



Term 2 Week 2 — Wednesday 4th May 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

*"Upon their arrival in Hay, the Presentation Sister Nuns were escorted by an immense concourse of people of all denominations. To testify their high regard and esteem for the Sisters, the people seemed to vie with one another in a grand display of buggies and horses which they drove in a well ordered procession from the railway terminus to the Church grounds, according to a news report at the time.*

*They very quickly set to work, and the first official school was opened on 26th February 1883 with over 60 children enrolled. Within a term the number had increased to 100."* (Memories of St Mary's School, Hay, 1883 - 2008 by Beryl Mabon)

What a day that must have been 139 years ago! I reminded the children yesterday as I taught a Religious Education lesson in the original old school building that they were sitting in the very same spots as children before them had sat all those years ago. I reminded them further that they are a very important part of the ongoing story of St Mary's and the ongoing good news story of Catholic Education. It is important not to forget this, to celebrate it regularly and especially so this week which has been designated as Catholic Schools Week, a week in which we celebrate all that is good and distinctive about our little Catholic school, St Mary's.

It is indeed a very special school, in many ways a family where each staff member knows and appreciates each child and is committed to supporting them in their learning, their wellbeing and helping them to be inspired by the message of Jesus, knowing that they are loved unconditionally by God.

My message to you this week in Catholic Schools Week comes from the bottom of my heart. At the end of this year I will have had the joy of working in Catholic Education for just over 46 years. During this time I have been a teacher and principal both in England, Queensland and New South Wales. I have also worked as a Coordinator of Student Wellbeing with responsibility for outreach services and support for the students in over 50 primary and high schools in Eastern Sydney. At the end of

2020 with the pandemic in full force I honestly thought that my days in Catholic education were finally over. What a great joy it was for me to be given the opportunity to come to the beautiful little school, St Mary's, here in Hay. Being a born and bred city person I had never previously worked in a country school and I jumped at the opportunity to experience country life. While my initial contract was just for one year, 2021, Pam, my wife, and I quickly began to love the place. I was keen to stay on for another year and delighted to be given the opportunity to extend my stay into 2022. I will be leaving St Mary's at the end of this year and finishing my career in Catholic education. In all honesty I cannot think of a better place than St Mary's, Hay, to finish my life in teaching. It is truly a beautiful school in every way and I love it - I love the children especially, their spirit, their energy and their zest for life. I am blest to be able to work with a wonderful parish priest in Fr Paul, with supportive families and with the most dedicated and hard working staff members. If I was able to turn back the body clock a few years I would stay longer for sure. I have often wished that I had come here before 2021 so much do I enjoy it here. That said, I'm just so grateful to be here and I thank God for sending me to St Mary's, Hay.

For my remaining three terms I remain committed to working closely with Fr Paul, the community and the Catholic Education Office to achieve the very very best for St Mary's. Fr Paul and I have had meetings with the leadership team at the Catholic Education Office, exploring a range of options and opportunities to support and promote the school moving forward during the time of transition to a new school principal. We believe that it is critical that the appointment of a new principal is made as early as possible and that there are opportunities for the incoming principal to work alongside myself for a period of time to ensure a smooth transition. It would be wonderful for me to be able to work alongside this new person and for Fr Paul and myself to be able to introduce him/her to the broader community and this is our game plan. I am delighted that the appointment process is now underway and I am praying that the right person is Inspired to come here. I will keep you fully informed as to how this all progresses.

*Respect for Self—Respect for Others— Respect for the Environment*

Along with this I would also like to follow up on my message last week in relation to our move towards voluntary fee paying that comes into effect for 2023 and 2024. I will be creating a brief media release for the Riverine Grazier communicating this more broadly next week. I am delighted that the Catholic Education Office is able to support our current families and prospective families through this initiative which is very welcome and comes at a time when the current economy is placing increased financial pressures on many families. Catholic Education Office Director, Anthony Gordon, says the move is designed to help families in the Hay region, expressing that,

*"We are acutely aware of the need to ensure high quality learning outcomes for the young people in the Hay community while supporting families whose circumstances are being affected by the current economy. Catholic education is committed to providing greater accessibility and affordability for all families enrolled or considering a Catholic education."*

I will be working closely with Fr Paul to ensure that the process of enrolling any new families at St Mary's is one that is just, fair, in keeping with our Catholic values and ethos and always respectful of the aspirations of our existing St Mary's families. Speaking as someone who is a lifelong supporter of Public School Education, I emphasise that this initiative should not be seen as some crude attempt to get families to switch schools. In essence we are reaching out to families who clearly value the Catholic education we offer at St Mary's but for whom fees might be a barrier. Most particularly we are reaching out to parents of children who are currently in pre-school and who may be considering St Mary's as a viable option for their child's education.

I'll finish off with a few words about the amazing time I had with our Years 5 and 6 students on our Goldfields excursion last week. This is the little report I wrote for this week's edition of the Grazier.

### **History comes to Life as St Mary's visits the Victorian Goldfields**

It was an action-packed start to Term 2 for the Years 5 and 6 students at St Mary's as they headed off at the crack of dawn on Wednesday morning for the long-awaited excursion to the Victorian goldfields. There was great excitement in the air as the children piled onto the bus, some still bleary-eyed from lack of sleep from the night before but everyone pumped-up to the max with eager anticipation of the adventures that lay

ahead. Having studied about the goldfields throughout the first term and explored some stirring tales and episodes of bravery, treachery and daring deeds that were the hallmark of this period of Australian history, the children could hardly wait to be immersed in the actual landscape where all these events took place.

The great benefit of excursions such as this is that they make the learning truly come alive in a way that is beyond even the best teachers within the four walls of the classroom. Not only that, but excursions challenge children to take that important step outside the comfort zone of the family home and challenge themselves in new situations, all the while having a whole lot of fun along the way. Under the trusty care of our driver, Rick Nelson, and tour leader, Cath Nelson, we had the very best learning experiences possible over the three days. Highlights included a visit to the Chinese Museum in Bendigo where, believe it or not, we learnt about the contribution of Chinese people to the town of Hay! We went underground at the Deborah Mine in Bendigo, donning hard hats and tramping through the damp cool subterranean tunnels, marvelling at quartz reefs with their hidden treasure of gold within. We were in awe of the original Eureka Stockade flag now tightly guarded behind bulletproof glass in a dimly lit security vault. We visited Sovereign Hill at Ballarat where we learnt what school was like back in the Goldfields era and we were literally blown away in amazement at the 3D light show and historical diorama bringing the Eureka Stockade battle vividly to life.

Our final day proved to be more laid back as we visited the Grand Stupa Buddhist Centre in Bendigo, experienced mindful meditation and developed an appreciation of all the world's religions and the beauty of finding peace. We arrived back at Hay, tired but content in the darkness of Friday evening and the children and staff needed no rocking to get to sleep that night for sure.

Wishing everyone well and looking forward to meeting up with anyone who can make it to our Events Planning Meeting tomorrow morning at 8.00 and the Cross Country afterwards.

God Bless

Vince

**Please return all Mother's Day Raffle tickets to  
the school office by Thursday 5th May  
The raffle will be drawn at our assembly on  
Friday 6th May**

**FRIDAY LUNCH DEAL**



**Pizza Singles**

**\$2.50**



*Birthday Wishes*

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

*Happy Birthday*

*Mrs Cox for 4th May*

*Cathy Rokotavaga 7th May*

*Mrs Nelson 9th May*

*Mrs Symons for 10th May &*

*Emma Curtis for 10th May*



# R. E. NEWS



10

*He is risen!*

Easter blessings to you all, my good friends. We now find ourselves in the month of May - the month of Mary. We recall how central the Blessed Virgin Mary is in the life of every Catholic Christian as she reveals to us how to follow her Son, Jesus, more faithfully everyday. We seek to imitate her trust, her joy, her prayerfulness, purity, courage and faith, as she always kept Jesus in the centre of her life.

Watch the short video below where Pope Francis teaches us why all of us should love the Virgin Mary. It is a wonderful teaching aid for the whole family.



## [Why We Should Love the Virgin Mary](#)

This is a perfect time to renew our dedication to the beautiful Marian prayer of the Most Holy Rosary. We can pray five decades a day of the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful or Glorious mysteries, or perhaps even just one decade or a few Hail Marys. The most important thing is simply that we unite our hearts and minds with Mary and reflect on the life of Jesus and try our best to imitate Him.

You might find this brief video on the Rosary helpful. It is important as Catholics to understand



## [The Rosary in 2 Minutes](#)

why we do what we do. When we grasp better our faith we appreciate it more and it helps us to share it with others with greater confidence.

Don't forget **we have our first Family Mass of the school term this Saturday night at 6pm**. Everyone is most welcome. Bring the whole family and invite your friends and neighbours to join us. The holy Mass — the greatest spiritual treasure we have on earth — is for everyone. Once again we will encourage the children and their families to actively participate.

My friends, please remember that, as your pastor, I am always here for each one of you and your families. Never hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of any assistance personally. Know that you are in my daily prayers and I truly consider it a privilege to serve you.

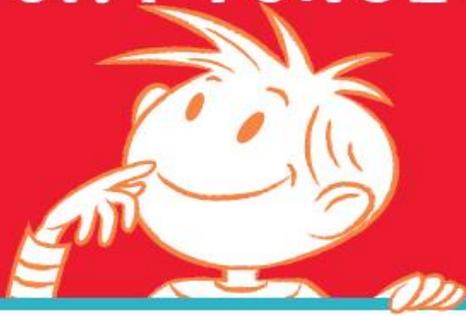
God bless. Fr Paul

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Email: [frpaulnewton@gmail.com](mailto:frpaulnewton@gmail.com)

# FAMILY MASS 6PM SATURDAY

**DON'T FORGET!**



**SCHOLASTIC**

**Book Club**

orders are due:

**11 May 2022**



**Hay Girl Guides**

Invites you to

**Come and Try**

Any

Tuesday nights from  
6.00pm – 8.00pm  
for girls  
aged 5 – 16 years



**Come and join in the fun!!!!**

Girl Guides offer a rolling membership. This is if you join now that you have twelve months before you need to pay registration. Guides also accept Active and Creative Kids Vouchers.

Hay Guides is a Child Safe and Child Friendly Environment



RSVP: Shirley Hajek  
Phone 0458 59 80 22



**AUSKICK  
EVERY THURSDAY  
5.30PM**

Free Sausage Sizzle

For more info contact: Jade Auldish 0401 493 526



# MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL EVENT



CELEBRATING ALL THE SPECIAL WOMEN IN OUR LIVES WHO LOVE AND SUPPORT US.

You are invited to come along and enjoy a special evening of entertainment and light refreshments.

**MONDAY 9TH MAY 6PM  
ST MARY'S NANO NAGLE ROOM**

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

## What's Coming up in Term 2

	Please note all events are subject to change.
5 May	School Cross Country 9am (students to wear sports uniform)
6 May	5/6 Assembly
7 May	Family Mass @ 6pm
8 May	<i>Happy Mother's Day</i>
9 May	<i>Mother's Day Pamper Evening 6pm—7pm Nano Nagle Room</i>
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 Respect for Self—Respect for Others—Respect for the Environment

MON

TUES

WED

THU

FRI

# every learner every day

ABSENCES ADD UP!



MISSING MORE THAN

**1** YEAR OF LEARNING IN **12** YEARS

DID YOU KNOW



**1 IN 6**

PRIMARY STUDENTS ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY?

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- BE FIRM.** Send your child to school every day unless they are sick.
- Develop good sleep and morning routines.
- Schedule appointments after school.
- Avoid taking holidays during term time.



EACH DAY MISSED:

- Puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up.
- Can lead to lower achievement in reading writing and numeracy.
- Can lead to gaps in learning and social connections.

GOOD HABITS BEGIN EARLY



Good attendance starts in Kindergarten and sets students up for success in their school life.



SCHOOLS ARE THERE TO HELP

If you are having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address it.

every learner every day 



# 5/6 Bendigo/Ballarat Excursion



**Respect for Self—Respect for Others— Respect for the Environment**