

FCJnews

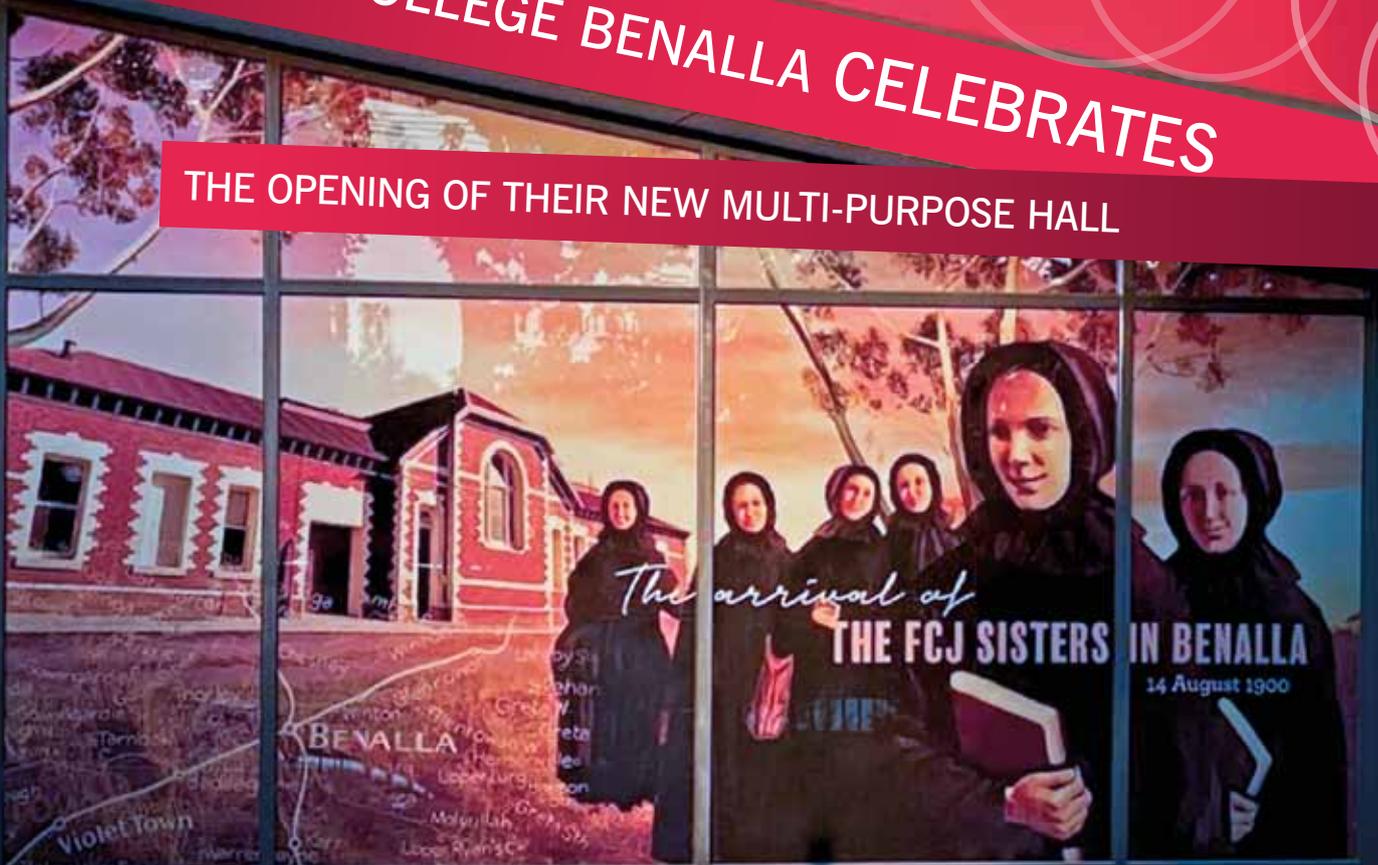
Area of Australia

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FCJ COLLEGE BENALLA CELEBRATES

THE OPENING OF THEIR NEW MULTI-PURPOSE HALL



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WHOLLEY
Genazzano's
New Principal

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and Margaret
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PHOTO Maggie Power

A Reflection: Gentleness

☛ Let your life be in accord with the call you have received; in all humility and gentleness, with patience, support one another in love; do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace which binds you together ☛ (Eph 4: 1-2).

There are some words which belong to the vocabulary of the sacred. They include kindness, faithfulness and joy; generosity and patience would be among them too, as would peace and hope.

Most of these words are readily understood and are in common usage, but I think it true to say that in the rough and tumble of human discourse, they always have a special significance. When we say them, hear them, read them, reflect on them, they seem to draw us into the realm of the spiritual, into the domain of God. They are proof that although we live in time, we are constantly being nudged to contemplate eternal realities.

Gentleness, a precious part of our FCJ heritage, along with humility, poverty and obedience, is one of these sacred words. Gentleness dignifies human presence. It creates an atmosphere of kindness and concern. It reminds us that God is with us in our joys and sorrows, in all that happens to us, and knowing this brings peace of soul and true humility. Gentleness, as Marie Madeleine knew so well, helps us to walk into the future with hope, not knowing precisely how things will turn out, but trusting in God's providence.

Without gentleness, humans cannot survive infancy, and it is an indispensable ingredient of the health-giving nourishment needed for soul and body throughout our lives. Is it not true that physical and mental anguish visits us if, as day follows day, we have no expectation of gentleness? Unobtrusive, gentleness is a gift freely given and it is as essential to us as the beating of our hearts. We receive its benefits, and it shapes us, it sustains and strengthens us. Then we pass on the gift to others, sharing it with them, and very often we do this non-verbally.

COVER: The feature window at FCJ College Benalla new multi-purpose hall. It highlights artwork showing *The Arrival of the FCJ Sisters in Benalla* 14 August 1900. PHOTOGRAPH: Ms Joanne Rock.

PHOTO Sharon McCutcheon



The expression in our eyes, a gesture, a smile, a tear, a gift, a touch, an indefinable lightness or warmth in the texture of our voices – any of these can convey gentleness. Wherever there is kindness and tenderness, there is gentleness.

Gentle people seem to have a glow about them that springs from that authentic sense of human solidarity which gentleness generates. Gentleness includes both giving and receiving, and like all the virtues, it is rooted in love.

Had St Paul listed its qualities, as he did for love in that famous passage in I Corinthians, perhaps he would have said that gentleness is reflective, conciliatory, sensitive, compassionate, accepting of our present imperfection. The gentle ‘... do not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame’.

Companionship

Gentleness goes hand in hand with companionship, for it means opening up with others to our common humanity. When we treat people and things with respect, and when we tread softly upon the earth which is our common home, our words, our touch, our footfall, our caress will be gentle. If our gaze, the way we look at people, is friendly and welcoming, it will communicate gentleness. God does not shout, so we need some degree of quietness to hear God’s gentle voice.

Gentleness helps us to listen. It slows us down, encourages us to face the ups and downs of life more calmly, more contemplatively. Friedrich von Hügel seems to imply that a spirit of gentleness is an indication of authentic prayerfulness: ‘Prayer is genuine,’ he wrote in a letter to his niece, ‘if in coming away from it, you find yourself humbler, sweeter, more patient’. Gentleness is the ability to look without condemnation upon those who perpetrate violence and discord; it calms troubled minds and hearts. Gentleness, given and received, brings joy, peacefulness and a sense of well-being into our lives.

We have a mission to reveal that God is present in this messy, unjust world where the poor get poorer, and the rich get richer. Our desire is to walk with

“ Blessed are the gentle, they shall have the earth for their heritage ” (Mt 5: 4).

Jesus, our faithful Companion, and with him to make God’s purpose visible in our broken world, a world crying out in distress. Faced as we are with the climate emergency and finding ourselves obliged to live with the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, the Spirit of gentleness helps us to glimpse a different future and inspires us to work together in hope to bring it to fulfilment.



Teresa White fcJ

Welcome to Mrs Loretta Wholley Genazzano's New Principal



Loretta Wholley is the new Principal of Genazzano FCJ College, Kew, beginning in Term 1 this year. Dodging COVID-19 lockdowns, Loretta and her family arrived in Melbourne in January from Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT), where they have lived for the past eight years.

Loretta is married to Michael Wholley, who works in the Commonwealth Public Service, and has two daughters who are now attending Genazzano. She is originally from Kalamunda in Western Australia, growing up in an Italian family. Her parents were Sicilians who came from the province of Messina in the 1950s. They came to Australia separately, and married here.

Kalamunda is situated in the hills behind Perth, and the area was settled by Italians who came from three towns in the Messina area. Their patron saint was San Leone, and Loretta remembers the yearly festival of the saint, with its procession and the roasting of chestnuts and the abundance of gelato. Her memories of her Italian upbringing are based on family and food. She says they always did things together: weddings and funerals were for the whole community. She was educated by the Mercy Sisters in Perth at St Brigid's College.

Joining the Catholic education system in Western Australia, in the Faith and Mission area, she was appointed Vice Principal in two schools of the Sisters of Mercy, Mercedes College, Perth, and Santa Maria College in Attadale, Perth. She says that she was very lucky to be the beneficiary of great mentors in the two principals she worked with. They gave her every opportunity to experience the different parts of these schools, including the boarding houses, the Curriculum committees, pastoral care, and responsibility for the restorative practice of these colleges. In this way, these women provided her with the broad experience she would need as a Principal. Committed to girls' education, Loretta and Michael moved to Canberra when she took on the principal's position at Merici College in Braddon. Merici, named after St Angela Merici, is part of the Ursuline tradition. Coming to Genazzano, Loretta has noted the commonalities in the strength of the foundresses of these three religious orders – Catherine McAuley, Angela Merici and Marie Madeleine D'Houët – and in how their visions translated into the education of young women.

Loretta was the President of the Catholic Secondary Principal's Association (CaSPA) in the ACT, resigning when she came to Melbourne, as this is a state-based association of principals. She values the experience of this position, especially given the experience of schools during Covid in 2020. CaSPA joined a network of principals of all Australian schools – government, Independent and Catholic primary and secondary schools – to work with government in the provision of schooling during the pandemic school lockdowns. This Coalition of Australian Principals (CAP) was instrumental in ensuring conversations took place with the relevant government agencies and the schools. Her position meant she was interviewed by Network 10's *The Project* to talk about this relationship between schools and government.

While completing her Masters in Educational Leadership at Australian Catholic University (ACU), Loretta was advised to join education forums and places where ideas about education can be exchanged and explored, and as such she is part of Twitter forums such as New Metrics, Alliance of Girls Schools Australia and AussieEd. She has enjoyed participating in professional forums of teachers and leaders in schools, and thinks these are fertile spaces for professional development of teachers.

Since arriving at Genazzano, Loretta has immersed herself in the myriad activities of the college, from Rowing presentations to Prep – Year 4 Pizza Nights, the International Women's Day Breakfast, the Year 7 Camp and many more. Addressing the staff in Term One she spoke of the warmth of the welcome she had received, from parents, staff and students. Loretta sees the challenge for herself and the college staff as working collaboratively to ensure Genazzano is at the forefront of educational innovation.

Loretta is also aware of the great responsibility the college has been entrusted with: to continue to recall and respond to the vision and mission of Jesus Christ, the Catholic Church and the FCJ Sisters. Working together, we continue to bring this to life through the active commitment and witness to Catholic identity, prayer, story, religious education and social justice.



Anne McLroy

ABOVE: Mary Ryan, Tulipa Rodriguez Quin, Prudence Spencer with Mrs Wholley.

PHOTO Casamento Photography, Courtesy Crosier Scott Architects



THE NEW PURPOSE HALL AT FCJ COLLEGE BENALLA

The Official Opening and Thanksgiving Ceremony of the FCJ College Benalla Multi-Purpose Hall, 24 March 2021

Twelve FCJ Sisters attended the official opening of the new Multi-Purpose Hall at FCJ College Benalla on 24 March 2021. The hall was blessed the previous week by the Bishop of Sandhurst, Most Reverend Shane MacKinlay.

The project was made possible by a generous donation from the FCJ Sisters to mark the Bicentenary of the Society’s foundation in France by the Venerable Marie Madeleine d’Houët in 1820. The hall is state-of-the-art, incorporating the newest technology, ideas and features. It also has retractable seating, enabling it to be used for a variety of events: school assemblies and liturgies, physical education, sports, and concerts. It will also be available to the Benalla community for various functions.

The ceremony commenced with an inspiring ‘Welcome to Country’ by the traditional owners, the Yorta Yorta Nation, recited by Troy Firebrace, who is the Aboriginal Education Officer at the Catholic Education Office in the Sandhurst Diocese. Guests were warmly welcomed by the FCJ College Vice Captains and a beautiful liturgy was led by the Student Leadership Team and Student Representative Council. At various times, images of FCJ Sisters who have been part of the Benalla story were visible on a large screen.

Principal, Mrs Joanne Rock, spoke warmly of the contribution FCJ Sisters have made to the College for over 121 years. Former

Chair of Council, Mr Robert Barber, also thanked the Sisters and all those responsible for building this magnificent hall. Sr Barbara Brown-Graham fcJ, Area Leader in Australia, congratulated all who had played a significant role in ‘dreaming big’ and producing such a wonderful asset for the College community to enjoy. Sr Barbara also explained to students the reason behind the Society’s large financial gift and the values of an FCJ Education characterised by hope and faithfulness.

The ceremony concluded with College Captains presenting each FCJ Sister present with a replica of the beautiful glass window depicting the first FCJ Sisters’ arrival in Benalla in 1900. All guests were then treated to a delicious lunch served by the students.

In FCJ Education Australia’s recently published book, *The Characteristics of Catholic Education in the FCJ Tradition* (2021), we read:

‘An FCJ College aims to be an environment where students grow in the self-knowledge that leads to an attitude of gentle strength and wisdom, i.e. gentle with oneself at all times, able to forgive oneself and others and to move on with hope thus leading to a calm and respectful attitude towards others. Loving and forgiving are tangible and visible signs that faith has transformed our hearts.’
Written by members of the FCJ Education Board, 2020.



We pray the FCJ College Benalla community will always strive to live out these values.

Helen Buckley fcJ

LEFT: Sisters Liz Brown, fcJ, Anne Morrison fcJ Sr Ann Connolly fcJ at the Official Opening of the New Hall.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Jubilee Celebration of Sisters Helen Buckley and Margaret O'Donohue fcJ

✚ Pour porter le nom, Fidèle Compagne de Jésus, je donnerai tout ce que je suis. ✚



Above: Helen, Maureen, Trish, Fr Bernard, John, Madeline, Antoinette, Matthew.

✚ ... thank Margaret and Helen ... for the grace, good humour and perseverance in the living out of their vocations. ✚

In contrast to the rather cold and wet Melbourne day on Sunday 21 March, the Jubilee celebration of Sr Helen Buckley fcJ and Sr Margaret O'Donohue fcJ was a warm and joyful occasion. The Genazzano Chapel was full, with people from all over Victoria and those who had flown in from other Australian states.

Helen and Margaret took their first vows 50 years ago, Helen at the Mother House in Broadstairs in Kent, England, and Margaret at the Laurel Hill College chapel in Limerick, Ireland. Together they joined with family and friends to recognise this milestone of their religious life and to renew their vows.

Fr Bernard Buckley, brother of Helen, was the chief celebrant of the Mass, and he was surrounded by Jesuits, Fr Renato Zecchin SJ, Fr Nguyen Viet Huy SJ, Fr Trung Nguyen SJ, Fr Stan Lim SJ, and Fr Michael Smith SJ, all members or former members of Richmond parish so closely associated with the FCJ Sisters in their former school and convent.

The occasion was enhanced by the beautiful choral and instrumental music provided by the Genazzano students, ably conducted by Ms Janet Dawson, Director of Music at Genazzano.

Fr Bernard, reflecting on the 50 years of Helen and Margaret's vocations and their work in the Society, reminded us that Marie Madeleine said all work is God's, in whatever work we are called to do. He called on those of us who were present to thank Margaret and Helen for the witness their lives have shown and for the grace, good humour and perseverance in the living out of their vocations.

The Jubilee was another reminder of the internationality of the FCJ Society. While Helen was celebrating her Jubilee in the chapel of her old school, where she had studied and taught, in Melbourne, Sr Margaret was a long way from her family in Limerick.

Afterwards we gathered in the cafeteria at Genazzano, and Sr Barbara spoke about Helen and Margaret, with gratitude for their assistance and support in her work as Provincial in Australia.



Anne McLroy

A Life on the Stage: Mary Fitzgerald

Interview by Tulipa Rodriguez-Quin (2020)



PHOTOS: Allan Studios Collingwood



As the Drama Prefect for 2021, I had the delightful pleasure of meeting Mary Fitzgerald (née Parker) at her home to talk to her about her extremely interesting life as an actress in theatre, film and television. Mary greeted me with charming grace, and was happy to expound upon the ins and outs of her career and personal life.

Mary began her schooling at Genazzano Convent FCJ in 1938 where one of her earliest acting experiences occurred in the English classroom, with Mother Angela, who would ask the girls to read Shakespeare aloud, with correct diction and intonation, creating an almost theatrical performance within the class.

This early introduction to theatre led her to become involved in productions at the college, including *Quality Street* by J.M. Barrie and the period drama *The Immortal Lady*, where she played the lead in both. She spoke very warmly of the encouragement these ventures were met with by Mother Bernadette Fitzgerald, and the speech teacher at the time, Maie Hoban. Mary's schooling experience and the incredible support she received in her endeavours at Genazzano formed the foundation of what was going to prove a highly successful and fruitful career.

After leaving Genazzano in 1948, Mary went on to join a theatre

She stepped up to it spectacularly, and her performance began her theatrical career in earnest.

company set up by her speech teacher Maie Hoban, called the Pilgrim Theatre. There she was part of the cast for T.S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party*, and understudy to Sheila Florance. During the performance season, Florance became ill and 18-year-old Mary had to perform the role of a middle-aged woman. She stepped up to it spectacularly, and her performance began her theatrical career in earnest.

After performing for some time at the Pilgrim Theatre, she joined the Little Theatre, where she acted alongside professional actors and engaged an agent. The actors with whom she worked during this period of her life inspired her and gave

Above: Captain Vallentine Brown played by Lois Fergus (Breheny).

Above left: Mary (second left) looking gorgeous as Phoebe.

her life advice that she would carry with her for years to come. She also performed in *The White Sheep of the Family* at the Comedy Theatre with Edwin Styles and at the Union Theatre with Zoe Caldwell.

Ever the rising star, Mary was called to England to do a screen test at Ealing Studios, after which she was offered parts in a number of films there, as well as having her name in lights on Shaftesbury Avenue. She acted with greats such as Dame Sybil Thorndike and Michael Wilding, whose mentorship provided her with friendly faces and support in England, as she had moved there when only 19 years old.

Mary was part of a very talented family line, and so working with these remarkable professionals was not overwhelming for her. In her element, and learning more every day, Mary seized every opportunity given to her, taking 'the insults as well as the

Continued next page

Mary Fitzgerald continued

praise'. Although her family life had accustomed her to such a future, Mary conceded that 'she had never known a fear like it', and that with the exciting new opportunities also came immense amounts of change and uncertainty.

Mary was approached by the BBC to become the anchorwoman for a show called *Quite Contrary*, a television program with an audience of eight million. Although nervous, she was supported by her brother, Commander Michael Parker, who encouraged her to present as if she was speaking to only him.

In 1956, Channel HSV7 brought Mary back to Melbourne to become the anchor for one of the very early television programs in Melbourne, presenting the 1956 Olympic Games. After her experiences in London, Melbourne felt small, and the people running the show felt inexperienced and unused to working in such an environment. Despite this, they all worked together and pushed through to make Australian history with their telecast.

Before arriving in Australia for the Games, Mary had met the Australian painter Paul Fitzgerald, whose intelligence and charm drew her in. His request to paint her portrait began their relationship, and they had been going out together for quite some time by the time Mary arrived in Melbourne to anchor for the Olympics. Although their original plan had been to move back to London, they decided that they would get married in Australia and settle down to raise a family.

❖ **Mary was approached by the BBC to become the anchorwoman for a show called *Quite Contrary*, a television program with an audience of eight million...!**



PHOTO: Allan Studios Collingwood

Above: Lois and Mary in full costume on the front steps of Genazzano Convent FCJ.

Fitzgerald's painting career required him to travel to complete yearly commissions for tens of regular customers, and each year he would return to Europe in order to fulfil these commissions, which included Queen Elizabeth herself.

When Sr Margaret Mary Kennedy fCJ was Provincial, she commissioned him to paint an image of Marie Madeleine d'Houët. As their family grew, Mary 'took a step back' from performance, news that was most welcome at both Genazzano and Xavier Colleges, as she quickly became involved in their productions and drama departments in all areas.

As a successful professional actress returning from life abroad,

Mary's journey had come full circle, and she came back to the college that had begun her journey – full of wisdom and ready to inspire the next generation of young girls just like her with her passion and vigour.



Tulipa Rodriguez-Quin
Genazzano FCJ
College Drama Prefect
2020–21

Mother Stanislaus Stock fcJ

First Principal of Genazzano 1852–1919



The Stanislaus Room, carefully researched by Julianne Barlow (archivist for 30 years) with the assistance of the late Fr John Rogan and Fr Bernard Buckley.

Anna Stock (1852–1919), known in life as Mother Stanislaus Stock fcJ, was born in 1852 in Liverpool, England. Anna attended the FCJ Convent School, Upton Hall, in the village of Upton in The Wirral, Cheshire, England.

On leaving school at the age of 15 she entered the FCJ Society at Upton where she received the habit on 21 November 1867, and in 1869 she was sent to Paris to the Novitiate of the Society. After she made her vows as an FCJ Sister she took Stanislaus as her religious name. She was known thereafter as Mother Stanislaus Stock. She began her teacher training in Paris. In 1872 she transferred to a school in Bunclody in County Wexford, Ireland,

founded in 1861 and still operating. After a further two years she moved to Laurel Hill School in Limerick where she was a class mistress for 10 years with responsibility for boarders. These early years in Paris and Ireland were the foundation for educational work to come in far-off Australia.

In 1884 Mother Stanislaus, at the age of 32 and after 12 happy years teaching in Ireland, was missioned to Australia: she was to lead a second party of seven

Sisters to join the first group that had arrived in Richmond, Melbourne, two years earlier.

Mother Stanislaus taught at Vacluse Convent School, Richmond, for four years before being appointed as Superior to establish and lead Genazzano Convent FCJ, a new school in Kew. Seven Sisters moved to Kew on 2 May 1889 with Mother Stanislaus. Five more Sisters joined the initial group a few days later and the first group of students started at the new college. The girls loved the free and open environment but Mother Stanislaus soon became aware that girls were not as committed to their studies as she felt they needed to be.

In 1895, just six years after the opening of Genazzano Convent FCJ,

➤ new students have been able to visit the Archives Room ... and gain an appreciation of the 130-year history of the well-loved school upon the hill. ➤

Continued next page

Mother Stanislaus Stock fcJ continued

the Principal presented students for the Trinity College, London, music examinations. The following year, 1896, four students matriculated. Thus, Genazzano's academic and music journey had begun. Mother Stanislaus was also committed to the on-going education of the Sisters. She arranged for Sr Philomena Beeck to enrol at the University of Melbourne. She graduated with an Honours Degree with an Exhibition in Greek. Later, many newly professed Sisters went to England for their tertiary education. Some studied in Ireland at the National University and others at Fribourg University, Switzerland.

Mother Stanislaus was committed to encouraging girls to work hard at their studies. She approached the University of Melbourne to discuss the possibility of offering an examination program for years leading up to the Matriculation. At that time the university was not interested in such a program, nor was it committed to girls' education.

In 1901, not to be deterred, on a visit to England for an FCJ Society meeting Mother contacted Oxford University about the possibility of establishing a Centre for Junior and Senior Oxford Local Examinations. She had had experience with Local Oxford Examinations when teaching in Ireland, so it was a natural progression for her to seek the establishment of a Centre in Melbourne. She believed that introducing such a system would be a stimulus for girls to work hard and achieve to the best of their ability. This had been her experience with an Oxford Examination Centre in Ireland. The Oxford Centre was established in Melbourne even though it created great controversy among the educational community and media. At the invitation of Mother Stanislaus a number of other schools joined with Genazzano and prepared their students for the first examinations.

All did not go smoothly for the introduction of the Oxford Centre as the University of Melbourne was not happy and put up a challenge, including writing to the Oxford Centre authority and asking them

not to come to Melbourne. The Secretary to the Delegacy of the Oxford Local Examinations wrote a letter of clarification to the Chancellor of the University of Melbourne stating that they had received an invitation from two convents of the same community to establish a Centre in Melbourne and that 'this application has been already granted, and it is therefore impossible for the Delegacy to withdraw unless on the request of the Centre'. This letter explained to the Chancellor that if the university were to introduce a school examination system, the Oxford Centre Examinations would no longer be required. This is exactly what happened. The Intermediate and Leaving examinations were first offered the following year by the University of Melbourne.

Mother Stanislaus Stock was a woman of many talents but if she needed professional advice on a matter she did not hesitate to seek out help. One example of this is in the establishment of the Genazzano garden. The Genazzano Archives record that Mr Donaldson and Mr Perry of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne helped Mother Stanislaus with the landscaping and organised the tree planting. Some of these original trees enhance the grounds to this day.

Mother Stanislaus was a good neighbour. She welcomed the neighbours to attend Mass in the Convent Chapel as the Deepdene Parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel was not established till 1922. She was often seen in the pony trap delivering vegetables grown in the school gardens to the poor and sick of Kew.

📌 **Mother contacted Oxford University about the possibility of establishing a Centre for Junior and Senior Oxford Local Examinations... The Oxford Centre was established in Melbourne even though it created great controversy among the educational community and media.** 📌

In these early years under the leadership of Mother Stanislaus Stock a number of educational practices were established at Genazzano and many continue today. These included: the introduction of L'Alliance Française examinations of the French language, prize days/nights, and concerts and plays performed for parents and friends. Cultural and religious practices, as well as educational initiatives, were introduced. These included retreats, special Feast Days, such as the key feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Genazzano Day and in 1902 the first reunion of past students.

This reunion continues today for both present and past students. In the 21st century the students and staff celebrate Genazzano Day as a gala day of entertainment, food, games and House events, including the now legendary dance competition with fundraising for the FCJ Missions around the world.

Mother Stanislaus' health began to deteriorate. In 1915 she was transferred to Benalla FCJ Convent. Here she taught French and Music until her health deteriorated further and she returned to Richmond where she died at Vaucluse on 12 May 1919. She was buried, from the Convent Chapel, Richmond, in Boroondara Cemetery, Kew.

Mother Stanislaus Stock's name lives on among the present Genazzano FCJ College community. In memory of the first Principal, Stock is the name of one of the six new Houses established in the 1980s in response to the growth of the student population to 1,000 students. Each new House was named after a significant figure in the history of the College. As well, the Heritage Room in the Wardell Building carries her name.



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Julie Chamberlin

Helena Goldsmith's Reflection on her time at Genazzano FCJ College

When Ann Rennie invited me to write a reflection on my three years as Liturgy and Social Justice Coordinator at Genazzano FCJ College and the experience of the FCJ charism, my first thoughts were of the many consolations I had received from the students and the way the girls embraced the opportunities presented to them with an infectious joy-filled hope for the future. It's the spirit of Marie Madeleine d'Houët – courage and confidence instilled through an outward-looking focus on relationships with self, others and the world.

Now in a new role as Education Officer in the Catholic Identity and Mission Team, MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, formerly Catholic Education Melbourne,) I often refer to the experiences and learnings of the past three years at Gen. Nothing is wasted in God's economy, as I am fond of saying. All experiences build on one another and bear fruit in the best ways if we can put them to God's use. And God plays a long game!

I began at Genazzano FCJ College in January 2018, newly arrived from the sunny Gold Coast with much enthusiasm and creative spirit, informed by Ignatian training and extensive studies. The role at Gen was busy and encompassed the faith and mission activities in the college and the teaching of religious education also. I am grateful for the support of many staff who provided wisdom and a depth of experience, especially in 'how things are done at Gen'!

There is a wonderful FCJ history and tradition that informs the purpose for many of the faith activities. I especially remember the fundraising events for the FCJ missions and the Companionship program. In that first year, I was privileged to experience the FCJ charism through the friendship of Sr Mary Rose Dennehy.

The following year, whilst on pilgrimage in her footsteps in France, I learned more about Marie Madeleine d'Houët and deepened my understanding of her life and actions. Marie Madeleine's sole desire, her

☛ Say to each one courage, courage and confidence. That is all that is necessary. ☚

Marie Madeleine D'Houët



spiritual gift, was to know the will of God and to receive the grace to do it. During that experience I felt enfolded in her life and her spirit, her home, her family, her relationship with God. Marie Madeleine's energy and passion for her work drove her to achieve far-reaching outcomes despite male clerical opposition and existing social barriers.

I found myself praying for my daughter Lily-Marie, who shared her birthday with Marie Madeleine, for the

students and for all young women in our Church and society today. They are so keen to do good things in the world and we can empower them with the skills of discernment to help recognise what is good and from God and what is contrary or leading them away from God's goodness. Marie Madeleine's gift for discernment is an important aspect of her charism, which is a resource for the staff and young people educated in FCJ schools today.

In my new role at MACS I am involved in creating and organising spiritual formation opportunities for principals and leaders of Catholic schools. Some of my key projects involve incorporating the Ignatian principles of spiritual conversation, discernment and decision-making in leadership formation. I hope to share these tools with Catholic education leaders so they, like Marie Madeleine, may confidently listen to the movement of the Spirit and act with courage to form young people who will go out into the world as companions of Jesus, living a life of love, in all its goodness and abundance.



Helena Goldsmith
Education Officer,
Catholic Identity and
Mission, MACS

☛ All experiences build on one another and bear fruit in the best ways if we can put them to God's use. ☚

In Remembrance of Sr Catherine Morrison fcJ



Sr Catherine Morrison grew up in Wandin East in the Dandenong ranges where her father owned a daffodil nursery. She attended Vaucluse Convent for her secondary education and two years after leaving school she entered the novitiate at Genazzano, Kew.

After studying teacher training at Sedgley Park Training College in Manchester, England, and further Religious Studies, Catherine returned to Melbourne and began teaching at Genazzano FCJ College. Later she taught at FCJ College Benalla and Vaucluse College, Richmond.

Her many past pupils testify to the appreciation they had for her teaching as well as her kindness to them and concern for their well-being after they had left school. She loved teaching and her students. Her warm smile and gentle presence were always encouraging to all who encountered her.

When Catherine retired from teaching, she spent time in the western suburbs teaching English to migrants and running prayer groups for adults, as well as many other activities. The last few years of Catherine's life were sad for those who knew and loved her as she was unable to communicate with us with her usual interest and enthusiasm.

May her gentle soul rest in peace.

Anne Morrison fcJ



Vale Sr Noni Mitchell IBVM 1928–2021



Sr Noni Mitchell IBVM died peacefully in Sydney on 28 April 2021.

Noni was an amazing woman, an outstanding educationalist and leader in both the Loreto order and the wider Church and world. Prior to entering the Loreto Sisters, she completed a B. Medicine and B. Surgery at Sydney University in 1949 and practised Medicine for three years in South Australia.

Noni taught at Loreto Normanhurst NSW and Loreto Kirribilli NSW where she was principal for a year in 1970 before being appointed Principal of Christ College, Teacher Training College in Melbourne.

Noni was Province Leader of the Loreto Sisters in Australia 1974-1983 and General Superior in Rome from 1986–1998.

She was a dear friend of the FCJ Sisters in Australia. Noni's motto stood her in good stead all these many years.

'I know whom I have believed'
(2 Timothy 1:14)

May her beautiful soul rest in peace.

Helen Buckley fcJ



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