

CHAPLAIN'S COMMENT

Greetings to all associated with the Lindisfarne College community. How quickly the first of the year it has gone.

I begin the Newsletter by paying tribute to the students of the college. During their time at Lindisfarne, they participate in regular acts of worship, centred of course, on our college chapel.

This term I introduced a "Celtic style" worship service. I have to confess I was a little apprehensive in doing so, but Celtic worship and Christianity is very much at the heart of what Lindisfarne stands for and was the form of worship common for the great Celtic saints of old. The Celtic style by its very nature, is quieter and tends to be more reflective – creating the space and opportunity for those who participate, to listen for what God might want to say to them through the prayers, readings, music, etc.

I congratulate those students and parents who were present and participated in this service for the manner in which they embraced the atmosphere I sought to create. Of the many service I lead in the course of the school year, I received more positive comments about this one – especially from the students – than I have about others. So positive has been the response, I intend to incorporate a Celtic style service into our Sunday programme perhaps twice a year. I strongly believe the more we experience this, the meaningful it will become for those who participate.

I also acknowledge the manner in which the majority of students go out of their way to meet their commitment to the Christian Dimension by attending the required number of Sunday evening chapel service. Your support is very much appreciated.

Once again I put out a call to any families who might be in a position to donate a new silver chalice and plate for Holy Communion. Currently the way we are distributing communion means we need two of these – presently we have to borrow. The cost of a new silver chalice and plate is \$650. Any contributions made would be appropriately acknowledged within the context of a chapel service. Please contact me if you feel you might be able to contribute.

I again congratulate our **Year 13 house leaders** and **Year 12 students** for the quality and inspiration given in their chapel services over the past two terms. The themes developed have been varied and thought provoking and are a real credit to the boys who rise to the challenge of leading the school community in worship. Their sermons are included in this newsletter for your personal inspiration.

Two of the three Bible Reading competitions have been completed. The **Intermediate School Bible Reading Competition** was held in term one and as always, was keenly contested by a good number of students from that level. Our adjudicator was the Moderator of the Gisborne/Hawke's Bay Presbytery, **Miss Brenda Waring**. The six finalists read to high standard,

with only a few marks separating the place getters. Third in the competition was **Hamish Muir**, second **Stuart Thomson**, and the winner for 2008 was **Mel Skews**.

In the **Junior Bible Reading Competition** the standard was the highest I can recall in my time at Lindisfarne, with a good number of Year 9 and 10 students participating. Our adjudicator for this competition was **Mr Ben Le Heux**. In third place was **Kenneth Muir**, second, **George Nelson**, and in first place for 2008 **Marcus Jackson**. I congratulate all who participated for the extremely high standard that was set.

My appreciation goes once again to **Mr John Snowling, Mr Flemming Kristensen and the boys** who comprise the various musical groups that accompany our hymn singing.

I conclude with a reminder of our annual **Service of Confirmation and Baptism** to be held a little later this year, on **Sunday, 19 October (the first Sunday evening in Term Four.)** Please talk with your sons about the possibility of offering themselves for baptism and/or confirmation and contact me if you would like more information. This year we are again able to offer confirmation to students from the Roman Catholic tradition. If this applies to you and your son is interested, please make contact with me. It is important for Roman Catholic students to attend a Confirmation preparation programme run at Sacred Heart in Hastings. They are then able to be confirmed with their peers here at school.

I take this opportunity to thank all associated with the Lindisfarne College community for your ongoing support of the Christian Dimension. The shortest day has come and gone and as the seasons pass, we can only be thankful for the many blessings God so lavishly bestows upon us. Enjoy safety and relaxation with your sons over the holiday break and we look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the new term.

May God richly bless your every endeavour.

Rev Warren Fortune
Chaplain