

ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER

This Week's News!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, here we are! The final stretch of the school year! There is certainly a mix of excitement and tiredness in the air (among adults just as much as children!). Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Christmas picnic, art show and carols. It truly was a joyful and memorable evening.

A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful staff and farewell to those of our staff family who are leaving us. Mrs Andrea McPhee is retiring after 22 years of service, Miss Harper is leaving us and Miss Brierley who started as a student here, continued as an ESO and student teacher leaves us to begin her teaching career locally. We wish them all every happiness in the future and thank them sincerely for their dedicated service.

We also thank the wonderful Mrs Kelly and her dedicated team of Christmas Helpers for the vibrant and creative Christmas Art Show last week. Thank you to all: students, parents and staff for their spirited participation on the night. Thanks also to Isla's mum (and helpers) who decorated the driveway Christmas Tree; remembering Louis and his family this Christmas.

Yesterday we enjoyed our Annual Whole School Fun Day; always a highlight. With activities thoughtfully planned by all teachers, a very special word of thanks must go to Mrs McCormick, Mrs Kelly, Mr Glennie and our dedicated staff. A lot of fun and a lot of water were enjoyed (well mostly) by us all!

As we come to the end of the year, I find myself reflecting on the wonderful community that is St Mary's Primary School. We are truly blessed to be surrounded by such a generous, supportive and warm-hearted community who give freely of their time, energy and gifts. This final week and a bit is a chance to look back on all we have shared, offer thanks, farewell those moving on, and also enjoy the celebrations that come with wrapping up the school year.

On Tuesday, December 16th, our last day of term, we will farewell our Year Six students. I am sure the friendships formed throughout their primary years will remain with them for many years to come. We want each student to leave with a deep sense of belonging, knowing they will always be part of our St Mary's story. It is my hope that their connection with the school, the parish and one another continues well into the future.

On behalf of our school community, I thank our graduating students for the many ways they have contributed to and enriched our school. They will remain in our thoughts and prayers, and I am confident that as they walk out of St Mary's as students for the final time, they will continue to make themselves, their families and our community proud.

We also take this moment to farewell the families whose youngest child graduates this year and to those families who are moving on. We offer our sincere thanks for the various ways they have supported and strengthened our parish school community. Our deep appreciation goes to the following families who are leaving us:

Berka, Blackford, Cappellucci, Dunn, Frost, Grant, Laszl, Pace, Roberston, Skinner, Sorace, St. Mart, Tilley, Webb, White, Wilkinson, Wyngaard.

Please note that the SCHOOL GATES will be closed at 2:30pm NEXT TUESDAY. They will reopen at 3:00pm. This allows the guard of honour to take place on the school roundabout. We encourage all who wish to participate in the Guard of Honour to be here before the gates close at 2:30pm.

The COURTS will be open across the coming days to enable parking for the several events taking place including: Thursday's Year Six Mass, Friday's final assembly, Tuesday's Graduation celebration and the final pick up from school at 3:15pm on TUESDAY Dec 16th.

I wish you a very blessed Christmas and encourage you to join the St. Mary's Community for Christmas Eve Vigil Mass (5:00pm).

I pray that you enjoy a safe and happy holiday and I look forward to welcoming you all back on TUESDAY Jan 27 @ 8:45am.

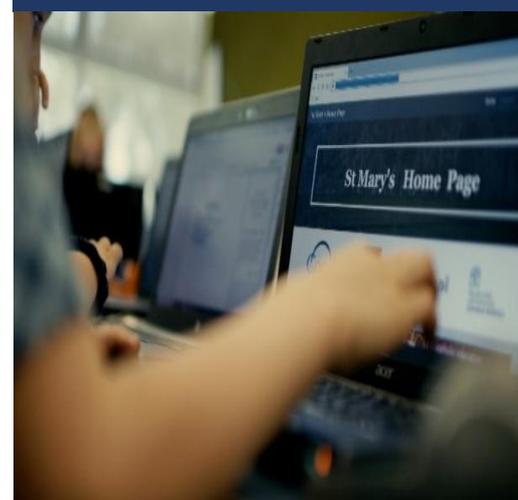
Blessings and best wishes,
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DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 4

- Gumbuya World Grade 6 Fun Day – 10th December
- Grade 6 Graduation Mass Thursday 11th Dec @ 3.30pm
- Whole School Mass Friday 12th Dec @ 11.35am
- Final School Assembly – Friday 12th Dec @ 2.15pm
- Last Day of Term 4 for students Tuesday 16th Dec @ 3.15pm
- Term 1 2026 – School begins Gr 1-6 Wednesday 28th Jan Prep – Thursday 29th Jan 8.45am - 12.30pm





WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK - Term 4 / Week 10

Mon 8 th Dec	School begins @ 8.45am Whole School Fun Day
Tues 9 th Dec	MLMC Year 7 Transition Prep – 5 Move Up Day
Wed 10 th Dec	Grade 6 Gumbuya World Excursion Prep Excursion Boronia Metro Cinema
Thurs 11 th Dec	Grade G Graduation Mass @ 3.30pm
Fri 12 th Dec	Whole School Mass @ 11.35am Whole School Assembly @ 2.15pm

WHAT'S ON 2025 - Term 4/ Week 11

Mon 15 th Dec	School begins @ 8.45am
Tue 16 th Dec	Grade 6 Guard of Honor @ 2.45pm Last Day of Term 4 – 3.15 finish
Wed 17 th Dec	Last Day for Staff
Thurs 18 th Dec	
Fri 19 th Dec	



School Procedures for the Bushfire Season

Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when an Extreme/Catastrophic fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Please see link for [Fire Danger Warnings](#)

CDF pay App (via Flexischools)

The CDFpay Portal has changed to a new platform using an app - "CDFpay via FLEXISCHOOLS App", available on the Apple App Store and Android Play Store.



To register and/or make a booking for your child in the TheirCare Afterschool Care Programme you will need the following information to complete the process and receive all available benefits. See website link below.

You can also contact us on
Ph: 0417 100 089

<https://theircare.com.au/schools/>

BAKERS DELIGHT

Christmas tart & cake fundraiser

LEMON TARTS 6 PACK \$13
FRUIT MINCE TARTS 6 PACK \$13
LARGE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CAKE \$25
SMALL (cupcake size) CHRISTMAS CAKES \$5.50 each

A portion of each sale comes back to St Mary's Fundraising

Perfect for festive treats or lovely as Christmas gifts.

Order through CDF online.
Orders close 11am Tuesday 9/12.
Delivery Friday 12/12.

St Mary's / St Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2025

✦ **Help bring joy to families in need this Christmas!**

This festive season, St Mary's is partnering with the St Vincent de Paul Society (St Vinnies) to collect gifts and donations for families in our community who are doing it tough.

♥ **How You Can Help**

- 1 Take a tag from the St Vinnies Giving Tree (located at the school office).
- 2 Buy a gift that matches the tag (age and gender).
- 3 Place your unwrapped gift under the tree by Wednesday, 10th December.

Together, we can share the true spirit of Christmas — hope, love, and community.

🎁 **Drop-off Location**

- 📍 St Mary's School Office
- 🕒 Open 8:00am – 4:00pm

Thank you for your generosity and for making a difference this Christmas!



Jesus is coming to save us

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Jesus told John the Baptist's followers to tell him all they had seen and heard. How did Jesus help the following people?

Blind People

Deaf People

Lame People

Lepers

Advent Wreath

Each Sunday during the season of Advent, we light a candle on the Advent Wreath. The candle which is lit on the third Sunday of Advent is pink. All the other candles are purple. Colour in the Advent Wreath.



IMPORTANT LINKS

- [Student Medical Authority Form](#)
- [Fees and Levies](#)
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- [Uniforms](#)
- [Unexplained Absences](#)
- [Child Safety](#)
- [Audiri \(previously Skoolbag\)](#)
- [Seesaw](#)
- [Nforma](#)



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL – PHONE 9736 2219
 FOR MORE ARTICLES AND [PHOTO GALLERY](#) visit our
 WEBSITE – <https://smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au/>