



St Mary's Newsletter

TERM 1, WEEK 6

Greetings St Mary's families!

Beginning of year school mass and community BBQ

Thank you to the families and parishioners who gathered with us on Thursday to celebrate the beginning of our school year.

It was wonderful to see our year 6 students begin their final year of school by supporting our Foundation students as they begin their first year of school. Father Minh shared the gospel with us ~ Luke 6 ~ "*Treat others as you would like them to treat you*" and the clear message from his homily was to remember that if you show love and kindness to others, this is how they will treat you. I think that if we remember this phrase throughout 2025, this will make a positive impact on every interaction we have with each other. For students, this will be evident in the empathy, kindness, respect and inclusion they show each other and families can model the behavior they wish to see in their children.

Demonstrating empathy, respect, and kindness at home sets a strong example of positive ways we can treat others. This year, let's build on our supportive and respectful environment where the message of treating others as you wish to be treated is lived out daily. Let's focus on building a culture of empathy, respect, and kindness, starting with how we treat each other every day.



Shrove Tuesday

This day marks the last day of 'ordinary time' in our church calendar before the season of Lent begins - a period of forty days where Christians traditionally fast or give up certain foods, choose to pray more or to provide 'alms' to others. The forty days represent the time that Jesus spent fasting in the desert where he resisted temptation.



On Shrove Tuesday, Catholics traditionally empty their homes of rich and luxurious foods such as eggs, milk and flour – everything that makes a good pancake! In the past, these foods were eaten to avoid wastage in anticipation of the fasting period of Lent. The word *shrove* comes from *shrive*, meaning to present oneself for confession, penance, and absolution. In class, students have reflected on the 3 acts of Lent and have made a Lenten promise that we will burn and mix with the ashes from last years' palms and use on Ash Wednesday as a symbol of our Lenten journey.

We will be eating pancakes at school to launch Project compassion ~ a Caritas fundraiser where we can make a difference in lives of people in our country and overseas. Students are asked to bring a gold coin donation to put in the Project Compassion box at school.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Lenten period leading up to Easter, when Christians believe Jesus died and was resurrected. Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God. It is commonly observed with the distribution of ashes.



We will be joining the Ash Wednesday mass at the church at 12pm, and warmly welcome families to join us.

Project Compassion ~ Caritas Fundraiser

During Lent, we are asked to pray - fast - provide alms (almsgiving). This year during Lent, our school will be supporting Caritas through the 'Big Water Walk'. When students and their family arrive at school on Friday morning, they can join the staff in walking laps of our oval. Students and families will be able to donate coins they have saved during the week into their class Project Compassion box and in the last week we will count each box. The class who raises the most will receive a prize!

Easter raffle

As the main fundraiser for Project Compassion, we are asking for donations for an Easter egg raffle - soon students will bring home raffle tickets to sell to family and friends. Tickets will be \$1 each. The more donations we receive, the more prizes we can offer. Donations can include chocolate, Easter craft, Easter books etc. We will be asking parents to help assemble the prizes. If you would like to help, please email Lauren.

Easter bonnet parade

In the last week of school, we will be having our annual Easter bonnet parade. Students and families can create a hat/bonnet to wear and dress up! On this day, we will draw the raffle winners.

Learning conversations & PSGs

Hopefully all families received a text notification last week of our Learning Conversations and term 1 PSG meetings. These meetings can be booked via PAM. If you are having difficulty booking, please call the office or pop in and we can help.

NAPLAN

Students in year 3 and 5 will have brought home information regarding the annual nation-wide NAPLAN assessments. If you have any wonderings about the assessments, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher.

Swimming success

Students who were successful at the Zone swimming carnival in Kerang recently represented our school in Swan Hill at the regional event. Congratulations to Maggie McGlone, Lewis Martin, Nate Hipwell and Nate Edwards. Maggie will now go onto the next stage.

Vegetable Garden

Over the weekend, we were very disappointed to find that someone has entered our school yard and harvested some pumpkin and cantelaupe... if they had taken them because they were hungry that would be ok, except they decided to throw the produce onto our retaining wall. The students, Mrs Mac and Peter give up their time and effort to nurture our veggie garden. If you know anything, we would love to hear from you.

Playgroup

Thank you to everyone for supporting our playgroup so enthusiastically- What a turn out! it was amazing to have so many visitors come to playgroup last Wednesday- lots of games, conversations and interactions to be had. SuzieQ 's coffee van was onsite and will be with us again next week.

444 run support

Our year 5/6 students will be heading to the Tourist Information Centre on Thursday 6th March in support of Ben Welch, who is running from Mildura to Echuca to raise awareness and funds for Headspace.

Hip Hop Excursion

St Mary's students have been invited to participate in an Indigenous Hip Hop Dance Troop performance on Thursday 6th March at the Cohuna Memorial Hall. This is an opportunity for our students to be immersed in music and dance through indigenous culture. This event is organised through Northern District Community Health and is presented by Indigenous Outreach Projects. If you have not yet provided permission for your child to attend, please do so.

Clean up Australia day.

On Friday 28th February our school joined in with the annual Clean Up Australia Day event. This event is in its 35th year and we were proud to have been a part of it.

Whole school assembly

Please join us for our first whole school assembly on Friday 21st March.



St Mary's Cohuna families - Term 1- 2025

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates & Items</i>
6	<p>Tuesday 4th March – Shrove Tuesday</p> <p>Tuesday 4th March- school leaders and staff participating in Emergency management procedures.</p> <p>Wednesday 5th March – Ash Wednesday -12pm Mass at St Mary's Church</p> <p>Thursday 6th March- Excursion - Hip hop dance troop</p> <p>Thursday 6th March - 444 Run - 5/6 students</p>
7	<p>NAPLAN Week - yrs 3 & 5 students</p> <p>Monday 10th March – Labour Day public holiday</p> <p>Tuesday 11th March – Mallee Region swimming carnival</p>
8	<p>Wednesday 19th March- PSG meetings</p>
9	<p>Monday 24th March - School Advisory Council meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 25th March - Learning Conversations 12.30-5pm</p> <p>Thursday 27th March - MIXX FM Morning radio crew onsite</p> <p>Friday 28th March – Mallee division – Basketball, Softball, Tennis & Cricket</p>
10	<p>Wednesday 2nd April – Student Free day – Staff professional learning – Knowledge Society</p> <p>Friday 4th April – Last day term 1 - Easter bonnet parade 9.15 am - Easter raffle prizes drawn.</p>



**Starting on
the 12th of
February**



ST MARY'S PLAYGROUP

WITH ALEX



*Please join us every
Wednesday during school
terms from 9:30am -
10:30am*

SuzieQ's Coffee van will be on site on the
19th & 26th February, and 12th & 19th March .



PETER MANNING
6TH MARCH



BAILEY GRAY
10TH MARCH



HENRY
BORKOWSKI
11TH MARCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Use our Online Store

Any device, any time!



How to get started



Say hello to a cash-free solution

Visit <https://smcohuna.cdfpay.org.au> or
scan the QR code below to order online today!



CHOOSE YOUR

FOOTY ADVENTURE

HEAD TO PLAY.AFL TO FIND YOUR LOCAL AUSKICK CENTRE OR JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

nab AFL Auskick
4-12 year olds

Come find your awesome at NAB AFL Auskick. An introductory program to Australian rules football, teaching skills through fun activities and mini games.

JUNIOR FOOTY
7+ year olds

Play with your mates, make new friends & have fun at local footy. Local footy involves weekly games and training sessions for players.

VISIT PLAY.AFL

MINO'S MURRAY MARATHON
for Mental Health

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

THURSDAY MARCH 6TH
12PM - 2PM • COMMUNITY EVENT • SAUSAGE SIZZLE
GARDEN PARK, NEAR THE GATEWAY CENTRE

Join the community celebration and cheer Ben "Mino" Welch into town as he starts to make his way to the last grueling leg of his Murray Marathon (5 marathons in 4.5 days) 300km the length of the Murray between Mildura and Echuca.

Sausage Sizzle available or bring your own picnic lunch and join us at The Gateway Information Centre where there will be representatives from both HeadSpace and NODH to continue the conversation.

about positive mental health and regional services that are available to tackle this disturbing and swelling phenomena. This event is to highlight Ben's mission to raise more awareness of mental health and the solutions that are so vital to our future to help protect and nurture the precious young minds of the next generation.

THERE'S ALSO A CHANCE TO MEET BEN!
(Depending how he is feeling after running 320km!)

CAN'T ATTEND BUT WANT TO DONATE?
DONATE VIA THE GO FUND ME PAGE
ALL PROCEEDS TO FUND HEADSPACE MILDURA, DWAIN HILL & ECHUCA.

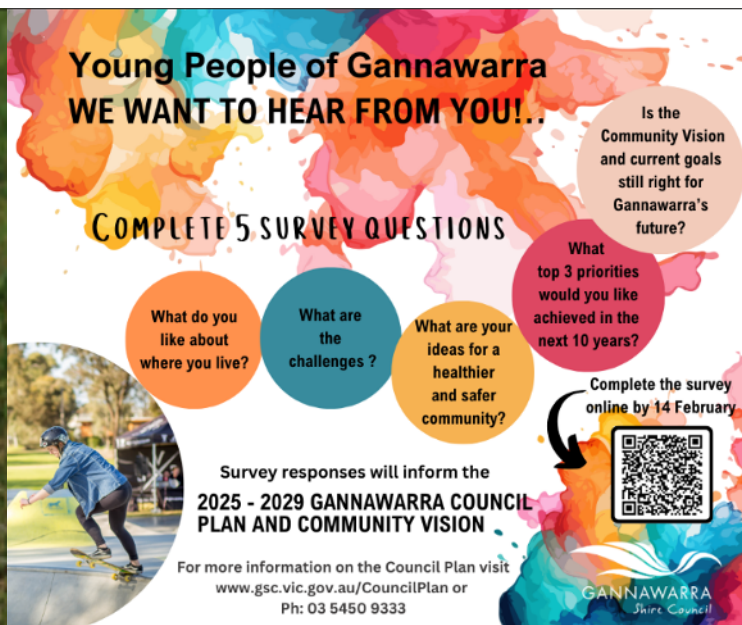
Logos: HeadSpace, NAB AFL, The Gateway, NODH, Fundraising Australia, GoFundMe, HeadSpace.



ARE YOUR DETAILS UP TO DATE???

Please contact the office of any changes to your details!!!

PLEASE IF THERE IS ANY CHANGES IN YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBERS, ETC PLEASE LET THE OFFICE STAFF KNOW. ITS IMPORTANT FOR US TO HAVE CORRECT DETAILS. THANKS



CSEF, SCHOOL SAVING BONUS & FEE CONCESSION

If you hold a current Health Care Card or Pension Concession Card please make sure that you complete the CSEF application form which was sent home with fee statements on Friday.

This year, concession card holders will receive : -

- CSEF funding of \$150 per student ;
- Government School Savings Bonus of \$400 per student ;
- and a School Fee Concession rebate from Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited which will mean eligible parents will only have to pay **\$520 per child** for this year's fees.

This equates to \$10 per week per child. To be eligible to receive the Fee Concession rate parents will be required to guarantee to pay the \$10 weekly payment per child (this can be set up using our Direct Debits plan, Centrepay, paying directly into the school bank, or paying in one lump sum). Once the CSEF form is received by the school a Fee Concession application form will be sent home for parents to complete and return to school.



School Term Dates 2025

Term 1: 29th Jan - 4th April
 Term 2: 22nd Apr - 4th July
 Term 3: 21st July - 19th Sept
 Term 4: 6th Oct - 19th Dec

St Mary's acknowledges and pays respects to the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet; the Barrapa Rappa People, and pay respects to elders both past and present.



VICTORIA'S CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

Check for the 10c mark 

DONATE YOUR DRINK CONTAINERS TO COHUNA ST MARY'S SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

EVERY CONTAINER YOU RECYCLE CAN EARN 10c FOR OUR CAUSE

We are raising funds for:
GARDEN GREEN HOUSE

  **Services Australia**

Australian Government mobile service centres



If you live in a rural area, you may need to travel greater distances to access government payments and services. To make it easier for you to access these services, we're bringing them to you and your community.

Mobile service centres (MSCs) travel extensively throughout rural and regional Australia to provide help and support. During natural disasters and emergencies, they can provide on-the-ground support for disaster recovery efforts.

Services Australia staff travel with the MSCs and can help you with Medicare and Centrelink payments and services. Our MSCs also have disabled access.

Our staff can also help veterans and their families connect to the Department of Veterans' Affairs phone line and online services.

Wi-Fi is available for visitors to the MSC and staff will be able to help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online.

Our staff provide you with friendly face-to-face service, information and support. From time to time, representatives from other government agencies also travel with the MSCs.

More Information

To view the latest itineraries for the MSCs, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice

The stopping locations are promoted in each town and on social media before each visit.

Information and help you can access on board the MSCs

We provide information, help and support to rural and regional communities, including:

- families
- older Australians
- students
- job seekers
- people with disability
- carers
- farmers
- self-employed people.

We can assist you with:

- registering and using the agency's online services
- new claims for Centrelink payments
- updating and confirming Medicare and Centrelink information
- information on how financial matters may impact on payments
- assistance with payment and service options
- rural payment entitlements for eligible farmers
- non-cash Medicare transactions
- enrolling for and issuing new Medicare cards
- updating and re-issuing Medicare cards
- social work support and referrals.

Book Club LOOP

The **EASIEST** way for parents to order and pay for Book Club!



Parents: Are you registered for LOOP?

LOOP is the easiest way for you to order and pay online for your child's Book Club order, if you wish to pay by credit card.

Parents who are registered for **LOOP** receive exclusive sneak peeks, downloads and offers throughout the school year—don't miss out!



Head to scholastic.com.au/LOOP and register today!

 **SCHOLASTIC**

Thanking Peter and Levi.S for helping clean up the mess some unwanted visitors made on the weekend.

We will be having a market next Monday. We will have pumpkins, 32 were picked on the weekend. We also have zucchinis, potatoes and watermelon. Many herbs are available: Mint, Rosemary, parsley.

A big thank you to the children who are helping in the garden, from harvesting, to weeding. Also watering and pulling out old plants preparing the beds for new vegetable. We have also had platters at Recess, sharing our fruit and vegetables which has been a hit.

We also raised 61.00 last week recycling our drink containers

We may need to have a lesson on recycling for the kids, so they can teach their families. haha!

Our goal is to raise money for a cover of our new green house, to make it a mini shed and hot house.



E-scooter Road Rules

Tougher penalties as e-scooters are made permanent.

e-scooter riders cannot

- Ride on the footpath
- Use a mobile phone while riding
- Ride while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Carry passengers or animals or ride in tandem
- Ride a high-speed e-scooter, one capable of more than 25 km/h
- Ride on roads that have a speed limit over 60 km/h

e-scooter riders must

- Be aged 16 years and over
- Not exceed the maximum speed of 20 km/h
- Ride only on shared paths and roads that have a speed limit up to 60 km/h
- Wear a helmet at all times
- Follow traffic rules
- Use lights and reflectors



Scan the QR code to learn more

For more information (including community language translations)
transport.vic.gov.au/Road-rules-and-safety/E-scooter-road-rules



Department
of Transport
and Planning