Rector’s Report

Reverend Fathers, Sister Frances, Honourable John Day MLA, State member for Kalamunda, Doctor Amelia Toffoli, Principal of St. Brigid’s College, Lesmurdie, Members of the Mazenod College Board of Directors, P&F and Maza Mums Presidents, Mrs. Marian Gard, founder member of the Mazenod College Advisory Board of Management, Board of Directors, ex parent and always a very close friend of Mazenod College, members of staff, parents, students and friends of Mazenod - welcome to this, our 47th Annual Speech and Presentation Evening.

I am particularly privileged to be joined tonight by two ex-Rectors of Mazenod who represent both the richness of our College as well as constant values and traditions which shaped our school. I refer to Fr. Don Hughes OMI, first Rector of Mazenod in 1966 and Fr. Michael McMahon, who followed as Rector from 1979-82. Fr. John Cranley OMI is also a member of our Community but is presently ill and unable to attend this evening.

For nine years now (with one exception) I have stood here with only two words ringing in my ears: “Be short...” These words being said by Oblates, staff, students, parents and, so-called, friends alike. I must note that while many people ask me “how long” is the Speech going to be, not a single person asks me what I am going to talk about. Surely there is a hint here?

This morning, Fr. Cranley informed me – rather pointedly – that the record for a Mazenod College Speech Night (by Fr. Mackintosh) was 19 minutes! This included all speeches, presentation of prizes and a closing rendition of God Save the Queen! Fr. Cranley added that everyone present agreed that this was the best Speech Night Mazenod ever experienced.

Never to be outdone, Fr. McMahon regaled me with the fact that at one of his Speech Nights a parent was arriving as everyone else was leaving!

Is truth stranger than fiction? Judge for yourselves!

I have reflected many times as to why I tend to speak for so long, and I know I could make jokes about the Irish and their propensity for long hours drinking and long hours talking.

When Brutus joined the plot to assassinate Caesar he was at pains to point out that his motive was not, “That he loved Caesar less but that he loved Rome more.”

I can honestly echo this with all my heart.