The Marian Celebration
at
St James Catholic College

(The May Ball)
An Introduction to the May Ball

The Marian Celebration is very important in the life of our College; it draws together in a unique way, our community. We gather to pay homage to Mary as Mother of the Church and we take the opportunity also to honour all mothers.

*All students are expected to attend the Marian Liturgy and the May Ball.*

The structure of the liturgies and the Balls are described in more detail below but in summary:

The Primary students K – Yr 6 participate in a day-time liturgy in the Church and in the evening go directly to the MacKillop Performance Centre (MPC) for the Ball

- the Primary Ball in the MacKillop Performance Centre (MPC) goes from 7pm - 9.00pm.

Secondary students participate in a liturgy in the Church from 7pm until about 7.30pm followed by a presentation involving Year 10 and Preps which happens in the MPC.

- following the presentation the combined Primary/Secondary Ball continues. (Note Primary students leave at 9.00pm).
- the Secondary Ball in the (MPC) concludes at 10.30pm.

**The Liturgies**

The two liturgies are held to honour and celebrate the importance of Mary in our Catholic tradition and the importance of all mothers. Parents and friends are most welcome to attend each of these liturgies.

The Primary liturgy is held during the day. Selected students do the readings and the younger students present flowers to symbolise the many qualities of Mary. Several Marian focused hymns are also joyously sung. Towards the end of the liturgy there is a prayerful blessing of all mothers and carers.

The Secondary students attend an evening liturgy. The evening commences with the Year 10s processing into the Church. After some readings from Scripture and some music, the College captains crown the statue of Mary with flowers. This is followed by a prayer to honour Mary, and the singing of one of the traditional Mary hymns.

One of the special parts of the evening Liturgy is the reading of the Opening Prayer. This is traditionally read by a former College Captain – often it is someone who has a link to the current Year 10 class group.

**Prep**

The Prep students play a pivotal role during the presentation ceremony in the MPC. The Preps and their families are welcomed to St James Catholic College and presented to the College community by the Year 10 students.

The Prep boys wear black or dark trousers and a white or lightly coloured shirt. A tie is optional and some boys wear a bow tie. Prep girls wear a formal dress. Some parents with older children may have these items to sell second hand.
Year 10
Each Year 10 student presents one of the Prep students at the beginning of the Ball in the MPC. The Year 10s are also assigned a partner from within their class group. After the presentation of the Preps and their dance, the Preps give a posy of flowers to their parents.

The Year 10s then dance together as a class group – the Palmers’ Waltz.

Year 10 boys are required to wear a formal dark suit. The hire of the suit is the family’s responsibility.

Year 10 girls are required to wear a formal ‘after five‘ dress.

The Primary Ball
Each class has a set of dances it has learned during the weeks leading up to the Ball. The evening’s program ensures that all classes have equal time on the dance floor. For many of the dances, parents and families are encouraged to join in.

A professional photographer is present on the night who takes photos in a room set up for this at the back of the Hall.

Boys are allowed to wear a pair of trousers (not denim jeans) and a neat open necked shirt and black shoes (school shoes would be fine). They may choose to wear a tie.

Girls may wear a formal dress, or skirt and blouse, shoes should be suitable for dancing.

The Secondary Ball
Again, each year group has a set of dances they have learnt for the Ball.

The professional photographer will also take photos of secondary students. If time permits, there may be an opportunity for Year 10 families to have their photos taken with their son or daughter.

Boys wear a pair of trousers (not denim jeans), a neat open-necked shirt and black shoes (school shoes would be fine). They may choose to wear a tie. Girls wear a formal dress, or skirt and blouse and shoes suitable for dancing.
Do Parents and Friends Attend?
We encourage parents/carers to attend as spectators at the Balls. Some seating is provided for this. Towards the end of the night there is an opportunity for parents to dance with their child/ren. The parent dress code is smart casual. Young people who are not current students of the College are welcome as spectators provided they have pre purchased tickets, but should only join in those dances which are designated for parents and friends.

Photographs
Photos taken on the night are available for viewing and/or purchase from the Cygnet Newsagency shortly after the Ball.

Flowers
Flowers are needed for decorating the Church and MPC. If you have some in your garden, please bring them along on the Thursday morning prior to the Ball.

Cost
Tickets to the Ball are $5.00 per adult and are available for purchase from the College Office, or upon entry at the door of either of the Halls on the Friday night. Families are warmly encouraged to attend.

Decorating the Halls
Volunteers are always welcome to decorate the MPC in readiness for the Ball.

Anything else?
If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call here at the College.