On 20 March 2015, a former student of St Norbert College, Carmine-John (CJ) Millen, was ordained a Catholic priest by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe at St Mary’s Cathedral Perth. Three men from South America were also ordained with him for the Perth Archdiocese, Marlon Henao, Alexis Vega and Noe Navarrette. Fr CJ is the third of four children of Carmel Pirone and John Millen, currently of Kewdale. Kalgoorlie born, he grew up in several country towns, as his family moved around the state (Meekatharra, Newdegate and Brunswick Junction) due to his father’s work as a Primary School teacher and Principal. He completed his secondary schooling at St Norbert College, Queens Park in 2000, followed by a diploma at TAFE and an Education degree at Edith Cowen University.

He has worked in various jobs, including supervisory positions in retail, a swimming instructor, bank teller and in school chaplaincy. But he was still seeking more in his life.

With the help and advice of good spiritual guidance, CJ decided to test a calling to the priesthood. He was accepted for a seven-year course of study at St Charles’ Seminary Guildford in 2008. During that time, he studied at Notre Dame University, Fremantle.

After his Ordination to the Diaconate in November 2013 at South Perth, CJ was assigned to St Mary of the Cross Mackillop Parish, Ballajura in January 2014. He has enjoyed his time at Mary Mackillop and is popular with parishioners, young and old. The teachers have also found him knowledgeable, helpful and perceptive. According to School principal Mr Art Lombardi “CJ has worked well with the teachers and loves to organise and be involved with various events and programmes.”

Following his ordination, he is currently assigned to All Saints Parish in Greenwood.

Fr CJ says that he is looking forward to spreading the message of the Gospel and striving to make this world a better place. He adds: “Please do continue to pray for me as I begin my life as a newly ordained Priest.”

(Excerpts from text written for Fr CJ by Fr John Jegorow. Fr Jegorow is Parish Priest of Mary Mackillop Parish, Ballajura. He has mentored Fr CJ during his journey as a deacon and the beginning of his priesthood.)
Welcome to the first edition of the Norbertus for our 50th anniversary year. The year started well with the College Community Mass on Sunday 15 February which was a wonderful opportunity to welcome new students and families to St Norbert College and to celebrate our 50th anniversary. This year Fr Peter, Fr Stephen and Fr Joshy were joined by Deacon CJ Millen, a past student of the College who was ordained as a priest a month later on 20 March. The mass was also an opportunity to celebrate the growth of the College throughout the years and to give thanks for the incredible facilities, 895 students and over 100 staff that is St Norbert College today. It is a huge achievement that St Norbert College is one of the few schools in Western Australia that continue to have the founding order of priests actively involved in the College.

At the first College Assembly for the year we had an opportunity to acknowledge the academic achievements of our 2014 Year 12 students. The College was very pleased with the overall academic results of the students who achieved a very high median ATAR, strong VET results and 100% Graduation Rate for the third consecutive year. Given our strong academic performance, we were privileged to welcome Mr Gerry Doyle one of the Directors from the Catholic Education Office who represented the Executive Director of Catholic Education Dr Tim McDonald at the assembly and award ceremony.

At the end of 2014 we temporarily farewelled Deputy Principal Mr Donald Nield who is on a year’s leave. This year the College Leadership Team looks a little different with Ms Sharon Rainford fulfilling the role of Deputy Principal and Mr Mark Pavy stepping into the Dean of Studies role.

In early March the College had the privilege of Abbot General Thomas Hardgratinger and Fr Vincent Mattammel, Prior of the Norbertine Community in Manathavady visiting. Abbot Thomas, the head of the Norbertine order, who resides in Rome, last visited St Norbert College in 2005 and was impressed with the development of the College throughout the past 10 years. It was perfect timing as they were present for the College Open Day on Monday 9 March and enjoyed the company and a tour of the College facilities with two senior students. The College Open Day overall was a huge success. The overall feedback from our guests was very positive, in particular the friendly, warm and respectful students who were guides for the day and our greatest ambassadors.

The diversity in cultures of the St Norbert College community was celebrated with Harmony Day in term one. We were honoured this year to listen to an inspiring homily from Abbot Noyens at the midday liturgy. The staff vs students’ international rules football match, the stalls of traditional foods and the entertainment in the afternoon was enjoyed by all. It was wonderful to see the students and staff who were so very proud of their heritage and those that wore traditional dress.

Term one finished with the same intensity as it started, with the College Production “Little Shop of Horrors”. The performance was professional and very entertaining. The St Norbert College community was supported by a number of families who contributed to the appetising bake sale on each night which contributed to a fabulous community feel.

I look forward to an eventful year ahead as we continue to celebrate 50 years of education, tradition and community.
In March St Norbert College and St Joseph’s Parish community were privileged to be visited by Abbot General Thomas Handgratinger and Fr Vincent Mattammel, Prior of the Norbertine Community in Manathavady. Abbot Thomas, the International Abbot General of the Norbertine Order resides in Rome.

During their stay Abbot Thomas and Fr Vincent were welcomed by our Principal, Mrs Annette Morey and given a tour of the College with Fr Peter Joseph.

Members of the Norbertine Tertiaries Group of Queens Park, together with the West Australian based Norbertines and other special guests joined the Abbot General and Fr Vincent at Sunday evening Vespers, which was followed by a light supper barbeque in the Priory gardens.

Abbot Thomas also joined in the tours of the College during the Annual College Open Day. He spoke with parents of potential students, as well as current students who were delighted that he shared Norbertine history with them.

We were privileged to have the Abbot General and Fr Vincent join with us in a variety of aspects of Norbertine life in Queens Park, Western Australia.

A unique aspect of the St Norbert College community is the many and varied cultures. On Thursday 19 March, we acknowledged this diversity in our College community with a Harmony Day celebration. Staff member Mrs Colette Miranda who was supported by many students, staff and families of our community coordinated the day event, which commenced with a midday liturgy led by Fr Joshy. This year we were honoured to hear words of wisdom from Abbot Noyens who is visiting from Tongerlo Abbey in Belgium.

We also had other special guests including Paul from Akwaaba African Drumming, Urban Indigenous who demonstrated the storytelling of Aboriginal Dance and a Scottish piper who after playing a medley of tunes concluded his performance with a rousing version of Waltzing Matilda.

The whole school shared lunch gave us the opportunity to sample food from most of the countries around the world. We then enjoyed a multi-cultural concert that showcased the talents of many of our students.
2015 COMMUNITY MASS

St Norbert College 50th Anniversary celebrations commenced officially at the Annual Community Mass held on 15 February. This was a wonderful opportunity to welcome new students and families to the St Norbert College community. We also welcomed back students and families who have been part of our College history.

Fr Peter, Fr Joshy and Fr Stephen and Fr Michael concelebrated the Mass. Ex-student of the College, Carmine CJ Millen assisted as Deacon.

At the first College Assembly for 2015 we welcomed back two students from the Class of 2014 who achieved ATARs over 95. Bryce Hellmrich achieved the top ATAR for St Norbert College of 97.95. Bryce was College Captain for Prémontré and an excellent all-rounder who displayed balance in his studies and contribution to the College. Bryce has been awarded scholarships to Curtin University valued at $16,000 and will study Business Law and International Relations.

Monica Bordoni, Dux of the Class of 2014, achieved an ATAR of 95.15 and was also awarded a Certificate of Commendation by the School Curriculum Standards Authority. She was awarded Honours in Year 11 and maintained her excellent standards in Year 12. Monica has been awarded a scholarship at Murdoch University where she will study Criminology, Social Development and Psychology.
On March 28 reunion night I was so amazed by some of the old students - names and faces that I had forgotten over the last 55 years or so since I last saw some of them. It was really a trip down memory lane even though I was part of the planning committee for this celebration. Thank you to those who worked there with me, especially Mick Devine who worked tirelessly to help bring it all together.

Thank you too to Father Peter and St Norbert College for the chance to put on this fabulous night. I will be looking forward to maybe getting together again for another milestone occasion.

Thank you for the memories.

Gerry Connell
First student to be enrolled at St Norbert College, 1965

“To all my classmates from the Class of 1985 and those from the years before and later, thanks for making our reunion such an amazing night. I cant wait for the Dinner Dance on 5 September at the Crown Entertainment Complex, Astral Room, and for all those who felt too old, fat, bald, etc, don’t worry, 95 of us caught up and as far as I know everyone survived and left to go home very happy. So let your inner Norbert out and get to the Dinner Dance!!”

John Wilson
Class of 1985

“Tonight is representative of the importance of school spirit. St Norbert College gave us a sound start.”

Alec O’Connell
Class of 1978.
“Absolutely fantastic night. Great to catch up with friends I haven’t seen for over 30 years. Loved my St Norbert’s life”.  
Peter O’Sullivan - Class of 1980

“What a great night. Can’t wait until the next one. What a blast from the past. Well done”!

Clare Doyle Bednarek – Class of 1980. (First intake of girls, 1976)

Blast from the past!

School reunions are the subject of many TV shows and movies. Having never been to one before it was a bit daunting walking through the doors and seeing all the familiar and not so familiar faces. The emotions and memories that come flooding back when you see your old teachers for the first time in seven years can be a little overwhelming. Having an adult conversation and catching up like old friends with the people that taught us so much is a surreal experience and one that I will hold onto for a long time.

Remembering all the dramas that unfolded in different year group areas and classrooms brought back a lot of memories and thoughts I haven’t had since I was a student.

I was very impressed with all the new buildings that have sprung up at St Norbert’s in the last few years and all the great new facilities on offer to students – upgraded classrooms, the new Year 7 Br Pat Centre and especially the new canteen, Café 135@Treasure!

Taking the opportunity to go back and catch up with other students and teachers was definitely worth it. To see that the school has gone from strength to strength and still has the same sense of community that I remember was great.

Chris Haliday  
Class of 2008
I had a great time at our School reunion last Friday night.

We arrived at first unsure of what to expect and where to go, but soon heard the thunderous buzz of SNESA crowd bowling up the hall and we headed through the doors. The welcome was fabulous - it was exciting to see many long-lost faces lighting up the room. There was so much history to catch up on and friendships to be rekindled. It was the same family atmosphere we felt at school all those years ago; an opportunity to reconnect with your old school mates, reminisce, remember our roots and enjoy a great night out remembering how it felt to be seventeen!

It was also very special to catch up with some of our favourite staff members. Our teachers took the time to know their students; they went out of their way to support us and it was great to have the opportunity to thank them for their skill and dedication. We also shared stories of some hilarious and hair-raising moments of high school. Yes the uniforms were appalling (what was with those giant collars?) and the classrooms were alternately boiling or freezing, but we had some fun and learned a thing or two along the way.

It is great to feel the connection all these years on and that sense of community in our shared history. Thanks to the organising committee for all your hard work and dedication in keeping the St Norbert’s spirit alive and well. The class of ’86 had such fun that we are organising another get together. Your efforts in continuing the spirit of community are much appreciated and now you have restarted the ball rolling, who know what good things may come of it...

Meg Mulvey
Class of 1986
REUNION 20 FEBRUARY - CLASSES OF 1977-1981
On Friday 20 February, about 80 SNC ex-students from the years 1977-1981 gathered in the College Cappenburg Centre for the first of three reunions to be held this year. It was a great night, filled with laughter, reminiscing and good will. Past staff members, John Hulshoff and Beth Jepp (who flew from Queensland) attended. John Pollaers was there as both ex-student and past staff member. Huge thanks go to the members of the Task Force and Year Captains who put in many hours of work and preparation to make this event so successful.

Mrs M Tavani
Alumni and Archives

“The reunion for the 1982-1986 classes was an absolutely fantastic night! The buzz around the room was electric all evening! It was wonderful to see so many ‘old’ friends catching up and reminiscing about their school days. Surprisingly so many people had hardly changed in the past 33 years! Some others had changed quite a bit so thank goodness for nametags!

Some of the ’82 year group finished up at around 2.30am, but I have heard others lasted till about 4am.

Class of ’82, there is talk of a 35-year reunion in Broome! We need to start planning!

Kaye Savage-Morton (nee Sims)
Class of 1982

I had a marvellous time catching up with everyone, and such fun finding people, and hearing about what everyone is up to now. Looking forward to the next reunion.

Vanessa Williams (Archdeacon)
Class of 1986
REUNION 28 FEBRUARY – 1965-1976 AND ALL OTHER YEAR GROUPS

A wonderful night of reminiscing occurred on Saturday night, 28 February. Ex-students mingled with ex-staff, sharing memories of their time at the College. Students ranged from the first class enrolled in 1965 to students from the Class of 2013. It was wonderful to see the excitement on faces when they visited their old Homerooms and searched for their old lockers. The changes were obvious in terms of the many new buildings and facilities but many common stories about teachers and subjects were heard. Some students were excited to be reunited with their Homeroom Teachers while others commented on how lucky the current students were to have such great facilities.

A huge thank you to Mick Devine (former Deputy Principal) who led the Reunion Task Force members – Desree Grzenda-Day (former Principal), Jeni Donald (Class of 1990), Helen Walpole (Class of 1981), Gerry Connell (first student enrolled), Bernie Monneron (Class of 1977) and David Bianchini (Class of 1977). Special thanks to Kaye Savage-Morton (Class of 1982) who co-ordinated the reunion on 13 March at The Broken Hill Hotel for the 1982-1986 students and to Mrs Maureen Tavani and Mrs Margo McLennan for selling merchandise and compiling the memorabilia.

Ms S Rainford
Deputy Principal

Brad Richards-Scully, Kenny Dowson, Ken Richards-Scully.

Sharing memories of SNC schooldays.

Old school friends catching up.

Della DeRosario, Stella Serofino, Sharon Bailey.
LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

The College Production “Little Shop of Horrors” staged in late February was a huge success thanks to the very talented cast and crew and the hard working staff who supported them. The performance was very polished and extremely entertaining.

Congratulations to Director, Miss Kerri Hilton and Music Director, Ms Alicia Walter and Mr Harry Oliff who accompanied the student band.

The production received great support from families of the Performing Arts Learning Area. This support extended to an appetising bake sale held each night, resulting in a great community feel.
NORBERTUS

St Norbert College will be hosting 14 students from Seijo Gakuen Junior High School from 15-27 August 2015. We are seeking 14 host families for these students to experience Australian family life during their stay. If your family would like to be a host family, please contact Dean of Studies, Mr Mark Pavy, or Teacher of Japanese, Mr Anthony Godden for more details.

HELP NEEDED!

To culminate the St Norbert College 50th Anniversary celebrations we are in the process of producing a book in the form of a photographic essay, encompassing all aspects of College life 1965-2015. Unfortunately there are very few photos of the early days (1965-1974) of St Norbert College students, staff, community and buildings.

Photos in hard copy would be scanned and returned to the owners immediately. They could be left, clearly identified, at College Reception or mailed to Mrs Maureen Tavani, St Norbert College, 135 Treasure Road Queens Park, 6107. Photos in digital form can be sent to mtavani@norbert.wa.edu.au.

The loan or donation of early days uniforms – boys’ College cap, grey jumper, original blazer, girls’ cardigan or yellow skivvy would be very welcome.

Thank you
Maureen Tavani
SNESA FOOTBALL CLUB

On Saturday 18 April 2015 St Norbert Ex-Students Association Football Club celebrated the life of one of its greatest supporters, the late Br Patrick Doolan. Every year the first home game of the season is played in his honour with the Best on Ground player being awarded the “Br Pat” Medal. Before each game the teams are addressed and reminded of Br Pat, his life and the work he did in supporting so many of us through school and beyond. A great mentor and a great spiritual guide, he was a man who was a powerful influence and we hold his memory very dear.

A personal friend to many of us, Br Pat is still very much in our hearts.

COLTS
The newly formed SNESA Colts team, made up of several current St Norbert students and many more ex-students, has made a promising start to the 2015 season. With the team only coming together in late March, they are already showing that they will be a force this year. Narrowly going down by four points to Swan Valley after being down by four goals at three quarter time, the boys showed great spirit and impressive skills and were nearly able to pull off a great win. The SNESA Colts will only improve from this point onwards and I expect this narrow loss will make the boys hungrier.

Best on Ground and winner of the Brother Pat Medal was Ex-St Norbert Student Liam Combi. Second Best on Ground was current St Norbert Student, Jack Mancini.

RESERVES
The boys fought and tackled hard all day. Down by two goals in the first five minutes, they then took the lead and never lost it for the next three and a half quarters. Former St Norbert student David Frawley was a stand out, winning the Br Pat Medal for a stellar game in the midfield.

LEAGUE
On Saturday, 18 April, the league side had its first win for season 2015 in the Br Pat memorial game. The boys gave a solid four-quarter effort with our tackling and pressure a big key to getting the victory. Ryan Evans took home the Br Pat medal after a stellar game off halfback, giving us plenty of run all day. Mark Colace played a terrific Captain’s game, racking up plenty of touches and kicking two goals, while Chris Millsteed worked hard all day across half forward. We look forward to next week when we take on ladder leaders Piastra Waters.

John Wilson
SNESA Football Club