



BROTHERS DAILY NEWS

Flood Update – Lismore

I have to begin this update confessing to the fact I am writing it from a room at North Fitzroy as I am on a sabbatical for Term 1. I have been in regular communication with my replacement and like many of you following the unfolding situation on TV and social media. The good news is that the water level has begun to fall as it is now 12.44 metres after peaking at a staggering 14.4m. Even at this lower level it would still be the biggest flood in recorded history.

The most tragic aspect of this flood is that a huge number of families have lost everything. Even the houses that were built to 'sit above' the flood level have gone under. At least five staff members and possibly more have lost everything. A significant number of our students live in the worst affected areas so I imagine we will have many families having lost it all.

For those who know Lismore you would be aware that the Brothers' House sits on one of the highest points in the basin. Water actually reached the carport level of the house but the upstairs living areas were safe. The three brothers (Peter Walsh, Martin Connell and Paul Hough) along with the priests, the Carmelite Sisters community near the brother's house and Bishop Greg were all evacuated by boat to a facility owned by the Diocese up at Goonelabah. Last I heard all are safe and warm.

The College has been 'smashed'. Every building and room on the St Joseph's Site has been flooded, even the first floor. We are unsure of the damage on the St Mary's Site, but it looks like the entire ground floor and the Admin Block level have gone under. Put simply, if our worst fears come to pass, we will have the St Mary's library and maybe four classrooms undamaged. **St Carthage's Cathedral. St Mary's Site.**



Trinity Catholic College (St Joseph's Site) is to the right of the ovals.



Debris at the carport entry of the Brothers' House



The flood level line on the side of the presbytery.



**The main building on the St Joseph's Site.
You can clearly see the water has well
and truly entered the first floor.**



**The corner of Hindmarsh and Leycester Streets.
There is actually a statue of Chamagnat
hidden beneath the water on this corner.**



The new TAS building only completed two years ago.
The flood of this building is 12.5m above
normal river level.



You can see the peak water level line on this building.
This is on the first floor of
the St Joseph's Site.



St Carthage's Cathedral.

While the physical damage is huge the human cost of this event is going to be long lasting and far for difficult to 'fix'. Buildings can be rebuilt but the human psyche and soul are far harder to put back together. Please pray for the people of Lismore and surrounds. The town and our community have a very long road ahead.

John Hilet.