



Term 2 Week 1 — Wednesday 27th April 2022 436 Moppett St Hay 2711 02 6993 1775 admin.hay@wf.catholic.edu.au

St Mary's Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary's

The warmest of welcomes back to you as we begin Term 2 and I hope that you all enjoyed a great time over the Easter break. I had a terrific holiday, visiting my own children and grandchildren in Sydney and Katoomba and spent last Sunday afternoon, celebrating my granddaughter, Zaria's, 6th birthday party along with her little friends before driving back to Hay on Monday.

It was a joy to return to school today and reconnect with children, staff and some parents. We have a busy term ahead of us and it begins tomorrow as Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Mabon and I travel to Bendigo and Ballarat for our Years 5 and 6 Goldfields Excursion. The children were all fired-up with great excitement today for our Wednesday morning start at 6.15 am.



As I write these words for you on the eve of our excursion to the goldfields, I would like to share with you some important information relating to St Mary's. During Term 1 Fr Paul and I have been in discussion with the leadership team at the Catholic Education Office at Forbes, exploring ways to promote the school and increase our enrolment levels. The Catholic Education Office, Fr Paul and I all believe that St Mary's is a wonderful school, one that has contributed magnificently over the years to the local Hay community and one that has a very bright future within the town. At the end of the day we believe that it can only be good for the town of Hay to have each one of its schools thriving.

In trying to think a little 'outside the box' we will be promoting the opportunity for our current St Mary's families as well as new families to send their children to St Mary's on a 'voluntary fee paying' basis for a period of two years. The finer detail is still to be worked out but essentially we are proposing that existing and prospective families will be able to have their children educated at St Mary's without paying fees for two years. I will communicate more about this in the very near future and will be looking to advertise this initiative within the broader community very shortly.....so watch this space!

And now for some staffing news:

Ms Cherokee Dixon, Aboriginal Education Worker: I wrote to inform you at the end of last year that Cherokee would be taking leave from her position at St Mary's for Term 1, 2022. Towards the end of last term Cherokee made the decision to resign from her position and has taken up a new position in the office at Hay War Memorial High School. In congratulating Cherokee on her new role I thank her for her great contributions to St Mary's during her time with us. Cherokee has dedicated 11 years of service to St Mary's, raising awareness of Aboriginal culture within both staff and students as well as being a valued Teacher Aide, supporting the learning in the classroom. She has used her talent in technology to showcase a whole range of events in the daily life of the school both in social media and in the advertising boards around the school. We will be organising a time in the near future for Cherokee to visit the school so that we can give her a well-deserved farewell.



At the start of Term 2 we are delighted to welcome Zoya..... to our Year 1 class at St Mary's. Despite confessing to feeling a few nerves on Day 1, Zoya settled in beautifully and was quickly into the swing of things. Zoya's older brother, Uzair, is in our Year 6 class.

As we welcome Zoya we also bid a fond farewell to Isabella and Sam Martin and Riley and Allyssa Cooke who finished up at St Mary's at the end of Term 1. I thank Sam, Isabella, Riley and Allyssa for their joyful presence and contributions at St Mary's during their time with us and wish each of them and their families every good blessing for the future.

And finally.... A big thank you to all children and staff who participated in Monday's ANZAC Day March. While I was unable to be present for this important event, I am very proud of the great commitment shown by all participants who represented our school so very well. A special word of thanks to our school leaders, Uzair, Prince and Emma who laid a wreath for St Mary's. Well done and thank you!

Wishing you all well and looking forward to working with you this term.

God Bless

Vince

FRIDAY LUNCH DEAL
Steamed Dim Sims
\$2.50 With tom/soy sauce

R. E. NEWS



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He is risen!

Dear friends, I hope you all had a wonderful holiday. I can't wait to hear all about it. Every day I pray for each one of you — especially that our good Lord keeps you and your families all safe in your travels, free from sickness and united in love.

After the long and sobering days of Lent we finally got to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus with overflowing joy. This is the greatest event in history! Life defeated death! Eternal hope has been born! These 50 days of the Easter season (until Pentecost Sunday) are truly the most joyful chapter in our Catholic spiritual life — and doesn't our world such a message of Good News right now!



[*The Story of Easter - The Beginners Bible*](#)

Click on the link above and watch this wonderful animated account of **The Story of Easter** — a beautiful and engaging message for the whole family. It's so helpful when the Holy Bible is made accessible to young and old. What a great way to end the day with the children letting the hope God gives us wash over them.

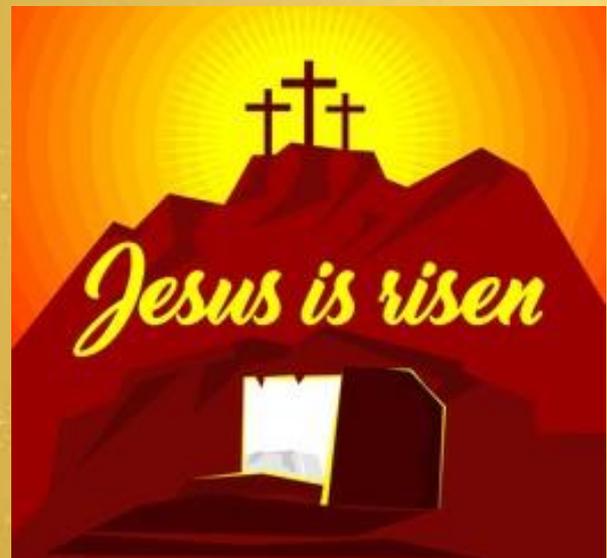


We have our first **Family Mass** of the term on **Saturday, 7th May, at 6pm**. Please spread the word and come with your family and friends. This will be another fantastic opportunity for everyone to get involved and to be blessed and encouraged as a Parish community. Could the altar servers please come at least 20 minutes early.

And everyone is also most welcome to join us every every Saturday for our 6pm Mass. We always nurture a family focus. My friends, it's been wonderful seeing the children and young families get so involved in the our Parish. We all really need the blessings God has to offer and the children have just as much right to participate as any of us.

God bless. Fr Paul

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**“All I want to know is Christ
and the power flowing
from His Resurrection!”**

St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

Anzac
Day



Lest we forget



25th
April



5/6 Excursion update:

After getting away a little late this morning this is the first stop at Echuca for a bite to eat and a comfort break.

Birthday Wishes

The Staff and students of St Mary's Wish the following people a very

Happy Birthday

Miss Gray for 25th April

Lacey Headon for 29th April

Uzair Shahzad for 3rd May



What's Coming up in Term 1

	Please note all events are subject to change.
27/28 & 29th April	Year 5/6 Bendigo/Ballarat Excursion
5 May	School Cross Country
10 May	NAPLAN (yrs 3 & 5)
11 May	NAPLAN (yrs 3 & 5)
12 May	NAPLAN (yrs 3 & 5)
16 May	WF Cross Country—Parkes
23 May	National Reconciliation Week
26 May	National Sorry Day
7 June	Healthy Harold
1 July	Last day of Term 2

**CHILD SAFE SCHOOLS AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

We take our responsibility to protect children seriously. All staff are expected to promote child safety by having a clear understanding of their legal child protection responsibilities and act in accordance with those responsibilities.

In particular, the school will:

- Maintain professionalism in our interactions with children at all times by exercising appropriate duty of care and maintaining professional boundaries.
- Follow an established process to address allegations of inappropriate behaviour by staff towards children.
- Ensure all people working in our school who are required to undertake a Working With Children Check have a valid clearance.

Respond appropriately when we suspect a child is at risk of significant harm due to possible abuse or neglect by a parent/carer or other adult.

ADDRESSING COMPLAINTS OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR BY STAFF

We are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for both students and staff. This includes addressing complaints of inappropriate behaviour by staff towards any child or young person.

Such complaints are handled differently to other types of complaints which may arise in the school because of legal obligations established by the Children’s Guardian Act 2019. The Office of the Children’s Guardian is a government agency which requires schools and other organisations working with children to ensure systems are in place for recording and responding to all allegations of a child protection nature against staff. You should be aware that ‘staff’ includes volunteer helpers (including parents), contractors as well as paid staff.

If you have concerns about alleged inappropriate behaviour by a staff member towards any child or young person it is important that you discuss your concerns with the Principal who in turn will consult with the Catholic Education Office.

All complaints are investigated and resolved through a fair and confidential process which involves listening to ‘both sides of the story’ and giving all involved an opportunity to be heard. If the concerns involve alleged criminal behaviour they will be reported to the Police and the Catholic Education Office will wait for the outcome of the Police investigation before continuing its own investigation.

At the end of an investigation a finding will be made and appropriate follow up determined. In relation to the staff member this may include no action, increased support, professional development, increased supervision/monitoring or disciplinary action, removal of duties or termination of employment. If harm has occurred to a child, counselling or other support will be offered to the child.



St Mary's Parish School

Mother's Day Raffle

Prizes

- **A Day By the Seaside**

(relaxing camp chair, lush artificial plant, Peppermint Grove Oceania Breeze Diffuser, Billabong Palm Leaf Wallet)

- **Domestic Goddess**

(Sunflower print cheese board, Number 1 Mum mug, Kitchenpro Stick Mixer)

- **Pamper & Relaxation Pack**

(Matrix Shampoo & Conditioner pack, Fiji Mango shower gel, oil and body lotion and Believe Honey Pot Soap, Glenelg Gourmet Chocolates)

A special thank you to Antonakas Hardware, Secret Beauty, Hay Jewellers, Sarah Bunyan Hairdressing, Purple Petals Florist, Murphy's Clothing Company, Newspaper Newsagents, Stringer Family and the Hill Family for their generous donations and support.

Tickets \$2 each

Drawn 6th May, 2022