



Term 2 | Week 7 | Date: 2nd June 2021

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Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary's



*"Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love."* (Mother Teresa)

*"A smile is happiness you'll find right under your nose."*

*"A smile is a curve that sets everything straight."*

After 6 years of devoted service to the parish community at St Fergal's and the families, staff and children here at St Mary's, Fr Chris is leaving us to take up his new position, ministering to the community at St Joseph's, Hillston.

Over the last two Mondays the school has taken the opportunity to farewell Fr Chris as we celebrated the feasts of Our Lady Help of Christians and the Visitation. At the close of the mass for Our Lady Help of Christians, two of our students, Prince and Hannah, presented Fr Chris with a gift, a religious vestment, a stole embroidered with a design, featuring Australian wildflowers. Fr Chris generously responded by presenting the school with a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Smiles which now stands in our school entrance foyer.

Fr Chris has been a true blessing for our school in so many ways. Like the good shepherd, Jesus, he knows each of his flock, the children, their families and indeed all the staff by their names. He visits the school daily, spending time in the classroom with the children and staff, taking a lively interest in everyone's lives, their wellbeing and their learning. Fr Chris presents a positive and all-loving image of God to the children, telling them that Jesus loves them unconditionally and encouraging them to be open to experiencing this Godly love in their own lives. He speaks to the children in a way that resonates with them and is always ready to respond to their questions on a whole range of spiritual matters relating to faith and the journey of life. To his credit he does this in a way that demonstrates great humility and with a healthy dose of humour. His natural disposition is to exude happiness and it is rare to see him without a smile on his face. How fitting that he has given us a statue of Our Lady of Smiles! In the troubling times in which we live, we need to take the time to smile at each other. Not only does it make us feel better ourselves and provide sustenance for our own individual wellbeing, it helps lighten the burden and lift the load of others. As we enter our school foyer, let's take a moment to pause and look at our lovely new statue and as we do so, let's make sure to smile to ourselves and those around us, spreading the good news that life is good and that, no matter what we might hear on the media airwaves, we live in times of great hope.

And so, Fr Chris, as you go to Hillston, you do so with our prayers and good wishes and with our gratitude for the time you have spent with us. I leave you with a little picture of the strong river gums on the beautiful bushy bend trail by the meandering Murrumbidgee river and some eloquent words from the great Vietnamese Buddhist monk and peace activist, Thich Nhat Hanh.



*"If in our daily life we can smile, if we can be peaceful and happy, not only we, but everyone will profit from it. This is the most basic kind of peace work."* (Thich Nhat Hanh)

May God bless you, Chris, in your ministry to your new flock at Hillston.

As we farewell Fr Chris, I write to inform you that another key person in our St Mary's family is also preparing to take her leave at the end of this year. Veronica Tripney, Poss, former St Mary's student and current teacher and Religious Education Coordinator, will be beginning a new chapter of her life as she relocates with her husband, Dan, and their family from Hay to the Newcastle area. This move has been in the pipeline for some time and in spite of my desperate plea for her to *"just stay another year or so....please,"* (only joking, Poss!) she's moving on to spend some time nearer to Dan's family. I'll do my best to pay a fitting tribute to Poss towards the end of the year but just wanted to bring this to your attention now. The position of Religious Education Coordinator has been advertised already and I'll keep you posted when I have news of an appointment - watch this space.

Wishing everyone a great week and thanking you all for your encouragement and support.

Wishing everyone a great week!

God Bless

**Vince**

### **HAY SHEEP SHOW CATERING**

**Thank you to those families that have volunteered their time or donation of food to sell on the day.**

**We still require volunteers for both running the canteen on the day or donation of cakes/slices/biscuits etc.**

**Please contact the office or complete the form and return it to the office as a matter of urgency. We are asking for an hour or two of your time to help make the day a success.**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO PURCHASING RESOURCES FOR OUR STUDENTS  
(A copy of the form that was sent home is attached)**

# Religious Education News

## Farewell to Fr Chris

This week, the staff and students bid farewell to Fr Chris. We celebrated Mass for the Feast of The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Monday. At the end of the Mass the students, staff and parishioners took part in an Irish Blessing, to wish Fr Chris the best of luck, as he leaves Hay to take up the position of Parish Priest in Hillston. We thank Fr Chris for the kindness, support and friendship that he has shown to us all during his time in Hay.

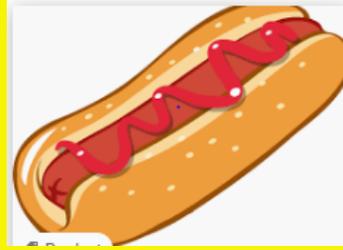


## WINTER UNIFORM

Now that winter is upon us students are required to wear FULL winter uniform as of Monday 7th June.

## Friday Lunch Deal

*Hot Dog w/sauce*



**\$3.00**

## St Mary's Winter Uniform



# Weekly Compliance Articles

## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN AND OUT OF THE CAR

A child who is properly secured in an approved child car seat is less likely to be killed or injured in a crash than one who is not.

Children aged between four and seven years cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows, unless all other back seats are occupied by children younger than seven years in a child car seat.

National child restraint laws require your child to be restrained in the car as follows:

- 0 – 6 months Approved rear-facing child car seat.
- 6 months – 4 years Approved rear or forward-facing child car seat.
- 4+ years Approved forward-facing child car seat or booster seat.
- 145cm or taller Suggested minimum height to use adult lap-sash belt.

Here are a few things you can do to help keep your children safe in and out of the car:

- Children should remain in the car until an adult opens the 'Safety Door'. This is the rear footpath side door of the car.
- A sleeping child must remain firmly buckled up while in the car.
- Assist your children to buckle up – always check the seatbelt is buckled up firmly and not twisted.
- Make it a rule that every passenger must be securely buckled into a seatbelt or child car seat before you start the car.
- Always help your child get in and out of the car through the 'Safety Door'.

Never leave a child of any age in a vehicle without adult supervision. Children may rapidly suffer from dehydration, heat exhaustion and organ failure if left unattended, especially on hot days.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on [safetytown.com.au](http://safetytown.com.au)



**HCS**  
HAY CHILDREN'S SERVICES

School holidays are just  
around the corner!

### **HCS are opening enrolments for the term 2 school holidays.**

**What:** Child led program with an emphasis on fun,  
implemented by qualified and experienced Educators.

**Who can attend:** Children 3 years to 10 years inclusive.

**When:** Week days, Monday 28th June - Friday 9th July from  
8.30am to 5.30pm

**Where:** Hay Preschool premises, 348 Church Street.

**Cost:** \$25 per day per child (invoiced in advance and payment  
terms will apply, CCS subsidy does not apply).

**Contact:** Ph 6993 1757 or [admin@haycs.com.au](mailto:admin@haycs.com.au) for further  
information or to enrol.

**Enrolments CLOSE 9th June 2021**

# St Mary's Christmas Tree Fete November 26th 2021

Thanks to all those who attended our opening meeting for the planning of our Christmas Tree Fete for 2021 which will take place on November 26th. Kerynne Martin generously volunteered to be Parent Coordinator and she will work with our trusty staff here at St Mary's to help organise a great event for the Hay community. Kerynne will be meeting with staff soon and then we'll follow up with a further meeting to which everyone will be invited so watch this space.

At the meeting we discussed a whole range of possible ideas and if anyone has any further thoughts on any of these or any new ideas, please contact either Kerynne, Janet Low or myself. These are some of the things we thought would be worth exploring:

- Christmas music
- Santa Visit - who's going to be a good Santa? any ideas??
- Food - Indian (butter chicken, BBQ) - many thanks to Minal!
- Father Chris to check with services club around ideas for Chinese food (Fr Chris may be gone but we're still very much in contact with him)
- Year 6's to run a stall or games (egg & spoon, chocolate throw or magnetic fish)
- Year 5/6 to brainstorm ideas for a stall or game
- Which provider is going to do the rides?
- Only 1 colour wristband for rides etc
- Raffle tickets for the Christmas stocking
- Kelly Mitchell?? Fairy Floss
- Scouts - snow cones
- Prize wheel with love hay vouchers
- Cake stall
- Large Metal tree to decorate yard - children to do decorations and solar lights - Stringers happy to make - thanks Matt and Maree!
- Doughnut machine - Hay Magpies have a good one
- Photo with Santa - design a area for Santa, provides photo frames - potential photographers for us to contact \*Contact. This could be a fabulous earner and we're thinking of turning the hall (Nano Nagle Centre) into a grotto and getting top quality pictures done - it would save families a lot of time from having to drive to a big centre to get the family photos with Santa.
- Lucky bags or show bags
- Petting zoo and Shetland ponies to be organised.
- Flowers for sale - Janet
- Tattoo stall, sand art, face painting, crazy hair, nails, Henna Tattoo (Nina)
- Shift rooster

## COMMUNITY EVENT



**Eat Move Live**



*Parent Information Session on the new Eat Move Live Program*

**Speaker: Val Watson - Nutritionist**  
over 25 years experience in preventative health and nutrition



## FUN FOOD FRIENDSHIP

At

**Venue: Hay Park Canteens**  
new room

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 10am to 12pm**

**Please RSVP: Michele Harrington 0429882578**



Your  
questions  
answered

**Nutrition session from 10am - 11am**

*Calling all mums, dads*

*And Grandparents,*

*Bring your children*

*Free Family Bags packed with goodies*

*Morning tea supplied and all the information you  
will need for a Healthy start for your family.*

Your  
child's  
BMI?





# Hay Sheep Show Catering



St Mary's will be catering for the annual Hay Sheep show on 19th June 2021. We have catered for this event for many years now and we hope to continue this.

This is a great fundraiser for our school but to make it a success we require some assistance from our parents. We will require donations of cakes, slices and biscuits and we are also preparing a roster of helpers for the day.

We will be offering morning tea, sandwiches, sausage rolls, lunch and also selling Tea/coffee and drinks throughout the day.

If you can help in any way, please complete the form below and return it to the office as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

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I/we \_\_\_\_\_ will volunteer 2 hours to help run the canteen on the day. (a roster will be issued once we have names)

Nominate a preferred time (we need volunteers from 6am to 3pm)

\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ (insert time here)

OR

I/we \_\_\_\_\_ will be happy to donate cakes/slices/biscuits to sell on the day.