From the President:

We have already reached our first break in the semester. This break, of course, coincides with Holy Week and Easter. I hope that it is a good break for everyone.

It is worth reflecting for a moment on what we do during these days. It is probably also important that we reflect as students of Theology. In a book written a few years ago the British theologian, Nicholas Lash commented that in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries a change took place in the way people in the academy spoke about God. Prior to this, language about God was the relational language of praise and worship. This shifted a few hundred years ago to a language that was more descriptive. Lash argues that this shift saw a move away from the classical idea of theology as fides quaerens intellectum (faith seeking understanding), where there is always more that we can understand, to a search for certainty and a quest to explain God. People wanted intellectual mastery of God. Lash laments this shift.

The mysteries we celebrate during Holy Week and Easter are profound, and are the central mysteries of our faith. As we move through them day by day we will certainly come to understand our faith in a deeper way. We can probably all recognise that over the years that we have celebrated the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter we have grown in our understanding of and participation in the faith. Following Lash’s line of argument, we can recognise that what we are doing during these days is to engage in a sustained act of worship. Of course, our theological studies across a wide range of disciplines will help us engage more fully in the church’s act of worship. Our studies in Christology, the Gospels, and Liturgy (to name just a few) will all help us to enter more fully into this act of worship. In addition, our worship of God will also help us realise that our studies are never simply about the mastery of facts – or even worse, the mastery of knowledge about God.

After we have finished celebrating Easter we may well reflect, as students of theology, on the experience of participating in the Easter mysteries. Our reflection may help us to know firsthand that subtle connection between the lex orandi and the lex credendi. This principle tells us that worship and faith are inextricably linked. It also tells us that our theological studies always involve more than knowledge. Ultimately, we study theology in order to better understand the faith and to live it in a practical way in the concrete circumstances of our lives.

Fr Gerard Kelly

From CISSA:

As the new president of CISSA I would like to welcome new faculty members of staff and new students to CIS. I hope you enjoy your time here and do not be afraid to make yourself known to myself or other members of CISSA Council.

We all are now into week 4 of Semester 1, I hope you have all started getting settled in and for most of us working on our 1st assessments of the new academic year.

On Sunday the 28th of February, we had our first Opening Mass with CIS president Rev Dr Gerard Kelly as principal celebrant. In my absence fellow CISSA councillor Darren Caballero oversaw the running of the Mass and welcoming function after Mass. From all reports, ran very smoothly.

For all new students to CIS you all need to pay your $10 student fee. It helps us as a student association pay for tea, coffee, milo, biscuits that can be found in the student common room. Your $10 student fee also helps fund our end of semester student and faculty get together.

For some of you who know Karl Sinclair our past CISSA President was named as a councillor after last years AGM. Karl holds an ex officio role for our council as he is currently in Dubbo in his Diocese of Bathurst on parish placement. Last week I approached Robert Keryakos to fill a position on the CISSA council here at CIS as a councillor, and he happily agreed.

I will be looking at holding our first CISSA Council meeting in the next week or so before we break for Holy Week and Easter.

Michael Lilley

CISSA President
From the Academic Registrar:

The all-important “Census Date” in the Semester has now passed. This is the date on which the Department of Education finalizes its records in regard to enrolment figures and the Commonwealth Assistance Notice is also determined. Students using FEE-HELP will shortly be informed of their current loan status.

Lecturers have now been issued with new class lists so that they have an updated version of post census date class enrolments. **Please, be sure to check that you are correctly identified on this revised class list!**

First assignments already are becoming due in a number of course units. Therefore, it seems opportune to remind students of the importance of academic integrity in both research and in the presentation of assignments. The CIS Academic Regulations and Procedures outline the mechanisms that the SCD and CIS have in place to address complaints about academic misconduct. It is important to note that the penalties for academic misconduct can be severe: possibly, failure in a course and exclusion from further enrolment.

It is particularly important to reference your work in the proper way. This is in regard to any direct quotations you might include from other authors in your work and ideas of others that you might paraphrase in our assignments. Sources – whether they are from printed text or from electronic sources such as the Internet – all require acknowledgement. Software now exists for tertiary institutions to trace work that lecturers suspect is from the Internet but not correctly referenced.

May I also draw your attention to the “Guidelines for Written Work” available on the Registry shelves. These detail the correct style for formatting references in your written work. Please be sure to abide by these academic conventions.

Finally, I’d like to thank Dr Mark Kenney and Dr Rohan Curnow who conducted the Study Skills sessions last weekend. Feedback from students who attended was extremely positive. The efforts of our two lecturers in conducting this session is gratefully appreciated and goes a long way to promoting the ethos of academic integrity described above.

In closing I’d like to wish you all every good wish for the Easter break, and look forward to seeing you back on campus the week commencing 04 April 2016.

Best regards

Janelle Craig
Academic Registrar

**WEEKDAY MASS**
Mass will be celebrated in the chapel
Mondays - Thursdays at 12:40pm

**STUDENT COMMON ROOM**
The student common room is available to all students as a place of recreation and refreshment. It can be a place of good conversation. Tea and coffee are available in the back common room area, together with biscuits and drink and snack machines. Chilled filtered water is available in the front common room. There is also a microwave for heating food and drink.

A reminder to Class Representatives that if you notice a full tray ready for a wash, please place it in the dishwasher and push the start button. Similarly, once a wash has been completed, cups etc can be stacked on the rack.

Many hands make light work!