

Ministry Outreach Program 2007

*Each year senior students from the 10 Good Samaritan Schools around Australia gather at St Scholastica's College at Glebe to participate in the **Ministry Outreach Program** in Sydney. This year, Mater Dei students Jessica Cutner, Nicole Farr, Sarah Farrell, Stacey Hendersen-Smith and Renee Lena attended the program with Mater Dei teacher, Rebecca Hanrahan, who reports on the experience and a special surprise!*

The week began with a tour of some of the places that we would be working at. On the Tuesday morning we were split into mixed groups and set out to 9 different worksites that included the Wayside Chapel, St Canice's Soup Kitchen, Parramatta Mission, Ozenam Industries, Child Refugees Picnic and Matthew Talbot House. Each day we met for prayer in the morning, then headed off to a different site with our group. Each afternoon we would return to our accommodation and debrief our school group. As the week continued, all the students commented on seeing many things that they had not seen before.

On the Wednesday night the girls were given the opportunity to go out to dinner, but they were given a budget of \$10 each. The girls worked as a team to decide where to go and managed to get a three course meal each! This was an extra special night as it was Renee's 18th birthday. To celebrate Renee's birthday the girls from the other schools organized a surprise party in the afternoon, including a birthday cake and presents. The next day Renee, Sarah and myself were working with our group at the St Canice's Soup Kitchen when a group of the clients



Renee helps prepare a meal at St Canice's Soup Kitchen.

who had heard that it was Renee's birthday turned up with a birthday cake for her. Renee (and the rest of us) were so overwhelmed with emotion at the thought that people who had so little were prepared to share what they had with her to make her birthday special.

On the Friday morning everyone met to say goodbye and give thanks for the week's experiences and the friendships they had made. On the return trip back to Mater Dei the girls said that they felt humbled by their experiences and excited about sharing their story with their friends at Mater Dei.