



St Mary MacKillop School

NEWSLETTER

10 Bagot Street (PO Box 16), WALLAROO SA 5556

P: (08) 8823 2549 F: (08) 8823 2561

E: info@stmm.catholic.edu.au W: www.stmm.catholic.edu.au

Term 1 Week 11 Wednesday, 8th April 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS

Thank you Bernie Thomson for the significant preparations towards the Holy Week reflections that staff and students participated in last Thursday. It was a time of reverence, learning, understanding, joy and deepening our relationship with Jesus.

The students participated in physically moving around to different locations to really experience walking with Jesus during the events of Holy Week. Students used drama to show and tell the events of Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, Praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, Crucifixion and Resurrection.

This has prepared us well for this week – Holy Week and for the time following – Easter!

*The resurrection of Jesus is a sign of the future -
what God has in store for all who believe.*

Jesus says (John 11:25-26)

"I am the resurrection and the life.

*Those who believe in me, even though they die,
will live, and everyone who lives and believes in
me will never die."*

Also, thanks Bernie for organising the hot cross buns for students and staff, a lovely treat last Friday.



IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL

Fri 10 Good Friday
Sun 12 Easter Sunday
Mon 13 Easter Monday
Tue 14-Fri 17 Vacation Care
Mon 20-Fri 24 Vacation Care
Sat 25 ANZAC Day
Mon 27 Term 2 commences
Wed 22 Collection of books & devices 8.00-11.00am

PARISH WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Star of the Sea, Wallaroo
Saturday 6.00pm

St. Francis of Assisi, Moonta
Sunday 8.30am

Sacred Heart, Kadina
Sunday 10.00am

St Margaret's, Port Broughton
Sunday 12.00 noon

Mission Statement

*Inspired by our Catholic faith and in partnership with families and our wider community,
St Mary MacKillop School creates opportunities for encountering life in all its richness.*

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

STAFFING

I am pleased to be able to let you know that Mr Mathew Carey has been appointed to our staff. Mathew is joining us in a replacement role for the remainder of this year. Mathew will be teaching the 6/7 class (1.5 days), the 5/6 class (0.5 day) and will be taking other classes R-7 to release teachers. He will be working here Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Mathew has been teaching at Maitland Lutheran School and will be on leave from there for the remainder of this year. Mathew has joined us for two days this week to meet staff and be involved in our planning for Term 2.

We welcome Mathew and I know he is looking forward to meeting and working with students and parents next term – online and in person at school!

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

At the start of Term 2 we will welcome the following students and their families to SMMS community:

Anthony (Yr 4) and Sophia (Yr 2) Marchetto – transferring from Trinity College. Parents: Kayla and Colin Marchetto and younger pre-school sisters Aubree and Ava.

Amaya Robinson (Yr 1 Hanson) – transferring from Clare Primary School. Parents: Melissa and Matthew Robinson and younger pre-school brother Archer.

The families have had visits to the school but current times prevent the children from having transition visits to our school.

We look forward to welcoming Anthony, Sophia and Amaya!

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thank you to all parents and teachers for conducting parent-teacher interviews over the phone over the last two weeks. Thank you all for making yourselves available for this very important communication.

FEE REMISSION

Please remember that families who have had their income affected by the impact of COVID-19 are encouraged to apply for fee remission for Term 2. The application is completely confidential, not difficult and this is in place to help you. Please contact Julia if you have any questions or would like a form sent out.

OUR SCHOOL TERM 2

Our school will be open next term and our buses will be running. The latest communication that we had with Kadina MS last week was that their bus will be running.

Initially, communication suggested that our schools would be open for children of parents who work in essential services, however, as long as they are well no student will be turned away if parents request attendance. As long as the government determines that schools are open and safe, we will be here to provide high-quality learning, care and supervision.

ATTENDANCE TERM 2

It will be very helpful for our planning to have an indication of how many students will be returning to school for Term 2. It may be difficult for families to know what they will be doing two weeks from now. A message will come home at the end of the second week of the holidays asking families to indicate if their children will be attending school. Your response to the message will be very much appreciated.

ONLINE LEARNING

This week, our staff have been working collaboratively and hard to prepare for online learning for all students.

The learning that students access will be online both at home and at school. The class teacher will meet and have real time contact with all students online at a set time every day. This time will be communicated to parents. This online chat time with the teacher and class mates has been coordinated across the school so that we are not expecting siblings to be online at the same time with different class teachers. We know that many families have only one device.

The class teacher will have time with their class here at school, however if the numbers of students are low then classes may be grouped together for periods of time and supervised by other staff while doing their online learning. This will allow teachers release time to monitor the work that students are completing and sending, respond to students and parents online, phone parents and to plan and upload an ongoing online program for all students.

Our priority is to keep in touch with students and parents.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The online platforms we are using as a school are Seesaw (R-1), One Note and Microsoft Teams (R-7). Microsoft Teams is the platform that is recommended to all Catholic Parish schools in SA and we are supported with this through CESA. Our whole school programs such as Italian with Francesca and the literacy support groups with Francesca and Annette, will be using Microsoft Teams.

OUR FAMILY DOES NOT HAVE INTERNET OR DEVICES

Thank you to families who returned the slip to indicate the availability of internet and devices in their homes. This has been helpful for our planning.

There will be hard copy packs available for students in families who do not have any internet connection or appropriate devices to access the level of online learning that we are moving into. Please keep in regular contact with us if this is your family situation.

ATTENDANCE IN AN ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Students will be required to participate in school as of the start of Term 2, whether that be from home or coming to school. Class teachers will still record the attendance as students log in for their classroom chats.

SETTING UP FOR ONLINE LEARNING

At the end of this term, Francesca worked in classes with students who were attending, helping them to log onto Microsoft Teams and become familiar with the Platform. Francesca will be sending the following information to help families to do this at home:

- Individual student log in details
- Detailed instructions of how to log in and then go to Microsoft Teams
- Times that Francesca will be available to speak with you over the phone and help you with this process if you are having any difficulty

We are subscribing to an updated version of Seesaw which will enable teachers to do much more and as we receive further login details these will be sent to families.

ONLINE CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

With this Newsletter is a handout outlining protocols for safe use of online learning. Please read it and let me know if you have any questions.

I will highlight that in the protocols I suggest that when students are online they wear their school uniform (or at least shirt), this can be their sport or formal uniform. This may help students to have the mindset that this is my online learning time and may help differentiate between home and family time and online learning time. This might not work for all families and I respect individual family situations.

Online learning must take place in an appropriate visible part of the home, it must not take place for example in a bedroom. Protect your family's privacy. Online learning is an educational setting and the same rules apply as at school around respectful and safe communication.

The school guidelines for acceptable use of IT will apply whether the student is at school or at home.

TEACHING AND LEARNING ONLINE

The core curriculum areas of Literacy, Numeracy, Religion and HASS or Integrated Studies, will be covered every week by the classroom teacher.

There will be scheduled Italian lesson times with Francesca Tully for each class, we will let you know the time the child needs to join this on Microsoft Teams. Similarly, students who work in literacy groups with Annette Morphet and Francesca Tully will have a scheduled online lesson time that will be communicated to the appropriate parents.

Specialist teachers of PE and Science will add in work to class groups on either Seesaw or Microsoft Teams.

There will also be activities covering other curriculum areas uploaded so that The Australian Curriculum requirements are covered.

We will be discussing as a staff how Semester 1 written reports will look and whether changes to the format will need to be made to reflect this change in mode of learning.

We have been so pleased with the learning that children have been sharing with teachers, this is wonderful evidence of the great learning that is taking place at home. Please remember that the teacher still has responsibility for all of the students at school and at home, and it will not be possible for the teacher to respond individually to every piece of work submitted by a

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

student. The teacher may view it and assess but may not necessarily be able to respond in detail, which is no different to the classroom environment where the teacher's attention needs to be shared equally amongst all students.

SCHOOL BOOKS

Sometimes learning will be shared online and at other times putting work into books will be most appropriate. Students who have been participating in learning at home will have some books home already and teachers are keen to have other books and stationery ready for you to pick up from school and have at home ready for Term 2. Books for families who are choosing online learning at home will be available for pickup on Wednesday, 22nd April, between 8-11am. If it is not possible to pick up at this time, please leave a message with Karen at the office.

LOANING SCHOOL DEVICES

I am working on having school devices available for loan in Term 2 for families who do not have any access to an appropriate device. Access would be for one device per family, not per student. When the new devices were purchased for our school this year, we did not envisage at all that they might be needed for this purpose so there are some aspects of their set up and security that need to be checked so that they may be used off site.

The school fees paid by parents do not "pay for the students to have a device to take home". Schools who are able to offer students having their own device that they use at school and also take home have a lease agreement in place with the family and the device is basically bought over time.

The IT charge that is part of our school fees enables students to have access to a device and goes towards covering all of the expenses incurred in our IT infrastructure: technical support, security, storing of information, charging trolleys, subscriptions etc. the list is extensive.

All going well, devices should be available for pick up on Wednesday, 22nd April, between 8-11am. At pick up, parents and students will sign an acceptable use agreement before taking any devices home.

I will keep you informed as this progresses.

CESA WEBSITE

I encourage you to visit the CESA website which was launched last Friday which has lots of great information for parents about online learning. The section for parents in particular will be of interest: <https://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/learning-online>

Please do not feel overwhelmed, we are here to help you. Please email, make a phone call, send a message. Francesca has offered to be our contact person here at school and will help you with your queries, is happy to talk you through setting up, offer technical advice etc. This support is ongoing into next term, just be mindful that all teachers will have a full workload still and may not be able to respond to you immediately. Also please remember that we are moving into school holidays and it is time for a break for everyone!

Our term is winding up in a way that I am fairly sure no one would have ever imagined.

My sincere thanks to all of you, students, families, staff, our volunteers, for our term together. It has been a very busy one with the wellbeing and learning of our students at the heart. You all contribute in so many and varied ways and truly go above and beyond which is noticed with great gratitude.

I wish you all a blessed Easter time, may you know the presence and love of God more so than ever at this time.

I wish you all a restful and much deserved, happy and safe holiday break.

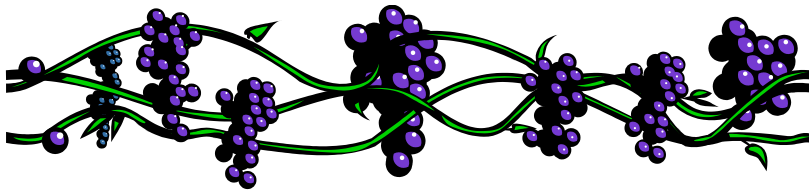
Michelle Miller

Principal

michelle.miller@stmm.catholic.edu.au

Holy Week Reflection Photos





The Vine

What a different family experience of Easter we will be sharing this weekend! There are some links below for those who would like to access online broadcasting of Holy Week and Easter liturgies and Masses from both the Port Pirie and the Adelaide Archdiocese.

Live streaming and TV broadcast of Masses over Easter

The Diocese of Port Pirie is live streaming Masses and liturgies over the Holy Week / Easter weekend, from St Mark's Cathedral. You may wish to access and be remotely present at the liturgies and Masses of the holiest week of the Christian Church calendar. Just access the following website...

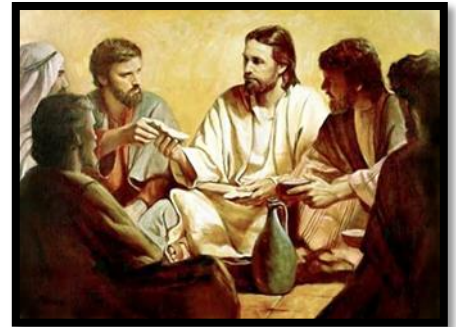
<http://www.pp.catholic.org.au/online-masses>

*Holy Thursday - 09/04/2020 - 7:30pm

*Good Friday - 10/04/2020 - 3pm

*Easter Vigil, Saturday - 11/04/2020 - 7:30pm

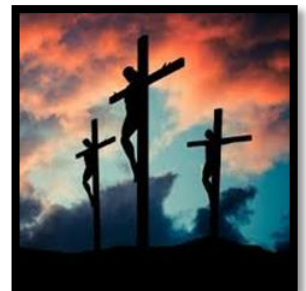
*Easter Sunday - 12/04/2020 - 10:30am



St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Adelaide, has commenced live streaming of **daily Mass** at 12.10pm. All liturgies can be viewed live and on demand on the home page of www.adelaide.catholic.org.au. They will also be available via [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

The following Easter services will be broadcast on free to air television on Channel 44, a community television station, at the following times:

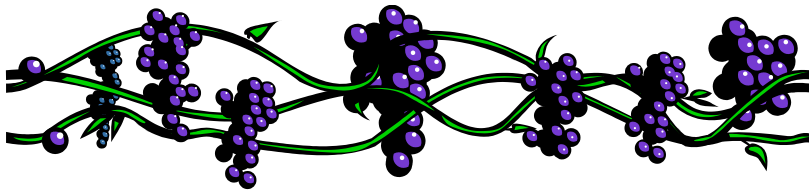
- **Holy Thursday** - Mass of the Lord's Supper, 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Each and every Mass commemorates exactly the words and actions of Jesus at his last supper and gathering with his apostles.
- **Good Friday** (God's Friday) - Passion of the Lord, 3pm - 4pm
Commemorates the Trial, suffering and crucifixion of Jesus.
The Passionist Community at The Monastery, Glen Osmond, has pre-recorded the 2020 Stations of the Cross. This can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/l26jKw-KHwM>.
- **Holy Saturday** - Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, 6pm - 7pm
The time of waiting – Jesus' body has been laid in the tomb.
The Easter Vigil on Saturday night has some special, meaningful additions to the usual proceedings for Sunday Mass. There are rituals, including the lighting of an "Easter fire", which emphasize the belief that Jesus is the light of the world and that it was the resurrection that told the world all about Jesus.
- **Easter Sunday**, 9am - 10am
Through the action of God, Jesus Christ rises to new, eternal life with God. This is the foundational belief and hope of Christianity – eternal life with God through Jesus.



Easter

For many of our children the bunny and its eggs are the most important thing about Easter. Over history, Christianity has had a gift for making use of local traditions and festivals, bringing them on board and making them our own. The name Easter comes from the Anglo-Saxon spring festival in honour of the goddess Eostre. Her symbol was the hare, or rabbit, and the giving of eggs were signs of new life bursting forth as winter withdrew. These associations only make sense in the northern hemisphere, but we can see why the early Christians would find this local festival so useful in promoting the deep, true meaning of Jesus Christ's resurrection to New Life – the celebration of Easter.





The Vine

Just as new life bursts forth from eggs, butterflies also signify new life. That is why they have become an everyday symbol of the New Life of Christ at the resurrection.

We look forward to Easter Sunday and celebrating Jesus – Jesus Christ, out of the tomb and risen from the dead. How can we each help others live a full and beautiful life, especially during these challenging times?

May the grace and blessings of Easter bring joy to us all!



Bernie Thomson

APRIM and Pastoral Care Support

Calm Kids

Helpful Information

The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities has forwarded this information from Kirrilie Smout from Developing Minds who considers it advantageous to share this 5 minute video with primary school parents to help children aged 4 - 11 learn:

- What the coronavirus is and how it spreads
- What they can do to help
- What the world is doing to manage the problem
- How they can manage their worries about it.

It's a positive video but they suggest parents watch it first to make sure it's right for their children.

There's also a brilliant activity sheet to encourage children to make their own plan to help slow the virus, calm themselves when they're worried and fill in spare time at home. In fact, we believe it would be worthwhile for all family members to complete this and share their plans.

The video can be viewed free of charge here:

<https://www.calmkidcentral.com/covid-19/>

The activity sheet and some adult/child discussion ideas are under the video. Parents will also find some very helpful advice here:

<https://developingminds.net.au/blog/2020/3/19/answering-childrens-questions-about-coronavirus>



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Harry – Year 6/7	9 th April
Jaeger – Year 1	14 th April
Jack – Year 6/7	15 th April
Isabella – Reception	15 th April
Chelsea – Year 5/6	19 th April
Daniel – Year 5/6	20 th April
Bethany – Year 5/6	25 th April
Ari – Year 3/4	25 th April
Karen McCulloch	25 th April
Mrs Owen	26 th April



NEWSLETTER INSERTS

1. Online Classroom Protocols

If you have not received any of the above hand-outs, please write a note in your child's diary for a copy to be sent home.