

Keeping In Touch

21 March 2024



Click on the image above to see our St Mary MacKillop Facebook Page for the latest photos and updates. Like and Follow!

News from Scott

Our school constantly strives to be:

A Christ centered community which challenges students to develop their unique gifts and talents through a supportive partnership of school, parents and parish.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week our Year 6 students had the opportunity to participate in an amazing Faith Formation opportunity. Our diocese organised a brilliant program of worship with contemporary music, unpacking of scripture in a child friendly way, prayerful reflection and 'adoration'. The event ran across an entire week at Penrith Panthers and created the opportunity for every school in our diocese to bring their Year 6 students together with other school groups to worship. The Year 6 students from St Mary MacKillop attended the Friday session and it was fantastic. I was able to 'drop in' for part of the day and join with Mrs Moore, Miss Pirotta, Mrs Gillard and Miss Neilsen who also attended. I was so proud of our children as I saw how engaged they were during this event. One of our staff reflected that it was great for the kids to see that they can practice their faith and have fun at the same time. I am very hopeful that this event will become repeated year on year for future grade six students to experience. For our students it becomes an important pillar of our formation program alongside our Year 6 engagement with the Jesuit Refugee Service later in the year and the 'Lifted Junior' worship experience. For me, this is a lived expression of our school's vision to create a Christ centred community..... through a supportive partnership...

2025 Enrolments

We have now commenced our enrolment processes for 2025 kindergarten classes. As you would expect, enrolment forms are now arriving at our front office in large volumes and interviews for 2025 have begun. Mrs Brock and I are in the process of sending out our letters of offer for enrolment.

We really want to make sure that no one from within our community who is seeking enrolment for their child misses being offered a place because the classes get filled early. Therefore if you, a family member or a friend are seeking enrolment at our school, please get them to download or collect enrolment forms ASAP and get them to Mrs Brock in our office. It is likely that our first kindergarten class is filled by April 1st. We also have limited spaces available in some other grades and enrolment forms are welcome for grades other than kindergarten.

Uniform Policy

I have included below, our school policy on student hair styles. Thank you for your ongoing support of our expectations. It is appreciated by all of our staff.

HAIR:

If hair is below shoulder length, it must be tied back with a bottle green ribbon or scrunchie. Hair is not to be coloured for either boys or girls. Hair cuts are to be suitable for school for both boys and girls.

No coloured hair extensions (NO MULLETS, NO. 1, ZIG ZAGS or RAZORING) - **Parent Handbook 2023 / 2024**

Together we Grow

Scott Buchan

Religious Education News



Holy Week (Week beginning Sunday 24th March)



This year, we shared with you the story of three inspiring women from across the globe, who overcame challenges to complete their education, access water and find secure employment. With the support of compassionate people like you, they are now forging a path to a better future for their families and their communities.

Ronita from the Philippines has now graduated high school and secured a job at a call centre. This job was only possible because of a certificate she gained from completing her studies.

Leaia and her family now have a water tank at their home in Samoa. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.

Memory completed her vocational training course in carpentry and joinery. After completing a work contract at one of the largest electrical companies in Malawi, Memory now plans to return to her village and provide carpentry services to people in her community.



It's through the generosity of people like you that we can continue to support people like Ronita, Leaia and Memory.

There is still time to donate! Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, ***for all future generations.***

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes, online by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



2024 Easter Celebration - Wednesday 27th March

To celebrate Easter, the most important liturgical season of the church year, the St Mary MacKillop community will participate in a ***Stations of the Cross*** prayer during Holy Week.

The Stations of the Cross are 14 stations that commemorate the events of Jesus' last day on Earth. They tell us of Jesus' love for us as he suffered and died.

The Stations of the Cross are real events that occurred over 2,000 years ago. As we pray the Stations of the Cross we journey with Jesus remembering the last day of his life.

Religious Education News

The Stations of the Cross prayer will take place on Wednesday 27th March in the hall. There will be two sessions – one for infants and one for primary.

Please note the **CHANGE** in time as previously advertised.

9:15am – Infants (K-2)

2pm – Primary (Yrs 3-6)

All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend one or both of these sessions as we prepare to celebrate the Season of Easter.

After the Easter long weekend the students will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.



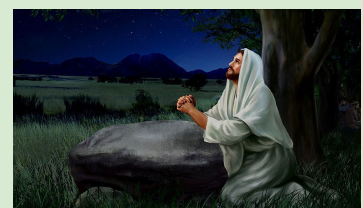
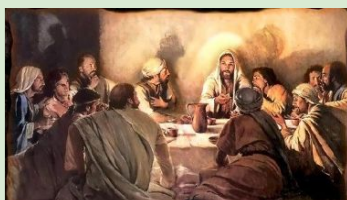
Holy Week is the last week of Lent and during this week we remember how much Jesus loves us. Whatever we do, no matter how busy or “distracted” we might be, we cannot let the power of this week be in the background of our thoughts. Jesus entered into our life so that we never experience joys and heartbreaking sadness alone.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday (24th March) and concludes with Easter Sunday (31st March). It recalls the last week in the life of Jesus Christ. The sacred events of Holy Week are:



Palm Sunday (24th March) - Commemorates the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem that was marked by the crowds who were in Jerusalem for Passover waving palm branches and proclaiming him as the king. This Sunday is also known as Passion Sunday to commemorate Jesus’ final agonizing journey to the cross.

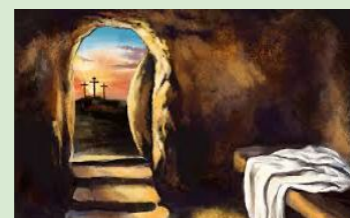
Holy Thursday (28th March) - There are a variety of events that are clustered on this last day before Jesus was arrested. These include Jesus and the disciples last meal together, the institution of the Eucharist, the washing of the feet, the betrayal by Judas and Jesus praying in Gethsemane while the disciples fell asleep.



Religious Education News



Good Friday (29th March) - On this day, we remember Jesus' arrest, his trial, crucifixion and suffering, death, and burial. Since services on this day are to observe Jesus' death, and since Eucharist is a celebration, there is traditionally no Communion observed on Good Friday.



Easter Sunday (31st March) – On Easter Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ who was raised from the dead, three days after his death on the cross. Through his death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus paid the penalty for sin, thus purchasing for all who believe in him, eternal life in Christ Jesus.

I wish everyone a holy and happy Easter with their family and friends. If you would like to attend any of the parish masses or events throughout Holy Week, please see below the St Nicholas of Myra Easter Schedule for Holy Week:

HOLY WEEK LITURGIES 2024	
Sunday 24 th March	PALM (PASSION) SUNDAY Vigil (6.00pm Sat), 7.00 am, 8.30 am, 10.00 am, 6.00 pm
Monday 25 th March	Mass 9.30am
Tuesday 26 th March	Mass 6.45 and 9.30 am 2nd Rite of Reconciliation 7.00pm
Wednesday 27 th March	Mass 9.30 am Individual Reconciliation 10.00 am – 11.00 am NO 7.00 pm MASS
THE SACRED PASCAL TRIDUUM	
Thursday 28 th March	HOLY THURSDAY No Morning Services Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.00 pm
Friday 29 th March	GOOD FRIDAY Enactment of the Stations of the Cross 10.00 am The Passion of the Lord 3.00 pm
Saturday 30 th March	No Morning Services EASTER VIGIL MASS 7.00 pm
Sunday 31 st March	EASTER SUNDAY 7.00 am, 8.30 am, 10.00 am, 6.00 pm

The Sacrament of Confirmation

As a faith community we are encouraged to pray for the following Confirmation candidates as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 11th April:

Olivia A, Liam B, Massimo B, Lucas B, McKinley C, Eli C, Lincoln C, Charlotte C, Chase D, Tyla D, Harley D, Phoebe E, Isaac F, Isabelle F, Callum F, Ruben F, Katelyn G, Toren G, Callie G, Samuel H, Olly H, Jack J, Heath J, Georgia K, Koah K, Orlando L, Samantha L, Fletcher M, Liam M, Nicholas M, Xavier M, Zoe N, Sabastjan P, Gabriella P, Sienna P, Charlotte R, Jonah S, Eli S, Leo S, Maxwell S and Amelia Z.

At Confirmation these children will receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Religious Education News

These seven gifts were first received in the Sacrament of Baptism and then they are strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation, which is one of the reasons why the Catholic Church teaches that Confirmation is properly viewed as the completion of Baptism.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit give us strength to help us through life. The seven gifts are:

Wisdom: The ability to see God in everyone and everything everywhere.

Understanding: The ability to comprehend that we are followers of Christ.

Counsel (Right Judgment): The ability to know right from wrong and to choose to do what is right.

Piety (Reverence): The ability to have deep respect for God and the church.

Knowledge: The ability to understand the meaning of God.

Fortitude (Courage): The ability to overcome our fear and to stand up for what is right in the eyes of God.

Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe): The ability to be aware that God is all-powerful, all-loving, all-perfect. To be in admiration of all the wonderful things God does.

St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith Sacramental Program - **Holy Communion**

Enrolments for the Sacrament of Holy Communion will open on our website,
stnicholasofmyra.org.au

on

Wednesday 20th March 2024

The website contains the requirements and commitments for parents and children and the dates of the Parent Information Evening, Commitment masses, Family sessions, Practice afternoon, 2nd Rite of Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion Masses.

To be eligible for First Holy Communion,
Children must be in Year 4 or above and must be baptised

*All enquiries to Rodney Howard at St Nicholas Parish
Ph: 4721 2509*

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Mrs Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees

Instalment 1 School Fees are now overdue. If you already have paid your fees, thank you. All overdue school fees should now be paid or under an arrangement.

If you are having any difficulties in paying your school fees please contact our Senior Finance Officer, Mrs Monique Kearins on 4724 3200 to discuss.

School Office hours are 8:30am – 3:30pm. All payments and enquiries can be made during this time. Payments through the office can be paid by **EFTPOS**. When paying by BPay, Bpoint & Post BillPay please use the current statement. Details are located on the bottom of the statement.

We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm.

Leaving Students

A term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during term for the next term. Where appropriate notice has been received a pro-rata credit can be calculated based on a pro-rata 40 week year. **One exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following years' enrolment i.e. the notice period of 10 school weeks will be waived in this circumstance. If you know your child will be leaving at the end of the year, please advise the school as soon as possible.**

COLLECTING CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL

If parents wish their children to be collected from school early, please send a note to the teacher. If there is a doctor's/dentist appointment or some other very important reason why your child needs to leave the school at lunch (10:45am - 11:30am) or break time (1:30- 2:00pm), we would ask you to take your child either before or after lunch or break, not during the break, as bags are kept inside the classrooms and classrooms are locked during break times.

****From our parent handbook**** Read our Parent Handbook here:

<https://www.mackilloppenrith.catholic.edu.au/Enrol/Handbook>

P & F News

Firstly, we would like to thank all our wonderful families for supporting our school and helping out with our school fundraisers. So far in Term 1 we have raised the following, which is a great start.

Zooper Dooper Days - \$797
Welcome BBQ raffle - \$1276
Total - \$2073

We have some great things planned for Term 2 and Term 3. We can't wait to share more with you at the end of this Term.

School Fete News!!

St Mary MacKillop P&F is excited to host the school's biannual ***St Mary MacKillop Primary School Fete*** on Sunday, 20 October.

The festival is the largest fundraising activity undertaken by the P&F during the year and is critical for the purchase of additional resources and equipment which are not otherwise funded.

The P&F delivers many benefits to the children in our school, with proceeds from the previous fetes financing upgrades and improvements to the playgrounds, Chromebooks and much more!

The P&F's Fete Committee is currently seeking sponsorship for this year's Fete, in the form of:

- Financial contribution, we will have Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsorships available for purchase.
- Donation of goods or services to offset the considerable costs of staging the Fete.
- Donation of goods or services for the Fete Raffle.

The P&F is dedicated to ensuring your support is acknowledged and provides maximum value for your business. Details of sponsorship levels and benefits are detailed in the St Mary MacKillop Fete Sponsorship Proposal. In previous years, the Fete has generated considerable advertising exposure and attracted families from within the school community as well as the broader community and surrounding areas.

If you are interested in sponsoring or supporting our School Fete in any way, please email smmppandf@gmail.com. We can send you a sponsorship proposal or point you in the direction of assistance that is needed.

Our	P&F	Facebook	Page
------------	----------------	-----------------	-------------

Please don't forget to like us on Facebook at St Mary MacKillop P&F, South Penrith. This page can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/smpppf>

Volunteering

If you're interested in volunteering in anyway, please email us at smmppandf@gmail.com or contact myself on 0423763926.

Michelle Darwen
P&F President



FAITH IN ACTION TEAM NEWS

EARTH HOUR:

Earth Hour is on Saturday 23rd of March.

This is where countries all over the world turn off all electric devices for 1 hour. Earth Hour is a conversation starter and a momentum builder.

The students will participate in a Mini Earth Hour event during the Whole School Prayer time on Friday before assembly. We ask that you participate in the event at home with your family too on Saturday.

Here are the steps for the event:

1. Turn off all electronic devices.
2. Participate in the Earthcare prayer from the poster.
3. Write #MackillopEarthHour on a piece of paper and draw/write different ways we can look after the Earth.
4. Spend some time with your family away from technology. Spend some time at the park, play outside, have a picnic etc.
5. After the Earth Hour, take a photo of your family holding the sign you made and email it to the school office:

stmarymackillop@parra.catholic.edu.au

All of the images will be collected and made into a presentation to show that our school community wants to make a change to look after our common home: The Earth.

Please see the next page for the MacKillop Earthcare Poster and Prayer.



#MacKillopEarthHour

1

Turn off all electric devices.



2

Prayer time.



3

Write the hashtag, draw and write ways we can help the Earth.



4

Take a photo with your sign and email it.



FIAT NEWS

EARTHCARE:

The Faith in Action Team have been leading St Mary MacKillop Primary School on our Catholic Earthcare School journey. Catholic Earthcare Australia is a program of Caritas Australia that responds to the 'cry of the earth' and 'the cry of the poor' working to safeguard the integrity of creation. This program will help us at St Mary MacKillop to make simple, positive changes to care for our world.

Last year, the Faith in Action Team led the school in creating positive change for our environment by setting some Quick Win Goals. These goals encouraged everyone to think about our current routines and practices and make some slight changes that will support our care of the Earth. This Term, the Faith in Action Team have been engaging our community in learning more about these goals.

Please see the poster on the next page to view our main Laudato Si Goal. Laudato Si' is the name of Pope Francis' encyclical (papal letter) on caring for our common home — planet earth. The letter is addressed to "every person living on this planet" and calls for a global dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet through our daily actions and decisions. The poster also has our current Quick Win goals for the term. We would like to encourage you to talk about these goals with your family and even take on these goals at home too!

Together we grow to make a difference in our world and care for all creation.

If you would like to learn more about Catholic Earthcare, here is the link to their website: <https://www.caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare>





OUR GOAL AT ST MARY MACKILLOP IS TO RESPOND TO THE
CRY OF THE EARTH AND CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME.

Did you know

Your child's best learning time is the start of the school day
just a little bit late doesn't seem much but

He/she just
missing,

That equals ..

Which is ...

and over 13 years
of schooling that's ...

10 minutes per day

50 minutes per week

Nearly 1.5 weeks per year

Nearly half a year

20 minutes per day

1 hour 40mins per week

Over 2.5 weeks per year

Nearly 1 year

Half an hour per day

Half a day per week

4 weeks per year

Nearly 1 and a half years

1 hour per day

1 day per week

8 weeks per year

Over 2 and a half years

every learner
every day 



Catholic Schools
Parramatta Diocese

DID YOU KNOW

1 in 6 primary students are not attending
school regularly. Schools are here to help.

If you are having attendance issues with your
child please contact us so we can support you
to address them.



every learner
every day 



Catholic Schools
Parramatta Diocese

Dates for your Diary

TERM 1 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 22 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 27 March	9:15am K-2 2pm Yrs 3-6	Easter Prayer - Stations of the Cross	School Hall
Friday 29 March		Good Friday Public Holiday	
Monday 1 April		Easter Monday Public Holiday	
Thursday 4 April	9:15am 7:00pm	Year 3 Liturgy Reconciliation for Confirmation Candidates	School Hall
Friday 5 April	9:00am 2:20pm	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 11 April	9:15am	Kindergarten Liturgy of the Word	School Hall
Friday 12 April	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly LAST DAY OF TERM 1	School Hall

TERM 2 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 29 April		Staff Development Day NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	
Tuesday 30 April	7:00pm	Students Commence Term 2 First Holy Communion Parent Info Session	St Nicholas of Myra
Friday 3 May	2:20pm	Kindergarten Excursion to Calmsley Hill Farm Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 7 May		Diocesan Cross Country	Sydney Motorsport Park
Thursday 9 May	9:15am	Mother's Day Liturgy, Morning Tea and Open Classrooms	

Dates for your Diary

TERM 2 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 10 May	2:20pm	P & F Mother's Day Stall Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 16 May	9:15am 6:15pm	Year 1 Liturgy P & F 3-6 Primary School Disco	School Hall School Hall
Friday 17 May	9:00am 2:20pm	Year 6 JRS Formation Day Whole School Assembly	Mt Schoenstatt School Hall
Thursday 23 May	9:15am	Year 2 Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 24 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 28 May		Whole School Photos Full Winter Uniform to be worn	
Wednesday 29 May		Girls Stage 3 Soccer Gala Day	Jamison Park
Thursday 30 May	7:00pm	Reconciliation for students making First Holy Communion	St Nicholas of Myra
Friday 31 May	2:20pm 6:00pm	Whole School Assembly First Holy Communion Ceremony	School Hall St Nicholas of Myra
Tuesday 4 June		Boys Stage 3 Soccer Gala Day	Jamison Park
Wednesday 5 June		NSWCCC Cross Country	
Thursday 6 June	9:15am	Grandparents Liturgy, Morning Tea and Open Classrooms	School Hall
Friday 7 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 10 June		King's Birthday Public Holiday NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	
Thursday 13 June		Year 2-6 Primary Athletics Carnival	Harold Corr Oval

Is this safe?



PEANUT AND TREE NUT ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL



- DO NOT **SHARE** FOOD
- **WASH HANDS**
AFTER SNACK AND MEAL TIMES.
- **ASK QUESTIONS** IF YOU ARE UNSURE
OF "SAFE" FOODS.
- READ **ALL** INGREDIENT LABELS.

B E Y O N D
A PEANUT
FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS PRODUCTS

www.beyondapeanut.com
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

Thank you
for helping us
provide a safe environment
for our friends with food allergies!