For Jews, pigs are ritually unclean, so that living in a pig sty would make this young man unapproachable. So, imagine the reaction of his Jewish audience when Jesus told the story of the father running to his son and embracing him still stinking of the pig sty, exclaiming, ‘You were lost and now you are found.’ That is Jesus’ portrayal of his heavenly Father’s relationship with us. Of course, sometimes we are the older brother, resentful that someone seems to have had too easy a time of God’s forgiveness. Is this the attitude of many who challenge the emphasis by Pope Francis on Mercy as the core of God’s relationship with us? More often, we are like the younger brother who has strayed to a far off place, sometimes quite deliberately. We could resolve to approach the Sacrament of Mercy during Lent, knowing that our heavenly Father will run towards us, embracing us, exclaiming, ‘You were lost but now you are found.’ That is worth a celebration!

* Fr Michael Tate

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**THE PRODIGAL SON OR THE FORGIVING FATHER?**

Do you know the story? If not read it [here](#).

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

**MARCH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 7 th</td>
<td>School Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 10 th</td>
<td>P/1/2 Mass 10.00am St Mary’s Church</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Division swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 11 th</td>
<td>Reconciliation workshop (Sacramental Program) @ Dunworth Centre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PSG meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 14 th</td>
<td>Public holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 16 th  – Fri 18 th</td>
<td>Sacrament of Reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 17 th</td>
<td>District Aths</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 20 th</td>
<td>Family Social Afternoon &amp; Easter Egg Hunt! 12.00 – 2.00pm @ Botanical Gardens BYO picnic lunch, drinks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 21 th</td>
<td>Learning Walk!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 24 th</td>
<td>Holy Week liturgy @ 11.30am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>End Term 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Early finish @ 2.15pm</td>
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Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

It has been great to have conversations this week with students about their learning so far this year. Sometimes they amaze themselves with their ‘a-ha’ moments – when all of the teaching becomes clear and they finally understand some information, a concept, a process – and can see how to apply it to their work across the curriculum and even to life! They are quite proud of their growth. There are other students I talk to who find learning quite tricky but their determination and willingness to improve and learn is just as impressive.

We are getting excited about our Athletics Day on Monday – although a bit concerned about the hot weather forecast. Please read The Sports note attached carefully!

*Thanks for a great week! God bless you!*

Jo-Anne
Attachments to this week’s Newsletter:
1. Athletics program - yellow
2. Week 4 Lenten Prayer
3. Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Learning Conversations
Thank you to parents and students who participated in the Learning Conversations on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. What a great buzz going along the Learning Street and amongst people as you gathered to wait for your appointment time. Teachers very much appreciated the opportunity to meet and talk about your child and strengthen the partnership between home and school. Thanks to Helen O’Brien for her co-ordination of the timetable and to teachers for your time and energy.

Ride to School Day
More than 30 students, parents and staff had a sensational start to the day as part of Ride to School Day this morning! A huge thanks to the Monivae students for their organisation and inclusion of our students.

Emergency Management
Students and staff participated in an evacuation drill on Wednesday as part of our Emergency Management Plan. Drills are held at least once per term to prepare in the case of a real event. This week we rehearsed a lockdown situation.

Assembly
See you at our next Assembly Friday 18th March at 2.40pm!

Project Compassion – Caritas Australia
Each student has received a Project Compassion box to enable them to support the work of Caritas Australia throughout our world. We are all encouraged to give up something we enjoy during Lent and contribute the money we save to Project Compassion as a way of thinking of how we can help other people.

For more information please visit www.caritas.org.au

THE WORD ON THE LEARNING STREET!
Grade 1/2
I can read really well now. Sometimes I get mixed up with words but now I know how to use my brain to read on and go back and fix words up. I can look for sounds I know in words like ‘ay’ because that is in my name. I can spell ‘music’.

Jay Casey
Nama saya Trinity! I am really enjoying Indonesian because we get to speak a different language.

Trinity Densley

I am enjoying writing because it’s fun. We are writing a procedure about brushing our teeth.

Ruby Cleaver

I am enjoying Read to Someone because I like reading so much. We get to choose to read in different spots.

Henry Haddad

I am enjoying Sport because we are getting ready for Athletics Day. We are having a go at high jump, hurdles, discus, shot put and relays. I am really excited about Athletics Day!

Jude Alexander

Grade 5/6
On Wednesday the Grade 5’s were invited to Roscoe Avenue. Chloe and Brandon wish to tell you all about this opportunity to build connections with our wider community and their chance to perhaps meet their future buddy:

We felt excited when we entered the Centre and we were pumped to play with the kids. We could see the blue shade sail and all the kids having a water fight. We could hear screams of joy as the kids rode their bikes and chased us around. We loved getting to paint, ride, draw, build and climb with them. At the end of our time we played with the parachute and got to sing and dance with the kids. It was really fun and we think it was a great experience for everyone!

Thank you to Thea, Cindy and the other assistants at Roscoe Avenue for allowing us to visit. We can’t wait to see our Day Care friends again on Wednesday at St Mary’s!

Reward Day
Last Friday we strolled to the Botanical Gardens to find hot chips and bubbly soft drinks waiting for us. The hot salty chips exploded in our mouth. We saw crazy energetic kids running and rolling around on the luscious green grass. Some of us explored the beautiful nature of the gardens and looked at the beautiful birds. We could smell the fresh air and feel the freedom! Suddenly the whistle blew and it was time to walk back. We had an adventurous amazing reward day and wonder what fun we will have next time!

ICAS Entries
International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) 2016
ICAS provides an opportunity for all students in Years 3 to 12 to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. It provides teachers, parents and students with comprehensive reporting of results in the areas of Digital Technologies, English,
Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing. The tests are an excellent preparation for national tests and the student report is useful for highlighting your child’s strengths and weaknesses. All students receive a certificate and an individual student report indicating which questions they answered correctly and their score compared with the rest of the students tested. The certificate and individual student report are also suitable for your child to include in a portfolio. The entry fee per student and dates of competitions are as follows:

- Digital Technologies - May 17 ($8.80)
- Science –May 31 ($8.80)
- Writing - June 13 to June 17 ($18.70)
- Spelling - June 15 ($12.10)
- English –August 2 ($8.80)
- Mathematics - August 16 ($8.80)
- All competitions ($66.00)

If you are interested in your child participating in these assessments please collect an entry form from the Office. Entries together with fees are due by Friday March 18. Late entries will not be accepted. We hope to see many students taking on these challenges this year.

Chris Minney

**The Sports Catch Up**

School Athletics

**Please make sure you have read the note that went home Thursday night and is attached to this newsletter regarding the updated schedule due to the hot weather forecast for Monday.**

The starting time is still 9.30am, but we have a revised finishing time of 1.30pm. Please ensure your child has their hat and enough water on the day.

Division Swimming

We have 15 swimmers keen for Division Swimming being held on THURSDAY March 10th, at Aquazone Warrnambool. We wish our super swimmers all the very best for Thursday, we hope you have a wonderful day! Thank you to their parents for supporting them on this day!

Golf Clinic

On Tuesday Tony Collier conducted a Golf Clinic with the Grade 3-6 students. The students learnt how to grip the club, how to swing and had a competition to see who could drive the ball the furthest. The Parklands Primary School Golf Tournament is being held on Thursday 11th August, Tony used his expert eye to select a small group of Grade 5/6 students to invite to this tournament later in the year. It is wonderful to have our students experience a range of new sports and discover new talents! Thank you Tony!

Vixens!

A group of St Mary’s students attended the netball clinic with players from Melbourne Vixens last weekend!

We are thrilled at the wonderful start everyone has made to the sporting year at St Mary’s. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any sport related queries at school or email us at jferguson@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au or ecouchman@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au

Thank you in advance for your terrific support this year!

Mr Ferguson and Miss Couchman

Parish News

MASS TIMES – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Saturday 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunkeld</td>
<td>Sunday 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenthompson</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penshurst</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macarthur</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN MEDITATION COMMUNITY...

Our parish group meets each Wednesday at the parish house at 7.30pm. All welcome, especially newcomers.

Youth Group St. Patrick’s Day Dinner

Come along for an Irish themed dinner

and then to watch an Irish movie.

Into the West (97 minutes)

Hope you can attend!

Saturday 19th March at 7pm.
Dunworth Centre.
Gr. 5 to Yr. 12.
RSVP: John Hockey 0439 319 823.
Parents and Friends

**UNIFORM SHOP**

Opening time – Wednesday 3.20 – 4.00pm

Purchases can be made by attending the Uniform Shop on Wednesday afternoon or by placing an order with payment at the front office.

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>Jenny Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16/3</td>
<td>Michelle Ferey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/3</td>
<td>Volunteer required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Please note that if there are no parent volunteers there will be no lunch orders available on that day. If you would like to volunteer please put your name on the roster at the front office.

**Easter Egg Raffle!**

It is almost Easter time and we will be having a raffle again this year. This is not a fundraiser but a fun activity that all the children love. Half of the money received from the tickets will purchase the prizes and the other half goes to Project Compassion. Each family is being sent a book of 5 tickets to sell at $1.00 each. Extra books are available at the office. The prizes will be drawn on Thursday 24th March (last day of term 1). Please have your tickets returned to school by Friday 18th March.

**PASTORAL CARE**

Hello, how quickly the term is passing, this week we look at Consistency and Self-esteem.

No.7 Consistency

Consistency is the ideal. Having parents who agree on rules and standards and who convey the same sorts of messages and who value compassion over coercion, clearly has the best outcome in terms of children’s wellbeing. It is also important that parents not be open to manipulation and work together as a team.

Life however is not always so simple and we all know from sad and sour experience that parents cannot always be consistent. Sometimes parents have different value systems or cant come to a consistent way to handle particular areas. In these situations, a second possibility is for one parent to take charge of a particular area. This is not the most desirable solution but it is better than having parents in conflict over management issues or worse, undermining one another. In single parent families or where parents are separated the same principal still applies.

No.8 Teach the skills of Self-esteem.

Families that work well seem to praise one another a lot. Compliments are made, positive efforts are commented on. Optimism is in the air. Even in these families, teenagers still shrug and say “yeah Mum” or “yeah Dad” whenever a compliment is made. Teaching the skills of self-praise is useful. One way of doing this is to ask questions extensively about any achievement or accomplishment. Asking questions like “How did you do that?”, “How come you did so well at that test?” “What did you do?” and “Have you been doing homework behind my back?”

Again I hope these 2 points are of help to you, I know being consistent can be difficult in our busy lives but it does create a greater sense of security within our children which in turn can lead to better self-esteem.

Kind regards and have fun.

Lisa Gonnet
Pastoral care worker
0400 994 032

**U12 Football 2016 Registration Day**

Melville Oval March 16th 4-6pm

For Children 9-12 years

For new and existing players. Existing players must re register

Contact Daniel Hallam 0428129512 or Lachie McCrae 0418540790

Glenelg Region Hockey Association
Contact Sofia Vearing 0408 849 917 svearing@monivae.vic.edu.au