

St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Newsletter No.6/22

Friday 13 May 2022



Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members

Nurturing the Soul, the “inner life” of our adolescents

The world of our adolescents (the ‘net generation’) is a world of noise, a world where they are bereft of solitude and silence, two qualities, which are vital for nurturing “the things of the heart”. In the words of Joan Chittister, “it is silence and solitude which bring us face-to-face with ourselves and the inner wars we must win if we are to live a truly integrated life. (*“The Radical Christian Life”, 2001, p25*)

So many of the dehumanising aspects of our world today stem from a neglect of individuals’ inner life, their spirit. This reality is being revealed in dire social and psychological consequences. In the case of our youth, it is reflected in a significant increase in mental health problems, such as obsessions; addiction; violence and loss of meaning and purpose in one’s life. It is revealed in their disrupted and inadequate sleep patterns because of their obsessive desire to be constantly connected online.

It is silence and solitude which are lacking in our adolescents’ lives and, as their parent and teacher educators, we must educate them to understand this, and support them in creating spaces which provide the opportunity for silence and solitude. The spiritual depth structure of Christianity demands that, as educators (parent and teacher) we foster the spirit, the soul, the heart of our adolescents, as well as our own.

The staff strive each day to nurture “the things of the heart” by such practices as building “still points” into the conduct of lessons; by taking time for prayer in lessons and at assemblies; by encouraging our students to honour our college motto: “Ready to Serve” by engaging in works of compassion and justice; by encouraging our students to build quiet time into the rhythm of their day; by encouraging students to engage in journaling and by giving them the opportunities to enjoy and appreciate the Creative and Performing Arts, the beauty of nature, the value of our natural environment and the creativity of human culture.

It is also important to place boundaries around our adolescents’ use of technology in the home. Two simple measures are banning mobile devices from bedrooms and their use within a 1–2-hour period before bedtime, thereby giving them the opportunity to gain adequate and undisturbed sleep in preparation for the next day.

To engage in practices which care for the adolescent’s inner life, their soul, is an educational imperative. It will enable them to gain a deeper appreciation of their wholeness and better cope with the emotional demands of our ever changing and chaotic world which is challenging their mental health and sense of personal well-being.

“Practice Silence. It is a prescription for mental health in a chaotic world”

Joan Chittister, “The Radical Christian Life”, 2011, p33

Rich blessings
Larry Keating
Principal

SPC NEWSLETTER

Please read the latest edition of the SPC Newsletter which accompanies this edition of the College Newsletter.

It is a first class publication confirming the students' commitment to honouring our College Motto:

"READY TO SERVE"

Library Matters

Was the force strong with you last week? On May the 4th we celebrated **Star Wars Day** and we saw over 30 students test their knowledge in a Star Wars Kahoot. Congratulations to Hayden Werren who was the winner on the day.

We have 2 new events taking place at the moment. **The Creative Writing** activity has been extended due to popular demand. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading an entry from Lacey Joyce in Year 7 who is obviously, just like me, a fan of The Maze Runner. I look forward to receiving more entries soon. So, keep them coming.

We also are excited to invite you to make a team of 6 and join us for a **The Great St Mary's Trivia**

Competition – both staff and students can make up a team to find out who has the best general knowledge of Australia – history, geography, society, The Arts, sporting. The Big Day is – 1st June.

Study Tips – Remember the Library has some great resources to help you with your **Stage 6 study**. Recently we set up an example of an effective study area. Drop by and check it out in person. We also have a great display showing our resources with the theme for **Reconciliation Week** that is coming at the end of the month.

The **NSW Secondary Schools Chess Competition** continues with our next game being up against our neighbours from Warners Bay High. We hope to turn the tables on our last clash against this formidable team.

Rosalind Dunn
Teacher Librarian



YEAR 7 NEWS

NAPLAN

Year 7 is to be congratulated on the way they completed the NAPLAN testing during Week 3. The students were prepared, calm and cooperative for the 3 day testing period. The College is very proud of the students – Well done!



It is really pleasing that a great number of our Year 7 students have been involved in many activities representing St Mary's Catholic College.

These activities have included Surf Fest, the Diocesan Cross Country Event at Aberdeen and Tech Girls are Heroes



Key Dates for Year 7

Year 7 Grandparents and Special Carers Day on Wednesday 25th May

Please come and celebrate this lovely liturgy and morning tea being held at The Josephite Centre from 9.00am to 11.30am. Please see the invitation below.

Year 7 Formation Day at Point Wolstoncroft on Tuesday 14th June

Students will attend a day at Point Wolstoncroft to building community and have fun. A detailed note will be sent via Compass with details on Friday 13th May.

Year 7 and 8 Music Showcase

Monday 20th June from 6.30pm in The Josephite Centre

Ruth McCrae

Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement Year 7

You are cordially invited to celebrate with us and share our Heritage stories

Join us for our Grandparent Liturgy, morning tea and College Tour!

Date: Wednesday May 25th 2022

Time: 9.00 am – 11.30 am

Where: The Josephite Centre

St Mary's Catholic College

Gateshead



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/>

ATTENTION

NAPLAN CATCH UP Exams

Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 MAY

For students in Years 7 and 9 who missed NAPLAN tests this week, there will be an opportunity for students to sit catch up tests at the following times:

Monday 16 May Periods 2 & 3

Tuesday 17 May Periods 1 & 3

Students should bring devices and earphones on these days. Please check Compass each morning for rooming and times. This will be the last opportunity for students to complete tests for 2022.

ASPIRE SONG COMPETITION SHOWCASE

Students from Years 9 and 10 participated in the annual Song Writers' Competition at the Factory Theatre on Thursday 5th May. The students involved were Macy Nash (Year 9), Gabrielle Brown, Elleni Pedonese, Hayley McDonald and Daniel Smith (Year 10). They were among 15 chosen finalists who performed their original pieces in front of family and friends. It was a wonderful evening of creativity and collaboration for the students involved. The event was judged by Anna Kerrigan (Artistic Director of Aspire), Christopher Turner (ASPIRE Instrumental Specialist) and Elyse North (Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie).

We are delighted that Macy Nash from Year 9 Elective Music, won the Year 7 – 9 Section with her piece "The Thrill Of It" Macy commented: *"I wrote my song "The Thrill Of It" using the inspiration of magical creatures and I chose to connect the creatures to real life scenarios in the song"*. Macy received a \$200 Muso's Corner music voucher, and her song will be professionally recorded. Well done to all involved and thank you to our music teachers Adele Weekes, Ruth McCrae and Cathy O'Gorman who attended the evening.



Ruth McCrae
Music Teacher

Aboriginal Education

My Family Heritage Lessons – Reconciliation Week

In preparation for Reconciliation Week Year 7 Religion classes have been investigating their place in Australia's great 'Stories of Origin'. Namely are you part of:



1. Australia's Indigenous Dreaming story
2. The British Colonisation story, or
3. The Migration story?

All students have researched their family heritage story, with many unearthing a wealth of history they didn't always know about! Numerous fascinating stories have been shared about who is your 'mob' – maybe Awabakal, Irish or Indian background? Students are recording their investigation as a poster to display in the Josephite Centre for the upcoming Grandparents Liturgy. Many thanks to families for your amazing support – maybe you have learnt something too?

Culture Session

Students from across Years 7-10 joined forces with students from St Paul's for a special presentation on family trees and 'finding your mob'. Many thanks to Mrs Dannielle Peachey from St Paul's for leading the session. This will be ongoing learning for all our Aboriginal and Torres Islander students. Thank you for all the family support with preparation for this session!

Students also 'got into their creative zone' and painted a 'Journey Stone' – possibly as a Mothers' Day gift!?!)

Paul McKay
Aboriginal Education Teacher



**BE BRAVE.
MAKE CHANGE.**



**NATIONAL
RECONCILIATION
WEEK 2022**

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

#NRW2022



Sport Report – Term 2

Term 2 will be in full swing as was a hectic Term 1.

As a result of the various Term 1 Sports, many of our students were selected in the Diocesan team and NSWCCC and also All Schools. As a relatively small school in numbers compared to other Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Schools, not to mention Sydney Schools, our students have achieved amazing results.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS

Diocesan and NSWCCC level

| SPORT – Term 1 | NAMES |
|---|---|
| Dio Under 15yrs Rugby League | Jye Stone |
| NSWCCC Tennis Team Bathurst | Chloe Googh |
| Dio Touch Team 15yrs | Stevie Botham |
| Dio Swimming Team selected to swim at NSWCCC | Eva Potts, Emily Jack and Jacob Lynch Many more were selected however Aussies for Surf Life Saving was on at the same time |
| GOLD at Aussies Surf Championships | Brodie Wright, Kane Edwards, Brodie Macadam |
| NSWCCC Swim Team | Jacob Lynch |
| Cochrane Cup League 14yrs | Boys played well – lost, win, draw |
| Bill Turner Soccer Boys | Round 1 – WON |
| Bill Turner Trophy Girls | Round 1 – WON |
| NSWCCC Rugby Team | Henry Burke, Ethan Hamilton selected |
| Dio Junior Girls Championships | Lost semi-final 5 th April |
| TERM 2 EVENTS | NAMES |
| Dio Soccer Trials – Individuals Opens | Ruby Jones, Emma, O'Hagan, Maddie Howard selected |
| NSWCCC Cup – Soccer Open Boys | 11 th May at Speers Point – Made it to finals! |
| Bill Turner Soccer Boys | Round 2 Friday 13 th May |
| Bill Turner Trophy Girls | Round 2 Friday 13 th May |
| Dio Cross Country Aberdeen | Great day at Glenbawn Dam – 5 th May |
| NSWCCC Cross Country Team | Eamon Wilde, Isaac Abbott, Luca Burge, Sam Dunkley selected |
| 13yrs Knights Knockout | 26 th May at Windale |
| 15yrs Knights Knockout | 2 nd June at Windale |
| NSWCCC Cross Country | 7 th June at Easter Creek |
| 16yrs Girls Katrina Fanning Cup League | 21 st June at Raymond Terrace |
| Under 19yrs Futsal | 27 th June at Howzat |
| ST MARY'S ATHLETICS CARNIVAL CHANGE OF DATE DUE TO TRACK RESURFACING | TERM 3 THURSDAY 4th AUGUST |

St Mary's Catholic College Sports program is structured in the following way for Term 2:

Year 7 and Year 8

- Our school based sport program – various sports as per Term 1
- Regional Sport (Rep) each Friday sport time. Sports offered this term are:
 - Girls Netball (one team for each year)
 - Soccer for boys and girls

Year 9 and Year 10

- **Recreational selections**
Students in Year 9 and Year 10 will select from a range of recreational sports and activities online
- **Regional Sport (Rep)**
Sports offered this term are Basketball and Oz Tag for girls and boys each Friday in sports time

Surfing

St Mary's has increased the availability of the number in surfing this term due to the assistance of Mr Martin Speirs, Mr Shane Abell, Mr Daniel Matzen and Mr Peter Barnes. We have acquired names from Year 7 and Year 8 to gain their qualifications for Surfing with APOL and Miles Niddrie, who have had years of experience with our school. Many thanks to Mr Abell for organising this.

Year 7 and Year 8 surfers will begin Week 5 of this term and all the participants must have completed their swim section of their qualifications. Miles Niddrie and Shane Abell will be putting all students through the qualifications first, however you must pass all aspects before continuing on with surfing this term.

We will be offering this again next term if students miss out. These qualifications remain with you for your school life, like anything else you are refreshed each year.

Diocesan Cross Country – Aberdeen

The early 6.30am start did not affect our elite Cross Country runner's performance. They challenged themselves on the well known Glenbawn Dam Cross Country track, which created many up and down slopes along the courses for the Championships.

Many thanks to Eamon Wilde and Marshall Blanch who certainly showed leadership in assisting with their knowledge of the course to all the junior students. All students were competitive and set off in age groups and gave their best and supported each other, as they returned to find out what number they were as they crossed the line. A great day had by all!



Diocesan and NSWCCC Soccer

This sport has just been relentless with cancelled games and then finding dry fields and dates to continue the championships. This week we have had Diocesan Junior Boys soccer, with a day full of enjoyment and skill. A day where all schools joined in to celebrate a team's final attempt of getting a goal! Many thanks to Mr Kris Eames for coaching this team.

Open Boys Soccer at Speers Point with Mr Daniel Matzen on a day of three seasons, ended by playing in the final and losing to All Saints – an outstanding achievement!

Bill Turner Boys and Girls are off to Speers Point to play Round 2 in the Statewide competition, known for years as the Bill Turner Cup. Friday is "D" Day at Speers Point. Good luck to Mr Eames and Ms Hatcher!

Rugby League

The 14yrs finally got to play last week and many thanks to Mr Kieran Knight for coaching the team. The report was in our last newsletter.

The 18yrs played on Tuesday at Raymond Terrace with Game 1 against our rival school, St Francis Xavier's. The boy's mindset was to give this our best shot, courage, determination and the beauty of this game was that players called upon each other to do something beyond their capabilities. Not one player did not fulfill his duty on the field. With only one reserve, the boys dug deep, and it became not about who we play, but how we play as a team. Their defence was relentless and backed up again and again until a dropped ball by SFX gave us our chance. In the corner we went. SFX had already scored off our coughed-up ball on a tough tackle. We were close but, unfortunately, they scored again and so the final score was 10-4.

With two teams pulling out that morning, this left St Mary's to play two games in a row after SFX and they rallied to play a fresh All Saint's College team. This game was extremely hard and, when Jordon Pitt hurt his shoulder and was declared out, mentally the boys had to conquer this as a team. Words cannot describe what I witnessed in bravery and courage and a "never give up attitude" as a team, even though All Saints was continuously hitting hard, exhausting our defence.

Both SFX and All Saints arrived with 20 players on their bus, therefore we did well considering we only had 14 players, as three were sick that morning.

All Saints College won the overall day and moves on to Sydney. St Mary's may have lost the game of league, but their character and integrity was 'unity'. Mr Crispin and I were humbled to be in their presence. An outstanding effort!

The team:

Bede Emerton, Zac Jones, Zac Doggett, Levi Briggs, Toby Jackson, Chey Emerton, Baylen Lowe, Zac Brand, Bailey Dawson, Daniel Ward, Kaleb Boon, Tom Plush, Jordan Pitt, Max Pavlidis.

Annette Morgan
Sport Coordinator





PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE

God of peace and justice,
who change the hardened heart
and break the power of violence,
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril;
let them know not death but life,
not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all;
we are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength
to live that truth in love,
choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Australian Catholic
Bishops Conference





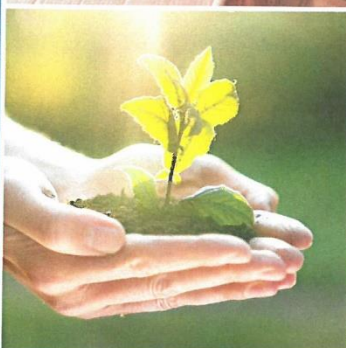
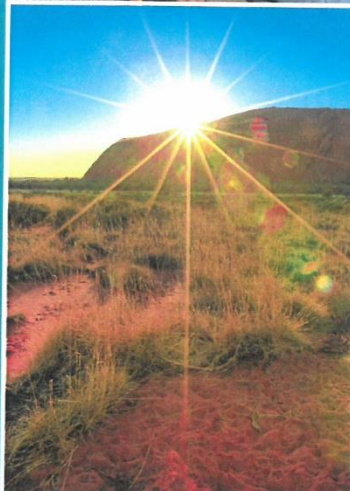
ST MARY'S
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
GATESHEAD

SENIOR MUSIC SHOWCASE

7pm - 9pm

TICKETS: \$5 EACH
OR \$10 FOR A
FAMILY

Where: The
Josephite Centre



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.

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.

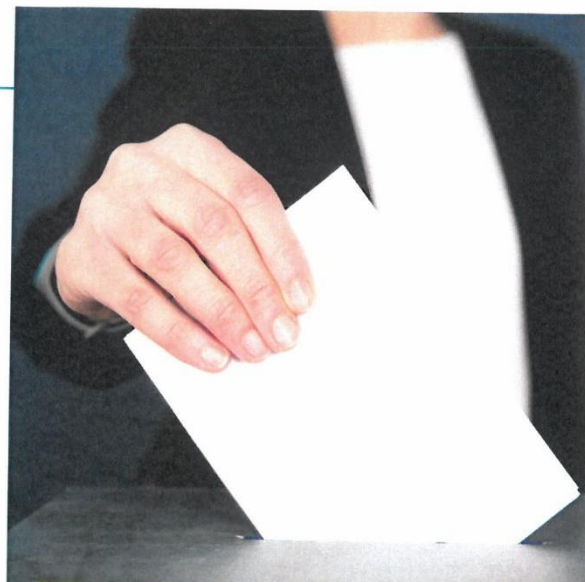
SUBSIDIARITY

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.



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.



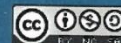
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| Calendar 2022 TERM 2 2022 | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Week 3 (A Week) | |
| Fri 13 May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Turner Girls & Boys Soccer • NAPLAN Years 7 & 9 • Newsletter 6.22 published |
| Week 4 (B Week) | |
| Mon 16 May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 2023 Enrolment period continues • Year 7 2023 Enrichment Sessions (Day 1) – St Mary's Warners Bay, (AM) & St Patrick's Swansea, SFX Belmont, St Joseph's Charlestown, St James Kotara (PM) • World Support Staff Day • Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement (all week) |
| Tues 17 May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 2023 Enrichment Sessions (Day 2) – St Paul's Gateshead, St Pius Windale, (PM) |
| Thurs 19 May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landcare Day – World Bee Day • Year 10 & 12 Periods 1 and 2 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 to be advised • Grandparent's Liturgy – details to be advised |
| 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) | |
| Tue 7 June | Year 10 (Year 11 2023) Course Preference Evening 6pm |
| 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

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

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/>

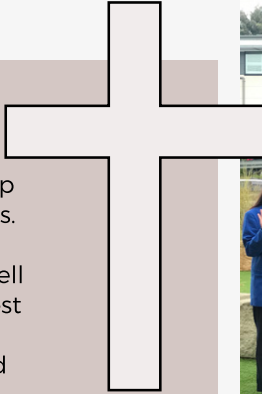
SPC NEWSLETTER

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE GATESHEAD

PRAYER

MIA EGAN - YEAR 11 SPC

Dear God. We pray that unity may prevail in our community. Help us be an instrument of Your peace. Help us in our community to come together and focus on helping one another. Help us to cooperate well in overcoming health issues. Allow us to assist those in need to get back on their feet in times of trouble. Help us to listen well and to empathize and continue to make the best path for not only our community, but for all. We pray that new connections will benefit each and every one of us for now and forever. Amen.



WELCOME TO SPC!

POPPY CARTER - YEAR 11 SPC

We, the Student Pastoral Council would like to introduce ourselves and provide a brief overview about what we do for not only you - but the whole school. The SPC is comprised of students from years 7-11 who work together for the benefit of you and the school community. We are here to give a voice to our respective year groups and inform them of upcoming fundraisers and events that help both the school and the wider community. This term, the SPC is focusing on fundraising for the Vinnie's Winter Appeal and Do it for Dolly Day, implementing feedback from students on how best to represent their values and opinions.

On behalf of the SPC, we thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to working with you this year.

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

LILY QUINN - YEAR 11 SPC

The principle focus for the SPC this term is to organise fundraising for the Vinnie's Winter Appeal. This is an annual event held by the charity St Vincent de Paul aimed to raise money for people in need, including the homeless and victims of domestic violence. In previous years, the SPC has held fundraising events such as the history exhibition 'Night at the Museum', as well as accepting donations from students. We look forward to keeping you informed as we receive more information on the specifics of this year's Winter Appeal. This year we are taking a different approach, focusing on helping the homeless in our community through care packs. Once we know which items are needed for the Winter Appeal, we ask all roll-call teachers to encourage their students to donate.

YEAR 7 BASKETBALL COMPETITION

SONNY MATZEN - YEAR 7 SPC

Starting in Week 4, Year 7 students will have the opportunity to play in a mixed basketball round robin competition. This will take place in the Josephite Centre every Tuesday at lunch time until the end of term. Each roll call class will enter a mixed team and will be competing against other roll call classes. This tournament aims to bring the Year 7 students closer to one another and the community. On the final Tuesday in Week 10, Year 7 students will be asked to bring a gold coin donation which will go towards the Vinnie's Winter Appeal. We will also celebrate the tournament with an end of competition pizza party. Year 7 teachers are asked to support and encourage their roll classes.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the SPC.

SURVEY

VICTORIA OWEN - YEAR 9 SPC

The SPC has created three surveys targeted at Stages 4, 5, and 6. This was designed as a method to receive feedback from students on what could be improved in the SPC, or issues that they'd like the SPC to address. We were also interested in which Social Justice issues students are connected to. We decided to do a Forms Survey as we could hear from the students directly and individually. This helps the SPC by drawing our attention to issues we need to further investigate and gives us feedback on how to better improve our role as 'student voice'. We look forward to sharing the student voice with you in the next newsletter once we have collated the responses.

FROM OUR COLLEGE LEADERS:

Thanks to the SPC for the opportunity to contribute to this issue of the newsletter. We have a couple of events in planning that we wanted to share with you as well as a reminder about Do it for Dolly Day events that will be taking place this Friday.

Currently pencilled in for Week 4 is a BBQ lunch for Year 7 and Year 12, which will be accompanied by basketball and handball games, with the two groups. We hope to build better relationships between senior and junior students through these activities.

Also in planning for that week is the first, of what will hopefully be many, semi-spontaneous concerts, that will be held somewhere on the Quad, to give our music students more opportunities to perform. These will be very casual performances, similar to busking. More information will follow on both of these plans, closer to the dates.

On Friday we will be having a fundraiser for Do it for Dolly Day, in support of the Dolly's Dream Foundation, which aims to change the culture of bullying by addressing the impact of bullying, anxiety, depression and youth suicide, through education and direct support to young people and families. Dolly's Dream was created by Kate and Tick Everett following the loss of their 14-year-old daughter, Dolly to suicide, after ongoing bullying. We are proud to be supporting this very important cause.

On Friday, we ask students to accessorise in blue, eg) blue hats, dress up items, socks, ribbons, earrings, makeup, and bring in a gold coin donation to go to the Dolly's Dream Foundation. Students will already be wearing blue sport uniform. We ask for your support in reminding Students that this will be taking place and encouraging them to take part. If you would like more information, their website is an excellent source of information (<https://dollysdream.org.au/>) or we would be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you St Mary's for your ongoing support



Do It For Dolly Day

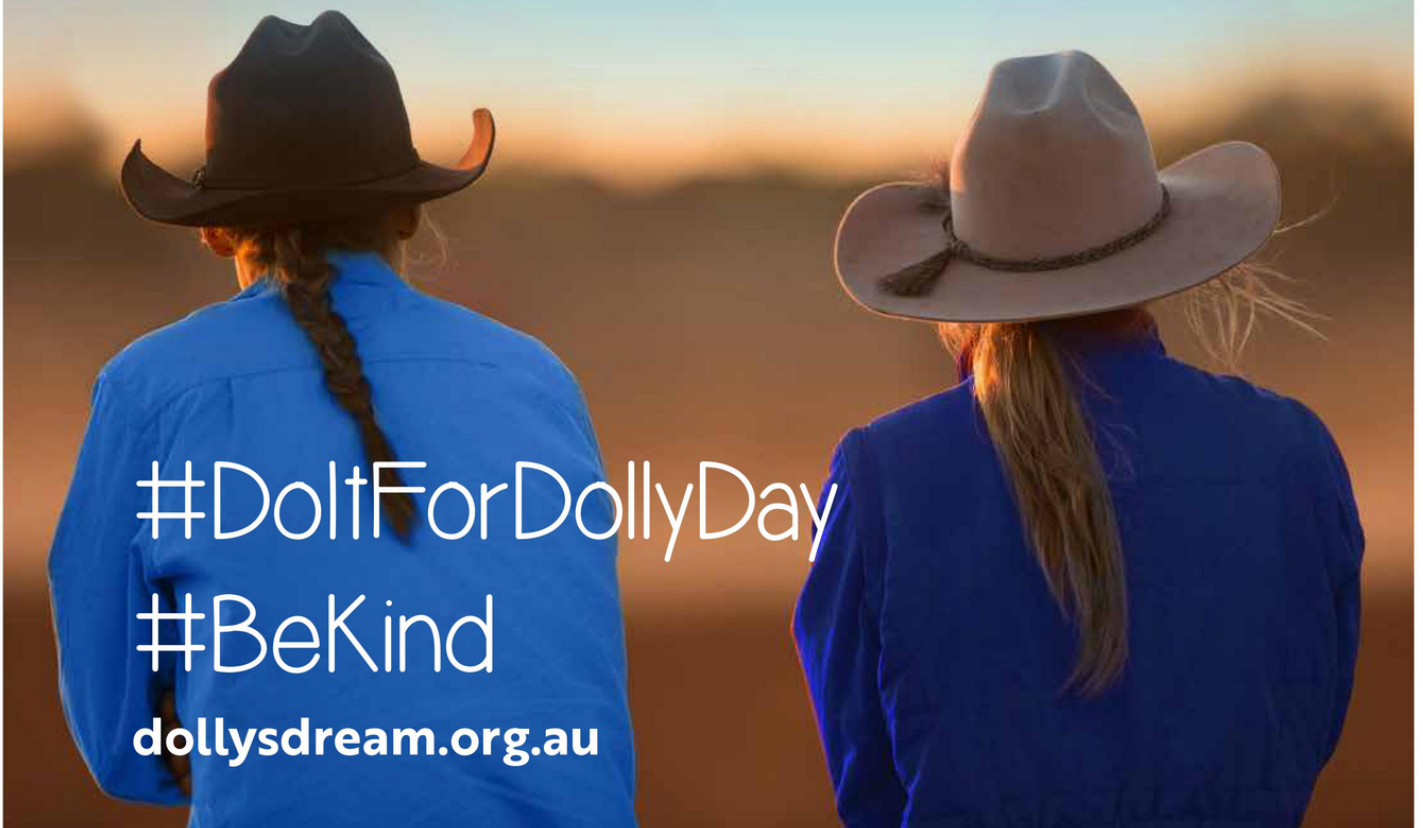
Creating a kinder and safer world
for Australia's kids and communities.

Go blue, be kind,
fundraise.

Friday
13 May 2022

#DoItForDollyDay
#BeKind

dollysdream.org.au



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

JACK GRIFFITHS - COLLEGE LEADER

The Centre for Volunteering is now seeking applications for Volunteer of the Year Awards. Please give some consideration to nominating students who you may know to be a volunteer for the Young Volunteer of the Year Award (or any other award you may feel is suitable)

We also ask that you send the College Executive a copy of any nominations you submit, so that the student(s) can receive a certificate in recognition of their being Ready to Serve in the wider community.

You can submit a nomination here: <https://www.volunteering.com.au/volunteer-awards/>

Please see the flyer for more information.



Yasmin Catley MP

MEMBER FOR SWANSEA

31 March 2022

Mr Larry Keating
Principal
St Mary's Catholic College
PO Box 4021
GATESHEAD NSW 2290

Dear Larry,

I write to you to advise nominations for the 2022 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards are now open.

This is a fantastic opportunity to nominate someone who has made a difference through volunteering. These Awards celebrate the efforts of our state's volunteers across seven different award categories which include:


- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Adult Volunteer of the Year
- Senior Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer Team of the Year
- Corporate Volunteer of the Year (Individual)
- Corporate Volunteer Team of the Year
- Excellence in Volunteer Management

For further information and to lodge a nomination go to:

[2022 Volunteer of the Year Awards – The Centre for Volunteering](#)

Nominations close Friday, 18 June 2022.

Yours Sincerely



Yasmin Catley MP
Member for Swansea



Office: Shop 1, 204 Pacific Hwy, Swansea NSW 2281 **Mail:** PO Box 306, Swansea NSW 2281
Phone: (02) 4972 1133 **Fax:** (02) 4972 1494 **Email:** Swansea@parliament.nsw.gov.au

THANK YOU FOR READING AND YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT OF THE SPC.