
St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Newsletter No.5/22

Friday 29 April 2022



Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members

A Life of Love, Service and Sacrifice

In recent days we have paused, in the busyness of our daily lives, to recall and celebrate the Easter narrative of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection, the foundation of our Christian faith. Again, last Monday, we paused to acknowledge ANZAC Day, a day of national remembrance. The vision enshrined in each celebration is built on personal commitment to a way of life of love, service and sacrifice. Our challenge is to continue to embrace this vision in our daily lives. How do we do this?

We begin to do this by acknowledging that the human Jesus and the ANZAC's were ordinary people, like you and me. In their ordinariness they accepted the challenge to suffer and die for others. In their agony and in the face of death, they demonstrated an incredible strength of endurance which said that the spirit of bravery does not give in to despair. This is surely our challenge in the ordinariness of our daily lives.

We must be there for each other and support each other, especially in times of need. Like the human Jesus, and the men and women who forged the ANZAC tradition, we must be brave in the face of these demands, challenges, sorrows and agony that are integral to personal, family and communal living.

In a real sense we embody the life of Jesus and the ANZAC spirit by being committed to right causes and actions; by being people of bravery who are prepared to challenge the injustices and falsities of our time, and who are prepared to bear with the pain of life's daily struggles and challenges; by being people of tolerance and compassion who are responsive to those in need; by being people of hope and optimism who are prepared to lead dignified lives despite the cynicism, pessimism, apathy and despair of our times, and by being people of service who are prepared to look beyond our own throbbing needs in order to give of ourselves and our resources, and to make sacrifices for others in order to make our world a better place.

When we, the members of St Mary's Catholic College community, do these things, we remain faithful to and honour the 'Spirit of ANZAC'; our College motto: "Ready to Serve" and our humanity as a gift from our loving God. A God who calls each of us, as Christian people, to a life of love, service and sacrifice.

Rich blessings

Larry Keating
Principal

Enrolments are now being accepted for 2023. Please collect your Enrolment Pack from St Mary's Reception or download the Enrolment Application Form from our website:

<http://www.gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au/>

MINISTRY – YEAR 12 RETREAT

The Year 12 Retreat was held at the Benedict Retreat centre Gross Vale. The theme of the retreat was from the book of Micah 6:8 - this is what God asks of you; to *Act Justly - Love tenderly - Walk Humbly*.

All who attended were incredibly impressed with Year 12 students and the way they engaged in the activities, we also received VERY positive comments from the staff at the Retreat Centre about them.

The Retreat is a three-day experience which enables students:

- to pause from the “busyness” of everyday life
- an opportunity to strengthen friendships
- a time for quiet prayer and reflection in a peaceful atmosphere
- the opportunity to build and strengthen friendships and promote understanding between students and teachers to provide an opportunity for an experiential component of FAITH DEVELOPMENT that can foster a closer relationship with their God.
- to facilitate a time of reflection and personal searching in an environment of challenge.
- to facilitate sharing and a greater intimacy in relationships between students, their peers and staff.
- to provide an opportunity for AFFIRMATION from their peers

A fun ‘time-out’ for Prayer, recreation, songs, learning and play has been built upon the tradition the Josephite Sisters. This religious order has its roots in caring service for the disadvantaged and the education of young people.

The Retreat program allows the students to reflect on their relationship with God, Self and Others. The retreat aims to assist students in recognising the importance of holistic development and give further understanding to the ideal of 'fullness of life'. Activities are designed to open students to their spiritual dimension as well as fostering a sense of community and a heightened awareness of their own giftedness and that of others.



Reflections from the students will be published in a future Newsletter.

DeAnna Addicoat
Ministry Coordinator

SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN IN THEIR LEARNING

Holidays are significant in the rhythm of school life. They provide the opportunity to stop, rest, re-create and renew one's body, mind and spirit in preparation for a new term. It provides the opportunity for all students to learn from Feedback gained during the previous term and to begin anew.

It is the time to intensify efforts as the demands of their various courses of study increase. **By this time in the school year a commitment to the daily routine of homework/home-learning and study must be integral to students' daily work habits.** This requires self-discipline and a capacity for endurance on the students' part and appropriate parental support and encouragement.

Parents/carers, please offer your children positive encouragement and support in their home study; monitor their progress and regularly remind them to follow a realistic homework/study timetable and to engage in **a small amount of revision every day**. (See the following overview on Homework/Home-Learning). The research about the role and significance of parental support of children in their learning is very clear. **The children achieving better educational outcomes have parents who are engaged in their learning, who have high aspirations for them and who have positive attitudes towards school and who support the efforts of the school. Furthermore, this is how we give real meaning to our partnership in education.**

Parents/carers, please also remind your children that they have two excellent resources to support them in their learning and in preparing for examinations and assessment tasks. They are their **SCHOOL DIARY** and the on-line **STUDYSKILLS** handbook. Please encourage your children to use them. Better still, review each resource with them.

Our college's subscription details to the Studyskills Handbook are: www.studyskillshandbook.com.au – User Name: stmarys – Password: 106results

A new term offers rich opportunities for each one of our students to become more as people and as learners. Your challenge, indeed our challenge, as their educators (parent and teacher), is to offer them every encouragement and support to do so by striving each day to improve our own learning and support for them.

HOMEWORK/HOMESTUDY/HOME-LEARNING

What are our expectations at St. Mary's?

At St. Mary's there is a clear expectation that all students will do homework each school day. If no homework has been set on any day then there is an expectation that students will spend time developing literacy skills by reading and writing and improving their numeracy skills through the completion of Mathematical exercises.

There are expectations placed on teachers that what is set is reasonable, in terms of demands on time and the degree of difficulty; is purposeful; is followed-up and is compatible with a balanced lifestyle.

The school also expects that parents/carers will provide appropriate support to your children and their teachers in the homework process. A critical need in providing support is monitoring and restricting their access to digital technology (smartphones and iPods, etc) in their Study Space/bedrooms, especially 2 hours before they go to bed.

How much time should your child spend doing homework?

Consistent with research findings, the amount of time devoted to homework should increase with age. The following maximum time allocations are suggested for school days:

Year 7 – 1½ hours

Year 8 – 1¾ hours

Year 9 – 2 hours

Year 10 – 2½ hours

Year 11 & 12 – 3 hours

Do students have the time to do homework?

There **IS** time for homework. **Research clearly suggests that students spend more time watching television, playing computer games and using mobile devices, especially for social media, than engaging in homework.** It also needs to be recognised that schooling only occupies 13% of the working hours of students. There is the time for your child to complete homework. They may just need your support in assisting them manage their time more effectively. If you and your child are looking for added support in the time management process, a good place to start is their school diary and the Study Skills website.

What are the majority of researchers saying about homework?

- It is worthwhile
- The value of homework increases with the age of the students. **For high school students, it results in a significant improvement in classroom performance**
- The benefit is greater where it is marked and commented on by teachers
- It should be purposeful and meaningful, ie. the educational objective should be clear
- It should be short, frequent and closely monitored by the teachers to ensure that it does not undermine a child's motivation
- The positive effects of homework are higher where it involves rote learning, practice or rehearsal of the subject matter being taught in class
- Homework in which there is no active involvement by the teacher does not contribute to student learning
- Homework in the junior school assists in developing the routines and self-discipline required to be successful in studies in senior schooling, tertiary institutions and the ever-changing world of work beyond school

What is Homework?

- Tasks set by the classroom teacher to reinforce and consolidate work covered in class
- Research and investigation in preparation for classroom learning
- Planning and preparing for assessment tasks
- Reading for development of literacy skills. This could be for pleasure or study related
- Proof reading and editing work
- Reviewing glossaries of words from KLAS
- Working through modules on the StudySkills Handbook website
- Computer assisted learning, eg. Hotmaths
- Completing HSC examination papers available on the NESA website
- Writing reports, reflective journaling
- Preparation and revision of study notes
- Engaging in skills-based activities related to Courses of Study

What is Appropriate Parental Support?

You should not do the homework set for your child. Your child's academic programme must be their own. It is dangerous to their wholesome development to gain false feedback about the quality of their work.

You should support your child by acting as a facilitator of learning and giving logistical support and encouragement. This could involve:

- giving tips and clues
- assisting in the development of research skills
- **helping your child use the internet safely and sensibly**
- assisting your child gain resources from the library
- ensuring that time given to homework is consistent with a balanced lifestyle
- providing regular glasses of water
- providing a home environment that is conducive to completing homework and by consistently monitoring and affirming your child's efforts
- Ensuring student/s have access to appropriate equipment and resources for completion of homework. Eg. Diary
- Assisting students with time management and organisational skills
- Monitoring time spent on homework and provide guidance for appropriate family/school/life balance

- Encouraging students to ask for assistance if needed
- Liaising with teaching staff when in doubt
- Reviewing Assessment Handbook/s
- Providing positive reinforcement and encouragement
- **Understanding that there is ALWAYS homework (refer to What is Homework?)**

Suggested Activities that encourage the development of literacy and numeracy in the home

- Hot Maths – All our students have access to Hot Maths on-line
- Religion Journal
- HSIE Literacy Booklet
- Unfinished class work or set homework
- Independent reading programme – reading of fiction and non-fiction texts
- Creation of graphic organisers to assist writing in class – mind-maps, scaffolds, etc
- Reading over class notes to assimilate information
- Viewing educational media programs to extend student general knowledge about the world around them – current affairs, documentaries, news, special interest programs (ie. Science)
- Study – subject specific terminology (ie. Poetry news)
- Board games, eg. Scrabble, Monopoly, Boggle, Rummy, UNO, Chess, Trivial Pursuit
- Study Skills modules
- Crosswords, Suduko
- Creating word games
- Preparation of budgets
- Preparing a family menu reflecting healthy eating
- Reading and following instructions
- Building Lego
- Developing a study plan/timetable
- Discussions and debating

STUDYSKILLS HANDBOOK

Just a reminder that our school is a subscriber to the study skills website www.studyskillshandbook.com.au - this is a website with units of work on different study skills topics, as well as facilities to ask study skills questions, download podcasts about how students can improve their results as well as other resources and planning templates.

Each month new content and features are added to the site (you can see what has been added by clicking on the 'For Students' tab and then clicking on the 'What's New' button). Our school's subscription details to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au are:

User-name: stmarys
Password: 106results

Term 2 Staffing Update

This term we welcome the return of **Mrs Prue Owen** from family leave. Prue will be job-sharing with **Mrs Kate D'Arcy**.

An increase in the 2022 College population above what was expected has enabled us to gain an addition to our teaching staff establishment and **Corrina Oszko** will join our Mathematics team on a temporary, part-time basis until the end of the year.

Sincere and Grateful thanks extend to:

Our College Leaders and Student Pastoral Council representatives for giving so generously of their time and being outstanding representatives for our community at the Charlestown ANZAC Day Commemorative Service.

The students and accompanying teachers were:

Matilda Brown, Bronte Carrigan, Lucas McIvor, Poppy Carter, Georgia Hogan, Jack Griffiths, Timana Hill, Mrs Louise Hatcher, Mrs DeAnna Addicoat and Mr Ben Frize.

**Student Report – ANZAC Ceremony**

On Anzac Day students from the SPC and the College Leadership Team attended the ANZAC Commemorative Service at Charlestown Lions Park along with Ms Hatcher, Mrs Addicoat and Mr Frize. We heard from several speakers, the most memorable being two senior students from Whitebridge High School who reflected on what ANZAC Day means to them and their family members due to their family's history and ties with the ANZAC's.

We were honoured to be given the opportunity to lay a wreath alongside other schools on the stone memorial.

There was a great sense of community that shone through in the respect shown for the ANZAC's who fought for our freedom.

Lest we forget.

**Matilda Brown (Yr 11 SPC)
Bronte Carrigan (Yr 11 SPC)**



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – LEARNING & TEACHING

HSC News!

2022 HSC EXAMS – PERSONALISED INDIVIDUAL STUDENT TIMETABLES:

The 2022 HSC Written Examination Timetable became available on Friday, 29 April 2022. These Personalised HSC written examination timetables can be accessed via the student's studentsonline account <https://studentsonline.nesa.nsw.edu.au/>

In Week 10 last term, Year 12 students had the opportunity to check their Confirmation of Entry details and access their online accounts. It is **ESSENTIAL** that HSC students log in to check personal details, subjects and timetables. From 29 April, students should speak to Mrs Cathy O'Gorman, or Mrs Murray, if there are any errors, omissions or clashes in their timetable. It is important to note that while our school can download the full 2022 HSC Written Examination Timetable via Schools Online we cannot access a student's individual timetable. **It is the responsibility of ALL Year 12 students to check their timetables and enrolment details.**

Assessment and Reporting Semester One

As we move into Term two, I would like to take time to reflect on the nature of reporting and assessment here at St Mary's. Over the last two years, our Leaders of Learning and College Leadership Team have spent time reflecting on, and developing tighter consistency around, the nature of our assessment and reporting at the College. In reviewing our policy and practices a number of key pieces of advice have been taken into consideration.

The Maitland Newcastle Catholic Schools Office's Reporting Policy acknowledges and promotes a standards-referenced approach to reporting student achievement in NSW. It sees the primary purpose of reporting as providing meaningful feedback in order to improve student learning; consequently, **the reporting process must be an integral part of the teaching and learning process.**

Reporting here at St Mary's

- uses plain English
- reflects **a belief that all students can improve, progress and achieve success in learning**
- is valid and reliable with evidence based on a variety of contexts allowing for on-balance judgement
- includes comments and information about a student's achievements in relevant Key Learning Areas and identifies areas where a student may need help, and how the student can improve.
- summarises a student's progress, areas for improvement and achievement of syllabus outcomes at a point in time, based on a collection of evidence/data that is built up over time – through informal and formal assessment. In addition, our teachers use evidence of learning collected through formal assessment (sometimes called 'summative assessment') to **rank (Stage 6) and/or grade** students.

In summary, reporting at St Mary's is a formal process that provides feedback to students and parents **about a student's progress, areas for improvement and achievements.**

Year 12 Reports will be provided to parents and students in Week 2 and will contain information related to Course Ranking, Percentage of Course Completed, Achievement of Course Outcomes, and comments relating to attendance, uniform and approaches to learning. Teacher Comments also provide feedback and feed-forward, providing direction for future learning.

Finally, I invite parents and carers to attend our upcoming **Stage 6 (Year 11 & 12) Parent, Student & Teacher interviews being held ONLINE via ZOOM on Monday 9 May, commencing at 3.30pm.** Bookings will be via Compass and further communication will be sent to parents regarding this once Interview Bookings are open.

For Year 11 this will be the first opportunity to meet in relation to the recent Term One Interim Reports and first formal Stage 6 assessment tasks, while for our Year 12 parents this will be the final opportunity to conduct interviews (in a formal evening context) prior to Trial & HSC exams.

I urge all parents to attend and encourage you to enter into partnership with us as we focus together on our students and their learning. All parents are vital partners in education. You are a vital link between home and school and when involved in the life of our school, you make our school a better place where students can learn, grow and thrive.

STAGE 6 (YEAR 11 & 12)

PARENT STUDENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

being held ONLINE via ZOOM on

MONDAY 9 MAY COMMENCING 3.30PM

A further communication via Compass will be sent to parents re. bookings

NAPLAN 2022

Further to my communication in late March, I am writing to confirm that NAPLAN testing will take place at the College, commencing Tuesday 10 May. Year 7 & 9 students will sit four NAPLAN tests - Reading, Writing, Conventions of Language and Numeracy.

NAPLAN 2022 TIMETABLE

	Tuesday 10 MAY	Wednesday 11 MAY	Thursday 12 MAY	Friday 13 MAY
	Reading	Writing/Language	Numeracy	Catch-Up
Year 7	Period 1 & 2(part of) 65 Minutes	Period 1 WRITING 42 Mins	Period 1 NUMERACY 65 Mins	
		Break 10am – 10.20am		
		Period 2 LANGUAGE 45 Mins		
Year 9	Period 3 65 Minutes	Period 3 WRITING 42 Mins	Period 2 LANGUAGE 45 Mins	
		Break	Period 3 NUMERACY 65 Mins	

Following the Trial Online Testing in Term One, I commend all students for their excellent approach to the days and am grateful for the support given by parents in preparing for these tests. I wish to, once again, encourage **every student in Years 7 and 9 to ensure that they have their devices with them and that these are fully charged. Students are also required to bring their own earphones for the tests.**

If your child is sick/absent on the day of the testing, please contact the school in the morning as soon as possible. An opportunity to sit a catch-up NAPLAN test will be made available on Friday 13 May.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email cathy.ogorman@mn.catholic.edu.au if you have any further questions regarding NAPLAN.

Cathy O’Gorman

Assistant Principal – Learning & Teaching



St Mary's Catholic College Year 10 (Year 11 2023) Curriculum Evening

*Parents and Carers
are invited to attend our*

Year 11 2023 Curriculum Information Evening

7pm Tuesday 3 May 2022

The Josephite Centre

LIBRARY matters

St Mary's Library CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

Write a Story
(Max 5000 words)

Any Genre

USE ONE OF THE STIMULI BELOW

or

A STIMULUS OF YOUR CHOICE

(Please include Stimulus with response)

**Email your response (typed or handwritten and scanned)
to Mrs Dunn by 8th May 2022**



Winners will be published in SORA!

YEAR 7 NEWS

Year 7 News – Leader of Wellbeing

Despite the challenges that COVID restriction have presented us all, our Year 7 Cohort began and ended Term One with energy and confidence. Some notable events that displayed our Year 7's enthusiasm was St Mary's Swimming Carnival, Project Compassion, Backpacks to Lismore, Immunisation Day (much bravery shown on this day!), the Easter Raffle and the Year 7 Milkshake and Lunch in the College Café.



Caitlin, Sheridan, Ruby, Peppa, Isabelle, Lacey, Maddi and Macey all enjoying a milkshake at the Café!



Year 7's helping with backpacks for Lismore



Sam, Isaac and Seth at the Swimming Carnival



Rohan, Joe and Jake at the Swimming Carnival



SPC News

Congratulations to the following Year 7 students who have been selected as this year's Student Representatives:
Sonny Matzen, Oryn Murphy, Boycie Hill, Jessica Hall, Peppa Kelly, Sheridan Owen.



Looking forward to a great Term 2 – Here are some events to make note of for our Year 7 students:

WEEK 1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday April 27th 	Year 7 and 8 Girls: Tech Girls are Heroes
WEEK 3	NAPLAN WEEK – see requirements below
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday May 10th Tuesday May 10th Wednesday May 11th Thursday May 12th Friday May 13th 	NAPLAN – Reading: Periods 1 & 2 School early finish NAPLAN - Writing/ Language: Periods 1 & 2 NAPLAN – Numeracy: Period 1 NAPLAN Catch-Up Day: Period 1
WEEK 5	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date TBC 	Year 7 Grandparents' Liturgy and Open Day from 9.00am.
WEEK 8	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday June 14th 	Year 7 Formation Day: More information TBA.
WEEK 9	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday June 27th @ 6.00pm 	Junior Music Showcase – Year 7 and Year 8 Music Classes.

NAPLAN REMINDERS:

Year 7 & 9 students will sit NAPLAN in Week 3 on Tuesday 10 - Thurs 12 May.

ALL students are required to bring **HEADPHONES** and a **fully charged DEVICE each day of the NAPLAN tests**. This is an EXPECTATION of ALL students.

Year 7 students please ensure you have read **Mr Abell's email** and have the correct Lockdown Browser downloaded for NAPLAN. You will need to see IT or Mr Abell **BEFORE Week 3** if you need assistance with your password or downloading the browser.

ATTENDANCE

Many thanks to parents and carers who have been vigilant with notifying the College of student absences. Parents and carers are required to explain any whole day or partial absences (this includes arriving late to school in the morning) for your child. An absence is marked as “unjustified” if has not been explained within 7 days of the absence.

UNIFORM

Great news! – The College socks and girls’ ties are available at the Uniform shop for collection. The Year 7 students look very smart in their College uniform. Please take note of our uniform guidelines in regard to the following:

- **Shoes:** A black hard leather polishable lace up shoe with no straps or buckles. The leather must cover the whole upper foot but must not extend over the ankle. Shoes must have a heel however the heel is not to exceed 3cm. Shoes must not have a platform.
- **Jewellery:** Earrings single pair, sleeper or stud, may be worn in the lobe of each ear with no other visible piercing permitted. One visible plain necklace of gold or silver, one ring and one bracelet is permitted. No costume jewellery is permitted. No coloured nail varnish or false fingernails are to be worn.
- **Nails:** No coloured nail varnish or false fingernails are to be worn.

I am very much looking forward to Term 2 with our wonderful Year 7 students.

Ruth McCrae – Leader of Wellbeing Year 7

Sport – Surfest

At the end of last term, our dedicated surfers took on the howling on-shore winds, rain squalls, strong rips and bluebottles at Dixon Park beach to compete in the annual Schools Surfest Challenge. To say the conditions were tricky is a massive understatement. St Mary's entered 9 teams in the open school age competition, more than any other school and all students need to be congratulated for their involvement on the day. Our best result was our amazing young ladies who not only made the final but finished second to a very strong team from Tumby Umbi College. Members of this team were **Sienna Pitt, Lani Satchell, Luca Burge and Grace Hissey**.

See St Mary's Catholic Facebook page for more photos.... <https://www.facebook.com/stmaryscatholiccollegegateshead>

Congratulations!



Sport – Rugby League

Another great day for our Rugby League teams with the U14 boys competing in the NSW CCC Cochrane Cup at Aberglasslyn.

The day began with a tightly contested game against St Pius Adamstown. Through several exhilarating attacking plays and hard-hitting defence, the team led for most of the game before the scores ended locked at 6 - 6 at full time. The boys then played St Catherine's Singleton where unfortunately they were unable to continue their unbeaten streak, going down in a hard-fought game.

The team then rallied themselves for San Clemente where, after some strong runs and bone crunching defence, the boys pushed their opponents all the way to the final siren, eventually going down 12 – 4.

The day ended with our final game against St Joseph's Aberdeen where the boys showed great enthusiasm but unfortunately went down in a hard-fought loss.

All players were fantastic ambassadors for our school and are to be congratulated for their efforts as they played with great commitment and sportsmanship. Notable mentions go to **Wyatt K, Noah G and Toby H**. With a little more practise and fine tuning, the boys will now begin their preparation for their next tournament in Term 4.

Thank you to **Mr Dollisson** for acting as assistant coach and high-performance sports trainer today.

Keiren Knight
Coach



Bill Turner Cup

Congratulations to the Bill Turner Cup team winning their first-round game at Speers Point Park against Toronto High School 3-0 (Lachlan Judd x1, Codi Martin x1, Alexander Wallwork x1). Good luck in the next round against St Paul's Booragul early next term.



Faculty News: Science

Year 10 Science Luna Park Excursion

It was with great anticipation and excitement that year 10 students and teachers boarded buses on their first science excursion in a couple of years. We lucked a beautiful sunny day and without a hitch enjoyed the day out. Rollercoasters with dubious sounding names such as the Sledgehammer, Big Dipper and Wild Mouse were much frequented and enjoyed as well as old favourites such as the Ferris wheel, Dodgem cars and Coney Island. Some left their stomach behind on the Rotor while others left their heads behind on the Hair Raiser and a perennial ride of choice was the Volare (giant swing).



In the science periods following, students were guided through their experience of a ride to recall and apply Newton's 3 laws to that ride. Newton's laws were central to the first unit year 10 studied this year. The scaffold used was the ALARM matrix which leads students to higher levels of analysis. Students then wrote a response to, **"Evaluate how well Newton's laws were experienced during a ride at Luna Park"**.



Many thanks to **Mrs Tracy Carpenter** (English Leader of Learning) who has worked with science faculty to help develop resources and approaches to literacy in science. The aim is to improve students' ability to write higher order responses in science-based courses, culminating in HSC examinations. These skills will be invaluable in any walk of life as students are challenged to think more deeply about concepts and problem solving. We are taking the long view and developing similar tasks in all year levels.



A long day was had by teachers who attended the excursion and so I extend my thanks to **Mr Gerard Cushan, Mrs Rebecca Morrice, Mrs Katrina Piper, and Mr Bob Sheridan** for their commitment and energy.

Mrs Margaret Wright
Leader of Learning - Science

DA VINCI DECATHLON

In Week 11, Term 1, groups of students from Year 7 – Year 10 took part in the 2022 Hunter Regional da Vinci Decathlon at Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College. Over two days, students competed in the interschool gala day. The teams competed in ten academic disciplines: Mathematics and Chess, English, Science, Code Breaking, Engineering Challenge, Ideation (process of creating new ideas), Creative Producers, Art & Poetry, Cartography and General Knowledge.

It was a battle to get there as many students were unable to attend due to Covid. Thank you to all students who took on the College Motto, 'Ready to Serve' and stepped up to support the College team.

Our Year 7/8 Team were very nervous about stepping out of their comfort zone and competing for the first time; however they enjoyed the creative elements and team work of the event.

Our Year 9 Team achieved great results. First in Code Breaking, Second in Engineering and Second in English. Out of 22 teams, they placed third. Our Year 9 and 10 Teams, won the da Vinci Spirit Award and a laptop for the school.

Thank you to **Mrs Lang** for her assistance and late-night calls to recruit last minute competitors. It was a great day and all students were an asset to our college.

Tarryn Wilson
Organising Teacher





**Aid
Concert** **2:00pm
Saturday
30 April 2022**
for Ukraine
Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle

Brought to you by the Australian-Ukrainian Community
of the Hunter and Christ Church Cathedral Newcastle

Hosted by Jonathan Biggins.
A full programme of musical talent from Newcastle, the Hunter
and special guest, Larissa Kowalchuk from Sydney.

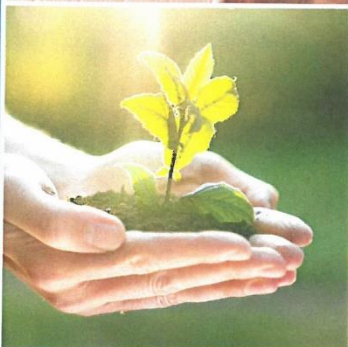
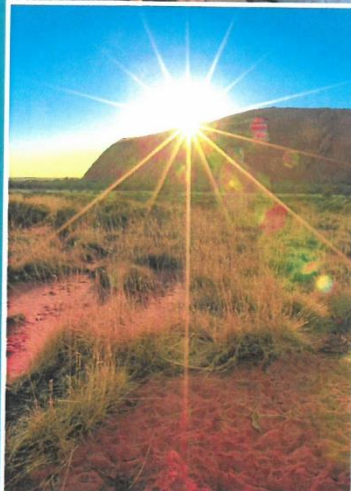


Scan to purchase tickets or buy
online at tix.yt/concertforukraine
\$40 Adults
\$30 Concession & Children
Under 12's free

All proceeds go to the Ukraine Crisis Appeal.
Donations can also be made directly to ukrainecrisisappeal.org

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AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE ELECTION STATEMENT 2022

Towards a Better Kind of Politics

- We all long for what Pope Francis calls “a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good” for all Australians.
- The ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic reveal our need for a human-centred economy that allows all people to flourish and provides them the support they and their families need.
- In Australia, there remain insufficient responses to the needs of vulnerable people in our community such as those in need of palliative care, aged care, First Nations people, asylum-seekers and refugees, and those in poverty.
- We reaffirm our endorsement of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its call for recognition of First Nations Australians in the Constitution and a First Nations “Voice” to the Australian Parliament.
- Our physical world is under significant environmental pressure that can be addressed by a new integral ecology that seeks to care for our land and our people.
- People who have a religious faith need protection from discrimination including the ability to undertake activities and form religious bodies that can pursue their religious mission. This includes commonsense provisions to allow religious schools to preference the hiring of staff who support the school’s ethos. Catholic schools educate one in every five Australian students.

catholic.org.au

Towards a Better Kind of Politics

Our Christian faith calls us to be a missionary people bearing witness to the love of Jesus Christ for humanity. Our beliefs are not a private spirituality, but are realised through love expressed in action.

As we offer this statement, we acknowledge no one political party fully embodies Catholic social teaching. Nevertheless, we offer this statement to encourage Catholics and people of good will to reflect on the good they can do for their community by using their vote for the good of all.

We all long for what Pope Francis calls “a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good”. At the heart of this “better” politics is a vision to pursue the common good of all Australians by recognising the dignity of every individual and the solidarity we all share as a national community.

Since the last federal election we have seen the impact and the challenges of a global pandemic, floods, summers of bushfires, wild weather events and a world on edge because of military conflict.

We are blessed in Australia to be able to participate in and help shape the civic life of our country. The war in Ukraine reminds us that our political values of peace, justice and collaborative participation in a democratic system are not guaranteed and we must work to protect them.

Foremost in the minds of many will be Australia's economic recovery from the effects of COVID-19. The societal disruptions from the pandemic have revealed significant levels of poverty and disadvantage within Australia. We need a new social contract that focuses the economy more clearly on the common good. The common good is the good of all people spiritually, socially and materially, including those who struggle to participate.

“We are blessed in Australia to be able to participate in and help shape the civic life of our country.”

While numerous issues in life and politics deserve consideration, we will focus our reflection on several key issues central to Australian life and for the next term of government.

Catholic health and aged care services are collectively significant providers of palliative care in our health system.

We support the highest standards for aged care and palliative care. It is at the core of human dignity to value the lives of all people, including those near the end of their lives.

We are concerned by laws that support the notion that a person's life might reach a point at which it is no longer of value. This is particularly dangerous given it is often the most vulnerable who are at risk of receiving lower standards of health, aged and palliative care. Among the most vulnerable are those without the financial means, health literacy or support networks to help them access and navigate complex systems.

There is an urgent need for a clearer definition of palliative care, and a dedicated commitment to ensuring uniformly high funding, standards and availability for these services in both the private and public health and aged care systems.

The Commonwealth Government should play a leading role in ensuring consistently high-quality palliative care is available across Australia, to ensure that no one is pressured into choosing assisted suicide because palliative care is unavailable. That is no choice at all.

The recent Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety has revealed the need for fundamental reform of the aged care system, including an increase in award wages for staff. A wage increase would help provide a more just income for workers and address the staff shortages crippling the sector. **Sufficient funding of the aged care sector is vital to ensure that the growing number of older Australians can receive dignified and quality care.**

The pandemic further entrenched poverty and disadvantage in Australia. Those in low-paying and insecure employment, particularly young people, women and new migrants, suffered significant job losses and reduction of hours, forcing them to seek assistance from government and non-government providers.

An incoming government should raise the rate of JobSeeker to at least meet the poverty line. This will not only assist those seeking work to better prepare themselves for employment, but will help break the cycle of disadvantage for the 1.2 million children and young people living in poverty.

BISHOPS CONFERENCE 2022 ELECTION STATEMENT

“We need a holistic, long-term vision for the future – not just a vision for the economy but a vision for Australian society, the human community and the whole earth community.”

Governments should also provide greater investment in affordable and social housing, particularly by addressing the growing crisis of women over 55 years experiencing homelessness.

Most importantly, a government committed to the common good should deliver a medium- to long-term plan for eradicating poverty in Australia.

It is essential for the wellbeing of our society for Australians of all religious faiths, or none, to have the religious freedom to practise their beliefs. **Protection from discrimination and the liberty to run religious organisations on the basis of their faith-inspired mission are fundamental human rights that deserve to be protected.**

Commonsense protections of Australians from discrimination will not privilege the rights of people of faith in Australia above the rights of other Australians. We call only for the same level of protections against discrimination on the basis of religion that Australia already has on the basis of race, sex or age.

Protections from discrimination will ensure religious schools and other agencies can continue to preference the hiring of staff who support the organisation's mission.

The Catholic education sector has grown over the past 200 years to educate more than 777,000 students and employs more than 100,000 staff across 1,755 schools.

The Church's mission to the education and care of the most vulnerable is paramount and is evidenced by the nearly 40 per cent of Catholic schools located in regional, rural and remote areas, and the growing number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Catholic schools – increasing by 168 per cent in the past two decades.

The key issues for Catholic education in the upcoming federal election include **ensuring school choice remains an accessible option for all families**, particularly those affected by disadvantage, funding early childhood education in the two years before school and advocating for Catholic schools to access programs and funding for national priorities, such as Closing the Gap and student mental health initiatives.

We reaffirm our endorsement of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its call for recognition of First Nations Australians in the Constitution and a First Nations “Voice” to the Australian Parliament.

Constitutional recognition and active steps towards reconciliation are fundamental moral issues. They require the willingness of Australians to engage in a process of “truth-telling”, listening to the experiences of First Nations Australians and their hopes for the future.

Closing the Gap also requires committing the necessary resources to help empower First Peoples and move us towards a fairer and more honest relationship.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made us more conscious than ever that we are one human family. Refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing persecution, violence or life-threatening poverty, and people who have been displaced by climate change, are our sisters and brothers.

Our Church teaches that anyone who is forced to flee to protect their lives or human dignity has a moral claim on our assistance, whether they fit legal definitions of a refugee or not. **We need a just, humane and timely system for assessing claims for asylum.**

The situation in Afghanistan demands a special intake of at least 20,000 additional places. We have a moral duty towards those who supported Australian military forces as interpreters or in other capacities. Ukrainian refugees require similar mercy.

The social, economic, health and ecological dimensions of the current environmental crisis must be addressed by a new integral ecology.

Greater ambition is needed for the 2030 carbon emissions target. We hope for targets that are more in line with the Paris Agreement and the emerging scientific consensus.

We need a holistic, long-term vision for the future – not just a vision for the economy but a vision for Australian society, the human community and the whole earth community.

There is no doubt Australian aid and the work of agencies like Caritas Australia is vital for assisting people in emergencies, promoting education and transforming lives.

Poverty makes people vulnerable to modern slavery and is enabled by globalisation. **Australia's Modern Slavery Act should be strengthened** by firstly appointing an independent Anti-slavery Commissioner with a broad mandate to drive better practice in mitigating risk in our supply chains and, secondly, widening the coverage of this legislation to include the States and more companies.

We pray that Australia realises the vision for politics pronounced by Pope Francis when he wrote that, “Good politics combines love with hope and with confidence in the reserves of goodness present in human hearts”.

We have the opportunity and the responsibility to use our votes and our voices to realise this better politics. As the bishops of Australia, we implore all Catholics in this blessed country to go forth with this message of love, hope, confidence and goodness.

**+ Mark Coleridge
President, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference**

BISHOPS CONFERENCE 2022 ELECTION STATEMENT

The Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Having developed from more than a century of papal teaching responding to the world's important social and political issues, the principles of Catholic social teaching invite us all to respond to the 'signs of the times' by pursuing justice and peace.

HUMAN DIGNITY

The fundamental principle for Catholic social teaching is the Christian belief that all human beings are made in the image and likeness of God so that human life is always and everywhere valuable and inviolable. All people, from all races and all human cultures, are created equal in a dignity that belongs to them by virtue of their existence.

As a result, people must always be recognised as being more valuable than things and must never be treated as an instrument to be used for the benefit of another.

COMMON GOOD

The principle of the common good reminds us that we must actively seek to achieve the social conditions that lead to the greater fulfilment of every member of society. The primary purpose of governments is the pursuit of the common good.

We all communally profit when everyone, and not just select individuals or privileged groups, has their rights recognised and is able to flourish. It is the collective good of all individuals, families and intermediate groups who together constitute a just society.

SUBSIDIARITY

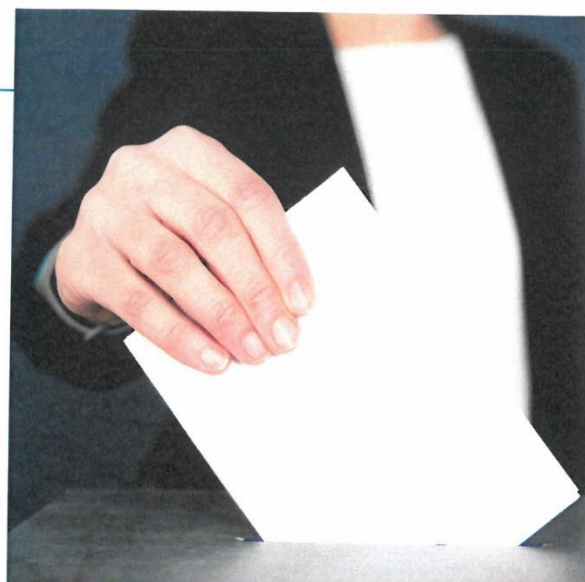
The principle of subsidiarity requires that the people or groups most directly affected by a decision or policy should have the key decision-making role in its development. Subsidiarity involves, as far as is practically possible, pushing the responsibility for decision-making down to its lowest and most local levels. It facilitates the participation of small communities, institutions and families, emphasises their identity as a group and creates a natural sense of solidarity between all people.

SOLIDARITY

Solidarity acknowledges that humans are social beings who make up one human family and have responsibilities to each other despite national, racial, cultural, economic and ideological differences. It recognises that it is cooperation between the different sections of the community, rather than conflict or competition, that cultivates a just and prosperous society.

The principle of solidarity helps us see other people as our neighbours and to prioritise those in greatest need, especially those who are marginalised, vulnerable, poor or distressed.

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A PRAYER FOR THE ELECTION

God of this land and of every people,
who shape all things according to your own design
and write your law in every human heart:
we thank you for this country we call home,
from the First Nations people to others born here
and those you have gathered from across the earth.

We pray for the citizens of our land in this troubled time,
that we may be committed to justice,
to the dignity of each human life,
and to solidarity with all Australians and with the world.

Guide all who seek election to serve the nation;
may the Holy Spirit inspire them to pursue a better politics
that is wise and courageous and governs for the good of all.
May all of us see and hear you in the most vulnerable,
that we may respond to the cry of the earth
and the cry of the poor,
that we may respond to you.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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catholic.org.au

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

- Web orders placed during the school holidays can now be collected during normal shop opening times.
- Reminder - Please place any winter uniform orders before the end of Term 1 or beginning of Term 2 when shop reopens.
- The navy-blue school sock back-order has been received.
The socks will be available to collect during normal opening hours.

**Uniform Shop Opening Hours:**

Tuesday	8.30am to 10.30am
Wednesday	8.30am to 10.30am
Thursday	12.45pm to 3.30pm

Shop Tel: 0435 954 372

Email: stmaryshigh@alinta.com.au

 The poster has a blue background with a white grid pattern. It features a white staircase on the left, a yellow star on the right, and a yellow star at the bottom right. There are also some white paper scraps.

**Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Schools Office
ADDITIONAL NEEDS INFORMATION DAY**

The Special Needs Working Party is an initiative of the Federation of Parents and Friends Associations – Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. The 2022 Additional Needs Information Day allows parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs enrolled in our catholic schools to join together and hear from experts from the Catholic Schools Office about a range of issues from funding to supporting learning, mental health and wellbeing.

We would be delighted to welcome you and invite you to share morning tea and a light lunch with us.

WHEN: Wednesday 4th May 2022
WHERE: St Brigid's Primary school Hall – Raymond Terrace
TIME: 9.00am – 1.00pm
COST: FREE
Morning tea and Light lunch included.
Please register using the link below.

[Click Here](#)

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact:

Cath Garrett-Jones
 Family Engagement Officer
 Catholic Schools Office
 P: 4979 1303 E: cath.garrett-jones@mn.catholic.edu.au

 The logo for the Federation of Parents & Friends Associations, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, featuring a stylized family icon and the text '40th ANNIVERSARY 1981-2021'.

Calendar 2022

TERM 2 2022	
Week 1 (A Week)	
Fri 29 April	Newsletter 5.22 published
Week 2 (B Week)	
Mon 2 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7 (2023) Enrolment period continues Year 12 Hospitality Work Placement week
Tues 3 May	Year 10 (Year 11 2023) Curriculum Information Evening – the Josephite Centre – 7pm
Wed 4 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 immunisations Stage 6 Parent Student Teacher interview bookings open Year 12 Reports published (PM) Aboriginal Culture Session (TBC)
Thurs 5 May	Dio Cross Country (TBC)
Sun 8 May	Mother's Day
Week 3 (A Week)	
Mon 9 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7 (2023) Enrolment period continues Dio Boy's Soccer Championships (TBC)
Tues 10 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAPLAN Years 7 & 9 Knights Knockout – Seniors (TBC)
Wed 11 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAPLAN Years 7 & 9 Dio Boys Soccer
Thurs 12 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Card Training NAPLAN Years 7 & 9
Fri 13 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill Turner Girls & Boys Soccer NAPLAN Years 7 & 9 Newsletter 6.22 published
Week 4 (B Week)	
Mon 16 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7 2023 Enrolment period continues World Support Staff Day
Thurs 19 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landcare Day – World Bee Day Year 10 Careers Expo
Week 5 (A Week)	
Mon 23 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catholic Schools Week National Sorry Day Year 7 2023 Enrolment period continues Hospitality Incursion Year 10 Community Day – Chris Doyle – TBC Senior Music Showcase
Wed 25 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catholic School Week Open Day Sessions – details TBC Grandparent's Liturgy – details TBC
Thurs 26 May	Knights Knockout 13's – TBC
Fri 27 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final day for acceptance of Year 7 (2023) Enrolment Applications National Reconciliation Week Newsletter 7.22 published
Week 6 (B Week)	
Mon 30 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Reconciliation Week continues DioSounds Week
Wed 1 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 8 Religious Literacy Test Catholic Schools Week Liturgy
Thurs 2 June	Knights Knockout 15's TBC
Fri 3 June	MABO Day
Sun 5 June	World Environment Day
Week 7 (A Week)	
Wed 8 June	Dramafest (TBC)
Fri 10 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcome of Year 7 (2023) Enrolment applications notified to parents/carers Newsletter 8.22 published

Week 8 (B Week)	
Mon 13 June	Queen's Birthday holiday
Tues 14 June	Year 7 Formation Day
Fri 17 June	Acceptance of Year 7 (2023) Enrolment due with Enrolment Application fee
Week 9 (A Week)	
Mon 20 June	Year 11 Construction Work Placement World Refugee Day
Tues 21 June	Solar Buddy Light for Learning Event
Wed 22 June	Year 11 mid-course Reports published
Thurs 23 June	Dio Public Speaking
Fri 24 June	Newsletter 9.22 published
Week 10 (B Week)	
Mon 27 June	Year 7 Music Showcase
Wed 29 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landcare Day Years 7-10 Reports published (PM)
Fri 1 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next steps enrolment communication to Year 7 (2023) parents/carers Last Day of Term 2
TERM 3 2022	
Week 1 (A Week)	
Mon 18 July	Staff Professional Development – Pupil Free Day
Tues 19 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term 3 commences Booking period for Year 7 (2023) Enrolment interviews
Fri 21 July	Years 7-10 Parent Student Teacher interviews
Fri 22 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7 (2023) Enrolment documentation due Years 7-10 Parent Student Teacher Interviews Newsletter 10.22 published

Please note any TBC dates – this is due to evolving COVID protocols. Arrangements will be continually updated on this page

YEAR 6 ENRICHMENT SESSIONS

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Enrichment Days scheduled for primary schools to attend St Mary's, have had to be postponed. As soon as we are able, we will advise you of the new dates.

We thank you for your patience and support in this matter.

McKillop Parish Biggest Morning Tea

This will take place after the 9.30am Mass at St Pauls Gateshead on Sunday 22 May at 10.30 am

Bring a plate and a gold coin donation

COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION

St Mary's Catholic College, the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) and Schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are committed to providing a positive, safe environment for all staff and students. There are occasions however, when members of our schools and wider community are concerned about something happening at a school that appears to be unsatisfactory or unreasonable. If you have a complaint, please follow this procedure: <https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/about/complaints-resolution-and-feedback/>