

Keeping In Touch

8 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,

We have just concluded another successful Cross Country running carnival at our school. It was a warm day but the kids were very enthusiastic and have enjoyed a lot of fun. One thing that really stood out for me yesterday was the capacity and willingness of our Year 6 students to act in service of our school and in service of the other students here. Their contributions in setting up the carnival, being responsible for jobs during the carnival, their kindness and guidance towards their kindergarten buddies and ultimately the efficient and smooth way that they supported packing up were all greatly appreciated. In doing these acts though, the Year 6 students often don't need to be asked.....they just see a need and act. They are prepared to forego what they would want e.g. playtime, for what the school needs and they do it with a smile on their face. Furthermore, they problem solve really well to achieve their task. They don't complain or give up. As a principal, I reflect on that and feel a sense of pride that as a result of our partnership between home, school and parish is producing very good, caring and responsible people. What more could I say to celebrate why Catholic Schools make the difference during Catholic Schools Week?

2025 Enrolments

We have now commenced our enrolment processes for 2025 kindergarten classes. On Monday we held a school tour for interested families and on Wednesday evening we held an information session. As you would expect, enrolment forms are now arriving at our front office in large volumes. Mrs Brock and I are in the process of organising small group enrolment interviews for the coming months as well as creating 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. Last year our first kindergarten class was filled by April 1st. We also have some spaces available in some other grades and enrolment forms are welcome for grades other than kindergarten.

P and F Meeting

Just a reminder that our Term 1 Parents and Friends meeting is next Wednesday evening at 6:30pm in the school hall. All are welcome.

News from Scott - Continued

Home / School Communication

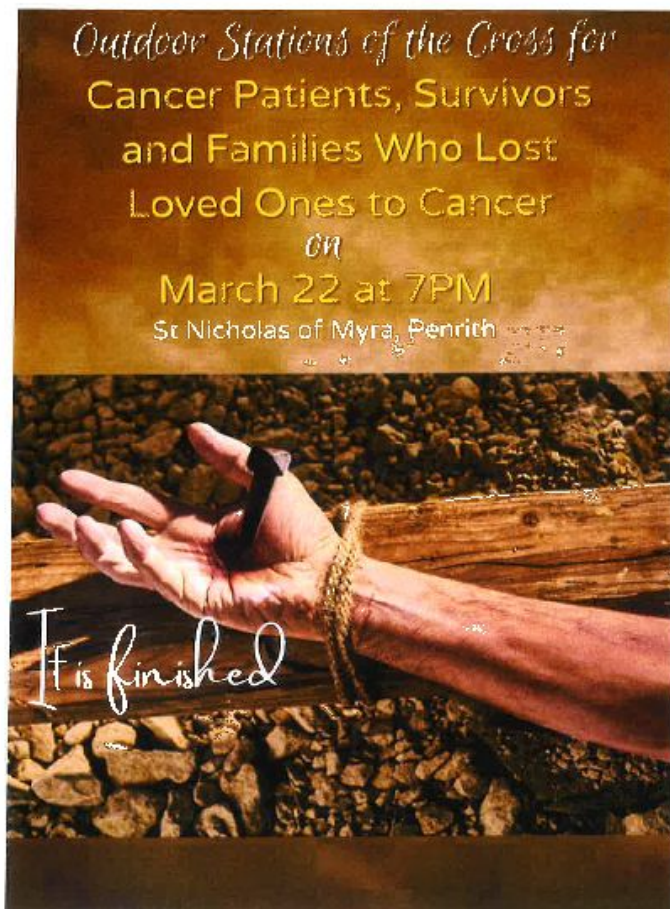
At St Mary MacKillop, we value our strong partnership with families and welcome opportunities to communicate with parents and carers. We also recognise that email is a fast and convenient way to contact your child's teacher or other school staff.

Although staff will read their emails at various times throughout the school day, they are generally not expected to respond to emails outside of normal working hours. In the case of emergency please contact the school office on stmarymackillop@parra.catholic.edu.au or phone 02 4724 3200. Our caring team will return your call or respond to your email as soon as possible.

Thank you so much for your assistance and understanding.

Together we Grow

Scott



St Nicholas of Myra, Catholic Parish Penrith
326 High Street, Penrith

**"Outdoor Stations of the Cross for
Cancer Patients, Survivors and Families Who Lost Loved Ones to
Cancer" on March 22 at 7:00PM**

People diagnosed with cancer go through such terror and despair
much like how Jesus felt when he was sentenced to die on the
cross.

Dear friends, as we all know, cancer is a deadly sickness that has
taken many of our friends' lives and perhaps our own family
members. We are grateful to our Lord for those who survived.
Someone said once that "Cancer is as close as you can get to
Jesus walking to His death on the cross."

During the Stations, we will give thanks to the Lord with the
survivors and remember family members or friends whom we
lost due to cancer. You can bring along a small cross / candle
along with their names to be prayed for or join us to carry the
BIG wooden cross.

If you or anyone you know have been through this dreadful
disease, we warmly invite you to join us in this journey. We hope
to see you there.

Fr. Joe and the Parish Liturgy Committee

Religious Education News

The Season of Lent

During Lent we look for a renewal of our lives and we seek the meaning of Jesus' selfless love, so that we might reflect that love to others. We have to work hard to resist temptation and to change some of our bad habits. We know that this will not be easy but we are encouraged by the works of mercy that Christ gave us:

Feed the hungry

Welcome the stranger

Clothe the naked

Comfort the sick

Visit the imprisoned



During Lent Christ is asking us: who might we feed, welcome, clothe, comfort or visit? Let us show Mercy to those who are most in need.



Fourth Week of Lent (Week beginning Sunday 10th March)



Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. As the eldest child in a low-income farming family, Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. They struggled to pay for Memory's school fees and school supplies, and Memory often had to walk to school barefooted.

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt technical skills in carpentry. She undertook a three-year carpentry course, with CADECOM supporting part of her tuition and boarding fees.

Memory became the first female carpenter from her village. Today, she works as a carpenter at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can provide financial support to her family and inspire other young women in her community so that they may have the opportunity to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

Watch [Memory's Story](#)

Religious Education News

Fifth Week of Lent (Week beginning Sunday 17th March)



Partnership in action

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of programs that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a clinic visited weekly by a doctor and community nurse.



Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program. Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic

water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection.

Please donate to Project Compassion. 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 Project Compassion Fundraiser - Thursday 21st March

Wear purple and eat a hot cross bun

To support the 2024 Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal we will be having a school fundraiser on Thursday 21st March.

All children will be invited to wear a purple item of clothing with their school uniform to symbolise their journey through the Season of Lent. These items may include purple - hats, socks, shoes, shirts, hair ties, ties, scarves etc. The children will also enjoy a hot cross bun at lunch time. There will be traditional, chocolate and gluten free options available.

The cost of this fundraiser will be \$2.

To order and pay for your '**wear purple and eat a hot cross bun**' please use the QKR app. Orders will close on Friday 15th March.



Religious Education News



As many of our Stage 3 students begin preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is an opportune time to reflect on our understanding of this sacrament.

The sacrament of Confirmation builds on the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion and completes the process of initiation into the Catholic community. It establishes young adults as full members of the faith. This sacrament is called *Confirmation* because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong. During Baptism, parents and godparents make promises to believe in God and the Church on a child's behalf. At Confirmation, the candidates renew those same promises, this time speaking for themselves.

During Confirmation, the focus is on the Holy Spirit, who confirmed the apostles at Pentecost and gave them courage to practice their faith. Catholics believe that the same Holy Spirit confirms during the Sacrament of Confirmation and gives them the same gifts. The seven *gifts* of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence and awe.

A bishop (or his representative) celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation, because each bishop is a successor to the Apostles, upon whom the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost—the first Confirmation. The bishop wears red vestments to symbolize the red tongues of fire seen hovering over the heads of the apostles at Pentecost.

Confirmation is administered by the laying on of hands, which signifies the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the anointing of the confirmation candidate with chrism (an aromatic oil that has been consecrated by a bishop). At the time of anointing the bishop will say "*Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit*" This seal is a consecration, representing the safekeeping by the Holy Spirit of the graces bestowed on the Christian at Baptism.

All baptized people can be confirmed. The effect of the Sacrament of Confirmation is to give strength in faith.

Please keep the following students in your prayers as they prepare for receiving 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.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees

Instalment 1 School Fees have now been sent by Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese and you should have received your statement by mail to your home address. Due date for Instalment 1 will be Wednesday, 13th March 2024.

If you feel you may have difficulties in paying your school fees please contact our Senior Finance Officer, Mrs Monique Kearins **once you have received your statement** 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>



FAITH IN ACTION TEAM 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.

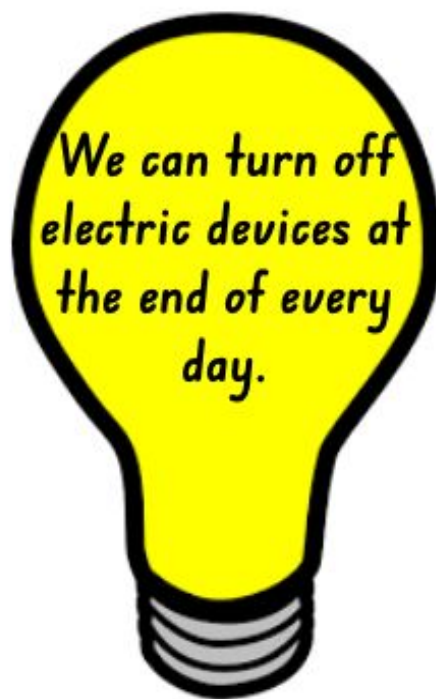
Last year, the Faith in Action Team led the school in creating positive change for our environment by setting some Quick Win Goals. These goals encouraged everyone to think about our current routines and practices and make some slight changes that will support our care of the Earth. This Term, the Faith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

P&F News

Welcome BBQ – Thursday 22nd February

We had a great turn out for our Welcome BBQ, thank you to all the families that RSVP'd and enjoyed a sausage sandwich. It was very busy but a wonderful afternoon for our school community to get together.

A big thank you to all the volunteers that helped at the BBQ: Matt Darwen, Jess Bedrossian, Chanelle Vella, Sonya Lee, Alison Randall, Kacey Smith, Kathy Wallace.



Zooper Dooper Day – Friday 1st March

We had another Zooper Dooper day on Friday 1st March, again another crazy day but thank you to all the families who gave their child money to purchase a Zooper Dooper or 2. Also thank you to the volunteers that helped out Sonya Lee, Jodie Neal, Chanelle Vella, Rachel Cody, Ashlee Cody and Michelle Parkin, without our volunteers these events wouldn't be possible

P&F Meeting – Wednesday 13th March

Our 1st P&F meeting for 2024 will be held on Wednesday 13th March in the school hall from 6.30pm. This is a great way to engage with other parents and keep in touch with what's happening at the school. All are welcome!!



DON'T FORGET TO SAVE THE DATE!!

If you haven't already, don't forget to save **Sunday 20th October** for our School Fete. If you're interested in being on our Fete committee, please email us at smmppandf@gmail.com or contact myself (Michelle) on 0423763926. This is a whole school community effort and we'd appreciate your help and support.

Michelle Darwen

P&F President





A day here or there doesn't seem like much but absences add up **2 days** a month adds up to **4 weeks** a year / **20 days** a year which is over **one year** of lost learning.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

every learner
every day 



Catholic Schools
Parramatta Diocese

MISSING SCHOOL = MISSING OUT

Early primary children learn new sounds and words every day. These are important building blocks upon which all future learning is built.

Help your children achieve their best by getting them to school on time every day.



every learner
every day 



Catholic Schools
Parramatta Diocese

Dates for your Diary

TERM 1 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 8 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 12 March		Diocesan Swimming Carnival	Blacktown Aquatic Centre
Wednesday 13 March	6:30pm	Naplan Commences (Years 3 & 5) P & F Meeting	School Hall
Friday 15 March	10:00am 2:20pm	Year 6 Encounter Formation P & F Zooper Dooper Day Whole School Assembly	Evan Theatre Panthers Recess School Hall
Friday 22 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 27 March	9:15am	Easter Prayer - Stations of the Cross	School Hall
Friday 29 March		Good Friday Public Holiday	
Monday 1 April		Easter Monday Public Holiday	
Wednesday 3 April	9:15am	Stations of the Cross	School Hall
Thursday 4 April	9:15am 7:00pm	Year 3 Liturgy Reconciliation for Confirmation Candidates	School Hall
Friday 5 April	2:20pm	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

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!