
St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Newsletter No.4/22

Friday 1 April 2022



Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members

An Easter Reflection: People "Doing Calvary" today

During the holidays, we will celebrate the Season of Easter. It is a time to recall the trauma of Jesus' horrible death on the cross, and how it gives way to the joy of Christ's resurrection, which is the foundation stone of our Christian faith.

Preparation for this celebration, during the Season of Lent, and then participating in the celebration provide the opportunity to escape from the busyness of our "outer world" and to give ourselves time to reflect on a narrative which creates meaning for us in our ordinary and, at times, struggling lives.

During this time of reflection and contemplation, a time of stillness and silence, (the antidote to the busyness and "noise" of our modern lifestyles), we need to recognise the Cross of Calvary, on which hung the human Jesus, as a representation of our story and the story of people "doing Calvary today". Who are those people in our lives, our families, our friendship groups, our school community, our wider community, our world, who need to be liberated from pain, anguish, persecution, rejection and ridicule? Who are the people bereft of hope? Who are the people in need of our love, our compassion, our mercy, our service?

They are the people of the Ukraine, the people of Russia, the victims of devastating floods in Lismore, North NSW and Southern Queensland; they are the victims of domestic violence; they are the families and individuals struggling with the impact of COVID in their lives; they are the people bereft of meaning and purpose as they await to the dawn of a new day; they are youth consumed by social media and a self-reverential approach to life. They are people bereft of love and hope, borne of Christ's resurrection.

The story of Jesus suffering, death and resurrection will have real meaning and significance in our family and school community if we take the time to stand in solidarity with these people who are "doing Calvary today". Our Christian calling demands that we act with courage and conviction, as Jesus did, and reach out to them in compassion and love.

May all families be truly blessed with a prayerful, peaceful and joyous Easter. May it be a time where simple acts of kindness and care are a source of life and hope to those we know are bearing the cross of Calvary.

Rich blessings

Larry Keating
Principal



FEAST DAY LITURGY AND REFLECTION

On Friday 25 March, we celebrated a Liturgy (on-line) in recognition of the Feast of the Annunciation, which is our Feast Day. The liturgy was led by members of the Student Leadership Team. The liturgy was enhanced by the singing of **Lucy Wallace**, accompanied on keyboard by **Beth Urquhart** and **Mr Walter** on trumpet. **Jack Griffiths**, College Leader, provided outstanding technical support. The demands of COVID and the inclement weather restricted the Feast Day celebrations, nevertheless the liturgy provided a reminder to all present that like Mary, Mother of Jesus, we are challenged to answer our calling as Christians “to be ready to serve” the poor, the destitute and the downtrodden in our world. The ongoing generous support for Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion appeal is a commendable sign of our readiness to serve. Please continue to give with generous hearts during the final week of term.

The investiture of our Year 7 Student Pastoral Council representatives has traditionally been a part of the Liturgy. In view of the need to change the format of the day, this has now been transferred to our Easter Liturgy next week. The following reflection, which was incorporated into our Feast Day Liturgy, speaks to the reality of what a call to servant leadership means as a member of the College community. That is, Leadership based on Mary’s yes to be the Mother of God and reflecting the servant leadership of Jesus.

Feast Day 2022 – Leader’s Reflection

St Mary’s Catholic College was built on a swamp. It did not have concrete foundations but was built on the foundation of servant leadership. Servant leadership is the idea of leading by example and possessing moral integrity. It is a call to give the best of ourselves for others, to lift others up through our actions, and to put them before ourselves. Our motto teaches us about servant leadership, and our motto comes from Mary.

Today, is the Feast of the Annunciation. On this day we celebrate Mary’s ‘yes’. From her YES to serve God, comes our motto ‘Ready to Serve’. To us, it is a call to follow her example. Our motto teaches us about servant leadership; that we shouldn’t live selfishly but should instead look outwards, to our community, to see how we can empower others. This is Mary’s legacy, which is lived every day by the sisters of St Joseph.

The prayers of the local Catholic community of Gateshead were answered in 1964 when the Sisters opened the doors of St Mary’s High School. They too were called to serve, and they did so with humility and grace. They gave hope to their students and continue to inspire us all today. They built this school from the ground up with no funds and limited support but remain a constant presence in our community, continuing to support the new generations of students that pass through the doors they opened. We are immensely grateful to them and their commitment to St Mary’s Catholic College. Today we strive to uphold their values to become the embodiment of their hopes and prayers.

I turn now to all in our community, you are all leaders. You all have been entrusted with a great responsibility, and a calling to lift up others by your actions within our community. As those before you have, you are called to live out the principles of servant leadership, a form of leadership that rejects the love of power and embraces the power of love. Your willingness to serve is a continuation of the long line of selfless dedication that has gone into making St Mary’s Catholic College the place it is today. On behalf of all that have gone before you, I welcome you to Service leadership.

College Leaders



YEAR 7 2023 INFORMATION EVENING

The increase in demand for places in the College was reflected in the outstanding attendance of prospective parents and their children at the Year 7 2023 Information Evening last Tuesday held in the Josephite Centre. The evening provided the opportunity for those attending to be presented with information informed by research and the continual reflection by staff on, and collaboration about, our daily practice; to support parents in their process of learning, discerning and decision-making when choosing a secondary school appropriate to meeting their child's needs and to present our College as an excellent Catholic College which has transitioned successfully to a Year 7 to 12 community, in the past three years.

Grateful thanks extend to all who were present. Your presence was confirmation of our efforts to provide quality Catholic education to all families seeking a Christian way of life for their children.

Please forward Enrolment Applications to the College as soon as possible as the demand for places is so great.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – LEARNING & TEACHING

SMCCG Stage 6 Study Skills & Induction Day Thursday 7 April 2022

This day is compulsory for all Year 11 students.



Cathy O’Gorman
Assistant Principal – Learning & Teaching

YEAR 12 NEWS

Year 12 To Do List

Dear Year 12,



Congratulations on getting to the half-way point of your Year 12 Journey. Remember, it is a Marathon and we need to have tactics to get to the finish line. So that you can GO WELL and BE WELL, I have put together a little TO DO List for you over the last week of Term 2 and for the holidays. You are welcome!

TO DO LIST

Week 11 Term 1:

Use the feedback from your last round of Assessment Tasks to guide what knowledge and skills of each course you need to further develop, revise and clarify misunderstandings with your Teachers. You should attend all 5 days of the last week so that you can engage with your teachers and ask what you need to be doing in the holidays. Competitive athletes are always maintaining their fitness, focussing on skill development between competitions, and that is what will get you great success in the HSC. You should have a TO DO list for each course so that you can spend time catching up, consolidating in the holidays.

HOLIDAYS

Sleep in, eat healthy, drink lots of water, get outside and exercise and catch up with your family and friends.

You must also set aside time to do your:

- Topic Summaries for each course.
- Catch up on work you have not done or missed in Term 1 due to sickness or absence or forgetfulness.
- Do some formative writing tasks under time pressure and without the aid of your notes.
- Tidy your bedroom.
- Use Edrolo to consolidate knowledge.
- Sleep in, eat healthy, drink lots of water, get outside and exercise and catch up with your family and friends.
- **Don't forget RETREAT Tuesday 26th April . Bus Departs at 8.00am SHARP.**
- Enjoy the holidays, stay safe and I hope that the Easter period is one of renewal for us all.

Regards

Mrs Murray
Leader of Wellbeing – Year 12



STEM

TECH GIRLS ARE SUPERHEROES

On Wednesday 27th April, St Mary's will be hosting the **TECH GIRLS ARE SUPERHEROES**.

They will be running a 2 hour workshop {1 to 3pm} for girls in Years 7 and 8. We are limited to 30 positions and 17 of these places have already been filled. If you have an interest in STEM subjects and are interested in attending, please see Mr Abell as soon as possible to register your name.



SPORT FACULTY

CONGRATULATIONS!!

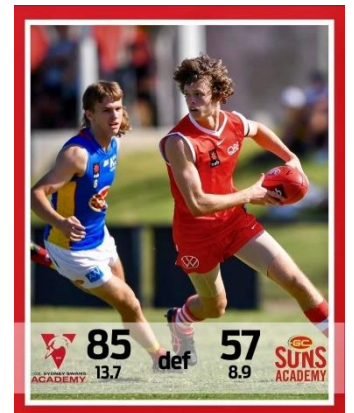
Chloe Googh

Congratulations extend to **Chloe Googh** on her selection last week at the NSWCCC Tennis trials. Chloe made the top 8 and will now compete at NSW All Schools on the 28th and 29th April. We wish Chloe the very best of luck with her competition.



Lachlan Macnamara

A big congratulations to Lachlan Macnamara.11.1 who has spent the last few weekends playing in the Under 17 QBE Sydney Swans Academy Futures team in the AFL. The Academy provides a state-wide development program in AFL for males and females aged 11 to 19, which comprises about 800 players across NSW. Lachlan as not only been a member of the academy for several years but has been named in the best on ground in recent weeks playing in the Under 17s Futures team. Congratulations Lachlan – a huge achievement!



St Mary's Rep Cricket

In Game 2 at Smith Park the team bowled first to St Paul's Booragul. An outstanding team effort saw St Paul's dismissed for 59. Wicket-takers were **Elijah Thompson** (1-3), **Lachlan Farrell** (1-4), **Tobin Blackwell** (1-7) and **Alec Lucietto** with a hat-trick (3-4)!!! Congratulations **Alec**.

Tight bowling by **Ethan Venables**, **Jared Rixom**, **Henry Burke**, **Eli Hunt**, **Liam Stenson** and **Josh Doggett** built up the pressure for the wicket-takers. Lachlan Gillies was excellent with his keeping, standing up to the medium pacers. Well done also to skipper **Liam Stenson** for his great leadership in the field with the team executing two run-outs.

Rain prevented the team from batting and since then all games have been wash-outs.

Nevertheless, the boys have still managed to fit in training on a few Thursdays and honed their skills with 'high-stakes' backyard cricket at school. Well done boys!

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Year 12 Biology with Mrs Flack

Year 12 Biology recently engaged in a full day learning about traditional Bush Medicine and Bush Tucker with Mr Kentan Proctor from Bahtabah Land Council. Students visited Belmont Lagoon and Swansea Headland where Kentan explained how ancient practices have been passed down and are being rediscovered today. Students also visited Bahtabah Land Council at Blacksmiths for lunch and to sample some bush tucker and some of its current uses, eg yummy lemon myrtle biscuits cooked by the aunties!

Artefact and Cultural Talk

Aboriginal students from Years 7-10 spent time with Mr Kentan Proctor from Bahtabah Land Council learning some local aboriginal culture and stories. Kentan passed around some important artefacts, with student learning a truer history of our local area. It was a great opportunity to ask loads of questions, and also to support younger students from St Paul's next door who joined us.

Paul McKay

Aboriginal Education Teacher



Easter Mass Times

Boolaroo-Warners Bay Parish

Holy Thursday	7.00pm (Warners Bay)
Good Friday (Warners Bay)	3.00pm (Warners Bay) with Stations of the Cross at 10.00am
Holy Saturday – the Easter Vigil	6.30pm (Warners Bay)
Easter Sunday	8.00am (Warners Bay) & 10.00am. (Boolaroo)
Sunday Night at	6.00pm (Warners Bay)



East Lake Macquarie Parish

HOLY THURSDAY Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:00PM at St Pius X Windale
GOOD FRIDAY Celebration of the Passion of the Lord	3:00PM at St Patrick's Swansea
EASTER VIGIL Mass	6:00PM at St Francis Xavier Belmont

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF MACKILLOP PARISH

Holy Week & Easter Timetable

MONDAY 11 April:	9:00AM	Mass	ST MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH CHARLESTOWN
TUESDAY 12 April:	5.30PM	Mass	ST MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH CHARLESTOWN
	7.00PM	Chrism Mass	SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL NEWCASTLE WEST
WEDNESDAY 13 April:	9:00AM	Mass	ST MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH CHARLESTOWN
	8:45AM	Liturgy of the Word / Communion	ST JOHN VIANNEY'S CHURCH REDHEAD

Sacred Triduum

HOLY THURSDAY 14 April:	7:00PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper	ST PAUL'S CHURCH GATESHEAD
	8:00PM	Adoration until 9:00PM	ST PAUL'S CHURCH GATESHEAD
GOOD FRIDAY 15 April:	10:00AM	Way of the Cross	ST MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH CHARLESTOWN
	10:00AM	Way of the Cross	ST JOHN VIANNEY'S CHURCH REDHEAD
	3:00PM	Solemn Ceremonies	ST MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH CHARLESTOWN
HOLY SATURDAY 16 April:	6:00PM	Vigil Mass	ST MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH CHARLESTOWN
EASTER SUNDAY 17 April:	8:00AM	Mass of the Resurrection	ST MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH CHARLESTOWN
	9:30AM	Mass of the Resurrection	ST PAUL'S CHURCH GATESHEAD

COUNSELLOR UPDATE


Sharing with you an upcoming parenting programs being offered at The Base in Newcastle (please see attached flyers for details):

- Tuning in to Teens: 6 sessions on Wednesday evenings between 6pm and 8pm, commencing 4 May.

These programs are evidence-based and focus on the emotional connection between parents and carers and their children. They have proven, through evaluation, to be successful in improving parenting, parent-child relationships and children's emotional competence and behaviour.


More information on the Tuning into Teens programs is available here: <https://tuningintokids.org.au/>

Tuning Into Teens®



THE BASE

6 session parenting program designed to build your skills to connect look below the surface, and understand what is really going on in your young person's life and build stronger family relationship



**Wednesdays 6-8pm
4th May - 8th June**

Please contact us on 4963 1387 to arrange an initial 15 to 30min consult with one of the facilitators to make sure this program is right for you

Cost: There is a sliding scale that starts at \$90 for unwaged participants for 6 sessions and moves upward from there.

PROGRAM INCLUDES

- Building Emotional Intelligence
- Connecting and Emotional Acceptance
- Building intimacy and showing empathy
- Coaching young people's worry and sadness
- Emotion coaching and anger
- Emotion coaching now and in the future

Completion of this group gives you access to our ongoing monthly Tune Up and Tune In sessions facilitated at the Base (supported by donations to the Base Community)

facilitated by qualified *Tuning into Teens* instructors®

Janine Bendit - Relationship Counsellor
Chris Battle - Social Worker

Our culture is driven by compassion and the belief that mental health is everyone's business and that everyone can contribute to positive change

02 49 631387 www.thebasehealth.com.au
3 Tudor Street, Newcastle West 2302



ASPIRE
MUSIC.DANCE.DRAMA

JUNIOR THEATRE MAKERS 2022

<https://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au>

Please refer to the ASPIRE website for all ASPIRE information, forms, updates, photos and the newsletter from the Artistic Director

Thursdays in Terms 2 and 3 in four different locations across the Diocese

Locations: St Pius X High School, Adamstown St Joseph's High School Aberdeen

St Paul's Catholic College Booragul

Time: 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

ASPIRE's Junior Theatre Makers Ensemble for Years 5 – 8 is again offering creative drama programs across the Diocese in 2022 throughout Terms 2 and 3.

Term 2 will be all about learning and skills with a focus on play building. Ensemble members will work through an array of exercises relating to character, physical and image based theatre. The ensemble will be led by a local theatre expert and will also receive a workshop from ASPIRE Artistic Director Anna Kerrigan.

Term 3 will be spent creating an original short performance piece which will be performed on **Tuesday 20 September 2022 at the Civic Playhouse, Newcastle**. All three groups will come together to rehearse for the day before performing an integrated piece that evening.

This is a great opportunity to learn in a fun environment with like-minded students. Places in the program are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Course Cost: \$300 (scholarships are available for those in financial need)

To reserve your place please complete a booking form online at the ASPIRE website <https://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au> or call Anne Atkins on 02 4979 1331 for more information.

ASPIRE



SONG COMPETITION

ASPIRE 2022 largely takes place at the bottom of a wishing well and introduces the audience to a host of fantastical characters.

The Song Competition will be broken into 3 categories- Primary School (K-6), Year 7, 8 and 9 and Year 10, 11 and 12. Using the story for the production, the themes below will be the song writing focus for these allocated year groups.

PRIMARY SCHOOL (K-6): WISH

To feel or express a strong desire or hope for something that is unlikely to happen.

What type of things do you hope for?

What wishes have you made at wishing wells?

What are wishes and where do they go when people make them?

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9: MYTHICAL CREATURES

There are a massive amount of mythical creatures described in folklore, fairytales and legends.

Which ones spark some creativity in you?

Can you draw parallels between mythical creatures and humans?

How can you tell their stories or versions of their stories through music and song?

YEARS 10, 11 AND 12: WATER

Water is vital for all known forms of life. It is associated with renewal, refreshment and birth. You might decide to take your inspiration from what water symbolises or from water itself and the way it moves and sounds.

FRIDAY 8 APRIL 2022

Song Competition Closing Date

MONDAY 11 APRIL 2022

Song Competition Shortlisting

TUESDAY 26 APRIL 2022

Workshop Day Group 1

WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2022

Workshop Day Group 2

THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2022

Workshop Day Group 3

EVENING THURSDAY 5 MAY 2022

ASPIRE Song Competition Showcase

HOW TO ENTER

1. Video or record yourself singing or playing your song.
File formats: MP3, MP4 or MOV
2. A copy of your lyrics File format: Word document (NOT PDF or a photo)
3. If you can, include the chords or notation.
This is not compulsory.
4. Your song must be **no longer than 3 minutes 30 seconds**.
5. You will be able to upload via the Aspire website from **Week 10, Term 4 2021**.

Once entries close, shortlisted finalists will have the opportunity to workshop their song with professional musicians and ASPIRE Musical Director Jessica Lopez. The winner for each category will be decided at a live concert where a guest panel will judge the songs. This year there will be 3 winners, one for each category (Primary K-6, Years 7-9 and Years 10-12). Prize is a \$300 Musos Corner voucher and have their song professionally recorded at Tommirock Studios.

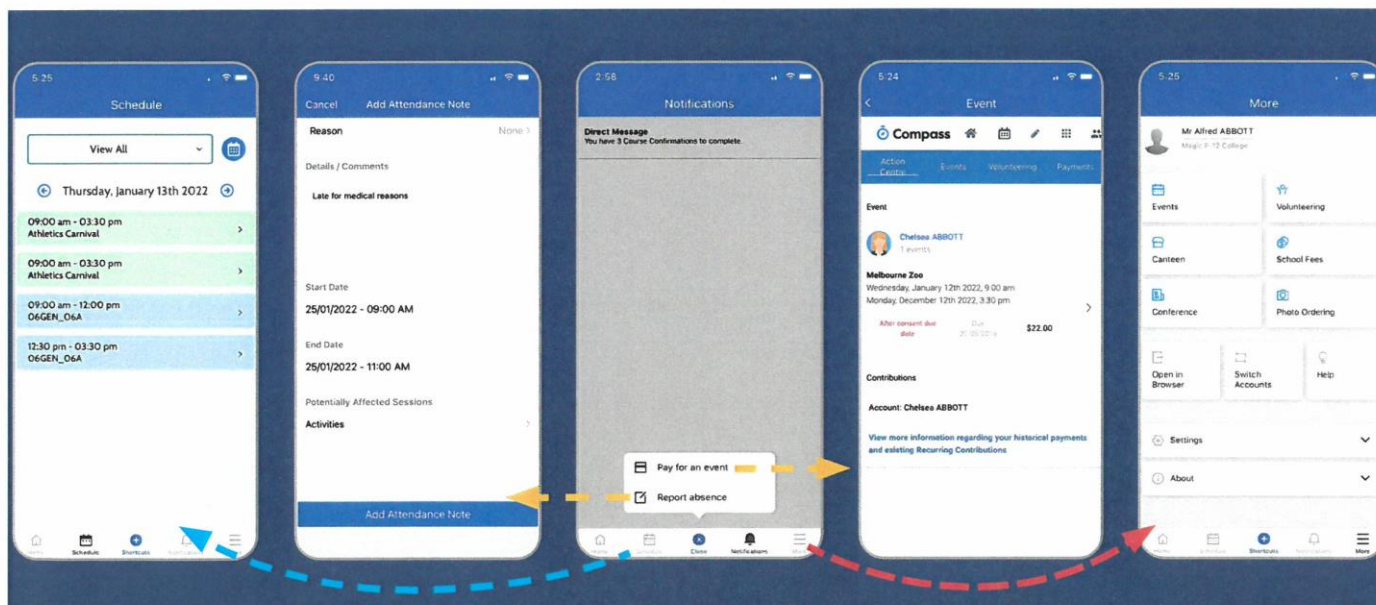
For more details go to aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au

The latest update to the Parent App is here!

Here's a short guide on what you can expect from your new Navigation Bar.



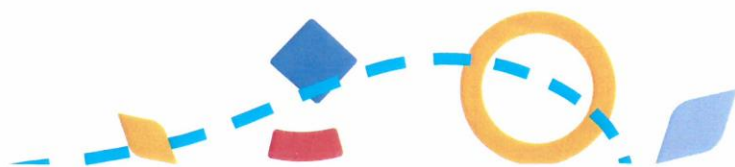
Our team has been working on enhancing the usability and overall user experience of Compass. In an effort to make your lives just that tiny bit easier, the latest update is for you - our Parent & Carer community! Check out the new features below.



The hamburger icon that brought you to the old vertical menu has been replaced with a new horizontal navigation bar that displays key icons across the bottom of the screen - Home, Schedule, Attendance Notes, Shortcuts, Notifications and More.

The 'Shortcuts' button on the navigation bar is a new feature to give you quicker access to important actions, such as 'pay for an event' or 'report absence'. A direct route to get where you need to be!

The 'More' button on the navigation bar will take you to a similar menu as the old one. Modules will now be sorted according to which ones you use the most, allowing for a more straightforward navigation.



 **Compass**
compass.education

Term 1 Calendar 2022

TERM 1 2022	
Week 11 (A Week)	
Mon 4 April	Year 10 Luna Park excursion
Tues 5 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College Assembly – ANZAC Ceremony Da Vinci Decathlon inter-school competition (Year 8) Dio Soccer
Wed 6 April	Da Vinci Decathlon inter-school competition (Year 9 & 10)
Thurs 7 April	Easter Liturgy
Fri 8 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Day of Term 1 (Term 2 commences Tuesday 26 April) Closing date for applications for HSC Exams Disability Provisions (see item below)
TERM 2 2022	
Week 1 (A Week)	
Mon 25 April	ANZAC Day – Public Holiday
Tues 26 April	Term 2 commences
Fri 29 April	Newsletter 5.22 published

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

DISABILITY PROVISIONS

Disability Provisions applications for HSC exams are now open. Any student considering applying for these provisions please see **Mr Tim O'Neill** to discuss their eligibility. The closing date for applications is the last day of Term 1 – Friday 8 April 2022. Please note that SMCC does not make decisions about applications. The NSW Government Education Standards Authority (NESA) make determinations based on evidence supplied in applications.

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

- The uniform shop will be closed during the school holidays and web orders placed during the school holidays will be packed when the uniform shop reopens at the start of the Term (Tuesday 26 April, 2022). 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

From the
 St Mary's Community
 to our parents, carers,
 students and friends,
 we wish you a
 wonderful Easter

