



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST MARY'S GREENSBOROUGH

5 May 2025

PRINCIPAL NEWS



Happy Easter: He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

So they left the tomb quickly with ... great joy, and ran to tell his disciples (Mt 28:8)

Risen One, Bringer of Joy, plant the seeds of great gladness deep in the soil of my being. May I enjoy life, begin each day with enthusiasm, and become ever more aware of you.

Amen



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

St. Mary's is a dynamic Catholic community of empowered learners engaging justly in the world.

Dear Families,

Term Two Monthly Candela

We warmly welcome you back for Term Two, 2025. We are noticing the cooler mornings these last few weeks, although the weather has been warm, even though we are in the thick of Autumn. The students and staff have adjusted back to the routines of school life in Term 2.

Easter Prayer Service

In week 1 of Term 2 we marked our return with an Easter Prayer service celebrating the Resurrection of Christ presented by the Year 6 Liturgical CAT.. It was a reverent uplifting celebration which set the tone for our Term 2 Christian action; inner peace.

We Share the Joy of our "Risen Lord"

Easter has passed, but our 'Risen' Lord is forever with us. This Easter Season gives us many opportunities to reflect on the mystery of the resurrection and the message of hope. Through the Easter celebrations you may have experienced a personal opportunity to renew your relationship with our Lord. The Paschal Candle that we light for the first time at the Easter Services always reminds us that 'Jesus is the Light of the World.' Easter is a 50 day celebration until Pentecost.

Watsonia RSL ANZAC Day Service 25th APRIL 2025

As all families were aware we just returned from school holidays for a three day week for staff due to First Aid Training and a two day week for the students due to the commemoration of ANZAC Day. The Watsonia RSL held two ANZAC Day services on the 25th April. The Morning Service at 10.00AM included our St Mary's school children laying a wreath. Thank you to Emma Canning for volunteering to support the students and to the students who participated, we are most grateful. Congratulations to Jan Tivisini (Art Teacher) for creating a beautiful Australian wreath.

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First Eucharist

Our prayers and thoughts are with the Year Three students who celebrated their First Eucharist over this weekend and the next. The Masses were beautiful reverent celebrations. Thank you to Ana (RE Leader) and the Year 3 teachers; Taliah, Eliza and Cassie and the leaders for supporting each of the Masses. We are grateful to Fr Steve and Fr Zaher for celebrating the students' First Eucharist and for making them feel so special. Congratulations to all Year 3 parents/carers as you are the first faith formators of your children and St Mary's supports you in your efforts.



The 2025 School Advisory Team:

Fr Steve Rigo (ex officio member)
Marisa Matthys (ex officio member)
Emma Canning (Chair)
Suzannah Siddles (Deputy Chair)
Michelle Parente (Secretary)
Lyndal Alexander (General member)
Carolyn Drake (General member)
Thomas Stefancic (General member)
Belinda Cheong (Child Safety Rep)
Laurina van-der-EL (Staff rep)



Attached are the Role of the SAC and the school's Vision and Mission and the SAC Code of Conduct for your perusal.

- [Working Together in Mission](#)
- [School Philosophy Statement](#)
- [Code of Conduct for School Advisory Council Members](#)

Please contact any of these members if you wish to bring any issues or innovations to the SAC for discussion.

Parents Association

Presently the PA is still without a President and Deputy President. Natalie Hadley is Secretary and Sally James is Treasurer. We have a few general members however I would be most grateful for a parent/s to lead the team. Belinda Cheong our Deputy Principal is currently leading the PA. Please contact me if you are happy to step up to support our school in this important role. The role is not onerous as the actual events have a hard working team who support all events.

Infrastructure Update

Basketball Court

The Basketball Court rebuild is almost complete. We will be finishing the area off with some outdoor seating and replanting. We are so grateful to the North East Link Community Fund for providing \$75,000 thus saving our parents many years of fundraising to bring this project to fruition. We are also grateful to our Parents Association for contributing \$30,000 to the project. Our students will be delighted and will benefit for many years to come. I will be organising an official opening of the court and inviting guests from NELP and the Parents Association

LED Electronic Community Notice Board

Last week I applied for further funding to support the installation of an LED Electronic Community Notice Board on Grimshaw St. I am once again hopeful that we will receive funding from the North East Link as the ability to communicate with our wider community will be enhanced. I have applied for \$75,000.

Working Bee

Congratulations on the turnout for the inaugural twilight working bee on the 21st February. Laurina informed me of the incredible support from parents and students. Approximately 80 people attended. Wow! That is wonderful. If the numbers keep up all year there will be no need to implement a maintenance levy. Huge applause goes out to the MaD Team for attending and for organising the tasks our next Working Bee is on Saturday May 17th at 8.30am. I look forward to seeing many parents attending.

WhatsApp Rules and Purpose

In 2021 I introduced the Class Liaison program to encourage inclusion of all members of our community to ensure an inclusive community. Thanks to the support of Christine De Pasquale who accepted the role of Coordinator, the Class Liaison Initiative has gone from strength to strength and it has been extremely successful in including all parents in our classes, and encouraging outings and support for one another.

I am extremely grateful that Chrissy Dacey has taken over as Coordinator.

It is timely to remind families of the purpose of What's App for each class. Firstly it is a tool to connect ALL families and to be able to communicate family events. It is NOT an avenue for venting, put downs and slander.

If you have any issues or grievance with St Mary's you are asked to follow the [Complaints Handling Policy](#) and [Complaints Handling Procedures](#).

The rules of the St Mary's WhatsApp Groups are exactly what is documented in the Parent Code Of Conduct; refrain from activities, conduct or communication that would reasonably be seen to undermine the reputation of the school, employees or students of the school, including activities on social media.

WhatsApp Core Principles:

- **Respect:** Treat all members with kindness and respect, avoid personal attacks, shaming, or bullying. Assume positive intent in other members' actions.
- **On-Topic:** Keep posts and comments relevant to the group's purpose of event sharing, birth notification or death of family members notification or classroom whole school volunteering and events.
- **No Spam or Unsolicited Promotions:** Refrain from self-promotion, spam, or irrelevant links.
- **Privacy:** Respect everyone's privacy and avoid sharing sensitive information outside the group without permission.

Breaches of these principles follow the same protocols in the [Parent/Carer Code of Conduct](#). Any school related queries need to go through the Admin Team of St Mary's who are more than happy to answer your questions.

Condolences

Our prayers and thoughts are with Alexia B & Savannah B and her family on the passing their beloved Auntie and sister to Maria. We pray for comfort during this sad time.

Kind Regards,

Marisa Matthys
Principal

