

Keeping In Touch

8 May 2025



News from Scott

Dear Parents and Carers

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.



Happy Mother's Day

A very Happy Mothers Day to all of our mum's and the wonderful women who undertake the role of being a motherly figure for our kids. We are very grateful for all that you give in partnership with us. Please know how special and appreciated each of you are on Mother's Day and all other days. We have had a wonderful Mother's Day liturgy, Picnic and Open Classrooms. I hope you enjoyed the day.

On Friday we have our P and F Mother's Day gift stall. Thank you so much to our P and F who organised, wrapped and will run the stall for our community.

We would love to hear from you.

In the coming weeks we will be inviting students in Years 4-6 and parents to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey. The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process.

We would like to invite you to complete the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM)* Partners in Learning survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at *St Mary MacKillop, Penrith South*.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. We will open the survey and provide the link from Monday 19th May.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchanan



Click here

<https://www.facebook.com/MacKillopPenrith/>

to view the St Mary MacKillop Facebook Page for the latest photos and updates.

Like and Follow!

News from Scott - Continued

Addressing Bullying at St Mary MacKillop - How will I know if my child is bullying / being bullied at school?

What is Bullying?

- Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm.
- It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.
- Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert).
- Bullying behaviour can be verbal, non-verbal, physical, sexualised, discriminatory, inappropriate communication using technology and exclusionary.
- Bullying behaviour is repeated over a period of time, however, Conflicts or fights between students and single incidents are not defined as bullying.

Bullying behaviour is not:

- children not getting along well
- a breakdown of a friendship
- a situation of mutual conflict (e.g. disagreements)
- single episodes of nastiness
- random acts of aggression, cruelty or intimidation
- isolated incidents of conflict separated by many months or years does not constitute a pattern of bullying behaviour.

Whilst the behaviours above do not meet the definition of bullying, any poor or anti-social behaviour is unacceptable and will be responded to appropriately.

Addressing Bullying at St Mary MacKillop - What should I do if my child is bullying / being bullied at school?

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- modelling positive social behaviour in interactions with the school community, including in interactions with teachers, other parents and students
- notifying a staff member if a child is experiencing bullying
- familiarising themselves with the school's behaviour management procedures and these Bullying Prevention and Response Procedures and assisting their child(ren) in understanding bullying behaviour
- working collaboratively with the school to resolve bullying when it occurs.

Students are responsible for:

- being respectful towards other students, staff and members of the school community
- reporting incidents of bullying behaviour they have experienced or witnessed
- modelling effective bystander behaviour, so that bullying and harassment are discouraged through peer influence
- Following any instructions from school staff to support good behaviour and safety and follow any behaviour management plans developed by the school to support good behaviour.

Religious Education News



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT
COMPASSION



Thank you for participating in our two Project Compassion Fundraisers – Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and Wear Purple and Eat a Hot Cross Bun. All money has now been finalised and as a school community we gave raised \$2000.90 for the 2025 Project Compassion Appeal.

Caritas Australia would like to express their heartfelt thanks for your incredible support of Project Compassion this Lent. Your generosity is helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and lift themselves out of poverty.

Together, we are creating a better tomorrow, helping vulnerable communities build stronger futures for themselves and empowering them to break free from the cycle of poverty.

Thank you for standing with us!

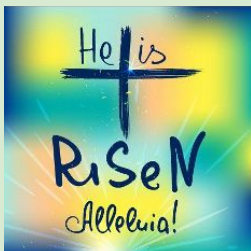
The Season of Easter

Whilst most of our Easter celebrations occur over the Easter Long Weekend, the Easter Season is actually a much longer event in the liturgical calendar. The Easter Season lasts for 50 days extending from Easter Sunday (20th April) to Pentecost Sunday (8th June) and is a time of joy and thanksgiving.

The special word for the Easter Season is Alleluia. It is used for the dismissal from Mass and is an exclamation of great joy that means "Praise God!" which is the sentiment of the Easter Season. The liturgical colour for the Easter Season is white to symbolise joy and glory, as well as the Resurrection.

The Season of Easter reminds us that even in the most difficult situations, even in our saddest times, there is always hope. Jesus wants us to never give up hope and to always be people full of hope.

During the Season of Easter, we are encouraged to rejoice in Jesus rising from the dead and strive to follow his example of love and service.



*Lord Jesus,
as we celebrate this Easter Season, we pray for a renewal of faith, hope, and love.
May this be a time of spiritual growth and a fresh beginning in our journey with you.
Amen.*

Honouring Pope Francis (1936-2025)

We pause to honour the life and legacy of Pope Francis, the 266th successor of St Peter. Known for his humility, courage, and deep compassion for the poor and the marginalised, Pope Francis invited the Church into a renewed missionary journey. He called us to be a "field hospital" for the wounded, to care for our common home, and to walk together as a synodal Church of listening and hope.

Who was Pope Francis?

Pope Francis was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio on December 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was the eldest of five children in a loving Catholic family of Italian heritage. Before becoming a priest, he worked as a chemical technician and loved playing soccer with his friends.

Religious Education News - Continued

He entered the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) and was ordained a priest in 1969. Known for his deep humility and commitment to the poor, he became Archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998 and was made a cardinal by Pope John Paul II in 2001.

On March 13, 2013, he was elected the 266th pope of the Catholic Church—the first pope from the Americas, the first Jesuit pope, and the first to take the name Francis, inspired by St Francis of Assisi. His papacy was marked by a focus on mercy, care for creation, social justice, interfaith dialogue, and reform within the Church.

Pope Francis often reminded us to “go out to the margins,” to be a Church that listens, walks together, and brings the joy of the Gospel to the world. He challenged Catholics to live their faith through acts of love, welcome, and inclusion.

He will be remembered as a Pope of compassion, courage, and deep humanity.

Last Friday afternoon each class held a prayer service to acknowledge and honour Pope Francis. Today we offer this prayer as the St Mary MacKillop community.

A Prayer for Pope Francis

From the Catholic School Communities of the Diocese of Parramatta

Loving God,

*We give you thanks for the life and leadership of Pope Francis,
a shepherd who walked humbly with Your people,
with eyes fixed on Jesus and arms open to the world.*

*You called him from the ends of the earth
to serve as a sign of hope, mercy, and unity.
He reminded us that the Church has a mother's heart,
that we must care for the poor, the earth, and one another.*

*Thank you for his joy,
his courage to speak truth,
and his witness to a faith that listens, walks, and serves.*

*As he now rests in your eternal embrace,
may we carry forward his dream of a Church
that reaches out with tenderness,
that builds bridges not walls,
and that lives the Gospel with authenticity and love.*

*Bless all who lead us now, especially those entrusted
with the sacred task of choosing the next successor of Peter.
Send Your Holy Spirit to guide them with wisdom, courage, and peace.*

*We pray this as a community of faith and learning,
united in love, inspired by hope,
and committed to following Jesus, the Light of the World.*

Amen



Religious Education News - Continued



The Sacrament of Confirmation

As a faith community we are encouraged to pray for the following Confirmation candidates as they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 8th May:

Thomas B, Holly B, Isadora B, Alexandra B, Declan C, Chelsea D, Poppie E, Macks E, Ella-Rose G, Haven H, Olivia J, Rhys K, Roman L, Cruz L, Lucy L, Chloe M, Giselle M, Melanie M, Ella O, Jensen O, Mackenzie P, Khloe R, Everleigh R, Alara S, Lucia S, Layla S, Olive S and Charlie V.

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

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 and all-loving. To be in admiration of all the wonderful things God does.

It is God's intention that these gifts are not to sit idle or be kept in storage. Rather, they are to be put to good use so they will bear much fruit.

Religious Education News - Continued

May – the Month of the Mary

During May, the Month of Mary, the Catholic Church celebrates the following feasts in her honour:



Saturday 24th May - Mary Help of Christians, Patron Saint of Australia

Mary Help of Christians was adopted as patron of the infant Church of Australia in 1844 at a significant time in our history. British settlement was just over fifty years old, the transportation of convicts was coming to an end, and the first elections in Australian history had been held in 1843. Issues of land, immigration and education had begun to surface and the Church was involved in these social problems. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and Mass was not allowed, except for one brief year, until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the faith alive.

Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary and was the first nation to choose her under the title Help of Christians, as principal Patroness.



Saturday 31st May – The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth, while she was pregnant with Jesus. During this visit, Elizabeth shares that she is pregnant with a child, the future John the Baptist.



Monday 9th June - Mary, Mother of the Church

The feast day of Mary, Mother of the Church, is celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost. This is a relatively new feast day, established by Pope Francis in 2018 to honour Mary's role as the mother of the Church and her motherhood of all believers.

Devotion to Mary in the month of May is an important part of the Catholic identity. As our mother she is an example of a committed 'Yes' to the will of God. During the month of May, we are invited to give Mary a special place in our prayers.

Sacramental Program – First Holy Communion

St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith

**Sacramental Program
First Holy Communion**

**Enrolments for the Sacrament of First
Holy Communion are now**

OPEN

**on our website,
stnicholasofmyra.org.au**

**The website contains the dates, requirement and
commitment for parents and children.**

**To be eligible for First Holy Communion,
Children must be in Year 4 or above and must be baptised
and have made their Reconciliation.**

All enquiries to Rodney Howard at St Nicholas Parish
Ph: 4721 2509
Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Office News



School Fees

Instalment 2 School Fees has been sent out to your home address by our Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese.

If you already have paid your fees, thank you. **All payment plans should now be under an arrangement.**

If you feel you may have difficulties in paying your school fees or require a payment plan set up, please contact our Senior Finance Officer, Mrs Monique Kearins on 4724 3200 to discuss.

School Office hours are 8:30am – 3:30pm. Payments through the office can be paid by **EFTPOS only** as we are a CASHLESS school.

All payments and enquiries can be made during this time. We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm.

When paying by BPay, Bpoint & Post BillPay please use the current statement. Details are located on the bottom of the statement. Cash payments are still accepted at Australia Post.

Office News

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 (10:45 am - 11:30 am) or break time (1:30pm- 2:00 pm), 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>

COLLECTING CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL

Children are dismissed at 3:00pm and supervision is provided only until 3:30pm. **Ambrose Before & After School care is available if you require care after school. Ambrose phone number is 0492 367 298.**

If, due to extraordinary circumstances, eg: when a parent is detained, please notify the school and your child will be informed that you are delayed. Parents are reminded that all care will be given to the children but there is no formal supervision after 3:30pm when the last bus leaves the school.

Walkers A classroom teacher will escort students to 'walkers' and supervise students crossing the street, riding bikes and going to cars as part of afternoon dismissal.

Waiters After school, staff will supervise children waiting for school buses or on 'waiters.' (***Waiters are to be collected after 3:10pm***) up on our playground.

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.**

Mobile Phones

If a child needs to bring a mobile phone to school they must be clearly labelled with the child's name, switched off and checked into the office on arrival and collected after the 3:00pm bell.

Medication

If your child takes long term medication, you must fill out the relevant form from the office. Medication will not be administered to any child unless authorised by a parent/guardian. All medication prescribed by a medical practitioner must be authorised by the doctor and all paperwork needs to be updated every year or when medication is changed. All relevant forms are available from the school office.

For short term medication, forms are also available from the school office. No child will be given medication unless it is recorded, prescribed by a doctor and in its original packaging. Many doctors will agree that medication to be given three times a day can be administered: morning, after school and before bed at night. Please check with your doctor.

P & F News

Busy start to Term 2 for the P&F, starting with Mother's Day this week. Ordering & wrapping over 850 gifts isn't an easy task. On top of that this year has been a bit of a learning curve for us adopting a new way of doing things by going cashless for the first time. We are just a bunch of mums navigating through this transition so bear with us as we learn what works, I'm sure there will be lessons learned and changes made for the next one.

We know what you're thinking, why is the stall cashless this year?

The P&F is an extension of our school which is managed through CSPD. It is a requirement that all cash transactions which are handled within the school are reported, reconciled and then audited on an annual basis. This includes all transactions within the P&F. Small fundraisers like Zooper Dooper days will remain as they are but these larger events like Mother's Day and Father's Day where the volume of cash is much greater, cashless is the way to go for security and balancing funds. Massive thank you to our school community for your cooperation as we navigate through this transition!

Also a big thank you to our volunteers who so generously donated their time getting the stall ready for this week. To our super mums Sam Snow and Sonya Lee! Without these 2 ladies there would be no stall. Organising everything we needed back end!

And a big thank you to the mums that came and joined us wrapping all the gifts last Thursday Kathy, Kim, Alison, Leanne, Emma, Kristina, Sammy G. Thanks also to all the Volunteers that have registered to help out with our events this month, we certainly couldn't do it without you!

It's so awesome to see some new faces helping out too and sharing the load around!

P & F News

CYBER SAFETY SEMINAR The P&F have secured a date for an information night to be presented by guest speaker **Brad Marshall AKA The unplugged Psychologist** on **THURSDAY 29TH MAY 2025 6pm** doors open for a **6.30PM start**.

We have also confirmed that the **Australian Federal Police** will be in attendance on the evening to speak and share their valuable information on **cyber safety and security**.

Brad is an internationally published author, researcher and clinician who focuses on healthy screen habits and tech use. Brad is NOT anti-technology but rather uses his years of practical experience to provide insight and guidance on how to manage the ever-changing demands of technology and the effects this can have on our children's developing brains. This event will focus on the effects of online gaming and addiction as well as real-world experience and guidance for parents and caregivers on how to set healthy, achievable boundaries.

This is an incredible opportunity for our families to attend an event which has been designed for them and kindly funded by our P&F. This invitation is for up to **2 adults** of St Mary MacKillop Primary School students. We kindly ask this to be kept a child-free event to ensure limited distractions to our speaker and other guests.

To reserve your seats, we ask you RSVP as soon as possible to allow us to cater numbers for our community accordingly: <https://tinyurl.com/57jcbwxf>

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT! Bring your picnic rugs and enjoy a free movie with the family on the big screen! There will be a candy bar available with popcorn and coffee by Screaming beans coffee van, available on the night too! Invite your friends and family and enjoy!

FRIDAY 16th MAY 5pm gates open for a 6pm screening of Paddington in Peru. Questions or Enquiries? We are reachable via email, facebook and on our website!

Email: smpmppandf@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/smpmppf?>

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/smpmppf/home?>

Chanelle Vella
P&F President



FREE!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

ST MARY MACKILLOP SCHOOL HILL

NOW SHOWING

PADDINGTON IN PERU

FRIDAY 16 MAY | GATES OPEN: 5PM | **BYO** FOOD, DRINKS & SNACKS
 MOVIE STARTS: 6PM | LOW LYING CHAIRS & PICNIC RUGS

Cold Drinks & Fresh Popcorn Available from Canteen

Hot Drinks available to purchase from our friends at Screaming Beans

St Mary MacKillop Primary School South Penrith
 Parents & Friends Association Proudly Present

NOW ALSO ATTENDING & PRESENTING

THINK U KNOW
 Cyber Safety & Security
 Presentations conducted by
 the Australian Federal Police

Brad Marshall

THE UNPLUGGED PSYCHOLOGIST

Expert in healthy screen use
 including online gaming and the
 effects this has on our children

THURSDAY 29TH MAY 2025
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM FOR A 6:30PM START

ST MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL
150 FRAGAR ROAD SOUTH PENRITH

CLICK HERE TO RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW

smmppandf@gmail.com

The Unplugged PSYCHOLOGIST

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Dates for your Diary

TERM 2 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 9 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly P & F Mother's Day Stall	School Hall
Tuesday 13 May		Diocesan Cross Country	Eastern Creek
Wednesday 14 May		Lifted Jnr	West HQ, Rooty Hill
Thursday 15 May	9:15am	Year 6 JRS Formation Day Year 2 Liturgy	Mt Schoenstatt School Hall
Friday 16 May	2:20pm 5:00pm	Whole School Assembly P & F Movie Night	School Hall School Playground
Tuesday 20 May	7:00pm	Holy Communion Parent Meeting	St Nicholas of Myra
Thursday 22 May	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 1 Liturgy Year 5 Excursion to Sydney Zoo	School Hall
Friday 23 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 28 May		Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day	Jamison Park
Thursday 29 May	9:15am 6:15pm	Year 6 Mass P & F Guest Speaker - Brad Marshall	School Hall School Hall
Friday 30 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 5 June	9:15am	Grandparents Liturgy Open Classrooms Book Fair	School Hall
Friday 6 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 9 June		King's Birthday Public Holiday NO SCHOOL TODAY	
Wednesday 11 June	6:30pm	P & F Meeting	School Hall

Dates for your Diary

TERM 2 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 12 June	9:15am	Year 3 Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 13 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 17 June	5:00pm	Holy Communion Practice	St Nicholas of Myra
Thursday 19 June	7:00pm	2nd Rite of Reconciliation for Communion Candidates	St Nicholas of Myra
Friday 20 June	2:20pm	Years 2-6 2025 Athletics Carnival Whole School Assembly	Harold Corr Werrington School Hall
Tuesday 24 June		Stage 2 & Stage 3 Boys & Girls Soccer Gala Day	Jamison Park
Thursday 26 June	9:15am	Year 4 Mass	School Hall
Friday 27 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 2 July		Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day	Jamison Park
Thursday 3 July	9:15am 6pm-7:30pm	Year 4 Mass P & F Primary Disco (3-6 only)	School Hall School Hall
Friday 4 July	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall

TERM 3 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 21 July		STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)	
Tuesday 22 July		Term 3 Commences for Students	

St Mary MacKillop, South Penrith

150 Fragar Road, South Penrith NSW 2750

Ambrose School Age Care provides fun, engaging programs before and after school. Our programs include games, sport, art, craft, and free-time facilitated by Ambrose educators experienced in the nationally approved learning framework, My Time Our Place. Children love Ambrose as the programs are developed around their interests and ideas

They're also a great way to make friends, develop social skills, and most importantly – have fun!



Our Opening Hours

Before School Care: 6.30am – 8.45am

After School Care: 2.30pm – 6.00pm

Pupil Free Day: 6.30am – 6.00pm

Our fees Government subsidy (CCS) available depending on each family's eligibility.

Session	Time	After 85% Child Care Subsidy*	After 50% Child Care Subsidy*	Advertised Fee No Child Care Subsidy
Morning	6.30am – 8.45am	\$4.23	\$11.55	\$22 per session
Afternoon	2.30pm – 6.00pm	\$6.06	\$16.54	\$31.50 per session
Pupil Free Day - Standard Fee - Early 'Bee' Special	6.30am – 6.00pm	\$14.43 \$ 12.51	\$39.37 \$34.12	\$75 \$65

*Child Care Subsidy (CCS) can provide up to 85% of the cost of your childcare fees. External party charges for in-service workshops and excursions may apply.

All educators working directly with the children hold a valid working with children check and there is always an educator rostered who is qualified in first aid, asthma, anaphylaxis and CPR.

To enrol now – please complete the enrolment form [here](#)

Or contact the service on

Email: stmarymackillop@ambrose.org.au Phone: 0492 367 298



Learning for life

Is this safe?



PEANUT AND TREE NUT ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL



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AFTER SNACK AND MEAL TIMES.
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