

Ascension Day 2015

Sisters of Mercy Schools' Staff celebrate Ascension with Holy Mass and a seminar on "Teaching for a Hope Filled Future"

Mayfair Convent School hosted the event from 7.30am. Staff from different schools were arriving – 182 in total. All staff from the following schools; Mayfair Convent School, McAuley High and Primary, St. Matthews High and Primary, and a few representatives from St. Teresa's Rosebank Primary and Foundation Phase. We were happy that our neighbouring Holy Family School, St. Theresa's Coronationville accepted the invitation to join us.

TEACHING FOR A HOPE FILLED FUTURE

We were blessed with a beautiful day of clear skies and mild temperature even though it is late autumn. The guests arrived to the sight of a quad bedecked with colourful tables, mountains of fresh fruit, steaming hot drinks and home-made buttermilk rusks.

Mass was celebrated by Fr. Laslo, his sermon explaining that Ascent is not possible without Descent. He used the astounding analogy of a hedgehog: can't be touched with spines up, but stroke its nose and it becomes a furry ball. A wonderful way to make life be better.

God wants to experience life on earth, salvation a gift so beautiful and dynamic. Mass ends with principals being given candles to take back to their schools.

After refreshments an enthusiastic crowd energised by [Papa G] Fr. Hattingh, teacher extra-ordinaire! Who can forget his steering wheel? Take turns steering, steer in the same direction reminding us that many things are beyond our control. We each have the best inside us, as a sculptor whittles away the rock to sculpt the perfect elephant, so too there is a real perfection in all of us. We are different like the fingers on our hands, but we complement each other. What story in life are we writing? Potential in a seed, you know how many seeds are in an apple, but you don't know how many apples in a seed.

Fr. Hattingh's presentation had all glued to their seats and laughter was the order of the day. Unforgettable analogies – saws, hammers, ostriches, gorilla's, owls, Cal C Vita, clocks, to hope filled scripture readings.

Teaching for a hope filled future is not about – "stopping the train, I want to get off, but more about stop the train I want to get on!"

In Ascension lies hope... for the future in the here and now and the hereafter.



In the name of the 182 staff present and on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy, Eleanor Hough [McAuley House] and Sister Francis thanked Amalia Filiantris and all the staff of Mayfair Convent School for their warm welcome, their most generous hospitality and for the lovely spirit of joy and enthusiasm in which the whole celebrations was enjoyed.

This event gave us a new appreciation of how Mercy Catholic Education can "root" us in Faith and lift us in Hope as we join with one another on our journey into the future.