellence having served as the Social Justice Captain of LaSalle Catholic College. Isabelle has demonstrated exceptional leadership in promoting social justice initiatives including Project Compassion, the St Vincent de Paul Winter and Christmas Appeals, as well as leading fundraising efforts in support of Urdu High in Pakistan. As a Lasallian Youth Leader, Isabelle positively impacts younger students through reflective formation days, and is a positive role model who embodies Christian values. Isabelle's Pope Francis Award for hospitality support in the St Mary's Ephesus youth group highlights her dedication in her local parish, where she is a regular Reader of the Word.

## GIANFRANCO DABBENE Freeman Catholic College, Bonnyrigg Heights



Gianfranco Dabbene is a faith-filled young man evidenced by his involvement in parish and school life. Gianfranco is the Social Justice Leader at Freeman Catholic College, and is a model of servant leadership. This is evident in his engagement and leadership of social justice initiatives including Caritas Australia, St Vincent de Paul, the Red Shield Appeal and the Starlight Children's Foundation. Gianfranco's faith is proclaimed as a Eucharistic Minister and a Lector at College masses, and organising the Sounds of Justice festival. His engagement in the 10:10 Project highlighted his commitment to catechesis. He has strengthened parish links by assisting in the preparation of primary students for their Reconciliation and First Holy Communion at John the Baptist Parish.

## HOUDA BOUMELHEM Southern Cross Catholic College, Burwood



Houda contributes to the Catholic life of the school through her role as the spirituality Leader at Southern Cross Catholic College. She assists at liturgies and launched initiatives like Project Compassion, the St Vincent de Paul Winter and Christmas appeals at school. She actively participates in the life, mission and work of the Catholic community by attending Mass weekly at her parish of St Joseph's Maronite Catholic Church in Croydon and is a regular reader at Mass. She participates in the visitation of Mary statue to the houses of parishioners in the month of May to pray the Rosary, praying for her family and peers.

## GEORGIA KENT De La Salle Catholic College, Cronulla



Georgia Kent is the College Captain of De La Salle Catholic College Cronulla and modelled servant leadership as a Lasallian Youth Leader. Georgia has a strong commitment to those less fortunate in society, leading social justice initiatives at the College including supporting Project Compassion, and the St Vincent de Paul's Winter and Christmas appeals. She is a young lady of faith who is dedicated to leading liturgy in her Parish, as she has been instrumental in leading by example in the St Aloysius Catechism program, educating young public school students in the Catholic tradition on weekends. Georgia is also active in the local community volunteering for the 'One Meal' project and serving as a volunteer lifesaver on Cronulla's beaches.

## JOELLE METLEJ St Maroun's College, Dulwich Hill



Joelle is an active participant at St Maroun's College Dulwich Hill and the St Charbel's and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Communities. As the lead altar server at the College, Joelle helps guide younger students, teaching the significance of being an altar server and modelling service to others within the community. Her responsibilities continue within the Parish Youth Group, assisting infants with scripture and readings on a weekly basis. Joelle has developed a passion for social justice, participating in a range of Charitable initiatives to advocate for the needs of the disadvantaged within the St Maroun's College community. These initiatives include the St Mercurious Food Appeal, St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal and the Project Compassion Campaign.

## PHILLIP MAZAR Marist College, Eastwood



Phillip Mazar is an authentic, honest young man who gives Christian witness as Leader of Religious Life at Marist College Eastwood. Phillip has a strong commitment to his faith, and is involved in College Masses as a reader and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. He regularly leads prayer at whole school assemblies and events. He has also demonstrated leadership through facilitating many Project Compassion initiatives across the school and is a strong supporter of the needy in society. Phillip worships at his Parish of St Charles Borromeo, Ryde, and serves as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Mass. Phillip embodies the Marist Charism through his commitment to cultivating family spirit and being present to others.

## TALIA HOOKER St John Bosco College, Engadine



Talia Hooker has contributed to the Catholic life of our College through her initiation and leadership of annual Lenten Groups and assistance in lunchtime Prayer sessions. She has been involved in band and choir for School liturgies, enthusiastically represented at Evangelisation days and participated in many justice initiatives. Talia's ministries at St John Bosco Parish encompass serving as lector (including online masses), altar server and musician. As an active member of the parish Youth Group, she has attended Ignite and Eastfest conferences, a "Youth Matters" leadership course, and volunteered as a Salesian holiday camp leader. Furthermore, Talia formally welcomes parish families presenting for Baptism. Talia is a selfless, genuine person, a model student, and a proud, passionate ambassador of the faith.

## ANDREW YOUSIF Patrician Brothers' College, Fairfield



Andrew Yousif is an exemplary student who personifies true Catholic discipleship. His inspiring passion and unwavering dedication to the Catholic faith authentically embodies Gospel values. Andrew serves as an altar server at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Fairfield and at Patrician Brothers' College, Fairfield. He trains and mentors younger students, and actively engages in stewardship programs at the College. In the "Soldiers of Christ" youth group, at St Thomas the Apostle Chaldean and Assyrian Catholic Church, he fervently serves his community in guiding other youth towards a fulfilling life in relationship with Christ. As College Vice-Captain, he prioritises the gospel message throughout College life, truly exemplifying the virtues of a Christian role model for his fellow students.

## KRYSTAL CHEERS Domremy College, Five Dock



Krystal Cheers actively contributes to the Religious life of Domremy Catholic College as the Faith and Mission Prefect. Her consistent contribution to the College Choir has been outstanding throughout her enrolment, leading the choir at significant liturgical events. Krystal leads by example, as witnessed by her commitment to social justice initiatives, leading the weekly Rosary, and attending fortnightly prayer. Krystal is an active participant in all aspects of College liturgies and her assistance in coordinating liturgical events and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is highly valued. Krystal regularly attends before-school Mass at her parish All Hallows' Five Dock, and serves at the Parish at weekend masses as a Reader of the Word and as a Cantor.

## AMELIA SCHNEIDER Rosebank College, Five Dock

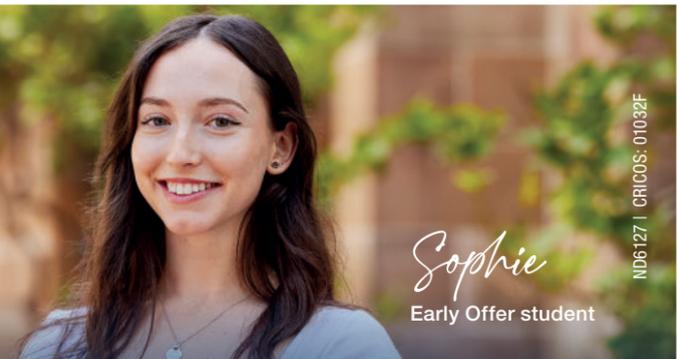


Amelia Schneider is a strong witness to her faith at Rosebank College. Amelia has been a regular attendee at the youth group during her time at the College and been involved in College liturgies as a member of the choir. Amelia was involved in the Student Catechist Program and served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. She actively seeks to deepen her faith life through participating in the Rosary, weekly Bible Study, and all Holy Week events. She is also an active donor and fundraiser for both her house charity and the vast array of charities that the school supports, including Project Compassion. Amelia is actively involved in her parish as a chorister and through weekly attendance at Mass.



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**MOLLY TAYLOR**  
St Scholastica's College,  
Glebe



Molly Taylor, the Boarding Co-Captain at St Scholastica's College, is a thoughtful and generous young woman with an authentic commitment to her faith and the Benedictine values that underpin the school community. Molly has been a Reader of the Word and altar server in school liturgies and in the parish of St James, Forest Lodge. She has a strong commitment to social justice initiatives and serving others, as seen through her volunteering at the Matthew Talbot Hostel. Molly has supported her community in Sydney and in her hometown of Bourke, assisting the disadvantaged in both communities. Molly is a person of visible integrity and faith, and a wonderful role model to her fellow students.

**MICHAEL ABOU FRAM**  
Good Samaritan Catholic College,  
Hinchinbrook



Michael Abou Fram is a Catholic Life Leader at Good Samaritan College. Michael is strongly committed to his faith and providing opportunities for students evidenced by leading Adoration, the Rosary and 'Christ Chat' at the College. He is a leading member of the College Encounter Youth Group, and exercised leadership in the Breakfast Club, and Homework Help initiative. Michael is strongly committed to assisting the less fortunate in society and has supported all social justice fundraising events. Michael is an active member of St Joseph's Parish Moorebank where he attends mass several times a week and is involved in the Somascan Youth Group. He is active in the men's choir, weekly formation nights and the community food initiative, Miani Meals.

**MAX McGAVERN**  
St Joseph's College,  
Hunters Hill



Max McGavern is a natural leader who embodies the core Marist values of presence and simplicity. He contributes to the spiritual life of the College in his role as a College Acolyte and participates in liturgies and Eucharistic celebrations. Max successfully blends a sense of humour, gentle guidance, and a mature sense of wisdom. Younger boys in Max's care learn the values of a fair go, honesty, and service through Max's leadership. He's not directive about this - he simply models these values. He bears witness to his faith through his actions and not just through his words. He is respected and trusted by his peers.

**MARIANNE SARMIENTO**  
Bethany College,  
Hurstville



Marianne Sarmiento is a compassionate young woman of deep faith who takes her Student Leadership role as Religious Education and Mission Captain of Bethany College 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. Marianne is an engaged member of all social justice initiatives undertaken for Caritas and St Vincent de Paul Society. She gives regular witness to her faith and is active in St Michael's Church, Hurstville, attending Mass weekly, altar serving and consistently demonstrating religious leadership at the Bethany College led Youth Masses at the Parish. Marianne is an authentic Catholic role model in the College community.

**TAYLOR LE HURAY**  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart  
College, Kensington



Taylor Le Huray is an excellent role model for others because of her commitment to living her Christian calling. Taylor regularly attends Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary, Kensington, in support of the College's Church Engagement Plan. As College Faith and Solidarity Captain, Taylor proclaims the Word at liturgies and has represented the College at various Archdiocesan Masses and evangelisation events. Taylor has demonstrated a commitment to service throughout her time at the College, evidenced in her leadership of social justice initiatives and her service as a catechist at Kensington Public School. Taylor embodies the spirituality of the heart in all her endeavours as she humbly bears witness to her faith through her sincere desire to serve others.

**TANEeya FOURFOURIS**  
St Ursula's College,  
Kingsgrove



Taneeya participates in the mission and work of our Catholic Faith community through her involvement in her parish, Our Lady of Fatima Kingsgrove. She assists the sacramental team, actively taking part in the formation and organisation of younger children participating in sacramental programs. Taneeya is part of the Children's Liturgy team, where she teaches the children of the parish about the Sunday Gospel, and is a regular extraordinary minister of Holy Communion within her parish community. She gives witness to her Catholic values through participation in the Kingsgrove One Meal service, not missing a single service during the pandemic. Taneeya regularly volunteers as a reader and assists with administering Holy Communion for liturgies and Masses at the College.



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## DOMINIQUE ELIAS

Loreto,  
Kirribilli



Dominique is a parishioner at Holy Name of Mary Parish Hunters Hill, assisting in the Offertory Procession and preparing morning tea. She previously participated in the children's liturgy and is a liturgical reader at school. She has been a Liturgy Representative and is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Dominique has been a trailblazer in social justice initiatives, most notably instigating fundraising for the Red Cross Lebanon Appeal and St Vincent de Paul in 2020 following the Beirut explosion. She has since maintained a relationship between these organisations and Loreto Kirribilli. Dominique has volunteered to assist disadvantaged students with their reading and models her faith in her involvement in Loreto's social justice and liturgical life as a student leader.

## KYAN PEREZ

Marist College,  
Kogarah



Kyan Perez is a young man deeply committed to his faith, evidenced by his authentic witness to the Church, and active engagement in his local parish and College community at Marist College Kogarah. Kyan is a Ministry Prefect at the College, and demonstrates his commitment to the Catholic ethos through his leadership of liturgy and social justice. He has enthusiastically supported the various social justice initiatives within the College, including Project Compassion, St Vincent de Paul and Marist Solidarity. Kyan lives out his Catholic faith by participating in Eucharistic celebrations as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Kyan currently attends St Patrick's Catholic Church where he assists in cleaning the church grounds and attending Wednesday Novena.

## CRYSTAL HANNA

Holy Spirit Catholic College,  
Lakemba



Crystal is a young woman of faith and action. Within her parish of St Jerome's Catholic Church in Punchbowl she acts selflessly, giving of her time and talent as a member of the FIDELIS Youth and Young Adults group. She has recently become a member of the St Charbel iSeek Youth group and regularly serves offertory during Mass. Crystal enjoys her involvement in all aspects of religious life at Holy Spirit Catholic College. She has served the college community as a La Sallian Youth Leader and used her time and talent to support students on their Spirituality Days. Crystal is involved in school liturgies and Masses and engages in prayer opportunities in the school chapel.

## JOSHUA COLEMAN

Eileen O'Connor Catholic College,  
Lewisham



Joshua Coleman approaches life with a positive and uplifting attitude. He thinks of others, encouraging them to be happy and make good choices. Joshua demonstrates his faith through his concern for others. He leads daily prayer in the classroom and participates in whole school masses. Joshua is knowledgeable about Jesus' life and asks questions to broaden his understanding and enrich his faith. He is described by staff and his family as a genuine, kind and caring young man with a zest for life. At Eileen O'Connor Catholic College, Joshua is known for his leadership in organising outreach opportunities and fundraising events for the poor. This is particularly evident when out on the playground where he helps support his friends and others when playing sports at lunchtime, ensuring all students have a turn and feel included.

## ANTHONY BOUCHAHINE

Christian Brothers' High School,  
Lewisham



As a member of St Joseph's Maronite Catholic Church, Croydon, Anthony attends Mass on a weekly basis and actively participates in the Parish Youth Group, volunteering for charitable works. He is a key member in the men's group that meet regularly to discuss issues of faith, ethics and religious responses to local issues and concerns. On a school level, Anthony is an elected School Prefect at Christian Brothers' High School, Lewisham where he engages in all facets of school life. He has been an Ambassador for Caritas Australia's Project Compassion campaign, attends the weekly Rosary Group in the School Chapel and over the years has had pivotal roles in the school's Easter Liturgies, Founder's Day and Mother's Day Masses.

## NABIL (BILLY) RAHME

All Saints Catholic College,  
Liverpool and Casula



Billy Rahme is an exemplary Christian witness, steadfast in answering the call to discipleship. He is an active parishioner at St Joseph's Parish, Moorebank and seeks to serve God through serving others. Billy is a senior Altar server, Thurifer and Cross-bearer and has also re-enacted Holy Week events. In addition, he participates in and supports Somascan Youth events and is a member of the Parish Oz-tag team. Billy has contributed significantly to the liturgical and prayer life of All Saints Catholic College. Our community recognises him as a young man of faith and integrity who lives a life inspired by Christ. Billy epitomises a life modelled on Christ and is a most worthy recipient of the Archbishop Award.

## SIAKI ALUNI-TUULAUPUA

Corpus Christi College,  
Maroubra



Siaki is an acolyte in his parish of St Therese Mascot and at College Masses, demonstrating his love for the Gospel. He lives out the Gospel values through his interactions with teachers and students, and has developed a bible study group within the college, seeking to help others engage with the word of God. Siaki contributes to school celebrations, leading singing in the choir, a charism he also carries out in his Parish. He demonstrates zeal in supporting the Priest at college events. Siaki works with Catholic aid organisations such as Matthew Talbot House. Siaki has contributed to the faith life of the college through participation in numerous faith formation events, for Sydney Catholic Schools and the Marists.

## SASHA DENNISE RANCES

Casimir Catholic College,  
Marrickville



Sasha is a young woman of great faith. She is a frequent attendee at Mass at St Bernard's Catholic Church Botany among other churches as she and her family Evangelise through their musical contributions. She volunteers in Church initiatives and helps to support evangelisation events such as East Fest and Activ8. Sasha is the Spirituality leader at Casimir and as such not just participates, but takes a very active role in the delivery and mission of the College's programs. She has been active in the delivery of the Rosary and Prayer Groups at the College as well as attending significant services such as the Walk for Life.

## MARIAH AYOUB

Aquinas Catholic College,  
Menai



Mariah Ayoub is an outstanding young woman of faith and action who actively participates in the life and mission of her Parish of Holy Family, Menai. Mariah attends Mass weekly, is a reader of the word, a member of the Parish Youth Group and an extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. Mariah models her faith through her role as Liturgy Captain, reading and service ministries in liturgical celebrations and whole school events. As a leader, Mariah inspires her peers to participate in social outreach, promoting initiatives for Caritas and the St Vincent de Paul Society. Mariah exemplifies her Christian witness as an authentic and humble Catholic who actively lives the College motto - Enlivened by the Spirit.

## CHIARA ALBANESE

Mount St Joseph Catholic  
College, Milperra



Chiara is a passionate and enthusiastic advocate for social justice, ably leading as 2023 Social Justice Captain. Her invitational approach to living out her faith is evident in her participation in liturgies, Mini Vinnies, the Josephites Action for Climate group and five years as a Student Evangelisation Ambassador. Chiara demonstrates social justice through volunteering as a swimming teacher in low socioeconomic communities. She is an active member of her local parish, assisting at Masses and youth events. She enlivens the faith of MSJ students, leading social justice and worship initiatives. Her dedication to the ongoing work of the Sisters of St Joseph marks her as a true MSJ woman and an inspiration for future Catholic youth.

## ALASTAIR WOOD

St Aloysius' College,  
Milsons Point



Alastair Wood is a young man of tremendous faith who epitomises the Gospel values in his actions. He is an active member of his Parish and is involved in the faith life of the College through a wide range of ministries including Altar serving, proclaiming the Word and as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. Alastair has put his Catholic values into action through service to the community, volunteering to assist at the Jesuit Mission Bazaar, leading a food drive for Jesuit Social Services and St Vincent de Paul. Alastair travelled to remote indigenous communities in the Northern Territory, engaging in community projects to improve living conditions. Alastair is a model of servant leadership.

## NICHOLAS EDWARDS

Marist Catholic College,  
North Sydney



Nicholas is the paragon for the office he inhabits. Nicholas, serving as the College's 2023 Faith and Solidarity Captain, is faith-filled, respectful, committed and a faith leader for staff and students. He is a dedicated parishioner of St. Brendan's Parish in Annandale where he worships and contributes to liturgies and masses. This is echoed in his conduct within the College, where he supports organising and running Friday morning masses and participates in prayer and scriptural reflections. Nicholas regularly engages in social justice outreach initiatives including Caritas and St. Vincent de Paul's fund fundraising, sandwich-making for the homeless and the Night Patrol program. At the College, Nicholas is a Peer Support leader and welcomes new students and parents to the school community.



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## SCARLETT O'CONNOR Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, North Sydney



Scarlett is a clear and compelling model of Christian life and leadership. She is the 2022-23 Aquinas House Captain, a senior member of the liturgical choir and a ready volunteer for service and mission. Scarlett is unfailingly kind, compassionate and inclusive in her dealings with others, bringing her faith to life, particularly through liturgical choir, where she joyfully brings the words and music to life as a prayer, not simply a performance. Similarly, she has been active in attending her local parish and supporting the Women's Shelter, both in Lane Cove. Scarlett's creative faith-filled leadership has been further showcased in her facilitation of an interactive Mercy Day Justice themed workshop for younger students and her roles in liturgical drama.

## EMMA ROLLO Marist College, Penshurst



Emma Rollo is a humble and committed Catholic who demonstrates servant leadership in her daily life. She is involved in the religious life of the College. Emma displays a strong sense of justice and compassion, which she demonstrates through her participation in various Social Justice initiatives such as Project Compassion and Vinnies Winter and Christmas Appeals. She is involved at St Declan's Parish Penshurst as she assists in leading the Children's Liturgy program. In all of her actions, Emma embodies Mary Mackillop's motto "Never see a need without doing something about it" and is a highly valued member of our Marist Community.

## MARNIE ANNE CATLING KENDERES St Vincent's College, Potts Point



Marnie participates in parish activities: offertory, 'collection crew', OMG youth, Music Ministry, Reading Ministry, Gospel Drama Group, Choir, assistant to Music Director, playing flute at the Family Mass. She assists readers and musicians in the "Way of the Cross" every Easter. Her IT action ensures engagement for parishioners. Marnie brings love of community to the College. She is the first to help with liturgy, prayer vigils and reading for Masses. Her social justice participation is a natural extension of her faith; leading fundraising for JRS, sandwich-making for the homeless, blankets for Wayside Chapel, cupcakes for Canice's Kitchen, Environment committee and Vinnies@SVC. Marnie demonstrates that justice and faith are one as a Caritas Christi Advocate, focussing on human trafficking and sustainability.

## CELINE TANNOUS St Charbel's College, Punchbowl



Celine has a heart full of love for Christ that she seeks to emulate in all she does. She is a devoted practicing Catholic, worshipping daily, and participating in spiritual challenges (Fiat90) and Iseek (teen faith formation). Celine, a Liturgy Captain, contributes to religious events including reading during mass, participating in community service initiatives and organising/leading lunchtime devotions (adoration and rosary). She volunteers with parish events such as Good Friday, 'Fersen Al Adra' (children's spiritual formation), Maronites on Mission, visiting and providing for struggling families and the elderly in nursing homes. In recognition of her contributions to religious life, she has received the Principal's Award, given to a student who has contributed to religious life and achieved overall academic excellence.

## ANNABELLA MANSOUR Brigidine College, Randwick



Annabelle is a young student who is the epitome of spiritual leadership within the community of Brigidine College and her parish. Her approach to Catholic leadership encourages others around her to nurture and strengthen their own faith. Her deep spirituality and participation in liturgical activities, such as Sunday School, Youth Group and ARK Outreach Program within her Parish, model a life of service. Annabelle 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, as College Faith and Charism Captain, established the inaugural Morning Mass, now celebrated fortnightly at the College. She is an exemplary role model.

## DAVID HANNA Marcellin College, Randwick



David Hanna is an active member of St Maroun's Maronite Parish of Redfern. He contributes enthusiastically to the faith life of his parish by being involved in Altar serving, the Reading ministry and the Parish Youth Group. David is a humble young man of deep faith and is a passionate contributor to the mission life of the College by assisting with all College Masses and Rosary Prayer services. He gives witness to his Christian values by leading social justice initiatives and was appointed Vice-Captain of the College in 2023. He is an energetic supporter of the College's Marist Connect and Super Connect programs, and attends Marist Youth Forums and Student Leadership retreats. David exemplifies the Marist values of 'Love of work' and 'Family Spirit'.

## JOSHUA JANTO De La Salle College, Revesby Heights

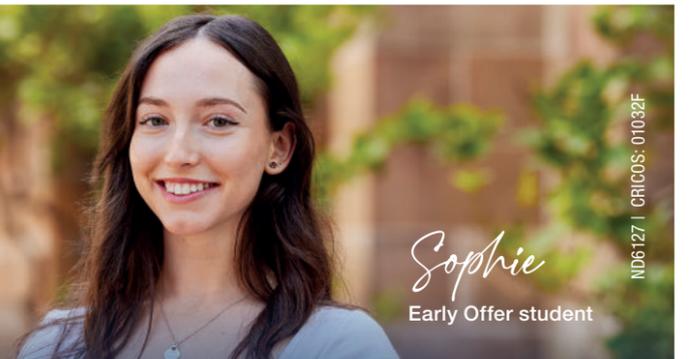


Joshua Janto is a committed Catholic who actively practises his faith within the parish community of St Luke's, Revesby. His involvement in parish life has included altar serving, the creation and maintenance of the parish website, Junior Youth Group volunteer and Senior Youth Group participant. At school, Joshua is an authentic Liturgy Prefect and involves himself in prayer and faith formation opportunities. Through this role, Joshua has been an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist and an altar server. He has also contributed to the development of a youth group at the College. Joshua is a true witness to his faith and a genuine Catholic role model for his peers.



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Sophie  
Early Offer student

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# ARCHBISHOP'S AWARDS 2023 For Student Excellence

**LUCA MAHER**  
St Ignatius' College,  
Riverview



Luca entered Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview, as a Year 7 student in 2018 and has been active in the Riverview community. He is currently MacKillop House Captain at the College, guiding students in reflection and service to others through fundraising and giving of their time. At school, he is also Liturgy captain and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, leading morning reflections and midday prayers as part of these roles. In Year 12 he has been involved in initiatives around both well-being and the 'Power of Language'. He is a member of his local parish of St Michaels in Lane Cove, volunteering as an Altar Server and service leader and a musician in his parish, playing at various religious celebrations.

**MOLLY SMITH**  
Kincoppal,  
Rosebay



Molly Smith is an exemplary faith-filled student who attends weekly Mass at St Mary Magdalene, Rose Bay, and St Patrick's Church in Nyngan. As a Eucharistic Minister, reader and Altar Server, Molly is actively involved in school Masses. She attends and organises weekly Eucharistic Minister prayer sessions and has led many liturgies. Molly is Head of the Student Representative Council and has participated in social justice initiatives including Night Patrol food preparation and our Tutor program. As a Peer Support leader, Molly increased student understanding of what it means to be a Sacred Heart community member. Molly is a great role model for students, particularly mentoring our boarding students in her example of leadership through service.

**SAMUEL SUTTON**  
Holy Cross College,  
Ryde



Samuel Sutton is a practising Catholic who worships regularly by attending Mass. He volunteers with the Vinnies Night Patrol and Christmas Hamper Appeal. He actively contributes to the faith life of the College by participating in liturgy and prayer, being an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion and reading in Mass regularly. As College Captain, he established the Student Mission and Identity team, which works to strengthen the faith of the College. He demonstrates respect, integrity and accountability, deriving inspiration from the Patrician Charism. He always gives his undivided attention when somebody needs his help, and he put the needs of others above his own.

**ANNA LE**  
Santa Sabina College,  
Strathfield



Anna has been an active participant in the faith life of her own parish and at the College for many years. She has been actively involved in the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement and is currently training to become a youth leader. Anna is a pianist for the Choir in her Parish and also contributes as a Minister of the Word and an altar server. She has been involved in various fundraising initiatives for her Parish. Anna is an enthusiastic advocate of prayer in her Homeroom and has been a reader at a number of College Liturgies. She has actively participated in fundraising initiatives and outreach activities for Caritas, St Vincent de Paul and various Dominican causes.

**KARIM LATTOUF**  
St Patrick's College,  
Strathfield



Karim Lattouf is a Year 12 student at St Patrick's College, Strathfield and serves the community as Social Justice Prefect. This leadership position reflects the high esteem in which he is held by his peers and teachers. It also reflects his committed and long-standing contributions to the mission of the college through his service work in the school community and beyond. He was a member of our immersion group who travelled to our partner school in Alice Springs, is a leader in the Social Justice Action Group, and is an extraordinary minister of communion in the college chapel. He is an active member of his parish community through weekly attendance and youth group participation.

**JULIA FARLA**  
St Patrick's College,  
Sutherland



Julia is a wonderful role model who attends her local Parish, St Patrick's Catholic Parish Sutherland regularly with her family. She is a young woman committed to her faith and serves the parish community in a variety of ways including becoming an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister. In the parish of St Joseph's Como Julia has created video resources of lyrics to hymns, so other children of the choir could practise the songs at home. She has also been actively involved in the IGNITE Conference and the Y-Factor Camps over the last few years. Father Dan McCaughan PP comments, "Julia is a woman of quiet conviction and faith, she is a credit to both her family and the St Patrick's College community."

**LIAM DONG-IK CHANG**  
St Mary's Cathedral College,  
Sydney



Liam is an honourable and passionate student at St Mary's Cathedral College, demonstrating so in his volunteering within social justice initiatives at Matthew Talbot, Lenten Appeal, and the CCD Program. Furthermore, not only is he the college's allocated Ministry Prefect, but is also an active parishioner at the Cathedral. He's a part of the choir, singing in Mass and Vespers, and leading as Cantor occasionally. Liam's strong faith and passion has invigorated the cultural and liturgical life of those within the college community, even going out of his way to acknowledge the feast days of major saints. His boundless conviction has justified his position at the college; a true witness of Catholic values, for himself, for everyone and for God.

**NATALIA SHEEBO**  
Mary MacKillop Catholic College,  
Wakeley



Natalia is a faith-filled young woman who is dedicated to sharing her faith at school and with her Church community. She is a practising Catholic at the St Thomas The Apostle Chaldean & Assyrian Catholic Parish where she is an active member of the parish, assisting with fundraising events, supervising Holy Communion classes, reading at Mass and leading parish youth events. As a member of the parish youth group, Natalia supports new migrants settling into Australia. Natalia is the College Captain of Mary MacKillop Catholic College and gives witness to others through her engagement in college Masses, fundraising for Caritas Australia, Catholic Mission and Charitable Works Fund and leading activities during JJAMM week, Refugee Week and Harmony Week.

**THOMAS SHAHINIAN**  
Waverley College,  
Waverley



Thomas is an outstanding young man, who has been a member of our Liturgy committee and helps to organise our Eucharistic celebrations at Waverley College and is a dedicated member of the Waverley Mary Immaculate parish community. He participated in Kairos, a student-led retreat, which helped him develop a greater appreciation of the impact his faith has had on his life. In the social justice arena, he assisted the Windgap community through bowling with the disabled, and fundraised by volunteering at the Belrose Bunnings BBQ. He is a leader of the Second Willoughby Scouts and has received the God and Life award, which is given for exceptional leadership in the 'duty to God' section of the Scout's promise. Thomas gives witness to his Christian values through his actions.

**UMUKOULA HALAHOLO**  
St Clare's College,  
Waverley



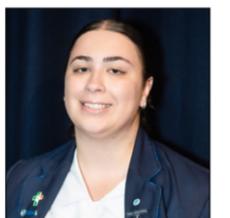
Umu passionately and actively practises her faith at St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church Redfern. As part of her practice, she is involved in Liturgical Celebrations and yearly pilgrimages. On Sundays she is involved in Mission work in Hyde Park and each Saturday she is involved in the maintenance and cleaning of the church. A talented musician, Umu also uses her gift of singing to sing at Mass each week. At school Umu gives witness to Gospel values in all that she does. She is passionate about liturgies and assists others encouraging participation in prayer and worship at the College. Umu is a young woman of strong faith and deep commitment.

**JOSHUA DANIEL MENDONCA**  
Clancy Catholic College,  
West Hoxton



As a Leader of Catholic Life, Joshua Mendonca is an authentic witness to his personal faith, encouraging all members of the Clancy community 'To Love Like Christ'. He is actively involved with his Parish, Holy Spirit Parish, Cames Hill, by serving at the altar, being an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and assisting with the Stations of the Cross. Joshua seeks to nourish and live out his faith through participating in a variety of youth ministry initiatives at the College including the Awaken Youth Rally, Power Up Evangelisation event and leading social justice initiatives such as Caritas fundraising and the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. He is constantly inspiring others to be the hands of Christ in the world today.

**KATELYN LOPES**  
Marist Sisters' College,  
Woolwich



Katelyn Lopes is a shining example of servant leadership and compassion within the Marist Sisters' College community. As Social Justice Captain, Katelyn raises awareness of social justice issues through initiatives such as packing for St Vincent de Paul and Project Compassion fundraising. Beyond her school community, Katelyn is an active member of St Anthony's Marsfield as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Katelyn shares her faith experiences with others through participation in St Therese Denistone Primary School Retreats, with other young adults through her participation in the Deanery Youth Group and Marist Super Connect with secondary schools. Katelyn's commitment to her faith and community is evidence of the high esteem in which she is held as a young Catholic woman.



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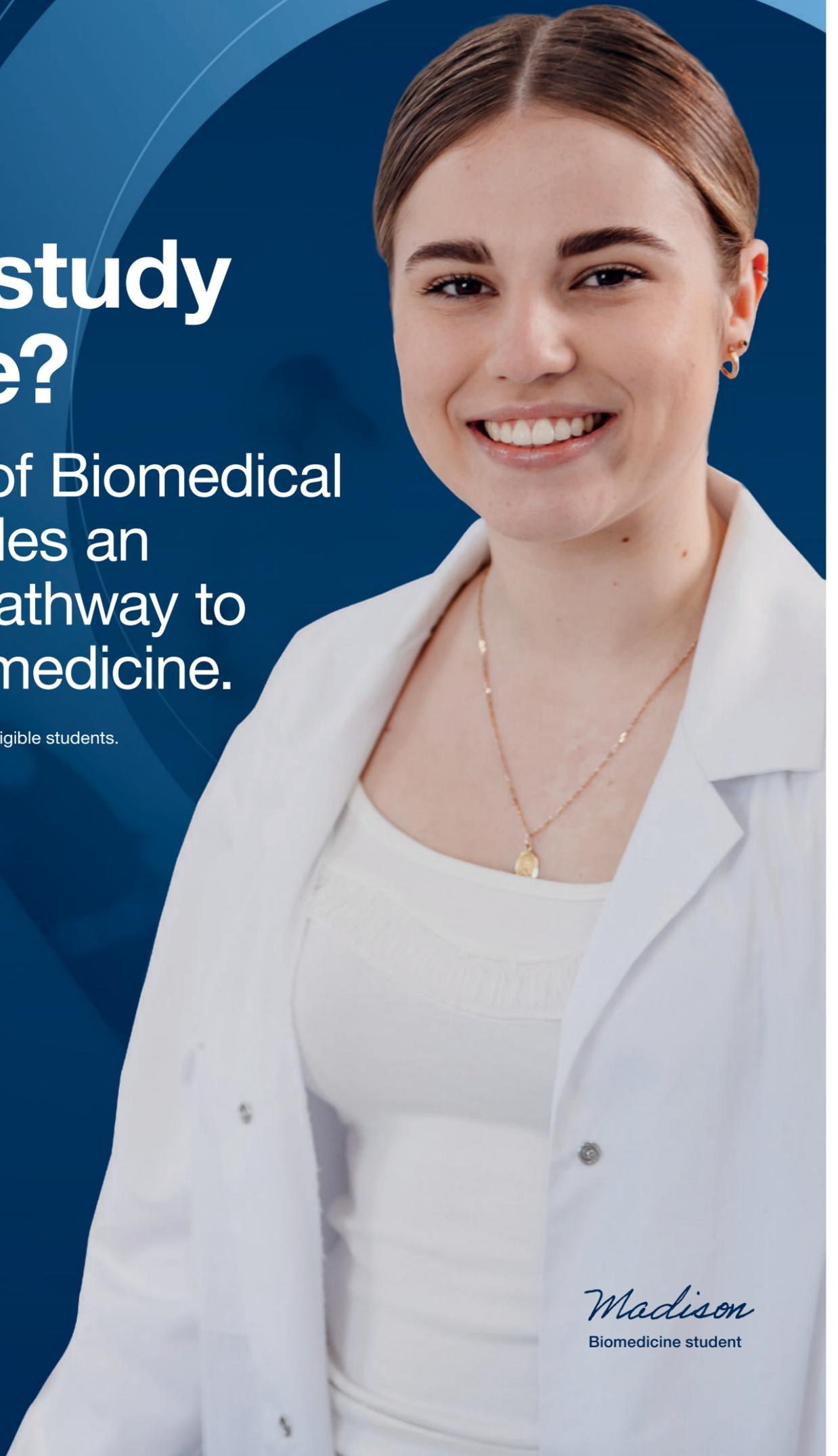
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*Madison*

Biomedicine student