Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students

At our Middle School Assembly prayer on Tuesday, Giotto’s painting, Christ’s Entry into Jerusalem provided the inspiration for us to reflect on the celebration of Palm Sunday this weekend, leading into Holy Week. It is a magnificent painting, religious art at its finest, depicting the joy, adoration and anticipation of the crowd as proclaimed in the Scriptures: “Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.” Yet, in the faces of the disciples we see a stark contrast of emotions; fear, doubt and uncertainty which is a prelude to what lies ahead.

On Holy Thursday, our final day of this term we will celebrate the Passion of Jesus with a focus on the Stations of the Cross. Our Liturgy, as it must, will give us a glimpse into the joy of Easter Sunday morning with Christ’s resurrection our ultimate source of faith and hope. I know it will be a sacred and moving Easter ceremony with our students having a significant role in the narration, liturgical movement and singing. I invite parents and families to come and join us.

As I reflect on this term beginning with our Opening Assemblies, welcoming Year 7 and Year 8 students and new staff, I recall many
wonderful highlights. These are captured not only in our Spirit newsletters, but also, in more detail in our facebook page. Our education here, our day to day routine is truly holistic, fostering the spiritual, emotional, social and intellectual aspects of our lives. Mt St Michael’s is a place where everyone can grow, be they the most experienced teacher, a school officer or a Year 7 or Year 12 student.

Last week we shared with the Sisters of Charity and everyone connected to Mary Aikenhead Ministries, the joy of a most significant occasion, honouring the foundress of the Sisters of Charity, the now Venerable Mary Aikenhead. This is the second of four steps in the process of canonisation in our Church. In the words of Sister Clare Nolan Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity in Australia, and a past pupil of Mt St Michael’s “Her life teaches and inspires us to dream courageous visions, to have compassion for human pain, to analyse unjust structures which are the cause of poverty, to work with others to solve problems and to remain resolute in the face of hardship.”

It is most fitting that this honour has occurred as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Charity in Ireland in 1815. As we so often reflect, this act is the reason that we are here at Mt St Michael’s in Ashgrove in our College, living out the mission of the Sisters of Charity in this fine educational community.

We have plans to celebrate this 200th anniversary in conjunction with our celebration of our 90th anniversary of education on this site. These occasions will be incorporated into our Mary Aikenhead celebrations on 31st July and on 1st August we will have a particular celebration of our 90th Anniversary. You will hear more of our plans next term.

For the moment, the here and now, we are in the midst of drawing our fulfilling term to a conclusion.

I wish all families a happy and holy Easter and a safe and rejuvenating holiday.

Sincerely
Alison Terrey