

THANKSGIVING MASS AND CADET PARADE

One of the highlights of the school year at Monivae College Hamilton is the annual Chevalier Day Thanksgiving Mass and Cadet Parade held in late October each year.



Mass this year was presided over by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Provincial, Fr John Mulrooney, himself a past Principal of the school, with Fr Peter Hendriks MSC, Monivae's Co-director of Faith and Mission. Monivae was delighted to host Old Collegian Audrey Brown, also Director of Catholic Education Ballarat and a range of other invited guests on this important day. The Mass is also a symbolic time of change within the school community with the departing Year 12 Captains passing on the leadership and care of the student body to the in-coming 2016 College Captains, Georgina Groves and Denver Harrison.

Mass was followed by the Monivae College Cadet Unit's Ceremonial Parade, held this year for the 53rd time and conducted by staff member and OC Major Gary Simkin AAC, who was in charge of his 20th parade. Fr Mulrooney was the guest of honour, having appointed Major Simkin as the Unit's Officer in Command twenty years previously.

All students in Years 9 and 10 are part of the Cadet Unit, along with students in Years 11 and 12 who have opted to continue with the unit taking positions of leadership following Cadet training



courses usually held at the Australian Army's base in Puckapunyal. It remains an integral part of the culture and history of Monivae College and continues to be a source of pride for the whole College community.

Audrey Brown said, "It was a joy to be at Monivae College for the Chevalier Day Mass of Thanksgiving. There was such a buzz of celebration and a very strong sense of belonging to a community of faith.

Jules Chevalier, Founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, often spoke about a spirituality of the heart, a spirituality grounded in the belief of God's love for us, lived out in our relationships with others, in our daily witness and in our recognition of the sacredness of all things.

My prayer for you is that you both bring to and receive from others that sort of love... a love without limits that really does seek to change the world for the better. It's at the heart of our ministry in Catholic education, don't you think?"

Simon McKinley
Director of Development & Marketing | Monivae College