

Diocesan Synod Report 2020 – Christ’s College

Writing this, after the advent of Covid-19 and its associated lockdown, it is evident that the values and virtues of humanity’s great faith traditions have come to the fore: the value of working together; the value of caring about and for those weaker and more vulnerable; our care of the environment, for our planet. Many of the passions of young people dovetail to the teachings of Christianity and the other great religious traditions of the world. During lockdown, we have managed to reduce pollution and carbon emissions; we have managed to get homeless people into accommodation; and so on.

There are huge challenges facing us all – especially the young people whom our school serves. Our times feel like a dystopic science fiction movie with a rather befuddled plotline. The young people that are the focus of Christ’s College have been through the quakes, experienced one of the world’s worst terrorist attacks, and now are living with a pandemic.

In Chapel, the heart of our school, we celebrate the life and teachings of Jesus and intelligently make connections to the real lives of young men in this complex context. In Religious Education at Christ’s College, we focus on learning about and from the great religious traditions of the world. We seek to have young men graduate from Christ’s College with compassion, empathy, and global understanding.

Our 2019 Lent Appeal was given to the Muslim Community here. Two people working at Christ’s College were shot in the attack, and we have been able to help them financially from the Lent Appeal. The remaining \$12,000 was handed over to the mosque.

Bishop John Osmer’s address to Chapel illustrated the disposition to serve. Brought up in Christchurch, Bishop John has served sacrificially as pastor and worker for justice in South Africa, Lesotho, and Botswana, and then as Bishop of Eastern Zambia. Now ‘retired’, he is in his eighties, almost blind, and lives in Lusaka, Zambia.

Bishop John lives in a house near the Cathedral in Lusaka, and shares it with some Rwandan students whose families fled the terrible genocide 25 years ago, and still consider it not safe to return. He provides them with a supportive home and raises money to give them an appropriate education so that they may become possible leaders in the future.

Donating financially and hands-on service are complementary ways we seek to nurture a disposition to serve in our students.

Our school motto speaks of the need to maintain good traditions. I regularly highlight that we decide which traditions are good or not by measuring them against the Good News of the one after whom our school is named; connecting mindfulness and wellbeing to our faith-inspired foundations; and, with biculturalism, celebrating difference rather than building walls.

Rev. Bosco Peters (Chaplain)
Mr Hugh Lindo (Chair of the Board)