



# ARNDELL ANGLICAN COLLEGE

*"News Flash"*

*Friday 29th October 2010*



## *From the Headmaster:*

*Mr Gareth Leechman MA MEd MACE MACEL*

### **John 13: 2 – 9**

One of the highlights of my role is to induct new leaders into the college and this week we were able to induct our new college Captains, House Captains and Prefects. As my comment for the week I would like to share with you my address at the service as it outlines how I expect our college leaders to lead.

*What a great passage we have set for the Induction Service today. The events of the passage occur almost at the culmination of Jesus' ministry – he has done his miracles (though the best is yet to come), he has spoken to the people, he has called his disciples – his three year journey is almost complete. The scene that we have before us is one that is celebrating the Jewish Passover – the annual festive meal that the Jewish people hold in remembrance of the time that God saved the Jewish children from the final plague set upon their Egyptian oppressors.*

*As a good Jew Jesus calls his disciples to prepare a Passover meal and this is clearly picked up on in verse 2 'the evening meal was being served.... Picture this – a low table surrounded by a dozen men sharing a meal together. They most likely would have been seated on the floor, reclining or seated on a cushion. The table would have been a few centimetres above the ground. In front of them would have been some basic food some unleavened bread and some wine to drink. The central character of this meal would have been Jesus himself leading in the Passover customs.*

*Jesus God's only Son knew that his time was fast approaching and he also knew that God had placed on him 'all power' – everything he saw was under his control. As a leader no one was greater than him, no one was more knowledgeable, no one more powerful. But what did Jesus do with the power that had been bestowed upon him? How did he use this power?*

*We get this most extraordinary sight. Jesus takes off his outer garment, the very cloth he would have been wearing and places a towel around him. He then fills a bowl with water and starts to wash his disciple's feet. For some of us here we might think well why is this so special? What is so amazing about this action? The answer lies in the context of the event. You need to know that we are talking about people who were living two thousand years ago. These people would walk amongst their community in sandals, in a warm dry climate, amongst the dust, dirt and grime. This was not the age of shoes as we know them or paths made of concrete. In short if you were living in the Middle East two thousand years ago your feet were dirty, smelly and quite disgusting.*

*Washing one's feet was a custom that would often occur before the evening meal as part of the cleansing process. But this job of cleaning or washing one's feet was often left to the servant to do. It was a dirty job, imagine taking the sandals off, washing the dirt, dust and grime of someone's smelly and sweaty feet and then wiping them on a clean towel that you had brought. This would not have been a particularly pleasing job to do – not something a great and powerful leader would do!*

*But this is what Jesus did! He started to wash, clean and dry his disciple's feet. He the powerful leader was willing to lower himself to that of a servant by making his disciple's feet clean. What was their reaction? In the passage we have before us we only get the reaction of Simon Peter – 'Lord are you going to wash my feet?' He was*

astounded. How could this man his leader lowering himself to the position of a servant and clean his feet. Simon Peter could not accept what Jesus was doing. 'No, you shall never wash my feet.'

The concepts of power and service are clearly juxtaposed in the passage. The concept of leadership is being turned on its head. But Jesus replies to Simon Peter's concerns by saying – 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.' What did Jesus mean, what does he mean when he says 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me?' In short Jesus is referring to his impending death on the cross where his blood will wash away our sin and lead to our cleansing before God's eyes. If we are to be one with God we must first be cleansed by God through accepting the sacrifice that God's son has shed for us.

For Jesus to lead this group of disciples he must show them what true leadership is; true leadership is not using the power you have been given for your own glory and benefit, but using the power you have been given for the benefit of others. So for us here today- you the College leaders we are appointing today – you must become aware that the power and responsibilities we are giving you are not to be used for your glory but for the glory of those you serve. You have been called to serve the people in this room, the students in the Junior School and the broader Arndell community. You are called to make this community a better place, a better college a better school.

You are to use the gift of leadership and work at it diligently by placing the needs of others before yourself. May God bless each of you as you try to aspire to meet this charge we are giving you.

### College Captains and Prefects for 2010/2011



## Calendar Dates

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Nov	2 Nov	3 Nov	4 Nov	5 Nov	6 Nov	7 Nov
Jnr. School Test Week Yr 8 Exams HZSA Soft Ball Trials William Clarke College Yr 12 Bus. Studies Exc. Blacktown Leisure Centre  HSC continues	Jnr. School Test Week Yr 8 Exams Yr 10 PASS Fitness Class, Richmond  HSC continues	Jnr. School Test Week Year 7/9 Exams SASC Netball Carnival Kellyville Netball Courts  HSC continues	Jnr. School Test Week Yr 7/9 Exams Assessments Due: Yr 10 Timber, Yr 10 Graphics Yr 6 Excursion to Cares St Marys Jnr. School Photography Club HSC continues	Jnr. School Test Week Year 9 Exams NSWCIS Gymnastics – Burwood Snr School Assembly Jnr. School Chapel HSC continues	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre  Pitt Town Anglican Church Conference  Dance-in-Studio JLPA Centre	Community Church JLPA Centre
8 Nov	9 Nov	10 Nov	11 Nov	12 Nov	13 Nov	14 Nov
School Certificate CSSA Primary Golf C'ships  HSC continues	School Certificate  HSC continues	School Certificate Computing Skills  HSC continues	Assessments Due: Yr 9 Wood Technology Yr 9/10 PASS Exc. – Jamberoo Recreation Pk. Jnr. School Photography Club HSC continues	Snr. School Chapel Jnr. Chapel HZSA Primary &Sec. Triathlon Penrith HSC continues	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre	Community Church JLPA Centre
15 Nov	16 Nov	17 Nov	18 Nov	19 Nov	20 Nov	21 Nov
Yr 10 Camp – Waterslea Conference Centre  NSW CIS Girls Waterpolo Homebush	Yr 10 Camp – Waterslea Conference Centre	Yr 10 Camp – Waterslea Conference Centre  NSW CIS Boys Waterpolo Trials Homebush	Jnr. School Photography Club Yr 10 My Own Work Yr 6 Ex to Cares St Marys	Snr. School Chapel Yr 10 My Own Work Jnr. School Chapel	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre  Smartsteppers Dance Studio JLPA	Community Church JLPA Centre