



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you embark on the exciting journey of introducing your child to Foundation Year in 2027, we at St Mary's Parish extend warmest greetings and best wishes for a fruitful and enriching school year. As one of four Parish Schools, we know that St Mary's Primary School is deeply committed to nurturing not only academic excellence, but also the spiritual growth and well-being of its students.

In alignment with this commitment, we would like to inform you about the Parish Foundation Levy, an important aspect of your school's relationship with our Catholic Parish. This levy, which is a separate charge from the school fees, is integral to maintaining and enhancing the resources, facilities, and activities that directly benefit your students and the wider Parish community. The Parish Foundation Levy is invoiced by St Mary's Parish and placed upon the families of every child entering the Foundation Year. It is a once-off cost for that Foundation child of \$260.00, and the purpose of the Parish Levy is explained below:

#### Provision of the Sacraments

The Parish Levy supports a variety of initiatives and services that are fundamental to the holistic development of your students, and these include the preparation and delivery of the Sacraments of First Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation in your child's Year 3, 4 and 6. These wonderful family ceremonies are held in the beautiful, 200-year-old St Mary of the Angels Basilica, and complement the comprehensive religious education that instills the values and teachings of the Catholic faith.

#### Community Service Programs

St Mary of the Angels Parish offers important community programs including the Parish Pantry – a volunteer-led registered Charity that provides food and essential items to more than 60 families each week. We encourage students from our Parish Schools to engage with our Parish Pantry, either by visits with their teachers to see how the Pantry operates, or from talks in the school by our wonderful volunteers. These events and programs foster a sense of community and belonging among students, families, and Parish members, and this is at the heart of the Catholic Faith itself.

St Mary's Parish also has a long-standing connection with its partner parish of Mary Immaculate in Viqueque East Timor. This connection began in the Parish Schools, and we are very proud that it has continued for over fifteen years.

#### Maintenance of Parish Facilities:

St Mary's Parish relies on donations from our Parish Community – of which you are an essential part – for the upkeep and improvement of Parish facilities that are used for various school and community activities, not least the maintenance of the beautiful historic St Mary of the Angels Basilica.

Strengthening the Connection:

The relationship between our Parish and St Mary's Primary School is one of mutual support and shared mission. By contributing to the Parish Levy, you are helping to:

- Enhance the Spiritual Life of your child through opportunities to participate in Mass, sacraments, and other faith-based activities that deepen their understanding and practice of Catholicism.
- Support Parish Services: Enable the Parish to offer essential services and outreach programs that benefit the wider community, including those in need.
- Foster a Unified Community: Strengthen the bond between the school and Parish, creating a unified community that works together towards common goals.

We understand that financial commitments can be a concern, and we are committed to ensuring that every family can participate in and benefit from the resources provided through the Parish Levy. If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or our Parish office.

We thank you for your continued support and partnership as we strive to provide the best possible educational and spiritual environment for your child. Together, we can make a positive and lasting impact on our school and the Parish community.

With warmest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Clarke".

Fr James Clarke  
Parish Priest

April 2026