



WEEK 6 TERM 3 NEWSLETTER Wednesday 18th August 2021

Dear Families,

Last Sunday, August the 15th was the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary when we celebrate Mary's heavenly birthday - the day that she was taken body and soul into heaven. The Assumption signals the end of Mary's earthly life and marks her return to heaven to be reunited with Jesus. On this day we give thanks and praise for the holy and blessed life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. We celebrate how God has honoured Mary as the mother of all and welcomed her into heaven. At this time we also pray that Mother Mary will watch over and guide the people of Afghanistan during these devastating times and that the Australian Government will do everything within its power to provide protection and support. Hail Mary, full of grace!

As everyone is now aware, the Premier announced on Monday that the current lockdown has been extended until 11.59pm on Thursday September 2nd. This means that the remote learning processes we currently have in place will continue until the expected return to onsite learning on Friday September 3rd. We have received very positive feedback that the live lessons that each class has introduced in recent times have been warmly received by the students and families. As always, the wellbeing of all community members remains a high priority. I remain confident that remote learning in this way will not impact on the children's long term learning. Please contact your child's class teacher if you have any concerns for your child's wellbeing.

In order to keep everyone safe, the following events have now sadly been cancelled:

- Tuesday August 17th – Gr5/6 Parents Camp Information Session
- Tuesday August 31st – School Athletics Sports
- Thursday September 2nd – Celebration of Confirmation
- Friday September 3rd – Father's Day Breakfast & Assembly

We are conscious that the cancellation of these events is very disappointing for the children and families involved. We will provide all details of alternative arrangements as soon as we are able. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

I encourage everyone to remain vigilant and to follow the Government and DHS guidelines we currently have in place. I am aware that there have been a number of exposure sites in the Fawkner area, and surrounding suburbs, in recent days. A full list of exposure sites and requirements can be found at - <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites> It's so important that we all do the right thing to keep each other safe and to enable the return to onsite learning as soon as possible.

OSHC Update – recently I received the news that our OSHC Co-ordinator, Tila Ofamooni is unwell and will be taking extended leave to recover. I also heard that Rita Strachan, the President of Youth Leadership Victoria is unwell. Tila and Rita are great supporters of the children and families of St Mark's and we wish them both a full and speedy recovery.

Late in Term 2 some parents approached me to determine the possibility of Youth Leadership Victoria hosting a Holiday Program at St Mark's during term holidays. I have had initial discussions with YLV, and can confirm that they would be able to offer this service in the future if there were a sufficient number of committed enrolments to make the program financially viable, and a program that would have enough children to make it a fun and engaging experience for all. Due to the uncertainty of the current times it will not be possible to offer a program in the upcoming September holidays. I will continue to liaise with YLV to determine the possibility of offering a program in 2022. In the meantime, families requiring holiday care are encouraged to visit the City of Moreland website to access their holiday programs.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS) – This year we are participating in the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS). MACSSIS is an annual process where we listen to the thoughts and feelings students, families and staff have about how our school can improve. These surveys help inform the ongoing improvement of schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. MACSSIS data benefits everyone within our school and provides valuable community insights on areas that we can focus on. We believe it is important to encourage families to have a voice and contribute to shaping the ongoing improvement of the school.

The survey is only available online, can be accessed from Thursday October 7th and needs to be completed by Thursday October 28th. This survey may only be completed once.

For families where there may be more than one child attending our school, we ask that families **focus on the eldest child attending the school**. We invite all families to respond via this survey and participation is completely voluntary. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers – all responses are completely anonymous and at no point are any of the responses from students, families or staff identifiable by the school.

The survey is available in English, Arabic, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Tagalog and Vietnamese. All details on how to access the survey will be shared with families soon.

Intentions for 2022 – It's hard to believe that we are currently in the process of preparing our class structures for 2022. To assist, we need to know if any students (other than Gr 6's) will be leaving St Mark's at the end of 2021. If your child will not be returning to St Mark's in 2022 can you please inform me in writing as soon as possible.

2022 Prep Enrolments – Please tell your friends that there are still places available for Prep 2022 at St Mark's. I am available for School Tours, which can be booked through the Office on 8335 4100.

Catholic Secondary College Enrolments – local Catholic Secondary Colleges take Year 7 enrolments during a student's Grade 5 year. I encourage families of current Grade 4 & 5 students to contact secondary colleges that they are considering for their child, in order to determine enrolment requirements and cut off dates. **Yr 7 2023 enrolments (current Yr 5s) close on Friday August 20th.**

Update on New COVID Restrictions - All staff and visitors to St Mark's are required to wear a face mask while onsite, unless there is an exemption. 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 at drop off and pick up time, and also continue to sign in and out using our Passtab if there is a need to enter school buildings. When onsite learning returns, Drop Off & Pick Up arrangements will remain unchanged, with all students being dismissed at 3.30pm. 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 - www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus and the CECV Website - <http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents>
Thank you for your support in keeping our school community safe.

2021 Sacrament Dates

First Eucharist –Grade 4's – **To be advised**

Confirmation – **Thursday September 2nd at 7.00pm - CANCELLED**

Birthdays

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

Date	Name	LA	Date	Name	LA
22 nd August	AJ	8			

Learners Of The Week

Learning Area	Name
Prep	Verona Valentina - for being collaborative during Remote Learning. You did a great job at contributing to our big group writing class. It has been great to see you so enthusiastic in your Google Meets. Well done!
LA4	Jaidan - for being so resilient during Remote Learning. You attend your Google Meets with enthusiasm and are always ready for learning. Congratulations on continuing to stay motivated and positive during this time.
LA5	Jovian - for being a courageous learner during our Reading Focus Group. It is fantastic to see you persist and read confidently in front of others. You should be proud of the progress you have made. Keep up the great work.
LA7	Tiana - for being a curious learner during your Reading Focus Group lessons. It is fantastic to see you confidently making text to self connections related to Tashi and the Giant text and using evidence from the text to support the connections you make. Keep up the great work!
LA8	Ishaaq - for being a responsible learner and completing the assigned reading for your focus group and your enriching insights into the book.
LA9	Sandali - for being consistent in displaying great respect for your learning. You recognise how important it is to be prepared, punctual and persistent. Further, your daily posted tasks are always of a high standard and your contributions to our whole class meetings are thoughtful. Congratulations on setting a high bar for yourself!
LA10	Jolyana - for being so resilient during Google meets. You are always on time and ready for learning. Well done on being so prepared for each Meet and making fantastic contributions to discussions. Keep up the great work!
ITALIAN	Oriana - LA10, for being CORAGGIOSA in making a short, funny film in Italian. No Hollywood director could present vegetables like “carote”, “piselli” and “patate” as ‘entertainingly’ as you did! The home movie was a great display of your learning! Top marks for ingenuity: BRAVA!

God Bless,

Peter Wilson, Principal

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

TERM 3, 2021		
AUGUST		
Friday 20 th	Catholic Secondary Colleges Yr7 2023 Enrolments close	
Monday 23 rd	BOOK WEEK COMMENCES - Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds	
Wednesday 25 th	Book Fair – Wednesday – Friday - CANCELLED	
Friday 27 th	Book Week Celebrations	
Tuesday 31 st	9am-1pm	St Mark's Athletics Sports @ Parker Reserve - CANCELLED
SEPTEMBER		
Wednesday 1 st	Confirmation Retreat Day - CANCELLED	
Thursday 2 nd	7.00pm	Celebration of Confirmation @ St Mark's - CANCELLED
Friday 3 rd	8.45am	Return to Onsite Learning - TBC
Friday 3 rd	7.30am	Father's Day Breakfast - CANCELLED
Friday 3 rd	9.00am	Father's Day Assembly – Hosted by Gr5/6's - ONLINE
Sunday 5 th	Father's Day	
Thursday 9 th	3.30-6.30pm	St Mark's Art Show
Friday 10 th	2.45pm	Assembly hosted by Drumbeat Program - TBC
Wednesday 15 th – Friday 17 th	Gr 5/6 Camp to The Ranch – Cape Schanck - TBC	
Friday 17 th	Final day for students – students dismissed at 3.30pm	
Friday 17 th	2.45pm	Assembly – General (No Visitors)
TERM 3, 2021		
SEPTEMBER		
Monday 4 th	8.45am	Term 4 Commences
Thursday 7 th	Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd School Improvement Surveys Opens	
Thursday 28 th	Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd School Improvement Surveys Close	

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

This week's Gospel tells us about a good source of advice. Jesus was teaching in the synagogue. His disciples had seen how Jesus loved people and how he healed and comforted them. They believed that Jesus was holy and that the best advice they could find would come from Him.

Today, there are many reasons and times when we need advice and guidance and especially in the current challenging and difficult times we are facing due to the COVID pandemic. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in our times of need.



Gospel- Jn 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

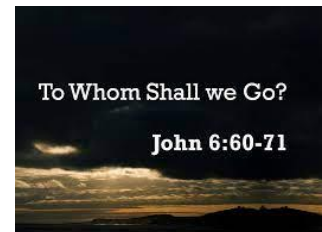
After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.
The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

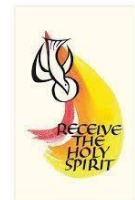
Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Sacrament of Confirmation

It is with deep sadness that the celebration of Confirmation will not take place on 2nd September due to the extended lockdown restrictions. We look forward to our Year 6 students celebrating this special time in their journey of faith at a later date.



Prayer in times of Need

Dear Lord

*We pray for your love and compassion
as we walk through these challenging times*

*We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load
of making decisions.*

*We pray for those who are suffering with sickness
and all who are caring for them.*

*May we also approach each day in faith and peace,
trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us.*

Amen



Ms Dot Mash

RE Leader

LOST & FOUND

There are two puffer jackets that have been handed in to the office. There are no names on them, one is black and one is blue. Please contact the office if they belong to you.



SCHOOL FEES

Just a gentle reminder that payment of school fees was due on the 6th August 2021. If you are experiencing any financial hardship please contact Mr. Peter Wilson to discuss.



MERCY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Our scholarship program is offered for prospective Year 7 students and at Years 9 and 11 for current and prospective students.

At Mercy, we believe that all students have the ability to achieve personal excellence.

Scholarships celebrate personal achievement, encourage growth and reward deep commitment to College life.

Academic, Music and Access Scholarships are available.

**Contact the College registrar via email or phone
to learn more about this and other opportunities available at Mercy College
9319 9299 or registrar@mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au**