



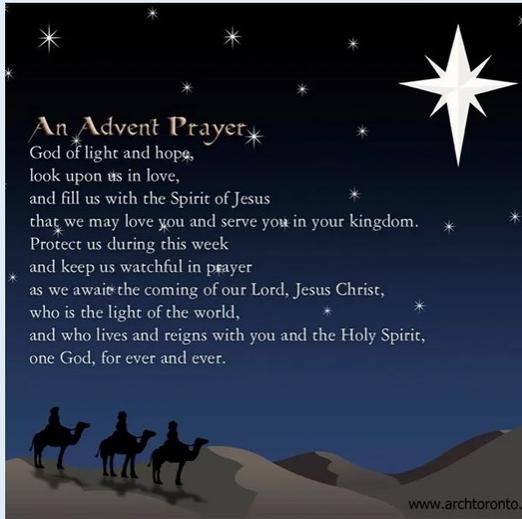
St. Mary's School Newsletter

Term 4 - Week 11 - Wednesday December 18, 2024

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



As I write the final Newsletter entry for 2024, I am left with an overwhelming sense of gratitude.

Gratitude for the warm welcome I have received from the families, gratitude for the collegiality afforded to me by the staff and gratitude for the acceptance of yet another change from the children. Change is always tricky to navigate however I could not think of a better school community to negotiate change than the St. Mary's community. So, thank you one and all for the warm welcome I have received.

As we enter the Christmas Season, I ask you to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and how we as Christians are called to help others. The true spirit of Christmas in Catholic teaching is one of charity, compassion, and giving. It's about embodying the love of Christ by reaching out to those in need, whether through volunteering or simple acts of kindness. This season calls for a shift from materialism to a focus on spiritual enrichment and community. Check on your neighbours, friends and family, especially those who may be displaced.

Important Calendar Dates

Term 1 - 2025

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Monday 27 January | Australia Day Public Holiday |
| Tue-Wed 28-29 January | Pupil Free Days - Staff PD |
| Thursday 30 January | Years 1-6 First Day of Term 1 |
| | Welcome briefing 11.45am - Undercover Area |
| Friday 31 January | Foundation Students commence |
| Wednesday 5 February | Foundation Rest Day |
| Thursday 6 February | Class Information Sessions/Whole School Address/Welcome BBQ |
| Friday 7 February | Beginning of School Mass 9.15am - All Welcome |
| Wednesday 12 February | Foundation Rest Day |
| Friday 14 February | Assembly 9.00am in Hall - All Welcome |
| Wednesday 19 February | Foundation Rest Day |
| Friday 21 February | Assembly 9.00am - Undercover Area - All Welcome |
| Mon-Thur 24-27 February | School Photos Day |
| | Whole School Swimming Lessons - 12.45 to 3.00pm, Rutherglen Pool |
| Wednesday 26 February | Foundation Rest Day |
| Friday 28 February | Swimming Carnival 9.00am to 2.00pm, Rutherglen Pool |
| Friday 7 March | Assembly in Hall 9.00am - All Welcome |
| Monday 10 March | Labour Day Public Holiday (Vic) |
| Friday 14 March | Assembly 9.00am - Undercover Area - All Welcome |
| Friday 21 March | Harmony Day |
| Friday 18 April | Good Friday |
| Saturday 19 April | Easter Saturday |
| Sunday 20 April | Easter Sunday |
| Monday 21 April | Easter Monday |

Mass Times:

Chiltern - Saturdays 5.00 pm
Rutherglen - Sundays 9.00 am
Wahgunyah - Sundays 10.30am

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PO Box 146

Office Hours: 8.30am - 4.00pm

I wish our Year 6 Graduates a smooth transition to high school and bid farewell to those families whose journey has concluded this year. Thank you for supporting Catholic Education at St. Mary's School.

As you all know Mrs Libby Dickinson is taking on a secondment as Principal at St. Joseph's School in Chiltern. I would like to wish Libby all the best as she embarks on the next chapter in her educational leadership journey. We are looking forward to having Libby back in 2026. Libby is a talented educator and leader, and I am so blessed to have her as peer Principal to continue to tap into her wisdom.

I would like to wish all our families a safe and Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing our students return in 2025!

May God's Blessing be with you all over this festive season.

Melanie Dusterhoft Mavrick
Principal

Pool Fun Day

The students had a Pool Fun Day on Friday which was greatly appreciated as the weather was definitely the perfect day for such an activity!! Such fun!



Christmas Raffles:-

Congratulations to all our Winners! The response to the requests for Donations was magnificent and we had 19 Raffle prizes to give out. Thank you all. The recipients were very happy.



Nativity Play and School Awards:-

All of our students should be very proud of their efforts all year. So many worthy people made for some very hard choices. Congratulations to those who were lucky enough to be chosen.

The Nativity play was stunning and all the participants were wonderful. Thank you for such a lovely night.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE:

- Rutherglen - 6.30pm - A family children mass and children are encouraged to dress up in Christmas style!
- Chiltern - 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY:

- Rutherglen - 9.00 am
- Wahgunyah - 10.30 am

Acknowledgement of Country

The title of the mural is: *Unity in Faith and Culture.*
The mural pays homage to the story of Nano Nagle's vision, the First Nations people connection to the land and the FIRE Carriers story



Artist D Treahna Hamer

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we learn, work and pray, the Yorta Yorta Nation, including the eight clan groups. We especially acknowledge the Kwat Kwat people who have walked here in Rutherglen. We pay our respect to Elders past present and future. At St Mary's Primary School we care for our environment and our community and recognise the continuing connection First Nations people have to land. We commit to walking in the way of reconciliation, as represented by our FIRE carrier Covenant, as we respect their cultural, spiritual, physical and emotional connection to their land, waters and community.



Congratulations to all those who are celebrating their Birthday This Week and during the School Holidays! Enjoy!!!



Lilly



Connie



Wiley



James



Ayla



Thomas



Ida



Liara



Charlotte



Ivy



Matilda



Lydia



Oliver



Callan



Elsie



Leah



Jed



Amelia



Class Structures and Staffing 2025

Class/Role	Teacher/s	Education Assistant
Principal	Mrs. Melanie Dusterhoft Mavrick	
Foundation	Mrs. Bert Cheeseman Mrs. Hannah Kelly	Mrs. Rhi Cracknell
Year 1	Mrs. Ronnie Mayhew Mrs. Jane Van Zanten	Ms. Trudy Walsh
Year 2/3	Mrs. Emily Morris	Mrs. Kate Lee
Year 4/5	Mr. Michael Ratcliffe	Mr. Oscar Willding
Year 5/6	Mr. Tony Kent	Mr. Wayne Milthorpe
Inclusive Education Leader	Ms. Nicole O'Mahoney	
Religious Education Leader	Mr. Tony Kent	
Sports Coordinator	Mrs. Emily Morris	
Technology Leader	Mr. Michael Ratcliffe	

Staff Email Addresses

Melanie Dusterhoft Mavrick (Principal) - mdusterhoftmavrick@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

Bert Cheeseman (Foundation Teacher) - bcheeseman@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Mon-Wed)

Veronica Mayhew Gr 1/2 Teacher) - vmayhew@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Thur-Fri)

Hannah Kelly (Gr 1/2 Teacher) - hkelly@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Mon-Wed)

Jane van Zanten (Art/Foundation Teacher) - jvanzanten@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Thur-Fri)

Amanda Arnot (Business Manager) - aarnot@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

Tony Kent (Gr 5/6 Teacher) - akent@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

Libby Dickinson (Deputy Principal) - edickinson@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

Michael Ratcliffe (Gr 4/5 Teacher) - mratcliffe@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

Emily Morris (Grade 3 Teacher) - emorris@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

Nicole O'Mahony (Inclusive Education Leader) - nomahony@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

Gina Nero (Italian Teacher & 5/6 Teacher) - gnero@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Mon & Fri)

Judy Fah (Admin Assistant) - jfah@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au