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WEEK 10 TERM 4 NEWSLETTER Wednesday 8th December 2021

Dear Families,

ATHOLIC PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome to Week 10 everyone. Today we held our beautiful Candle Ceremony, where our current student leaders handed over the flame of leadership and responsibility to our student leaders of 2022. Sadly our community could not be in attendance, but everyone was certainly present in spirit. A video of the Ceremony will be shared via SeeSaw soon. Light is a very important symbol to us as a Catholic community. When we are baptised our Baptismal Candle is lit using the flame from the Easter Candle. At Pentecost the followers of Jesus received the Holy Spirit in the form of a flame that came to rest on each of them. The message to the followers of Jesus was that He is the Light of the World and they will carry this light forward. As Catholics we receive the Holy Spirit at Confirmation. During Advent, we wait patiently for Jesus, the Light of the World to be born. Many thanks to our Religious Education Leader & 5/6 Teacher Ms Dorothy Mash and 5/6 Teachers Ms Emma Crotty, Mrs Daniela Lazzaro and Ms Lara Beltrame for preparing such a moving ceremony.

Our student leaders are to be commended for the excellent job they have done throughout 2021 in leading our school in so many ways in very challenging circumstances. They have left a great legacy for those that follow.

It is with pleasure that I announce that our School Captains for 2022 are Aranya Ramawickrama and Manmeet Bachhal. Our Vice Captains are Scholastica Nguyen and Luca Marchio. These four have impressed the staff of St Mark's over a number of years with their attitude to learning and their ability to be great role models to others. I'm sure their parents are very proud of them and I wish them all well as they take on this important task in 2022. Our current Gr5 students will have the opportunity to apply for all other student positions of leadership in early 2022.

Farewell – After over four decades of dedicated service to Catholic Education, Ms Maria Rizza has advised me that she will retire at the end of the school year. While sad news for us, this is wonderful news for Maria as she begins the next phase of her life, where she will take time to focus on herself and her family, and to pursue her many interests and passions. Maria has been a vital part of our Literacy Team over many years, and her passion for literacy, early years education and kinder to school transitions is immense. Maria has touched many lives as she has quietly gone about her business here at St Mark's. Maria personifies the Mercy Values of Service, Compassion, Hospitality and Justice. Her impact and legacy here at St Mark's is immense and her professional, supportive and fun loving personality will be missed.

Maria's final day at St Mark's will be Wednesday December 15th. On that day, at our Farewell Assembly we will have the opportunity to thank Maria for all she has done for the students and families of St Mark's over the past 13 years, and to congratulate her on her retirement after 40 years of dedicated service to Catholic Education in Melbourne.

After three years of dedicated service teaching in our Junior Area, Mr Oliver Nunan has made the decision to further his career by taking up a teaching position at Footscray City Primary School. We wish Oliver every success as he takes this next step in his professional journey and thank him for all he has done for the St Mark's Community. There will be an official farewell for Oliver at our Farewell Assembly on Wednesday December 15th.

Ms Teresa Xuereb has advised me that she will not be returning to St Mark's, as she has now settled with her family on the Bellarine Peninsular and has a teaching position at St Patrick's Geelong. We thank Teresa for all she has done in a variety of roles at St Mark's over the past six years. We hope to be able to host a farewell for Teresa in the new year.

We also farewell and thank Gr3/4 LSO Mrs Daniela Pes who will not be returning to St Mark's in 2022. We thank Daniela for her contributions to the St Mark's community throughout 2021 and wish her and her family every blessing.

Welcome – In 2022 we will welcome new staff members Di Manthos (Literacy Leader and Gr3-6 Literacy Intervention Teacher), Gabrielle Vandenberg (Gr1/2 Teacher) and Erin Buhagiar (Visual Arts Teacher). Each comes to us highly recommended and we look forward to them sharing their gifts and talents with the St Mark's Community.

In line with our KidsMatter philosophy of ensuring we are supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our children, the school has engaged a School Counsellor through CatholicCare for the 2022 school year. I am very pleased to announce that Ana Lea will be joining us in this role.

St Mark's Christmas Carols – We will be sending out a YouTube video link of our children singing Christmas Carols via SeeSaw next week. Our Performing Arts Teacher, Ms Lara Beltrame and our Italian Teacher, Signora Donna Salera are busily preparing the children for this special event.

Semester 2 Student Reports – Student Reports will go home to all families this Friday. These reports will provide you with a snapshot of your child, their achievements throughout Semester 2 and the many qualities that assist them in their learning. Congratulations to our students on their wonderful achievements throughout a very challenging 2021 and many thanks to our dedicated teachers who have worked so hard in recent weeks to produce the reports.

2022 Gr1-6 Student Assessment Appointments - Gr1-6 Assessment sessions will be held at the beginning of the 2022 school year as follows. **All Gr1-6 students with surnames beginning A-L will attend on Monday January 31**st from **8.45am-11.30am. All Gr1-6 students with surnames beginning M-Z will attend on Tuesday February 1**st from **8.45am-11.30am**. Students need to bring a snack, water bottle and school hat.

Friday 28.01.22	Staff resume – Office closed, no students
Monday 31.01.22	Office re-opens at 8.30am
	8.45-11.30am - Gr1-Gr6 Student Assessments for all students with surnames
	beginning A-L
Tuesday 1.02.22	8.45-11.30am - Gr1-Gr6 Student Assessments for all students with surnames
-	beginning M-Z.
	8.45am – 11.00am - Prep students commence
Wednesday 2.02.22	8.45am – All Prep-Gr6 students commence
-	Prep students dismissed at 1.30pm this week (no school for Preps on Wednesday
	2 nd)
Tuesday 8.02.22	All students Prep-Gr6 dismissed at 12:00pm for Getting To Know You Meetings

Commencement of 2022 School Year

2022 Staffing

Following is a list of the St Mark's staffing for 2022. Our Common Purpose is to provide opportunities for each individual child to grow spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically and academically. While there is still much to do in 2021, we look forward to an exciting 2022.

Students will be informed of their 2022 classes at our Step Up Session on Monday December 13th. Thank you to those families who have worked closely with me to ensure that we have been fully informed in the formulation of the Class Lists. Class Lists have now been finalised and are set for 2022. I am confident that all students will continue to thrive in 2022.

Principal – Peter Wilson

Deputy Principal & Learning & Teaching Leader – Alison Dean

Maths Leader & Maths Intervention Teacher – Kate Ballantyne

Literacy Leader & 3-6 Literacy Support Teacher - Di Manthos

P-2 Literacy Support Teacher - Susan Torney

Student Wellbeing Leader, Learning Diversity Leader & Kinder to Prep Transition Co-ordinator – Stephanie Nightingale LA1 Teacher (Prep) & Inquiry Learning Leader - Madeleine Wright

LA4 Teachers (1/2) (Mon, Tues) - Kate Ballantyne; (Weds, Thurs, Fri) - Angelina Kalessoglou

LA5 Teacher (1/2) – Gabrielle Vandenberg

LA9 Teacher (3/4) - Kyla Lancaster

LA10 Teacher (3/4) – Maria Barbanera

LA7 Teacher (5/6) & REL - Dorothy Mash

LA8 Teacher (5/6) - Emma Crotty

Physical Education Teacher, ICT Leader & Digital Technologies Teacher - Daniela Lazzaro

LOTE Italian Teacher- Donna Salera

Performing Arts Teacher – Lara Beltrame

Visual Arts Teacher – Erin Buhagiar

Leader Release Teachers – Daniela Lazzaro (Tuesdays in LA7); Lara Beltrame (Wednesdays in LA1)

Office Manager – Lisa Pevitt; Office Admin & Finance Officer – Fiona Roberts (Tuesdays & Wednesdays)

Learning Support Officers – Erin Meggs (Prep) Angela Azzato (1/2), Chantal Miceli (1/2), Kylie Smith (3/4) (+ Playgroup &

Library Technician), Carol Skouris (3/4), Susan Clark (5/6), Chloe Miller (5/6) & Bushra Giliani

Canteen Manager & 1st Aid Officer - Vicki Smith

School Psychologist – Ana Lea (CatholicCare)

2021 Mercy Spirit Award – This year the award will be presented at our Farewell Assembly on Wednesday December 15th.

Chicken care over the Summer Holidays – We require assistance with looking after our chickens over the coming summer holidays please. Ideally we need families who could take on the task for a week at a time. The chickens will need someone to come in every couple of days to ensure they have plenty of food and water. If you would like to help out, please leave your name at the office and I will be in touch to explain the procedure. Thank you.

Please keep our Gr6 students in your thoughts and prayers as they attend their High School Orientation Days over the coming weeks. This can be an anxious time for young people, but I have full faith that our students have been very well prepared by their families and teachers for their transition to high school in 2022.

2022 School Fees & Curriculum Levies – Families with outstanding 2021 School Fees and Curriculm Levies are asked to finalise payments as soon as possible please. Please contact the Office to finalise payment.

Update on the wearing of Face Masks - All staff, Gr3-6 students and visitors to St Mark's are required to wear a face mask while onsite, unless there is an exemption. Parents of Gr3-6 students are required to provide labelled face mask/s for their own child/ren. It is recommended that parents provide a number of labelled face masks so that children have spares if required throughout the day.

There are a number of lawful reasons for not wearing a face mask, including for staff and students who are unable to wear a face mask due to the nature of their disability, medical or a mental health condition. **Please provide documentation from a medical practitioner if your child is exempt from wearing a face mask**. A face mask must cover the nose and mouth. Face shields, scarves or bandanas do not meet these requirements.

The Chief Health Officer also recommends that Prep-Gr2 students wear a mask. Parents of Prep-Gr2 students please contact your child's teacher if you would like them to wear a face mask while at school.

Important Changes to Quarantine Requirements When a Child is a Contact at School

The Victorian Government has announced important changes to the management of COVID-19 cases and close contacts in schools, and other settings, as we reach the 90% double dose milestone for eligible people in the coming days. This means that students who are exposed persons (previously identified as close contacts in education settings) from an exposure at school, no longer have to quarantine for between 7 and 14 days. They can instead return immediately to school after providing evidence of a negative result from a standard PCR test to our school.

In exceptional circumstances the Department of Health may determine that close contacts in significant school outbreaks are still required to quarantine for seven days. In this scenario, students will be notified directly of any additional quarantine arrangements.

If your child becomes an 'exposed person' **while at school**, you will be able to send your child back to school if you follow these steps:

- your child isn't a household contact and is instead in quarantine due to a COVID-19 exposure at a school setting
- your child must get a standard test at your local <u>COVID-19 testing site</u>. If the PCR test is negative, please provide the results to our school; your child can then return to school
- your child will be strongly recommended to take a rapid antigen test at home on days each school weekday morning until you run out of tests. These testing kits will be available from testing centres from Monday 22 November.

Rapid antigen tests are strongly recommended for those students who have returned a negative PCR result and are able to return to school. They are a great tool for families to use to keep our school safe and ensure that positive cases are identified at the earliest possible time. You will get a pack of five tests and you should use them each day before your child attends school until you run out.

Families should also use a rapid antigen test whenever their child is visiting a high-risk location or setting during this period. This includes visiting elderly or immunocompromised relatives or friends. Thank you for supporting this important approach, which will help keep our school safe and reduce the disruption to the entire school community.

SunSmart at St Mark's - In accordance with our SunSmart Policy at St Mark's, a reminder that school hats are to be worn by all students for all outside activities in Term 4. Students can choose to wear either the School Legionnaire's Hat or the Bucket Hat. Hats are available for purchase from PSW – 2/283 Rex Rd, Campbellfield, 9303 7845 or <u>www.psw.com.au</u>. Please ensure hats are labelled with your child's name. Grade 5/6 students will be permitted to wear their special Camp Cap for the remainder of the year.

Hats For Sale – There are a limited number of School Bucket Hats available for sale at the Office for \$13.00.

Summer Uniform – All students are to wear Summer Uniform in Term 4. Uniforms are available for purchase from PSW – 2/283 Rex Rd, Campbellfield, 9303 7845 or <u>www.psw.com.au</u>. Please ensure you label all items of clothing with your child's name.

For the foreseeable future many restrictions will remain in place at St Mark's. I will continue to keep families informed over coming weeks so that we can continue to work together to ensure the safety of our children and each other. Thank you for your continued patience, understanding and support.

I encourage everyone to remain vigilant and to follow the Government and DHS guidelines we currently have in place. It's so important that we all do the right thing to keep each other safe.

If for any reason you need to enter a school building while onsite, **you must sign in using our QR Code**, wear your face mask and continue to socially distance. We ask that parents minimise their time onsite and continue to sign in and out using our Passtab if there is a need to enter school buildings.

Should you have any concerns relating to school operations, or the health and safety of students, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support.

As a community we continue to follow all the procedures and protocols of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS). Advice from the DHHS is that if a student or member of the community is unwell for any reason, **they should get tested and then remain at home until they receive their results. Please do not leave your house for any reason until you receive your results.** Further information on COVID-19 is available on the DHHS Website - <u>www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus</u> and the CECV Website - <u>http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents</u>

Thank you for your support in keeping our school community safe.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following people who are celebrating their Birthday.

Date	Name	LA	Date	Name	LA
11 th December	Joseph	10			

2022 Sacrament Dates

Confirmation – Friday June 3rd at 7.00pm First Eucharist – Sunday June 19th at 10.00am Reconciliation – Tuesday September 6th at 7.00pm

Our Condolences – We offer our heartfelt condolences to our Performing Arts Teacher, Lara Beltrame and her family on the recent passing of her dear Grandfather, Brian Rodgers in NSW. Please keep Lara and her family in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. May perpetual light shine upon him, May he rest in peace.

God Bless, Peter Wilson, Principal

'The St Mark's Catholic Primary School, Fawkner Community promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.'



St Mark's Catholic Primary School respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, learn, work and play. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



			TERM 4, 2021			
			DECEMBER			
Tuesday 7 th	6.00pm School Advisory Council Meeting					
Thursday 9 th	Yr6 End of Year Excursion to Funfields					
Friday 10 th	3 rd Sunday of Advent Liturgy – LA1					
Friday 10 th	Semester 2 Reports go home today					
Sunday 12 th	3 rd Sunday of A	3 rd Sunday of Advent				
Monday 13 th	9.15am Step Up 2022 Classes Orientation Session					
Tuesday 14 th	6.00pm	6.00pm Graduation Mass & Celebration				
Wednesday 15 th	4 th Sunday of Advent Liturgy – LA9 & LA10					
Wednesday 15 th	12.00pm	Yr6 Fa	arewell Assembly – Details to be advised			
Wednesday 15 th	Final Day of Se	emester	r 2 - Students Dismissed @ 1.30pm			
Sunday 19 th	4 th Sunday of A	dvent				
			2022			
			JANUARY			
Friday 28 th	Staff resum	е				
Monday 31 st	8.45-11.30a	m S	Student Assessments - Day #1 for students with Surnames beginning A-L			
			FEBRUARY			
Tuesday 1 st	8.45-11.30a	m S	Student Assessments - Day #2 for students with Surnames beginning M-Z			
Tuesday 1 st	8.45am	Prep	o Students Commence – Preps dismissed at 11.00am			
Wednesday 2 nd	8.45am Gr		-Gr6 Students Commence			
Wednesday 2 nd	No school fo	No school for Preps				
Friday 4 th	9.00am	E	Beginning of School Year Mass – To Be Confirmed			
Mon 7 th	Preps Dism	issed @	⊉ 3.30pm this week (No school Wednesday)			
Tuesday 8th	12.00pm		Students dismissed (Aftercare available from 12.00pm)			
Tuesday 8th	12.15-7.00p	m (Getting To Know You Meetings – Session #1			
Wednesday 9th	3.45-5.00pm		Getting To Know You Meetings – Session #2			
Wednesday 9th	No school fo	I				
Mon 14 ^h		Preps Dismissed @ 3.30pm this week (No school Wednesday)				
Weds 16 th	No school fo					
Thurs 17 th	6.00-8.00pr		Kids Matter @ St Mark's Welcome Picnic in the Park @ Parker Reserve - BYO			
Mon 21 st			2 3.30pm this week (No school Wednesday)			
Weds 23 rd	No school fo					
Mon 28 th			Full Time this week (including Wednesday)			
			MARCH			
Mon 14 th	Labour Day	Public				
Friday 18 th			of Action against Bullying & Violence			
Sunday 20 th	Harmony Da	•				
			APRIL			
Friday 8 th	1.30pm	9	Students Dismissed - End of Term 1			
Sunday 10 th	Palm Sunda					
Thursday 14th	Holy Thursday					
Friday 15th	Good Friday					
Sunday 17th	Easter Sunday					
Monday 18 th	Easter Monday					
Monday 25 th	ANZAC Day					
Tuesday 26th	8.45am Term 2 Commences					
Tuesuay 20"	0.40411					

Learners Of The Week

Learning Area	Name	
Prep	Scarlett - for being a respectful member of the St Mark's community. You showed kindness to the children and staff of St Mark's and we will all miss you. Good luck at your new school.	
LA4	Adya - for being persistent with his writing this term. Congratulations on trying your best to write interesting stories. Luca - for being a respectful friend to everyone in our class. Congratulations on being a great friend.	
LA5	Jovian - for being a persistent learner during Bookmaking. It is fantastic to see the initiative you took when writing your book. You should be very proud of your progress!	
LA7	Demi - for continuing to be a respectful learner by consistently following school expectations and showing a genuine respect towards your peers and teachers. You are always willing to take on extra responsibilities beyond the classroom. Well done!	
LA8	Rain - for being a reflective learner and putting thought into your self evaluation. You reflected on the year, your challenges and your achievements. Well done!	
LA9	Xavier, you've resiliently tackled many new concepts this term, particularly fractions. Well done persisting to make equal sized fractions and for using the language of halves and quarters when describing the number of parts. Rica, you have impressively applied courage to all of the recent growth mindset activities in SEL. You always rise to the challenge, persist with the tasks, learn from your mistakes and never use negative self-	
LA10	talk. Your positive attitude demonstrates your desire to succeed. Ezalena - for being a persistent learner by carefully measuring and cutting strips of paper to create a	
	Fraction Wall. Well Done!	
ITALIAN	Zak, LA8, and Anabel, LA5, - for demonstrating COURAGE / CORAGGIO during singing and dancing Christmas carol lessons in Italian. Your efforts enable you to shine - and motivate - your peers. You have made your Italian teacher very proud! Fantastico!	

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

3rd Sunday of Advent

This Sunday we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent. In the Gospel, we read about how John prepared the people for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ by preaching "good news to the people". During this season of Advent we are called to prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas, by showing examples of love with a joyful heart through our words and actions.

Gospel- Lk 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary- 8th December

On December 8th each year we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Immaculate Conception is the Catholic doctrine which says that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne, without original sin. May we continue to pray to Mary our Mother in times of need and when giving thanks for what we have in our lives.

Advent Liturgies

Each year level will be preparing prayerful celebrations based on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Advent Liturgies Timetable

Year Levels	Date
LA1	Friday 10th December
LA9 and LA10	Wednesday15th December

The Advent Wreath

The third candle lit this week is known as the Shepherds' Candle. This reminds us of what the shepherds did. They listened and obeyed the angels even though they were afraid and they saw Jesus and believed. The shepherds were excited to share their experience with others.











Year 5 & 6 Leadership and Year 6 Graduation

Today we had a *Candle Ceremony*, which symbolises the handover of leadership from our current Year 6 students to our Year 5 students, who will all be our Year 6 Leaders next year.

Next Tuesday 14th December we begin official celebrations for the graduation of our Year 6 students, with the Graduation Mass to be held at St Mark's Church at 6.00pm. We are pleased to advise that the parents of our Year 6 students and their siblings will be able to attend this event, as well as a limited number of staff.

On Wednesday 15th December at 12.00pm we will be having our *Farewell Ceremony* in the school hall, which is an opportunity to say goodbye to the Year 6 students and all students and staff members leaving St Mark's School this year.





God our Father, We give you thanks for bringing these young people to this special moment in their lives.

We ask you to accompany them as they face new adventures and challenges.

May the paths they take always lead to you and that Your Spirit will shine on them always.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus your Son. Amen.



Saints Club News

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Our local St Vincent de Paul Conference is asking for food donations to help the needy families with our local community.

The Saints Club will meet next week to coordinate this appeal.

Thank you for your continued generosity and putting into action

our Mercy Value of Compassion!

Please send in your donations with your child by this Friday 10th December

Food items needed:

Tinned Fruit, Jam, Vegemite, Peanut Butter,

Rice, Sweet Biscuits, Dry Biscuits, Juices





Ms Dot Mash RE Leader

FIRST AID MEDICATION

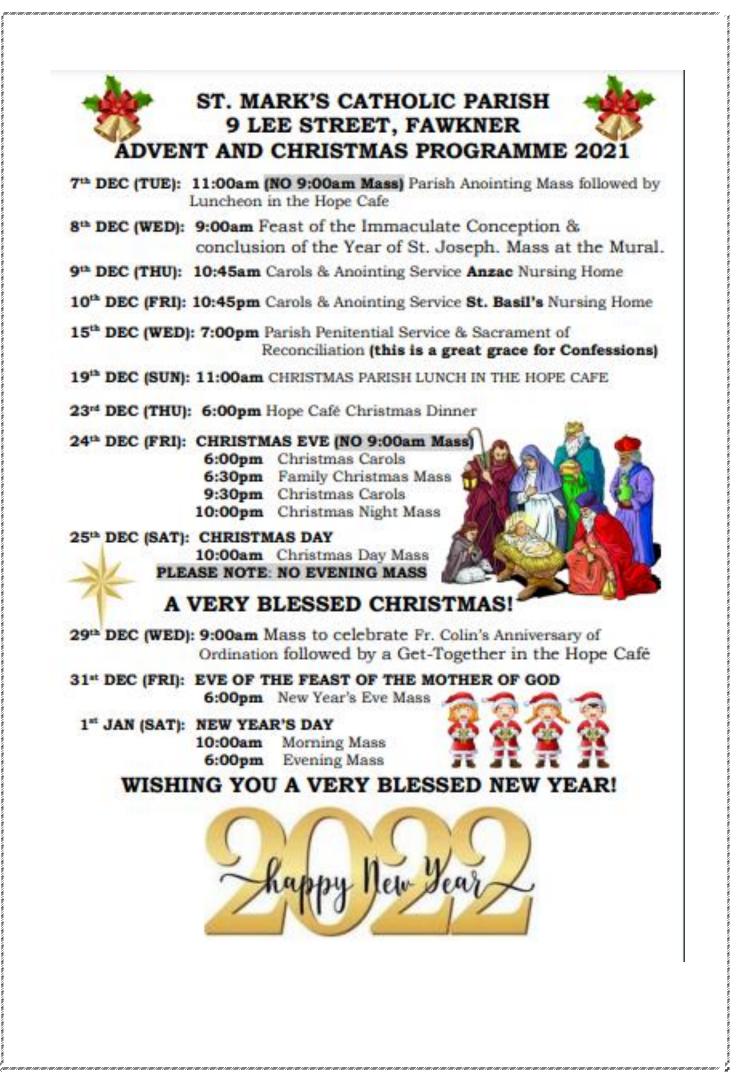


Just a reminder to Year 6 families and any other families leaving St. Mark's at the end of the year, to come to the office to collect any medication provided to the school for your child. Unfortunately any unclaimed medication will need to be disposed of.

Thank you for your support. We wish everyone a safe, happy and festive holiday.

Miss Lisa, Miss Fiona and Miss Rosemarie









Get into the spirit at the Bunnings Christmas Night Market. Thursday 9th of December from 6pm to 8pm. Celebrate and shop with your local community.

Activities and fun for the whole family

----SANTA APPEARANCE & FAIRY HELPERS----BBQ & Light refreshments provided Popcorn Raffle Petting Zoo Craft Activities

For more information contact us on 83718400 or visit www.bunnings.com.au/coburg

BUNNINGS warehouse

Join the Backyard Farmers Project in Fawkner

Do you have a large backyard that could be used to grow more food for the local community?

Our last pilot established two successful backyard farms in Fawkner. Growing Farmers have received funding to establish more farms so we are looking for Fawkner residents to participate.

In joining the project you will be matched with an aspiring urban farmer who will establish and maintain a productive part of your garden for 18 months.

Benefits include:

- having an under-utilised part of your garden transformed into a backyard farm
- receiving chemical-free, fresh
 produce
- learning growing skillsgetting to know more members
- of your local community.

Requirements:

- participate for a minimum of 18 months (January 2022 - April 2023)
- have an area available of at least 60 square meters of clear space that can be used for growing
- Have your garden accessed via the side of your house, with a water source
- Be enthusiastic about sharing your garden with a small number of local people.



mage: Fawkner landhost Sapphire with backyard farmers Catie and George, 202

For more information and to apply by 10 December: www.growingfarmers.org.au/fawkner-residents-info-page Contact: Alice Mathieu, Project Manager ph: 0408936271; e: alice.mathieu@growingfarmers.org.au

> Meet the team at our online info session: 3-4pm, Sunday 28 November

Contact Alice Mathieu to register



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our projects take place. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.