



St. Mary's School Newsletter

Always faithful to God, ourselves and others in the spirit of the Presentation tradition.

St. Mary's is committed to Child Safety and the inclusion of all children.

Respect Ourselves - Respect Others - Respect our Environment

Term 4 - Week 11 - Monday 14th December, 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

2020

Monday 14 December

Fun Pool Day @

Rutherglen Pool

Students only

Tuesday 15 December

Last Day Term 4

Casual Clothes Day

gold coin donation

3.30pm finish

(please note revised date)

2021

Wednesday 27 January

Staff return

Thursday 28 January

Students return

THANK-YOU!!!!

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wow! What A Year!!!!!!!

**THANK-YOU to Every
TEACHER & STUDENT &
PARENT/CARER
For GETTING Us
Through the YEAR!!!!!!!!!!**



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Web - <http://www.smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au>
Email - principal@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Office Hours - 8.00am—4.00pm

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday 6pm Chiltern

Sunday 9am Rutherglen

Sunday 10.30am Wahgunyah



ADVENT

“ We Are Waiting”



I hope all families can really enjoy a ‘**Family Christmas**’ together this year after the year we have had. I hope you can find the opportunity to catch up with extended family and friends that you have been missing during the year! I know I will have a special thought for my daughter, Evika, who is stranded in Berlin and really missing her Aussie family. I’m sure all families would have a similar tale in 2020!!

We are lucky in some respect, that our Victorian commitment to adhering to tough COVID restrictions, now lets us enjoy a relatively normal family Christmas time together and there's no better way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas than joining family and friends at Christmas Mass:

Rutherglen/Chiltern/Wahgunyah Christmas Mass Times:

Christmas Eve (Thursday 24th December, 2020)

6.00pm - Chiltern. Service to be held outside, please bring a chair

8.00pm - Rutherglen. Service to be held outside, please bring a chair

Christmas Day (Friday 25th December, 2020)

9.00am - Rutherglen. Service to be held inside the Church

10.30am - Wahgunyah. Service to be held outside, please bring a chair

A few words from the Parish Priest.....

As we come toward the end of 2020, a year we will never forget, I often hear, "I can't wait till this year is over !" Whilst we all hope that the coming year will be more predictable, settled and pleased God, Covid-free, I also hope that the compassion, care and resilience we have witnessed over the past year will continue to grow. St Mary's School community has been at its best and shown its true colours throughout this challenging and demanding year.

Firstly, I want to congratulate our Principal, Mr Matt Attawater for his exemplary leadership and commitment, in guiding the school community through the uncharted waters of the 2020 academic year. It has been evident that Matt's years of experience have stood him in great stead enabling him to remain vigilant, focused, flexible and quiet selfless at the helm. Matt has been so faithful in communicating with parents, students, staff, school board and myself, keeping us well informed and supported.

Matt has expressed on a number of occasions, and I endorse wholeheartedly, his appreciation to the staff as they embraced new methods, technology and faced the complexities that have been particular to this past year. Matt has been supported by Mrs Libby Dickinson, Deputy Principal, and I thank Libby for her wise and steady presence which has been especially evident this year. We have at St Mary's an excellent team that is deserving of high praise. I'm particularly grateful to Mrs Hannah Kelly, Religious Education Coordinator, for her support and for reshaping her role in creative ways this year to affirm our Catholic Identity. I express my thanks to our Administration Officer Amanda Arnot for her professionalism, commitment, and flexibility in carrying out her broad and essential role.

Our school Board has not been idle and has embraced online Board meetings. My limited technological abilities and tired laptop have struggled somewhat, but I've managed to have some presence at all Board meetings. I congratulate all the Board members for the support shown to Matt and for their genuine interest and commitment to St Mary's School. I particularly express my gratitude to our Chair, Rachelle Enever for her sensitivity, vision and leadership. This year has demanded patience, and Rachelle's experience as an educator herself, has been evident and valuable in supporting the Principal and the continued growth of the school.

This past Covid year has been challenging on so many fronts for our students and our families, and I hope the bonds of family life have been strengthened by the experience. As we farewell our senior students, I wish them every blessing and success in the years ahead, and pray that they will look back fondly on their years at St Mary's Rutherglen. May they continue to be open to the 'Mystery' of the God who in Jesus is with us always. May the blessings and graces of the great celebration of the Birth of Jesus bring peace and joy to all our families, and may we continue to recognize the presence of our God in one another.

Happy Christmas!

Father Brian Carey
Parish Priest
11th December 2020



Report from Rachelle Enever - 2020 School Board Chair

The year began with a flurry of activity, including the addition of seating, landscaping and the planting of a glorious Manchurian Pear tree near the Front Office. Pride in our school was palpable and seemingly at its peak. That was until the world changed and prompted us to view our surrounds from a different angle, and to reflect upon our inner most values. It was at this time that St Mary's School embraced us all and wrapped her warm and gentle arms around us. The enormous influx of pride I felt in our school at this time made my heart sing with joy and gratitude.

Morning prayer and a friendly, familiar face greeted our children every morning during Remote learning. iPads for every student, hard copy worksheets and resources, and kind communication allowed students to seamlessly continue their education, from school and into their home setting. Our extremely dedicated teachers (with their own friends and family to care for at home) tirelessly worked day and night to provide our children with rigorous Learning Plans intertwined with fun and engaging activities. We shall be forever grateful to our teachers and support staff for their magnificent work throughout both remote learning experiences.

Our Principal, Matt Attwater, continues to lead St Mary's with compassion, heart and a strong sense of fairness and equity. All students and their families are valued and learning is paramount. Matt adds a sprinkle of joy and happiness to all of his interactions with everyone in our school and wider community. Especially heart-warming was the delivery of a 'sweet gesture' to all families - delivered during remote learning - reminding us of how valued we are at St Mary's School. Our school is so very fortunate have Matt guiding us throughout this year, previous years, and into the future.

Father Brian Carey plays a pivotal role on the St Mary's Board, offering wisdom and discernment, and a wonderful ability to listen to and assemble a wide variety of views. Good will and peace imbue when Father Brian Carey enters the room, and he motivates all members of the Board to work together to achieve common goals. Well balanced and thoughtful views provided by Father Brian Carey enrich our school and inspire us all to be conscionable and caring members of our community.

On behalf of St Mary's School Board, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude to Matt Attwater, Father Brian Carey, Teachers, Support Staff, Parents, Parish Members, Community Members, and most importantly, our children, who continue to fill our lives with love and joy. Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Rachelle Enever
St Mary's Board Chair



Thanks for the year from Matt Attwater

We have just experienced a year in education like no other and we have survived.

We have survived because of the incredible support the whole school community, which includes staff, students, parents and our parish, has given each other.

There is no doubt that it was a group effort from all school stakeholders that got us through the year.



Our Students:

Firstly to our students. Well done! They showed us all what was needed to adapt to **'unprecedented'** circumstances. Not once did I hear a complaint, or this is not fair or this is all too hard from one of them. They just got on with what was put in front of them and made the best of the situation. One of the best days of the year was their first day back to school after remote learning stint one was over. It was a joy to see and hear all the smiling faces and watching classmates reunite with bubbling enthusiasm as they were eagerly greeted by their teachers. To our students, great work for your year!!

Families/Carers:

To our families and carers - thankyou! It was hard enough for you to operate as a family during COVID restrictions but to have the responsibility of supervising home learning as an extra I know was very stressful for all families. The staff were very appreciative and thankful that the work that they were preparing was fully supported by you all. It made their job a lot easier. Thankyou on behalf of the staff for all the positive feedback they received from many families during both stints of home learning. Also I know many families fully appreciated the extraordinary work that our teachers put in to ensure all students were supported during 2020.

Staff:

At the end of the day our core business is about teaching our students and doing our best to ensure we can give them the best well rounded education that we can. This has been a challenging year. So on behalf of our parents and students I would like to thank the staff for the magnificent job they have done in supporting your child through two remote learning stints. It has been the most challenging time in everyone of the teacher's careers and something that was never seen on the radar in January when COVID first appeared overseas. The amount of planning and online support that each one has undertaken and given every student has been amazing. I would particularly like to thank Libby, our Deputy Principal, for the tremendous support she has again given me during 2020.

Fr. Carey:

A big thanks to Fr. Carey for his support again during the year. We are so fortunate to have Fr. Carey as our Parish Priest. I think I have spoken to Fr. Carey almost everyday during COVID restrictions and there is no doubt that his thoughtful listening ear has helped me get through the year.

School Board:

Thankyou to the School Board for another supportive year in very trying circumstances. We even learnt to Google Meet together. I would particularly like to thank our Board Chair, Rachelle Enever, for keeping us on track and always making sure we had our eyes firmly on task. Rachelle also provided me with a very supportive and positive listening ear to keep up my enthusiasm during the year.

Amanda:

You don't need me to tell what a wonderful job Amanda does for our school. Amanda is a wonderful support for me on a daily basis and there is no doubt our school would not run as smoothly as it does without her professionalism and expertise. Thankyou Amanda!

Year 6 Graduation

Well what a wonderful Graduation Day our 2020 Year 6 students experienced last Friday. We had a moving liturgy that was beautifully led by Fr. Carey. Two of the highlights of the liturgy were the video messages from the Foundation students to their buddies and a special presentation to Mr Mac. It brought years to some people's eyes!!



Go The BLUES reckons Mr. Mac!!



Lachie's message to his buddy!!



Then the Graduation students let down their hair with a little after party in the hall.



2020 Student Achievement Awards

Usually we have our student achievement awards as part of our Nativity Play and End of Year Family Picnic, but that was not possible this year due to COVID restrictions. Fortunately we were able to hold them as part of the Graduation Liturgy, as the whole school student & staff population were present at the liturgy. Each year we have Parish and Community organisations that sponsor awards and are presented to students that have displayed their talents in various areas in school life throughout the year.

Two of the organisations this year from our Parish, The Rutherglen Catholic Women and The Knights of the Southern Cross, decided that they would like to purchase a book for every child in the school in recognition of the outstanding achievements and resilience each student has shown in their COVID schooling year. That was a fantastic gesture and well received by the students in a difficult year.

2020 Student Achievement Awards

The Arts Rutherglen - Dymocks Book Voucher

Arts (Senior) - Sienna Park-Osborne

Arts (Junior) - Noah Cracknell

Rotary Awards Dymocks Book Voucher

Most Improved - Lillian Baker

Junior Academic - Elsie Harders

All Rounder - Travis Gunning

The Rutherglen Catholic Women - Book for each child

Knights of the Southern Cross - Book for each child

Indigo Shire - Dymocks Book Voucher

Junior Academic - Poppy Ellery

Senior Academic - Elijah McFarlane



2020 Leaving Families:

Sadly we farewell families who are leaving our St. Mary's School community after a long association with the school and parish. Each family was presented with a beautiful Peace Lily by our 2020 School Board Chair, Rachelle Enever, during the Graduation Liturgy. Our leaving families this year and we thank them for their commitment to our school are:

The Baker family - (Lillian)

The Bonacchi-Law family - (Akira)

The Chappell family - (Logan)

The Fuge family - (Grace)

The Harris-Harwood family - (Darcy)

The Milthorpe family - (Grace)

The O'Meara family - (Alexandra)

The Park-Osbourne family - (Sienna)

The Ross family - (Henry)

The Steel family - (Lucinda)

The McKenzie family - (Olivia)



SCHOOL Resumes for Students on Thursday 28th January 2021

School Office will be Open on Wednesday 27th January 2021

For all other enquiries over the summer break please email:

Matt Attwater - mattwater@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

or

Amanda Arnot - aarnot@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au



Well done to Codie Johnson-Wood for his recently received achievement award.

A note of thanks from Presentation Sisters Missions for money raised for our sponsor child, Prince Yang Sencil.

With Compliments

PRESENTATION SISTERS' MISSIONS



To the Staff and Students of St. Mary's School,

Another cheque from you all! Thank you for your generous contribution of \$68.60. You must be the most thoughtful and generous school in Victoria, maybe even Australia!

I hope you find the enclosed Christmas card interesting as you will see the total amount we have contributed to different countries over the past 45 years. I am sure you will be impressed with the total amount! You have all been part of this Program and Story with so many others and again I thank you for your faithfulness and commitment.

Yours sincerely,

Sr. Frances

Sr. Frances Hargreaves
(Coordinator of the Presentation Sisters Missions)

2/19 Wallen Street
Brighton East
Victoria 3187
1/12/2020

Phone 9592 3993
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Email
fran.hargreaves@presvic.org.au

If I could be of service in any part
of the world I would willingly do
all in my power. Nano Nagle



We send our best wishes
to Paddy Walsh who will
be celebrating his
birthday this week.



Fun times at the pool today..... Have a great Christmas & New Year!! Matt.



Important Calendar Dates - 2020

Term 4

Monday 14 December	Fun Pool Day - Rutherglen Pool (Students only)
Tuesday 15 December (date changed)	Last Day Term 4 (Casual Clothes Day - gold coin donation) 3.30pm finish

Important Calendar Dates - 2021

Term 1

Wednesday 27 January	Teachers Commence
Thursday 28 January	Students return to school
Mon 8—Thur 11 February	Swimming Program (Rutherglen Pool)
Friday 12 February	Swimming Carnival (Rutherglen Pool)
Friday 19 February	School Photo Day
Monday 8 March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Thursday 1 April	Last Day Term 1 (Casual Clothes Day - gold coin donation) 2.30pm finish
Friday 2 April	Good Friday

Term 4

Thursday 21—Friday 22 October	Borambola Camp (Grades 3/4)
Wednesday 27—Friday 29 October	Canberra Camp (Grades 5 & 6)

Staff email addresses

Matt Attwater (Principal) - mattwater@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Libby Dickinson (Junior Classroom teacher) - edickinson@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Hannah Kelly (Junior Classroom teacher) - hkelly@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Shannon Terlich (Senior Classroom teacher) - sterlich@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
John McNamara (Senior Classroom teacher) - jmcnamara@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Bert Cheeseman (Senior Classroom teacher) - bcheeseman@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Nicole O'Mahony (Learning Diversity Leader) - nomahony@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Jane van Zanten (Art Teacher) - jvanzanten@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Monday)
Gina Nero (Italian teacher) - gnero@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Monday)
Amanda Arnot (Administration Officer) - aarnot@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

