HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the last week of Lent, when we follow Jesus from Palm Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion, to his death on Good Friday in preparation for his rising from the dead on Easter Sunday.

God of love,
My prayer is simple:
Your son, Jesus, suffered and died for me.
I know only that I cannot have real strength unless I rely on you.
I cannot feel protected from my many weaknesses until I turn to you for forgiveness and your unalterable love.
Help me to share this strength, protection and love with others.

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

What a busy week – and a short one too! We have had much to celebrate this week at St. Mary's. Some of our students have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, others have proudly represented our school at District Athletics and we enjoyed everything green on St Patrick’s Day.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, beginning Holy Week, and provides us with the opportunity to take time to reflect on our Easter story and the gift of the risen Jesus. There are many services over the next week to mark the events of Holy Week. Everyone is most welcome to attend our Holy Week Liturgy on Thursday at 11.30am.

Enjoy the last week of Term 1!

Thank you for your continued support of our school.
Have a great weekend with your loved ones.

Terrielynn

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

Sun 20th
FAMILY SOCIAL AFTERNOON & EASTER EGG HUNT! 12.00 – 2.00PM @ BOTANICAL GARDENS BYO PICNIC LUNCH & DRINKS.

Mon 21st
Learning Walk!

Thurs 24th
Holy Week liturgy @ 11.30am
End Term 1
Early finish @ 2.15pm

APRIL

Mon 11th
Start of Term 2

Thurs 14th
Sacramental parent meeting – Confirmation – 7pm Dunworth Centre
Division Aths

Wed 20th
OLSEL family night!
- 6.30 Sausage sizzle
- 7.00 Meeting

Thurs 21st
Mini Vinnies Festival

Mon 25th
Public holiday

Wed 27th
School Advisory Council AGM
Attachments to this week’s Newsletter:
1. Learning Walk flyer
2. Prayer – Week 6
3. School Fees
4. Water Wizards

Advance Notice:
- Wed 20th April  OLSEL Family Night
- Fri 6th May  Mothers’ Day High Tea
- Fri 29th July  Grandparents’ Day
- Fri 2nd Sept  Fathers’ Day lunch
- Fri 7th Oct  Mission Day

Last Day of Term
On Thursday 24th March, our last day of term, we are having a casual clothes day, just for the fun of it! A reminder that school finishes at the earlier time of 2.15pm next Thursday.

Learning Walk
Parents and friends are invited to join us next Monday 21st March for our first ‘Learning Walk’! This is an opportunity to view and talk about learning throughout the school. The morning runs from 9.30 – 10.30am and includes a morning tea with the chance to ask questions about learning and our space. This activity is designed to build our connections between school and home which supports student learning and attitudes to school. See information contained in the newsletter.

Sacramental Program
Our Sacramental children have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this week on Wednesday and Thursday evening and also tonight at 6pm. Please support these children, and their families, and remember them in your prayers as they continue to prepare for this very important step along their faith journey.

Uniform
Term 2 brings the changeover from summer to winter uniform, depending on the weather. As the weather is quite unpredictable at the start of the term, please gauge the forecast yourself and make an informed decision on the uniform you will send your children to school in for the start of term 2. Notice will be provided in the newsletter next term regarding an official change to winter uniform.

Holy Week Liturgy
Parents, carers and friends are invited to join us on Thursday 24th March at 11.30am in the Learning Street. This will be a prayerful close to our activities during the last week of school as we recall and remember the story of Holy Week.

Project Compassion – Caritas Australia
As Pope Francis says “Education is an act of hope”, so this year Project Compassion celebrates the power of learning, and the many ways in which Caritas Australia is working with local partners around the world to provide vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice.

Hopefully your family has been working hard at filling your Project Compassion box during Lent. If you can please return your boxes to school by Thursday 24th March we will be able to send money raised off to Caritas Australia to support their work.

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

The Word on the Learning Street!
The school was a sea of green on Thursday for our St Patrick’s Day hat parade! The many and varied creations were absolutely stunning! Led by Mrs Water’s, the children from Prep to Grade 6 had made the most amazing display of hats ever seen here at St Mary’s and were very proud to model them.

Ride-To-School Day
The air was crisp and the dawning sun shone on Lake Hamilton as sixty-nine, yes sixty-nine, of our students gathered at the Skate Park with their families and members of our staff, to join staff and students from Monivae College, to take part in this year’s Ride-To-School Day event.

From the spillway, we made our way along, behind the lawn tennis courts, to Strahan Street and into the Monivae College grounds where we received a warm welcome, a piece of fresh fruit and a fruit box to kick start our day.

Our participants continued their journey alongside the Monivae College carpark, to our bike shed. This was a sight to behold; the shed was overflowing with colourful bikes! It was a most enjoyable event.

On behalf of our students, I would like to extend a sincere ‘Thank you!’ to families for supporting them and to the Monivae College VCAL students and staff for their organisation of the event.

We now look forward to next year’s event.

Kerry Stevens
**The Sports Catch Up**

**District Athletics**
We had 45 athletes compete yesterday in the District Athletics. We had a great day on the track, with many top 3 finishes in heats, and an equally impressive day on the field, with lots of ribbons adorning our school tent. Thank you to the students who represented St Mary’s terrifically and displayed brilliant sportsmanship. It was a hot and windy day but it didn’t stop us from trying our hardest and giving our events 110%! We will have a list of top 3 results and the students who have qualified for Division Athletics in next week’s newsletter.

Thank you to Alan Kearney for his wonderful assistance and support on the day. Also a very big thank you to Deb Fitzgerald, Lia Mailes, Brendan Roberts, Deanne McMillan, Annita Jones, Erin Cooper and Grantley Urquhart who ran the High Jump. We are very grateful for the support!

**District Athletics Age Champion**

A very special congratulations to Hugh Fitzgerald, who was the 9 Year Boy Champion! Well done Hugh! We are very proud of you!

**Division Swimming**

Well done to our 13 superbish; Eliza Armstrong, Taylor Bowie, Ellen White Libby Fox, Chloe Jones, Hamish Kearney, Ben Perkins, Amalie Rowe, Eliza Sobey, Macey Bowie, Stella Raymond, Caitlin Urquhart and Keely Burland. These students represented St Mary’s terrifically and they came away with some great times and great results. We had 12 results in the top 20, a fabulous effort! Our 11 Year Girls Freestyle Relay Team came 3rd and our 11 Year Girls Medley Relay Team came 6th!

We had Libby Fox (3rd Butterfly, 3rd Freestyle) and our Freestyle Relay Team (Libby Fox, Chloe Jones, Eliza Sobey and Ellen White) qualify for Regional Swimming in Ballarat, being held on Friday 18th March. Well done girls on this fantastic achievement! We wish you all the very best and will have your results in next week’s newsletter!

Thank you to Mr Ferguson who supported the children at this event. A very special thank you to Alan Kearney, Annita Jones, Jo Bowie, Rachael Rowe, Monique Sobey, Corrine Raymond, Ted Perkins and Kris Fox for offering their support on the day with timing and setting up.

Top 20 Results:
- Macey Bowie 14th Breaststroke
- Taylor Bowie 9th Backstroke
- Keely Burland 15th Backstroke
- Chloe Jones 9th Butterfly
- Ben Perkins 11th Backstroke
- Stella Raymond 20th Backstroke
- Caitlin Urquhart 13th Breaststroke
- Ellen White 7th Butterfly, 13th Backstroke, 14th Freestyle

**Taekwondo**

Sienna Maddocks had a very successful weekend in the Taekwondo State Competition. We are always so proud and so happy to hear from children in our school community who share their sporting achievements with us. Well done Sienna!

On Saturday the 19th March the Poomsae(Forms) team competed in Melbourne in a State Competition. It was held at the Hockey and Netball Center. In my forms I got a 5th place. In my jump kick I got a gold medal and in flying side kick I got a gold medal. Everyone in our team got a medal. It was a very fun and successful day!

Sienna

Mr Ferguson and Miss Couchman

---

**Assembly**

See you at our next Assembly
Friday 21st April at 2.40pm!

---

**Parish News**

**MASS TIMES – 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunkeld</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenthompson</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penshurst</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macarthur</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8.30am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**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

MEET, MIX & MINGLE

Come along for a social afternoon in the Gardens.
When: Sunday 20th March 2016
Where: Hamilton Botanic Gardens
Time: 12-2pm
BYO Picnic and Drinks
EASTER EGG HUNT FOR THE KIDS!

Home/School Partnerships
One of our aims this year is to strengthen our already strong and supportive home and school partnerships.
Each and every one of us is unique, and a valued member of our school community, with something to offer. The way we welcome, interact, work with, come to know and support each other enlivens our school community and enhances our students’ development.
So, an invitation is warmly extended to you, your family and friends, to share a BYO lunch together, where you will be able to welcome and introduce yourselves to those of us new to St. Mary’s, and reacquaint yourselves with those you already know - as the invitation says ‘Meet, Mix and Mingle! (Please see all the details above.) We sincerely hope to see you there.

Easter Egg Raffle!
Thanks for returning your sold raffle tickets and supporting our contribution to Project Compassion. The prizes will be drawn on Thursday 24th March @ 1.45pm (last day of term 1). Please have your tickets returned to school by Friday 18th March.

Canteen Roster
23/3 Volunteer required
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.

PASTORAL CARE
Hello, this week is the final week of the 10 Hints for Creating Resilient Families. If you would like to have more information please visit www.resilientyouth.org.au or www.andrewfuller.com.au

No.10 Parents are reliably unpredictable.
With young children it is important to provide consistency and predictability. This allows them to feel sure of you. After a while though, a bit of predictability can go a long way. To many children, most parents are about as predictable as a washing machine cycle. It is important to have structure and consistency but it is also useful to act in ways that your children wouldn’t expect. This keeps them interested in learning from you or at least wondering what you are up to.
Perhaps the most important feature of parents in healthy families is that they realise that all of the above is desirable but not always possible and so they look at how to promote good functioning while not wasting energy on blaming themselves for the times when things don’t quite work out as they had planned.
Well I hope these 10 hints have been of some use to you. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to make contact with me on 0400994032.
Kind regards

Lisa Gonnet - Pastoral care worker
Ph 0400 994 032

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.

TERM 2, 2016
SWIM AND SURVIVE ENROLMENTS
OPEN 20 MARCH 2016

Assessments (for students over 3 years, not currently in lessons):
- Saturday 19 March 10.30am – noon
- Monday 21 March 4.30 – 6.00pm
Cost: Pool Entry Assessment is only valid for Term 2, 2016.