On Mission day we pray to our God
- we pray for those who struggle,
  those who suffer,
  those who are in need
- and for those who dedicate their lives to helping them.
  We also pray for ourselves,
  that we become more aware
  of how blessed we are
  and more aware of our abilities
  to look after our neighbours.
  Amen

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

We are set for a big day to mark our efforts to support
the work of Catholic Mission. We have had a major
focus on teaching the students about the ‘why’
aspect of raising money to give meaning and context
to their efforts. Teachers in each area of the school
worked with their students on one principle of Catholic
social teaching and linked their activities for Mission
Day to the learning which took place.
Today is a great opportunity for our school community
to make a difference – not only to those whose life is
hard but also to ourselves.
In raising our awareness, understanding and a few dollars we hopefully make our world a better place. Many, many thanks to all families for your support of our efforts, your generosity in providing items and materials for the activities and for supporting the students’ fundraising efforts. You are marvellous!

Thanks for a great week!
God bless you! @ Jo-Anne

Advance notice:
- Wed 19th Dec Last day for students
- Thurs 20th Dec Pupil free day
- Thurs 20th Dec Last day for staff

Lost Property
The lost property basket is overflowing with hundreds of dollars – all in the shape of misplaced jumpers, jackets, containers… Please take a moment to see if any of them belong at your place. Please also ensure that all belongings that are removable have a name on them!

A few reminders
- Please make sure you look over your right shoulder as you are leaving the drop off/pick up zone. There have been a few close calls lately.
- Please park if your child is not ready in the pick up area and you are holding up the rest of the line.
- Adults are not to stop and get out of the car in the pick up/drop off zone. If your child needs assistance please park.

Learning Journals
Hopefully you have had an opportunity to celebrate the great record of Term 3 learning contained in Learning Journals. Please take a moment to write an encouraging message on the parent page and return them to school as soon as possible.

Numeracy Testing
The week beginning Monday 3rd December will be used by teachers to conduct numeracy testing with all students while they are at school learning. During the week classes will be supported by our non-classroom teaching staff.

Our program for this week is currently being planned and will provide all students with a range of different learning opportunities and experiences that we hope will result in wonderful engagement, fun and learning. A great deal of emphasis is being placed on the learning to be gained during the week – even though it is getting close to the end of Term!

If your child is not going to be at school during this week please let Chris Minney know as soon as possible so that we have the opportunity to complete their testing at another time.

2019 Planning
We have already begun our planning for next year and are quite excited about the opportunities for staff and students ahead. As enrolment numbers play a major part in this process please let Jo-Anne know as soon as possible if your family is not returning in 2019. We are still receiving enrolments for all grades so if you know of families wishing to begin at St Mary’s please let Jo-Anne know or ask them to contact the school.

Over the next few weeks teachers will be having days to write student reports and plan for next year. On these days classes will be taught by our valued casual teachers.

Parish News

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<th>MASS TIMES – 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton:</td>
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<td>Saturday 6pm</td>
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<td>Sunday 10.30am</td>
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<td>Dunkeld:</td>
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Canteen Roster

31/10/2018 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
07/10/2018 Jodie Nicholson
14/11/2018 Cass Young

- Can you help with our Canteen Roster?
- If you are interested in finding out what is involved, please contact the office.
- Please remember if we do not have volunteers we cannot run the canteen.

Assembly

Assemblies are held every second Friday in our Learning Street @ 2.40pm.

Our next assembly will be Friday 2nd November. All welcome!

Lost Uniform
Could parents please check the name tags of their child’s jumpers. Alex Juby has misplaced his, or another student may have pick it up unawares.
Our St. Mary’s Christmas Expo, is our annual community event & major fundraiser. This year’s Christmas Expo, will be our 26th event and will be held on Saturday, 1st December, 2018 at the Hamilton Performing Arts Centre (P.A.C.) in Brown Street.

This year’s theme is ‘Christmas’ – Celebrating 26 Years!

As a valued member of this community you are encouraged to become involved. This year’s Christmas Expo, Committee and Team Leaders welcome and need your support both before this event and on the day. They are only too happy to share their experience and will answer any questions you may have about our annual Christmas Expo.

- **The Family Volunteer** - This form has been sent home today, formally asking where your family would be willing to assist. There are many ways you can share your gifts and talents. Your involvement and contribution will be greatly appreciated. Please think about how you will be able to take part, fill in the Family Volunteer form and return it as soon as possible, Friday 9th November, 2018.

- **Raffle Books** – have been sent home today with 10 tickets per family to sell. There are great prizes to be won, so we encourage you to encourage others to purchase a ticket for the chance to win. Remember you have to be in it to win it!

- **Gourmet Gifts Stall** – We are asking for donations of Christmas fare - shortbread, biscuits, Rocky Road, Coconut Ice, jam, sauces, chutneys, pickles etc., Or flour, sherry, cranberries, white chocolate, pistachios and items that our cooks can use to create edible gifts.

- **Gift Baskets/Boxes** – You are encouraged to return your Gift Basket or Box as soon as you have filled it.

- **Advertising** – Keep an eye for our new look poster!

- **Second-Hand Books Stall** – Preloved books in good condition can be left at our school office.

If you have any questions or require any further information regarding our 26th Christmas Expo, please make contact either in person, by telephone on 55519000 or send an email to expo@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au.

Together, let’s make this year’s event a memorable one!

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**PASTORAL CARE**

Good Morning, I am continuing this week with “The building blocks of healthy family relationships “taken from the Kids Matter website, the link is given here: https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/health-and-community/family-matters/family-relationships/building-blocks-healthy-family

**Healthy family relationships—what are they?**

(continued)

One study asked different types of Australian families to suggest what they considered to be the qualities that made their families strong even when facing difficulties. Eight characteristics were identified:

- **Family strengths as identified by Australian families:**
  - **Communication:** Listening to each other and communicating with openness and honesty
  - **Togetherness:** Sharing similar values and beliefs that create a sense of belonging and bonding
  - **Sharing activities:** Spending time together doing things they enjoy (e.g., sports, reading, camping or playing games)
  - **Affection:** Showing affection and care regularly through words, hugs, kisses and thoughtfulness
  - **Support:** Offering and asking for support, with family members knowing they will receive help, encouragement and reassurance from one another
  - **Acceptance:** Understanding, respecting and appreciating each family member’s unique qualities
  - **Commitment:** Seeing family wellbeing as a first priority and acting accordingly with commitment and loyalty
  - **Resilience:** Being able to tolerate difficulties and adapt to changing situations in positive ways.

Families also identified that the biggest challenges for family relationships were communication breakdown, parenting issues and difficult relationship patterns. To build stronger family relationships, it helps to first recognise family strengths before working on challenges.

Next week we will continue with: Children benefit from healthy family relationships.

Have a wonderful week, as hopefully the weather improves!

Kind regards, Lisa Gonnet
Schools Pastoral Care worker
0400 994 032

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**THE SPORT CATCH UP**

State Athletics!!

Congratulations and good luck to Tiago & Grace who will be competing in the in the State Athletics championships on Monday!! What an incredible achievement! We wish you both all the very best!
Walk to School
Walk to School will come to an end next Friday 2nd November, as we finish the month of October. Prizes for students who have changed their behaviour and/or attitudes towards daily physical activity will be announced at Friday’s assembly.

Photos from the grade 5/6 camp