



Trinity Term at
Campion

CAMPION'S BRAG

Catholic Learning in the Liberal Arts

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General Peter Cosgrove salutes Campion

At a special Appeal Dinner on May 21, held in the Dining Room of the NSW Parliament House, General Peter Cosgrove spoke of his long association with Campion College.

He made his remarks after an address by Campion's President, Dr Ryan Messmore, who had been introduced by Bishop Anthony Fisher OP of Parramatta.

General Cosgrove pointed out that he had visited the College a number of times, including Campion's Graduation in 2010 when he delivered the Occasional Address.

He remarked on the College's clear sense of mission – its offering of a Liberal Arts education in Australia, as a foundation of spiritual faith and moral values.

'I love its values,' he said. 'They're avowedly Catholic values, but there are people there who are not Catholics. They're comfortable in the skin of the College.'

The General commented on the 'great sense of community' he has found at Campion,

not only among the students and staff of the College but also among those 'who support it, believe in it, help to keep it going.'

He has especially appreciated the Schola when they have performed at College events such as Graduation.

General Cosgrove admitted that he is 'a sucker for music,...particularly "institutional" music,' and has always loved listening to the band of the Grenadier Guards; but to hear the Campion Schola's singing of sacred music has given him 'a visceral impression of community.'

While his more recent role has been at a large institution, the Australian Catholic University (ACU) where he serves as Chancellor, he said that he has 'kept a special place in [his heart] for Campion.'

Campion College 'offers,' he concluded, 'a faith-based home for those who wish to grow their spiritual and temporal wisdom in order to do God's work in the community. We have to help them.'



General Peter Cosgrove on one of his visits to Campion College

The Campion Appeal Dinner was successful, raising \$45,000 on the night and pledged donations in future years of over \$200,000. This assistance is most timely, as the College does not receive government grants and is entirely dependent on private support.

There remains a great need for continuing donations from 'Friends of Campion' – in order to match student growth and enable the College to meet its ongoing costs of development. Thank you for your generous support.

Campion Lecture on 'The Call of Vatican II'

- Archbishop Mark Coleridge

This year's St Edmund Campion Lecture was delivered on May 27 by Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane.

An audience of nearly 100 were in attendance, comprising Campion students and staff as well as invited guests and benefactors.

Addressing the topic, 'Sleepers Awake: The Call of Vatican II,' the Archbishop spoke with insight and passion on the nature and meaning of the Council, and what lay behind Pope John Paul II's description of it as 'the great grace given to the Church in the 20th century.'

He drew attention to the writings of Cardinal Ratzinger – the future Pope Benedict XVI – on the desired fruits of the Council, seeing the event as a 'spiritual awakening', not just of the Church but of the world through the Church.

This awakening would respond to the great historical challenges of recent centuries, extending from the 16th century Reformation



Archbishop Mark Coleridge delivering the 2013 Campion Lecture

and the 18th century Enlightenment to the vast tragedy of world wars and cataclysmic events in the 20th century, such as the Holocaust and the atomic destruction of Japanese cities.

Reflecting on this historical background to the Council, Archbishop Coleridge examined the profound balance which the Council sought between continuity and reform.

It wished to foster organic development rather than rupture – looking, on the one hand, to the future and favouring 'aggiornamento' ('updating') while, on the other, supporting 'ressourcement' ('return to the sources').

The Archbishop suggested that the 'spiritual awakening' which the Council encouraged was part of a cultural awakening on a worldwide scale, so that, with the end of colonialism, a Eurocentric Church was giving way to a global Church.

Divine Revelation had found embodiment in certain cultures historically, but that did not mean that Revelation was to be 'imprisoned' in those cultures.

Archbishop Coleridge concluded by exhorting Campion College to be part of the 'spiritual awakening' called for by the Vatican Council – 'where the spark of the Holy Spirit is found bringing fire to the earth as Jesus promised,' and 'a new surge of gospel energy' takes place which will provide 'not just words about God, but an experience of God.'

Building good marriages – a Champion contribution



Dr Ryan Messmore (centre) speaking at the inaugural Core Conference, with Dr Pat Fagan (left) and Dr Bradford Wilcox (right). The MC for the occasion was Mrs Katrina George. Acting Principal at Tangara School for Girls.

As a new way of reaching out to young people, Champion College hosted a special conference on 17 May on the subject of 'Love and Marriage in Modern Society'.

Called a Core Conference, as a way of highlighting the need to focus on the 'core' or the centre of things, so as to understand their true nature and meaning, it attracted nearly 250 senior students from Catholic schools in Western Sydney.

Also present were Principals and teachers as well as Champion students and graduates and members of the public.

Champion's President, Dr Ryan Messmore addressed the gathering in company with two visiting speakers – Dr Pat Fagan, Senior Fellow at the Family Research Council in Washington DC, and Dr Bradford Wilcox, Director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia.

The overall purpose was to help young people think seriously about the value of marriage and family from a Christian perspective.

Dr Fagan stressed the importance of channeling romantic desire towards marriage, while Dr Wilcox examined the effects of a growing trend towards delaying marriage.

Dr Messmore spoke on the subject of 'The Deeper Meaning of Romantic Love: An Engaging Proposal'. His theme was that

Campion is giving increased emphasis to strategic initiatives such as the Core Conference and various special dinners addressed by guest speakers. Benefactors and other guests are especially welcome to attend these events.

The College would like to invite 'Friends of Champion' to assist with the cost of these special events. A box is provided on the enclosed donation sheet.

marriage is best understood as a covenant rather than a contract, and that young people needed to take intentional steps in preparing for it.

The President began by reflecting on the importance of stories in our lives – particularly stories about love – and the extent to which they guide the way we see the world.

Today's most common story about love emphasizes romantic feeling, and assumes that the good life is about individual choice and sexual freedom. This leads to a view of marriage as a contract that should last until the romantic feelings fade away or a better option comes along.

An alternative love story, however, is founded on the idea of a covenant, which offers a more solid basis for romantic relationships.

A covenant assumes that people thrive, not in conditions of autonomy or unlimited choice, but in permanent relationships

between people who share a common destiny. A covenant forms family-type relationships, extending kinship bonds to those outside the immediate relationship.

Thus a covenant differs from a contract. Whereas a contract between two parties involves an exchange of goods and services that can end, after which the parties walk away, a covenant is a permanent union. It is an exchange of identities rather than of goods and services, binding people together in a way that they become part of the other forever.

Marriage is a relationship of covenant love, based not on romantic feeling – even if that supplies the initial attraction – but on faithfulness.

The notion of love at work here has more to do with a commitment of the will than a fluttering of the heart. It recognizes that love is not just an emotion. It is first and foremost an action, not merely an attraction.

Dr Messmore noted that the famous 'love chapter' in St Paul's Epistle (1 Corinthians 13) used 15 words to describe love – patient, kind, slow to anger, etc – all of which, in the original Greek, were verbs; words of doing, not of feeling.

Tracing the history of marriage as a covenant in Old Testament Israel, Dr Messmore showed how marriage covenants were entered and sealed in a prolonged and deliberate way.

The story of marital covenant union was seen as part of a much larger love story: a deeper, more ancient narrative revealing God's history with his creation.

These biblical experiences hold a lesson for our times – that the basis of marriage is a covenant of faithful love.

The President finished his address by encouraging the young audience to view their love as participating in God's love; and, for those who get married, to see their love story being swept up into a greater love story – the story of bodily covenant union with the Creator of the stars and the sun.

'There is no story more compelling,' said Dr Messmore, 'and no story more worth preparing for.'

This special Champion conference was made possible through a generous gift by Anna and Roland von Marburg, and was dedicated to the memory of Anna's father, George Eugene Logue, Sr.

Campion President – a pledge of fidelity

An established custom at Champion is for the incoming President to recite a Profession of Faith and take an Oath of Fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

On May 28, Dr Ryan Messmore participated in this ceremony in the presence of the Bishop of Parramatta, Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, and the College's Board Chairman, Mr Joe de Bruyn.

Dr Messmore noted the significance of this practice, testifying to the College's Catholic identity and its commitment to the foundational truths of the Christian faith.



From left: Dr Messmore and Bishop Fisher OP

Campion Marriages

A feature of Campion's early years has been the extent to which marriages have taken place between students or graduates – and, on occasions, relatives such as brothers or sisters of graduates. Of the College's 87 alumni, there have been 10 marriages so far.

Stephen Woodnutt (Class of 2008) and Jacinta Woodnutt (nee Smith, Class of 2010) with their children, Patrick (right) and Damien (left).



Two graduates, Jacinta Woodnutt (Class of 2010) and Matthew Biddle (Class of 2012) reflect on the recent course of their lives and the impact of their Campion education.

Campion, Marriage and Motherhood

Jacinta Woodnutt (nee Smith) graduated from Campion in 2010, her husband

Stephen in 2008. They live in Wellington, New Zealand.

Studying at Campion College has been one of the greatest blessings of my life – and not only because of the magnificent Liberal Arts degree that it offers in a deeply Catholic environment. I also met my husband Stephen Woodnutt there.

At Campion, I was encouraged to grow in my faith by attending daily Mass and regular prayer gatherings, and I studied subjects that explored what it truly means to be human.

Campion's degree focuses on forming the whole person, not just preparing us for one particular career. Stephen and I were blessed to have this environment in which to study and discern our vocation, which we have found in each other.

Campion inspired in us a shared vision to make a difference in the world by God's grace. We have been happily married for two and a half years, and blessed with two gorgeous boys, Patrick and Damien.

Stephen is now working as a teacher of Religious Education at a Catholic boy's high school and relishing being involved in education, and I am busy in my role as a stay-at-home mum.

While motherhood and marriage come with many challenges, I am grateful for the spiritual and personal enrichment that Campion brought me, which I believe helps me embrace both the challenges and the joys of this high calling, and know that God is walking by my side through it all.

Student enjoys a study abroad opportunity

In the course of their Campion degree, some students spend a period overseas at a similar Catholic liberal arts college, as a way of broadening their education in another country and institution. Last year, a third-year student, **Ben McCabe**, studied for a semester at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy (OLSW) in Ontario, Canada.

Ben offers the following reflections on returning to Campion for his final year before graduation:

When I arrived at OLSW, I immediately felt a pleasant sense of familiarity. The strong community atmosphere reminded me of Campion College. I found the same Catholic ethos and traditions that I had so relished at Campion.

But what impressed me most was the attitude of the academics. It was clear that they saw their work as a vocation and not merely a career.

They frequently had students over for dinner and organised Sunday hikes in

the mountains. The time and effort that they invested in the students made them universally admired as both mentors and role models.

In my time there, I profited greatly by the classes I attended, but the deeper lesson I learnt was from the faith that I encountered in both the students and the academics. They gave witness to the proper integration of study with the faith and lived out the motto of their academy: "the truth will set you free."

Campion College has a special scholarship fund to provide opportunities for students such as Ben McCabe to study overseas as well as support international students wishing to come to Campion.

Called the Matteo Ricci Fund – in honour of the distinguished 16th century Jesuit scholar and founder of Catholic missions in China – it would benefit greatly from any donations. A box is provided on the enclosed donation sheet for this purpose.

Ben McCabe (centre) on an excursion with friends in the mountains close to Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy in Canada



Life as a Journalist and a Father

Matthew Biddle graduated from Campion in 2011, his wife Carmel (nee Reeves) in 2012. They live in Perth, Western Australia.

Life since Campion has been full of excitement, challenges, and new adventures. Carmel and I moved to Perth in January 2013, where I took up a full-time job as a journalist for the Western Australian Catholic newspaper, 'The Record'.

Since completing the Liberal Arts degree at Campion, I've found that I have a much wider knowledge base than when I first worked in this field some five years ago.

In May, our sweet little baby boy, Patrick Matthias, was born, and he has been a bundle of joy and happiness.

Learning the ropes of parenthood has been a challenging, but ultimately rewarding experience and one we've both enjoyed. Each and every day we are reminded of the beauty of God's creation when we see our son, and we know that new life truly is a miracle.

We are constantly in awe of God's greatness in forming our baby boy in the womb so perfectly, and we hope we can raise him to be a true child of God, and perhaps, one day, a Campion graduate!



A foundational education for the future. Please remember *Campion* in your Will

Campion's 2009 Graduation Class, on the balcony of Campion's main building crowned by a statue of Our Lady

Campion Graduates – new voices for the Catholic faith

A Campion graduate, Madeleine Dugdale (nee Meese), is part of a new movement of young Catholics, **Catholic Voices Australia**, created to project a positive image of the Church to the wider society. In this report, Madeleine explains the background to her involvement:

During my years at Campion College, our inaugural class (2008) often discussed the reality of leaving our 'Catholic Bubble' to re-evangelise the secular world armed with the Liberal Arts.

I commenced teaching private school boys and what became so painfully apparent to me was the influence and power that secular media had over these very impressionable young adults.

In my third year of teaching, my husband Robert and I were approached by a Catholic priest in Melbourne who also shared these concerns. He had gathered a small team of six lay Catholics and proposed that we begin our own branch of Catholic Voices UK here in Australia – that is, a lay organisation that ensures that Catholics and the Church are well-represented in the media.

What an opportunity to re-evangelise Australia and to take seriously our responsibility to preserve our Christian culture!

Following months of in-depth planning, training and selection of interviewees, the



The Catholic Voices team at a cocktail party during the inaugural training weekend in Melbourne last May, conducted by the co-founders of Catholic Voices UK, Austen Ivereigh (eighth from left) and Jack Valero (sixth from right). Campion Alumni included Madeleine Dugdale (third from left), Peter McCumstie (fourth from right) and Natasha Marsh (at end on right).

Photo by Fiona Basile

papal election launched us into the spotlight. Our first press release produced a flurry of media phone calls and our 'Voices' were heard live-to-air on twelve network television programs and national radio stations.

It has been most rewarding to see the Campion degree helping to establish a lay movement whose sole purpose is to re-evangelise our culture using faith and reason.

We have received much encouragement, support and enthusiasm from Campion Alumni in Melbourne; in fact, all of Campion's Alumni in Melbourne volunteered to be involved. This is a great credit to Campion College which is already producing individuals determined to use their Liberal Arts degree to improve society.

'Voices' in training, Natasha Marsh and Peter McCumstie, obviously use Campion-

acquired skills and knowledge to respond to media questions.

Researching thoroughly before an interview, they can comprehend, consider and synthesise information before effectively communicating the Church's stance with speed and clarity in a manner both appealing and reasonable.

The media allows Catholic Voices to communicate our beliefs, ensuring that the truth is disseminated by confident, passionate and joyful individuals wishing to redeem Western civilisation.

It's no surprise that Campion Alumni want to be involved and to see Catholic Voices Australia succeed.

Please pray for us and visit our webpage at <http://www.catholicvoices.org.au/>

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Chesterton Conference on the Moral Imagination

Among the papers to be delivered at the G.K. Chesterton conference at Campion on Saturday, October 19, will be one by Karl Schmude on Chesterton and Spencer Tracy and a second by Donat



Spencer Tracy



Evelyn Waugh



G K Chesterton

Gallagher on Evelyn Waugh's novels translated to the screen.

Organised by the Australian Chesterton Society, the conference will address the need in today's culture for a rebirth of the moral imagination – as a way of opening the mind and the heart to truth.

Further information can be obtained by ticking the appropriate box on the donation sheet.