January 30, 2015

Dear People of the Diocese,

Today the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse announced it would be holding a public hearing in May which will hear of the experience of survivors of child sexual abuse within our region. It will also examine the damaging impacts which the abuse has inflicted on the social fabric of our community and the families within the community.

The Commission has approached our diocese to provide it with documents relating to a number of former priests of the diocese. Naturally, we are fully cooperating with the Commission’s requests and all the documents it has asked for have now been provided.

If the hearing follows the pattern of similar hearings in other parts of Australia, survivors of sexual abuse will present their evidence to the Commission and then institutions will be required to give an account of their response to the abuse.

This will be a difficult time for all involved but particularly difficult for the survivors of abuse. Our prayers should be with them. I hope and pray that through the Royal Commission those who were abused as young children and whose lives have, in many cases, been devastated have the opportunity to be heard and experience some healing.

I am deeply conscious of the pain that has been caused as a result of sexual abuse by Catholic Church personnel. To those victims whose lives have been hurt and damaged by the abuse, I offer my heartfelt apology. I also apologise to their families and all those who have shared in their suffering.

I encourage anyone with a complaint of abuse to report it to the authorities. If the complaint is of a criminal nature, it needs to be reported to the Victorian Police through your local police station or on 1800 333 000. You may also wish to contact the Royal Commission Support Line on 1800 099 340.

I would like to assure you that our diocese has in place policies, procedures and training in the area of child protection for all Catholic Church personnel and volunteers and I give you my commitment that I will continue to work to ensure everyone, especially the young and vulnerable, is safe and well cared for within the Church and our schools and that those who have been hurt through sexual abuse are supported.

I pray that the Royal Commission’s visit to Ballarat will be very fruitful in shedding light on what has happened in the past, in providing help for those who have suffered as a result of the abuse and in assuring safety for children.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Paul Bird
Bishop of Ballarat
ST MARYS CANTEEN
2015

CHICKEN BURGERS, PLAIN (LETTUCE, MAYO) ...................................................... $3.00
CHICKEN BURGERS, LOT (LETTUCE, TOMATO, CHEESE, MAYO) ...................... $3.50
HAMBURGERS, PLAIN (LETTUCE, SAUCE) ...................................................... $3.00
HAMBURGERS, LOT (LETTUCE, TOMATO, CHEESE, SAUCE) ....................... $3.50
BOLOGNAISE ....................................................................................................... $3.50
SOUP (WINTER ONLY) ....................................................................................... SMALL $2.50
LARGE $3.00
PLAIN BREAD ROLLS, BUTTERED IF REQUESTED ........................................ $1.00
SANDWICHES OR ROLLS, WHITE OR GRAIN:
FILLINGS ........ HAM, CHICKEN, EGG, BACON, CARROT, CHEESE, TOMATO, BEETROOT,
LETTUCE, CUCUMBER, CREAM CHEESE, VEGETABLE, MAYO. AVOCADO WILL BE 50c EXTRA WHEN
ORDERED IN A SALAD.
PLAIN, ONE FILLING ....................................................................................... $3.00
TWO FILLINGS ................................................................................................. $3.50
SALAD SANDWICH OR ROLL, NO MEAT ..................................................... $4.00
WITH MEAT ...................................................................................................... $4.50
FRUIT SALAD .................................................................................................... $3.00
DRINKS
SMALL FLAVOURED MILK, CHOC, STRAWBERRY, BANANA, VANILLA ........ $1.80
SMALL JUICE, ORANGE, APPLE, BLACKCURRANT ....................................... $1.80
LARGE ORANGE JUICE .................................................................................... $2.30
WATER 600ML ................................................................................................. $1.50
6th February, 2015

Dear Parents,

As notified at the end of last year, fees for 2015 are as follows:

School Fees:
- Family: $1,025
- Capital Levy per family: $163

Curriculum Levies:
- Student Fee: $229

Excursion Fee: Camps and excursions will be charged to your fees when prices have been finalised. The cost of the Swimming program will be added to your fees in Term 4.

The Education Maintenance Allowance is no longer funded by the Government. However the Ballarat Diocese has maintained their commitment to continue the Family Fee Assistance Scheme. The scheme offers a tuition fee concession to families who hold a current Centrelink or Veteran Affairs concession card. Please note that students who are holders of Health Care Cards are not eligible. Families who qualify for the scheme will pay $520 per annum for primary school tuition fees. The discounted fee covers tuition and capital fees only. It does not cover additional charges such as camps, student fees, and excursions. Please find enclosed a brochure which outlines the details of the scheme. An application form needs to be completed and are available at the office. These forms, plus a copy of your current Centrelink card, must be received by Friday 20th February, 2015. If during the year your circumstances change and you become eligible for Centrelink, please come and discuss this with Helen.

Although a family may be eligible to receive a fee discount, families may choose not to apply for the fee discount and pay the full school fee.

No student will be excluded because of their parents’ inability to pay tuition fees. Fee relief application forms are available from the office and an appointment with the Principal can be arranged to discuss fee concessions.

Yours sincerely,

Jo-Anne Bond
Principal
Car Parked

Advised to put child on bike to school, prefer the bicycle and 5 p.m., this is the only way to ensure their safety.

If the responsibility of parents to work with their children on crossing a road.

A bike shelter has been provided at the end of the road. Bike locks are recomended.

Home corners. Bikes must be worn. Bikes must be secured as soon as students enter school. High school youth are provided at the end of the road. Bike locks are recomended.

As soon as you have parked in a corner to school, students are required to be in a bike or foot safety area (or even school gardens). This is a safety issue as the road cycle on hill does not lane. The right to the sign across the grass area (no crossing of driveways required).

Front the park from the beginning of the month the front hill.

There are no local catchments can we choose to walk to work or to work from home.

Walking and Riding

If you would like more information on the county of our services please contact the school.

- Office 01234 567890

- Front of the sign across the grass area (no crossing of driveways required).

- Front the park from the beginning of the month the front hill.

- There are two local catchments can we choose to walk to work or to work from home.
1-2-3 Magic and Emotion Coaching
St Mary’s School Hamilton

A Parenting program to create a more peaceful household, less arguing and fewer angry moments.

Are You Interested?

Great Interaction between parents

Easy to follow strategies

More Confidence

1-2-3 Magic and Emotion Coaching program is an easy to learn, easy to use, down to earth parenting program to help parents gently and firmly manage the behaviour of children in the 2-12 year old age range.

The program aims to help parents gain practical tips on how to get children to:

- stop doing the things that drive parents crazy like arguing, fighting, yelling etc.
- start to do things parents want children to do
- develop children’s emotional intelligence

1-2-3 Magic provides parents with strategies to sort between different types of behaviour and use less talk, less emotion which lessens both parent and child feelings of emotional stress and helps children to understand and better manage their emotions.

Date: TBC
Time: 10—1 pm
Venue: St Mary’s PS, Hiller Lane Hamilton
Cost: Free ($6.50 Workbook)
(Childcare can be arranged)

Register your interest—phone Marea on 5559 3000.
Raising Teens

A program for parents of children in Years 6, 7, 8 & 9

A snapshot look at:

- Normalising behaviour
- Setting boundaries & building resilience
- Identifying at-risk behavior
- Communication
- Tips for maintaining a positive relationship with your adolescent

Date: TBC
Time: 1.30-3.00 pm
Venue: St Mary’s Hamilton, Primary School,
Cost: FREE!!!!

Register your interest
Contact: Marea: 5559 3000

Centacare
Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Inc.
ABN: 51857084361
St Mary's Primary School – Absent Note

Date

Dear

________________________ (child’s name) was absent from school on
_________ due to ________________________________.

Signed ______________________ (parent/guardian)

St Mary's Primary School – Absent Note

Date

Dear

________________________ (child’s name) was absent from school on
_________ due to ________________________________.

Signed ______________________ (parent/guardian)

St Mary's Primary School – Absent Note

Date

Dear

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_________ due to ________________________________.

Signed ______________________ (parent/guardian)

St Mary's Primary School – Absent Note

Date

Dear

________________________ (child’s name) was absent from school on
_________ due to ________________________________.

Signed ______________________ (parent/guardian)
Dear Parents/Guardians

The best gift any parent/guardian can give a child is the love of good books and the joy and benefits of good reading. Children who read at home, or are read to, have a head start on reading success in school. Our school is participating in Scholastic Book Clubs this year. Twice a term during the school year I will send home a Club flyer with a different selection of books offered.

You’ll find award-winning books, as well as old and new favourites. I recommend them because the books span a wide range of children’s reading levels and interests and because they are inexpensive (some books cost as little as $2). It is easy to order. This Issue’s flyer is attached. Just look over the flyer with your child, select the books you want, mark them on the order form on the back of the flyer, and return the order form to the office with payment.

Payment can be made by credit card over the phone, and you will receive a receipt number to write on your order form. Cash and cheque are also accepted. Scholastics are offering for parents to order and pay for their book online themselves. Our school WILL NOT be participating in this, as we feel it will be too difficult keeping track of orders and books.

The books will arrive around two weeks after I send the school order to Scholastic. Owning your own books is something special! I hope that you will encourage your child to order books this year. Each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for our school, however there is never any obligation to order. I know of no better way to encourage reading than to allow children to choose the books they want to read.

Sincerely,

Jenni Taylor

0408346608

**Please note book club catalogues have a new look this year. One catalogue per year level. All your favourites have been rolled into one.

PS: For more information about the books in this offer, you can visit the Scholastic Book Clubs Web site at www.scholastic.com.au. You will also find great activities and resources for you and your child.
Tuition fee Discounts

In all Ballarat Diocesan Catholic Primary Schools, tuition fee discounts are available to families eligible for a means tested Centrelink or Veteran Affairs concession card. The scheme offers tuition fee discounts to both Catholic and non-Catholic families, to new and current students. Although a family may be eligible to receive a fee discount, families may choose not to apply for the fee discount and pay the full school fee.

The Family Fee Assistance Scheme will be implemented across all Ballarat Diocesan Catholic Primary Schools. Families that qualify for the scheme will pay $520 per annum ($10 per week) for primary school tuition fees.

The discounted fee covers tuition and capital fees only. It does not cover additional charges such as camps, book hire, student levies; however, parents may approach the principal as it may be possible to have these additional charges discounted. If you are receiving the Family Fee Assistance tuition fee discount, your child will be able to take part in school activities, trips and excursions, however, you may be required to pay for activities which require additional payment.

To access this scheme you will need to go through the school's normal enrolment procedures in order to gain a place for your child at the school. Once a position had been confirmed, you will be informed that Family Fee discounts are available; and to gain access to the discount, parents or guardians will need to show a valid card and complete a simple application form.

It is expected the Scheme will continue to operate for the length of the child's enrolment at the school whilst a family is eligible for a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs concession card.
Eligibility

For the purposes of this Scheme, a Parent/Carer must hold a means-tested Centrelink or Veteran Affairs concession card. Centrelink issues a number of cards for a variety of reasons. For some cards the income test requirements are stringent whilst for other cards they are more generous or non-existent. The aim of the Scheme is to assist families with limited financial resources and therefore, only cards with the lower income test requirements are automatically eligible. Please note that students who are holders of Health Care Cards are not eligible.

If you receive a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs concession card at any stage during the school year, the reduced fee will apply on a prorata basis. For example, if you receive the card in June you will be charged two terms at the full rate and two terms at the reduced rate. If you pay the tuition fee for the whole year and your card is no longer valid or is not renewed, you should inform the school immediately once the card is no longer valid. A new account will be issued.

If you are not eligible for the Family Fee Assistance discount yet are experiencing financial difficulties, you should apply for fee assistance through the school principal. You will be asked to provide information to assist the school in assessing your individual claim for assistance.