

Principal News

Nominate your best St Mary's School teacher [here](#).



Laudato Si' Prayer

Loving God,

You created all people to be equal. Yet, throughout the world many are struggling to find even the most basic things they need: food, water, safety and education.

Many poor countries owe enormous debts to wealthy countries and companies, and millions of vulnerable people suffer as a result.

In this Year of Jubilee, when we are called to be pilgrims of hope, we pray for greater justice.

We pray that we might do our part to challenge unjust situations that cause harm to so many of your people around the world. May we work to ensure that earth is truly a common home for everyone, shared by all and enjoyed in security.

May we be instruments of your peace and builders of the kingdom of which Jesus spoke in your name.

Amen.

Dear Families,

Laudato Si' Week, 17 to 24 May is a celebration held annually in May to mark the anniversary of **Pope Francis'** landmark encyclical on caring for creation. This global celebration unites Catholics to listen and respond together to the cry of creation, rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing Laudato Si' to life, as well as other opportunities for education and action. For Laudato Si' Week 2025, we pause and give thanks for Pope Francis and his gift of Laudato Si' to the world. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si' which will continue to inspire us to care for our common home and to respond heart and soul to **'both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'** for generations to come. We also celebrate Laudato Si' Week in this Year of Jubilee, inspired as pilgrims of hope.

Thank you to the families who consistently support their child/ren to wear their school uniform correctly and proudly every day. It makes it much easier for families when all students are wearing the correct uniform. If students are representing St Mary's School in sporting events, they are to wear their correct sports uniform. If they require additional items, Eg: netball dress, sports top, etc. It will be provided. **Non-uniform items are not permitted to be worn.** Additionally, over the last couple of weeks, we have seen a significant increase in the amount of students wearing makeup and jewellery to school. Please note that students wearing makeup will be asked to remove it with water and tissues in the first aid room. Students will be asked to remove jewellery, other than studs or small sleepers and asked to place it in their school bag. The school will not take responsibility for lost or damaged items. Students who wear incorrect socks will be asked to wear borrowed socks from our spare uniform supply. Please ensure these borrowed socks are returned to school, washed and ready to be re-worn. An additional consequence for students who are not complying with our school uniform policy, without an explanatory note from a parent/carer, will be the loss of 15 minutes of play. With family support, it is hoped this will not be necessary.

The student toilets seem to be a place where some students are not behaving respectfully. Wet toilet paper is being thrown on the walls and ceiling in both the boys' and girls' toilets. Some students have also drawn on the back of the main door. Although some student names have been reported to leadership, it is difficult to ascertain if it is these students. I have spoken, on numerous occasions, with all students on the atrium about our expectations. I would really appreciate it if all families would speak with their children about this issue and strongly encourage them to always behave respectfully in the student toilets.

At the heart of all MACS schools, including St Mary's School, are the teachers who enable vibrant centres of learning and growth – forming the head, heart, hands and soul of our young people. This is why **MACS** is partnering once again with the **Herald Sun** on its **Australia's Best Teachers campaign**, a campaign to recognise and celebrate exceptional educators across school communities and the profound impact they have in inspiring growing minds to discover futures filled with purpose. An expert judging panel will shortlist all nominations for entry into Australia's Top 50 Best Teachers list to be announced in June. **Nominations are now open to all MACS students, parents, staff and members of the school community to nominate their best teacher!** I strongly encourage you to nominate a St Mary's School teacher who has or is having a positive impact on your child/ren. **Nominations can be made [here](#).**

The Parents and Friends' will meet tonight. If you would like to become involved, please contact Sherryn.

Kind regards,



Annice Lappin
Principal

Deputy Principal News



Deborah Boland
Deputy Principal

Dear Families,

The **Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA)** has recently announced significant updates to the state's educational framework. These changes have started to be implemented in 2025, with the aim to streamline the curriculum and provide a more focused approach to learning. At St Mary's School we are delighted that the revised curriculum places a stronger emphasis on foundational skills in literacy and numeracy and additionally, there's an increased focus on Indigenous perspectives and sustainability across different learning areas. These updates are designed to better prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed for a successful future.

The first curriculum area to be implemented is Mathematics. Please see the information on page 3 of this newsletter which will give you greater detail about the changes that will occur to how we report your child's achievement and growth in Mathematics. This change will begin this reporting period for semester 1. Different curriculum areas will be introduced and implemented between 2025-2027 and we will continue to keep you informed of these changes.

Warm regards,

Deb Boland

Spotlight into Learning *Year 1-2*

This week, I will be shining a spotlight on the Year 1/2 level and their participation in an excursion to the **National Wool Museum**!

On Monday 4 May, our Year 1/2 students visited the National Wool Museum, where they immersed themselves in the fascinating world of wool production and textile manufacturing. This excursion perfectly complemented our Design and Technology curriculum, offering hands-on experiences that brought their classroom learning to life. Students participated in a felting workshop and learnt about the journey of wool from the sheep's back to its potential to create many finished products such as clothing fabric, carpet, soft furnishings and many more!

Students were captivated by the array of tools used in the wool industry, from traditional hand shears to modern automated machinery. The knowledge students had acquired in school prior to this excursion further enhanced their understanding of material properties and production techniques. The excursion provided a valuable connection between historical practices and contemporary design, and links will continue to be made throughout the term to demonstrate how we can use the design process to enhance and improve our daily living!

We asked some students what they had learned from this excursion and what they enjoyed. Here are their responses!

Nina Y

Our trip to the Wool Museum was such a great experience! I discovered that there are many types of sheep, and they come in all different sizes. One highlight for me was feeling real wool. I was surprised by how soft it was! I also really enjoyed exploring the old shearers shed and seeing the clippers they used in the past.

Henry T

During our trip to the Wool Museum, I discovered a cool way to make a colourful ball of wool. You take three pieces of coloured wool and layer them like a sandwich, with the middle layer placed in the opposite direction. Then, you put it in water and rub it tightly in a circular motion. It was really fun to do!

Emma D

I learnt that with electric clippers you can shear 300 sheep a day, but before they were invented you could only shear 30 sheep a day!!

Yowana T

I really like rolling the wool fibres into balls, and the museum tour was really interesting.





Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST MARY'S SCHOOL
GEELONG



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

Important Update: Revised Victorian Curriculum Mathematics Version 2.0

Victorian Curriculum Mathematics Version 2.0

Now fully implemented
in all MACS schools

Working towards our strategic goal to enable all students to acquire Mathematics proficiency, the revised curriculum makes it easier for teachers to assess and report on student learning.



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to inform you about the latest update from the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). The revised Mathematics Curriculum, Version 2.0, is now fully implemented in our school. Here are the key points you need to know:

- **New achievement standards:** The revised Mathematics Curriculum includes changes to the achievement standards used by teachers to assess and report student learning from Foundation to Year 10.
- **Aggregated reporting:** Under the new curriculum, teachers will report against the achievement standard as a whole, providing a single, aggregated score in Semester 1 and Semester 2.
- **Alignment with local curriculum:** Our school's teacher judgements align with our Mathematics Curriculum program.
- **Achievement and Growth:** The initial Semester 1 report will only show achievement, while the Semester 2 report will display both achievement and growth for the strands covered in Semester 1.
- **Holistic judgement:** As a school our teachers use learning evidence from the strands taught each semester to make a holistic judgement that accurately reflects where your child is on the learning continuum for Mathematics Version 2.0.

We believe these updates will provide a clearer and more comprehensive understanding of your child's progress in Mathematics. Further information will be provided about how your child's judgement was made at Parent Teacher Conversations at the end of Term 2. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Deborah Boland
Deputy Principal

National Reconciliation Week 2025:

Bridging Now to Next

From **27 May to 3 June**, our students will take part in learning experiences across both **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)** and **Core Knowledge** classes to deepen their understanding of **National Reconciliation Week (NRW)** and why it matters for all Australians.

This year's theme, **'Bridging Now to Next'**, invites us to reflect on how the past connects to our present and shapes the future. Through stories, art, discussion, and reflection, students will explore what reconciliation means, why it's important, and how we can all play a role in building respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider Australian community.

As part of student learning:

- Students will engage with the 2025 NRW artwork by **Kalkadoon** artist **Bree Battenshaw**, which features native plants as a symbol of renewal and strength through adversity.
- Activities will include classroom discussions, creative expression, and collaborative projects that promote **understanding, empathy, and action**.
- Resources such as colouring sheets, BTN videos, online quizzes and posters will be used throughout the week.

Reconciliation Week marks two significant milestones in Australian history:

- **27 May 1967** – when Australians voted to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the census.
- **3 June 1992** – the **Mabo Decision**, which recognised the traditional ownership of land by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our school is proud to support students in learning about these key events, and more importantly, in understanding how **reconciliation lives in our hearts, minds and actions** every day. Together, we are helping shape a future where all cultures and histories are valued and celebrated.

Let's continue to **bridge now to next** – with respect, curiosity and a shared commitment to walking forward together.



Bernie Hellard
Learning Diversity
Mental Health &
Wellbeing Leader



Nicholas Coots
Wellbeing Leader
Physical
Education
Teacher



Dr Moira Whelan
Provisional
Psychologist



Gem Chat

This week our GEM chat focus is **EMPATHY**:



Religious Education

This term in **Religious Education**, our **Year 1/2 students** began by exploring the significance of Easter and its importance in the Church's liturgical year. Students learned to identify the key events, signs, and symbols associated with Easter and reflected on how these celebrations help bring our school and parish community together. A highlight of this unit was creating an Easter Story agamograph, which beautifully captured the important moments of Jesus' death and resurrection through art.

As the term progressed, our focus shifted to Scripture and learning more about Jesus and His message. Students explored how God's people are portrayed in both the Old and New Testaments and reflected on how we can live out these images of God in our daily lives. Through the story of Pentecost, students came to understand that the Holy Spirit is always with us - guiding, inspiring, and giving us the courage to be followers of Jesus. To celebrate this powerful event, students created vibrant Pentecost flame paper crafts, reminding us all of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives and community.



**Sacrament of
First Eucharist (Yr 4)**

**Sunday 17 August,
4:00pm**
St Mary's Basilica



**Sacrament of
Penance (Yr 3)**

**Friday 21 November
12:00pm**
St Mary's School



Caitlin Steven
RE Leader

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5	MAY 19 PSG Meetings #2 Baptism Preparation Program	MAY 20 Division Cross Country	MAY 21 Foundation Library Visit PFA Meeting; 7:00pm Newsletter	MAY 22	MAY 23 Parish Mass 10:00am Foundation Students Football (Soccer) Incursion, F-2
6	MAY 26 3:00pm School Assembly (5/6 Turquoise) National Sorry Day - Reconciliation Week	MAY 27	MAY 28	MAY 29 Parish Mass 10:00am Year 1/2 Students	MAY 30 PFA FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY Football (Soccer) Incursion, F-2
7	JUNE 2 Baptism Preparation Program	JUNE 3	JUNE 4 Newsletter	JUNE 5 STUDENT FREE DAY Staff Professional Development	JUNE 6 STUDENT FREE DAY Staff Professional Development
8	JUNE 9 SCHOOL CLOSED King's Birthday Public Holiday	JUNE 10	JUNE 11	JUNE 12 PSG Meetings #3	JUNE 13 Football (Soccer) Incursion, F-2
9	JUNE 16 Baptism Preparation Program	JUNE 17	JUNE 18 School Advisory Council Meeting; 7:00pm Newsletter	JUNE 19 Division Netball	JUNE 20 Football (Soccer) Incursion, F-2
10	JUNE 23 3:00pm School Assembly (Foundation) PSG Meetings #4	JUNE 24 Dance Incursion (all year levels) Parent & Teacher Conversations; 3:30-6:00pm Division AFL9s	JUNE 25 Parent & Teacher Conversations; 3:30-6:00pm	JUNE 26 Parish Mass 10:00am Year 5/6 Students	JUNE 27 T2 Lunch Order Day—PIZZA; 1:00pm Whole School Pilgrimage <i>Details to follow</i>
11	JUNE 30 Baptism Preparation Program	JULY 1 Semester 1 School Reports sent to families Milo's Birthday; Foundation	JULY 2 OPEN Classrooms; 3:15-4:15pm Newsletter	JULY 3 School Choir Excursion (GPAC)	JULY 4 End of Term 2; 1:00pm Dismissal



Congratulations to all students who competed in the **Division Cross Country**, yesterday.

We wish Joel M and Olivia U all the best at Regionals on 19 June.



St Mary's School is committed to **Child Safety**.

We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

Links

[Staff Email](#)

[Family Handbook](#)

[School Website](#)

Parent Portal
password:
mary175



Facebook:
[@St.Mary'sPrimaryGeelong](#)



Instagram:
[stmarys_ps_geelong](#)



St Mary's School acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

Parents & Friends' Association

Second Hand Uniforms

Price List

BLUE POLO TOPS	\$5.00
PLAIN PANTS	\$5.00
PLAIN SHORTS	\$5.00
SPORT SHORTS WITH LOGO	\$10.00
SUMMER DRESS	\$15.00
WINTER KILT/PINAFORE	\$20.00
SPORT TOP (House colour)	\$15.00
JUMPER WOOLLEN or SPORT	\$20.00
SHELL JACKET	\$25.00
HAIR SCRUNCHIE	\$2.00
SCHOOL BEANIE	\$5.00
SCHOOL HAT	\$5.00
SCHOOL BAG	\$5.00

For information or queries, **please email:**
pfauniforms@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au

Payment via **EFTPOS** or **bank transfer:**
 St Mary's Primary School **Project Fund** | BSB: **083-347** | Account Number: **647087522** | Reference: **NAME**
PLEASE NOTE, CASH CAN NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED



2025 CONCERT COSTUME REQUIREMENTS



The 2025 St Mary's School concert is on **Thursday 28 August**.
Our theme is **A Night at the Museum**

Please find your child's costume requirements on this page and page 9

NOTES:

- Students will work with Mrs Rosati in visual art lessons to make extra costume pieces to wear with their coloured top and black bottoms
- Costumes will not come to school until Term 3, date TBC
- All tops and bottoms should be plain coloured and free from any logos or images (but tops can be turned inside out with tag cut off if needed)
- Items may or may not be available at listed stores
- Please send any questions to your child's classroom teacher as a first point of call



**FOUNDATION:
COSTUME
REQUIREMENTS**

UNDER THE SEA THEME

Blue or green t-shirt
(any shade except navy blue)

Long black pants
(leggings are ideal)

** No shoes required

Blue and green t-shirts are currently available at Best and Less, Kmart and Cotton On.

**1/2 TOPAZ:
COSTUME
REQUIREMENTS**

JUNGLE THEME

Brown t-shirt.
(any shade is fine)

Long black pants
(leggings are ideal)

** No shoes required

Brown t-shirts are currently available at Best and Less and Target.

**1/2 CRYSTAL:
COSTUME
REQUIREMENTS**

BUG THEME

Long black pants
(leggings are ideal)

Black t-shirt

** No shoes required

Black t-shirts are currently available at Target and Kmart.

**1/2 PEARL:
COSTUME
REQUIREMENTS**

DINOSAUR THEME

Long black pants
(leggings are ideal)

Red or green t-shirt
(any shade is fine)

** No shoes required

Red and green t-shirts are currently available at Cotton On, Best and Less and Big W

3/4 GARNET: COSTUME REQUIREMENTS

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN THEME



Long black pants (leggings are ideal)

White t-shirt

**** No shoes required**

White t-shirts are currently available at Target and Kmart.

3/4 ONYX: COSTUME REQUIREMENTS

80s / 90s THEME

Think fluoro colours, layers and accessories - fun and vibrant!



**** No shoes required, but can be worn as a part of the costume.**

5/6 TURQUOISE: COSTUME REQUIREMENTS

SPY THEME



Black t-shirt.

Long black pants (leggings are ideal)

Black shoes (school shoes are fine)

If students have a torch they can use, that would be great. Nothing precious or expensive.

****TORCHES DO NOT NEED TO COME IN UNTIL TERM 3**

Black t-shirts are currently available at Target and Kmart.

5/6 SAPPHIRE: COSTUME REQUIREMENTS

BURGLAR THEME



Black beanie (optional)

Long black pants (leggings are ideal)

Black and white striped top - long sleeve OR short sleeve. (width of stripe doesn't matter)

Black shoes (school shoes are fine)

Striped tops are currently available at Target.

5/6 EMERALD: COSTUME REQUIREMENTS

POLICE THEME



Navy blue pants (school pants are fine)

Light blue polo top (school top is fine)

Black shoes (school shoes are fine)

3/4 QUARTZ: COSTUME REQUIREMENTS

PICK A COSTUME!

This class can pick a costume that works for them, from any theme above.



**** No shoes required, but can be worn as a part of the costume.**

Community News










GEELONG

READY-SET-CONNECT

Make connections that **matter.**

Event Sponsors  Thrive 

FREE TO ATTEND!

'Ready-Set-Connect is a fun and engaging speed-networking event connecting disability service providers with the people who need them.

In this interactive format, service providers will showcase their products and services, while attendees discover local service options and make valuable connections, opening the door to greater choice and control.

WHO?

- ✓ Support Coordinators / Navigators
- ✓ People with Disability
- ✓ Parents and Carers
- ✓ LACs
- ✓ Support Workers
- ✓ Social Workers
- ✓ Case Managers
- ✓ Teachers

Register at: oncommunity.net.au/Ready-Set-Connect

WHEN?

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Wed 11 Jun 2025

WHERE?

Sphinx Hotel 2 Thompson Rd, North Geelong VIC

If you are a provider and would like to host a table to promote your services, please visit our website!

Get in touch with us

02 4003 4875

info@oncommunity.net.au

MSC 

GEELONG **JOIN TODAY**



CATERING FOR ALL SQUAD LEVELS, BEGINNER TO HIGH PERFORMANCE

MULTIPLE VENUES IN GEELONG

[MELBOURNESC.COM.AU](https://melbournesc.com.au)
ENQUIRIES@MELBOURNESC.COM.AU

School Reminders



THE MUSIC BUS

LEARN ON THE MUSIC BUS IN TERM 2 2025!

PROGRAM FEATURES:

- ✓ Skilled teachers
- ✓ Fun Curriculum
- ✓ Supportive Environment

SIGN UP NOW!  1300 168 742  themusicbus.com.au

The Music Bus classes at St Mary's School for 2025 - Enrol Now!

Classes offered are

Keyboard, Guitar, Drums, Ukulele, Singing

If you wish to enrol, please complete this Expression of Interest Form as soon as possible as places will fill quickly.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ee4627a5204c46158e1ab17e7c8069c6>

For more general information about the program, go to www.themusicbus.com.au



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— FOR SCHOOLS —

<https://chessforschools.com.au/>

TERM 2, 2025 - REGISTER NOW @
[CHESSFORSCHOOLS.COM.AU](https://chessforschools.com.au)