

NEWSLETTER

28 FEBRUARY 2025
TERM 1, WEEK 5

ST MARY'S MEMORIAL SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

'Above all, let us not forget to thank: if we are bearers of gratitude, the world itself will become better, even if only a little bit, but that is enough to transmit a bit of hope.'

- Pope Francis -

Dear Members of our St Mary's Memorial School Community,

As I sit down to write this week's newsletter, I am filled with hope and gratitude for the wonderful start to our school year. The energy, enthusiasm, and dedication shown by our students, staff, and families have been truly uplifting. Every day, I experience moments that remind me of the privilege of being part of this community, the joy of listening, supporting, and walking alongside each of you.

A true highlight for me is connecting with families, whether it's at the end of the school day, during enrolment interviews, before and after beach walks, or through the many conversations and suggestions that shape our school. From discussions about OSHC hours, to exploring the idea of a healthy 'Zoooper Dooper', every interaction reinforces the strength of our partnership in creating the best learning environment for our children.

I often think of our school as a jigsaw puzzle, filled with many unique and essential pieces. At times, piecing it together brings immense joy; at other times, it requires patience and persistence. But when we come together with a shared commitment to what truly matters, our children's growth, our efforts take shape in the most meaningful way.

Thank you for being part of this journey. I look forward to all that we will continue to build together.

Gratitude for Our Generous Community

Our school continues to be blessed by the generosity and kindness of those who support our students and learning environment.

Late last year, I was contacted by Alison Cameron, niece of Fr Anthony Kain, a former Glenelg Parish priest. Fr Anthony, who recently moved into residential care, generously donated his digital Roland piano to our school. This beautiful gift is now enriching our students' musical experiences, with several learning piano under the guidance of Demeter Tsounis, who visits our school on Mondays. We are incredibly grateful for this thoughtful donation.

A big thank you also goes to the St Mary's Memorial School Community Group (SMMSCG) for their ongoing efforts in 2024 and their kind donation that allowed us to install two new bike racks inside the High Street entrance. It is wonderful to see so many students already making great use of them each day.

Finally, our Community Welcome Evening in Week 2 was made even more special thanks to Grant Meneghetti from The Local Meat Glenelg, father of Georgie (Reception) and Poppy (Year 2). Grant generously donated delicious sausages to support our event, and we are truly grateful for his support in bringing our school community together.

Thank you to all who continue to contribute to our school in so many ways, your kindness makes a lasting difference.

NAPLAN

This week parents of children in Year 3 and 5 were emailed a letter, information about NAPLAN and the Privacy Collection Notice. The Year 3 students will undertake the writing test on paper.

NAPLAN is a nationally developed program that provides schools, states, and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement. They are administered in schools across Australia and the content of the tests are aligned to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics. As educators we are mindful that NAPLAN tests are just one of many assessments in which your child can participate. Students do not have to learn specific skills for NAPLAN tests, and they will have an opportunity to become familiar with the online NAPLAN testing environment before they do the actual tests with a coordinated practice test during school time.

This year the NAPLAN testing window is in Term 1, Week 7-8, from 12 March to 21 March, with the coordinated practice test already completed. For parents that may be new to NAPLAN, you can find more information here [NAPLAN 2025 Information for parents and carers](#). The NAP website at [NAP Website](#) also has further information for parents, including a parent information brochure.

The [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#) is now available for students and families to explore sample tests and become familiar with the format.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child participating in NAPLAN, please see the class teacher, Tammy Patterson our Leader of Learning, or myself. A withdrawal or exemption from NAPLAN requires a completed form to be signed by the parent/guardian and the Principal. There are specific criteria for both withdrawals and exemptions.

Save the Date – Friday, 21st March!

Excitement is building for Sports Day, a much-anticipated highlight of our school calendar! Tristan Sharrock, our Health & PE teacher, alongside the Sports Day Committee, has been carefully planning a range of engaging activities for all students from Reception to Year 6.

To help families prepare, Tristan has created a Parent Handbook with key information to support your child's experience on the day. This will be shared with you by the end of next week. Stay tuned.

Parent Teacher Interviews – Week 8

In Week 8, all teachers, including our specialist teachers, will offer parents the opportunity to discuss their child's learning, progress, and growth. This is a valuable time to connect with teachers and gain insights into your child's development.

An email with booking details was sent to all families on Thursday, 27th February. If you did not receive it, please contact the School Office at 8294 4580.

Exciting Library Transformation!

Over the summer holidays, our school library underwent a fantastic transformation! Freshly painted with new blinds, soft child-friendly furniture, and a wall-mounted TV, the space has been thoughtfully redesigned. Our dedicated Librarian, Ruth, has also reorganised and catalogued the books to create a welcoming and engaging environment for students and staff. We're now just awaiting the final delivery of small round tables to complete the space.

The upgraded library is open every recess, providing students with a wonderful space to read, draw, play board games, build creations, and explore puzzles and Lego. It has quickly become a favourite spot for students to unwind and engage in creative activities.

Ruth has introduced a Library Book Suggestion Form, with many students already sharing fantastic ideas for new books they'd love to see. She's also planning "Pop into the Library" morning sessions for parents with younger siblings, stay tuned for more details.

This week, Satya, Luca, Thomas, and Prashant were deep in a game of chess, while Sienna, Millie, and Maeve built imaginative houses from dominoes. Meanwhile, Daphne, Eli, Lara, and Alannah brought their storytelling to life with Lego.



We love seeing the library come to life as a hub of creativity and learning!

A few key dates for your diaries to begin our year include:

- **Tuesday 4 March** – Shrove Tuesday
- **Wednesday 5 March** – SAPSASA Swimming Carnival
- **Friday 7 March** – Pupil Free Day (OSHC will not be available)
- **Friday 10 March** – Adelaide Cup Day Public Holiday
- **Week 7-8** NAPLAN
- **Monday 17 -Thursday 20 March** – Parent Teacher Interviews
- **Wednesday March 19** – St Mary's Memorial School Annual General Meeting, 6:30pm
- **Friday 21 March** - School Sports Day at Sacred Heart College, finish at approx. 1:00pm
- **Monday 24 March** – SACPSSA Swimming Carnival Years 3-6
- **Friday 4 April** – SAPSASA Swimming State Championship
- **Friday 11 April** – Holy Week Presentation & Easter Raffle Drawn
- **Friday 11 April** – **END OF TERM 1**

Kindest regards,

Mrs Sonja Smith
Principal

FROM THE APRIM

Our year has begun in a gentle way as our children have journeyed through the Season of Ordinary Time in the Catholic Church. This coming week we will move into the Season of Lent, celebrating Shrove Tuesday before the season of prayer, fasting and service begins on Ash Wednesday.

The Season of Lent is a time when Catholics are invited into a commitment to build a stronger relationship with God through deeper and more regular prayer. Many parishes and communities offer programs of reflection and retreat, including Glenelg Parish here. The Adelaide Archdiocese has produced a Lenten Reflection booklet, as well as family resources, for people to utilise. Use the following link to access these: <https://www.ofw-adelaide.org.au/publications.html>

Catholics are also invited to give something up or to make a sacrifice of some sort, as a way of growing in spiritual strength. In a way, we are sacrificing for Jesus, as He sacrificed, on a much bigger scale, for us. Common "sacrifices" include not eating chocolate, not drinking alcohol, and not watching something on TV. Sometimes people commit to something which may mean sacrificing their time to do this. For example, committing to walk the dog every day, or to swim everyday. It can be very rewarding to get through the six weeks of Lent feeling a sense of accomplishment for sticking to something. In classrooms the children will talk about this with their teacher and may have a go at giving something up for the Season of Lent. Perhaps your whole family could challenge themselves to have a go at this Lenten tradition.

Finally, Catholics are invited to do something to serve those less fortunate. Some people are able to commit to helping out at homeless shelters and in kitchens providing meals, or in nursing homes. Others decide to make financial contributions to organisations they would like to support. It could be as simple as committing to help out more in the family or around the house. Again, the children will have discussions at school about ways they can help serve others and make the world a better place. As part of this, St Mary's Memorial School contributes to Project Compassion where our donations go towards helping three different communities in Samoa, Vietnam and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This will begin on Shrove Tuesday where we invite the children to make a gold coin donation. Thank you for any contribution you are able to make.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. All children in our school will attend a Mass or Liturgy where they will be marked with a cross of ash, which comes from the palms of a previous Palm Sunday. You are most welcome to join us for this special day. We would love to see you there.

Joy and blessings,

Tamara Smith
tsmith@stmarmem.catholic.edu.au



PRAYER

*Dear Jesus, I offer You this Lent.
I offer You my prayers, sacrifices and my life.
I pray that this Lent will be fruitful.
I know You have much to say to me and much to do in my life.
May this Lent be a time through which
Your mercy is poured in abundance into my soul,
and into the souls of all Your faithful.
Humble me so that I may see clearly.
Give me courage and strength to confess my sins,
and to turn from them with all my heart.
Enlighten me with Your Holy Word.
Help me to come to know You and to deepen the gift of faith in my life.
Show me the plan You have for me,
and place my feet upon the path You have chosen.
I thank You for the fullness of Your perfect Sacrifice.
Keep me faithful to my Lenten promises,
and bring forth new life through these sacrifices of love.
Strengthen my prayer and make me holy.
Help me to turn to You, each day,
seeking Your sacred Heart.
Amen*

SACRAMENT PROGRAM

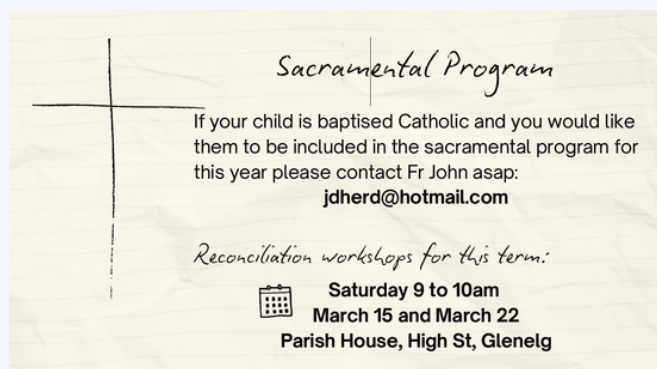
If your child is in Year 4 or above and has been Baptised they are invited to join the Sacramental program this term. Each Term children will learn about then celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

Some children began this program last year with Reconciliation and the program will continue in Term 2.

***** If you missed the opportunity to attend this Reconciliation Program Fr John is repeating the program this term. Please contact Fr John asap using his email *****

The program then continues with Confirmation in Term 2 2025 and first Holy Communion in Term 3.

If you have any questions about the sacramental program feel free to contact Father John. Father John would also love some parents to help out with activities - if you are willing and able please email him: jdherd@hotmail.com



SUNDAY GOSPEL QUOTE



MASS & LITURGY CALENDAR

Term 1 is always our busiest term. Here is an outline of some of the main celebrations on our school's Church calendar.

- Week 6 Shrove Tuesday (Pancakes for children)
Ash Wednesday
Years 3 to 6 Mass on Wed 9:15am
Reception to Year 2 Liturgy on Wed 2:30pm
- Week 7 No Mass
- Week 8 St Patrick's Day Celebration on Mon 2:20pm
Prayer & Irish Dance (asphalt)
Wear a touch of green!
Year 3 Mass on Tue 9:30am
- Week 9 Rec, R1 & Yr 2 Liturgy on Tue 11:30am
- Week 10 No Mass
- Week 11 Holy Week Presentation on Friday 8:50am

MASSES

Masses and liturgies are celebrated regularly and we warmly invite family and friends to join us.

Changes to the calendar regarding Masses and their times will need to be made occasionally as the needs of our parish and our priests come up. The newsletter will publish the most current times.

Apologies for any inconvenience.



**PLEASE NOTE
CHANGE OF DAY**

COMMUNITY PRAYER

**ALL FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US
FOR COMMUNITY PRAYER
8:45AM EVERY FRIDAY**

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES CHURCH

Making Memories in Our Last Year Year 6 Class of 2025



Already in year 6! This is the start of the last year in Primary School. The start of Year 6 has been a rollercoaster of emotions. We are very excited, and happy.

The most exciting moment was when we had Community Prayer and we received our year 6 jackets. We had NO idea! It made us feel mature and leaders of the school. They are soft and comfortable and we wear them every day!



The Formation Day at Glenelg Oval, was fun. Our day started with prayer and we had to bring a small object that represents us as a leader. During our liturgy, we then had to explain the relevance of our object. Throughout the day we completed different activities and puzzles. We had to use the character strengths of teamwork and communication to complete the tasks. We enjoyed using their play space and the lunch was amazing!



On Sorry Day we received a piece of bark from a tree that is 300 years old. We wrote Yakayla, which means sorry.

We are excited to see what Mrs Churchman Hope and Mrs O'Leary have up their sleeves for us this year.



AFTER SCHOOL SPORT

At St Mary's Memorial School, we are thrilled to offer a range of afterschool sporting opportunities for our students. Sport plays a vital role in developing teamwork, resilience, and a love of physical activity, and we encourage all students to get involved!

TERM 1 SPORTS

Cricket Programs

- R-2 SACA Cricket Blast Program – This started last week and is on Wednesday afternoons (3:10pm - 4:10pm). The clinics have started off with a bang; a fun, skills-based introduction to cricket designed to build confidence and engagement in the sport.
- Years 3/4 & 5/6 Strikers Primary Schools Cricket Competition – Our students are participating in this fantastic competition, with matches held on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

Basketball Teams

- **Years 3/4 Basketball** – We have three mixed teams competing in the MSBL competition this term, showcasing great teamwork and skill development.
- **Year 5/6 Basketball** – Our senior basketball team is representing the school with enthusiasm in the MSBL competition.

Swimming Trials

This term, we had a great start with our Swimming Trials, allowing students who nominated to be selected for our school squad. These students will go on to represent St Mary's at District Days and against other Catholic schools in South Australia.

LOOKING AHEAD – TERM 2 & 3 SPORT NOMINATIONS

We are excited to continue offering a variety of sporting opportunities throughout the year. Keep an eye on your emails, as sport nominations for Term 2 and 3 will be opening soon! This nomination form will also include opportunities for SAPSASA and SACPSSA events.

We love seeing our students getting active and representing St Mary's with pride.

A big thank you to our coaches, parents, and volunteers for their support in making these programs possible.

If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved, please feel free to reach out.

Tristan Sharrock

HPE Teacher & Sports Coordinator



Dominican Awards

For an excellent attitude towards the
Community Pillar of Community
7-02-2025



Erwin Hui	Poppy Meneghetti	Amelia Heffernan	Levi Mikhail
Grace Bartemucci	Jacob Hill	Willow Purchase	Delia Scholz
Parker Williams	Amber Edmunds	Luca Girolama	Alfie Hazelwood
Rachel Bahr	Arlo Brierley	Scarlett Wojcik	Charlize Deegan
Charlie Camilleri	Olive Pett	Martin Black	Freddie Burns
Thomas Wareing	Olive Sutton-Teague	Billie Williams	Marlee Reynolds
Daisy Raymond	Emilia Aylen	James Angus	Elias Brierley
Bohdi Thompson	Max Wickstein	Charlotte Anderson	Louis Smedley
Wren Hambour	Frya Brown	Mabel Daley	Ellkie Hazelwood
Gareth O'Neill	Ellie Frost-MacLeod	Garfield Yeung	Michael Wooley
Sienna Shepherd		Ollie Thomson	



Dominican Awards

For an excellent attitude towards the
Community Pillar of Study
21-02-2025



Sophia Durante	Finlay Chigwidden	William Angus	Poppy Hughes
Eddie Chandler	Harrison Rafanelli	Oliver Clasohm	Chloe Ninnis
Prashant Deb	Saina Gaonkar	Amelia Heffernan	Eli Mateiwall
Eliana McMillan	Zara Berryman	Molly Tuck	Ariana Scott
Oliver Boughen	Harper Koenig	Sophie Kelly	Edwina Keely
Macy Williams	Claire Provis	Lachlan Braithwaite	Oliver Sampson
Sam Hogan	Scarlett Bell	Zoe Zeka	Charlie Hillman
Anika Garg	Georgia Ryan	Jack Heinrich	Harry Mills
Raphael Bennett	Lucy Barclay	Ella McGuigan	Riley Zeka
Hannah Fung	Clara Horan	Oliver Stewart	Chloe Sonners

LIBRARY NEWS

The Helen Scanlon Resource Centre has recently had a makeover!
Come and explore our refreshed space. It's perfect for reading,
learning, and discovering new adventures.



The 2025 Premier's Reading Challenge is now open.
Students in years 2-6 can begin filling in their reading
record, which can be collected from the library.



THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE CAN NOW BE ACCESSED AT ANY TIME,
[CLICK HERE](#) TO HEAD TO OUR WONDERFUL COLLECTION:



For more information go to
[Students | Premiers Reading Challenge SA](#)

FROM THE FINANCE MANAGER

The first school fee instalment is due this Friday, 28 February 2025. The amount due is one-third of the total charges on your account, with the remaining balance payable across Terms 2 and 3. Full payment is required by Term 3 unless you have a payment arrangement in place (e.g., Direct Debit/BPay).

Accounts expected to be on a debit payment arrangement should have received confirmation. For those who have not yet received their 2025 account, or if no confirmation of a direct payment has been received, please contact Jenni Ashfield at finance@stmarmem.catholic.edu.au or 8294 4580 to discuss.

PUPIL FREE DAY

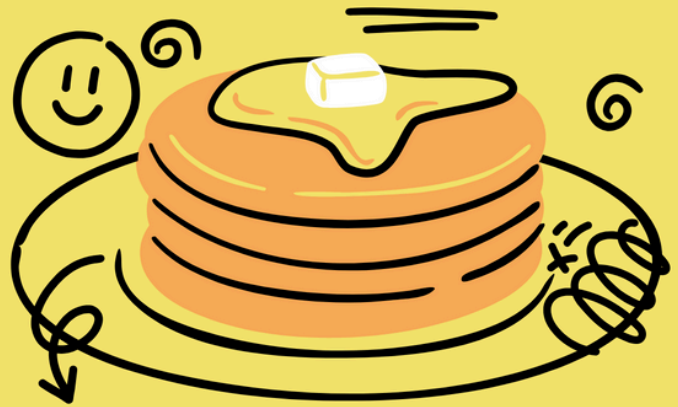
FRIDAY, 7 MARCH 2025

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE WILL BE NO OSHC SERVICE PROVIDED
DUE TO ALL STAFF PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING.

CELEBRATING SHROVE TUESDAY

TUESDAY 4 MARCH

8:50AM - 11AM



Gold coin donation for Project Compassion

Please let your child's teacher know if your child has any dietary restrictions so a safe food option can be provided



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

We remind you of a mandatory requirement for all volunteers at St Mary's Memorial School. All RRHAN (Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse, and Neglect) training undertaken before early 2024, expired on December 31, 2024.

To continue volunteering in 2025, all Registered Volunteers must complete the updated RRHAN training and forward your certificate to the school at volunteers@stmarmem.catholic.edu.au.

Please visit the RRHAN training platform using this [PLINK LINK](#). Once there, register or log in under "Non-Department for Education Staff" to access the required modules.

We sincerely appreciate your time, commitment, and dedication to our school. Your participation in this training is vital to creating a safe and supportive environment.

If you have any queries, please contact the Front Office.



ST DOMINIC

ST CATHERINE

ST MARY

ST THOMAS



SPORTS DAY

FRIDAY, 21 MARCH 2025

SACRED HEART COLLEGE
SOMERTON PARK

More information to follow!

~ WEATHER PERMITTING ~



We are excited to have recently launched our official
St Mary's Memorial School Facebook page!

Follow us for updates, events, and a glimpse into the wonderful life
of our school. We look forward to sharing our journey with you!



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US

for the

2024 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 19 March 2025

6:30pm

in the

Helen Scanlon Resource Centre

PLEASE RSVP TO ANGELA MAISEY
amaisey@stmarmem.catholic.edu.au
BEFORE FRIDAY, 14 MAY 2025

ST MARY'S MEMORIAL SCHOOL 2025 TERM 1 CALENDAR



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY SUNDAY
Week 1	January 27 Australia Day Public Holiday	January 28 FIRST DAY TERM 1	January 29	January 30 Whole School Mass 9.00am	January 31 – Newsletter 8:45am Community Prayer	February 1 February 2
Week 2	February 3	February 4	February 5 Year 6 Formation Day Community Welcome Evening 5-7pm	February 6	February 7 8:45am Community Prayer / Assembly – Year 6 Year 3 Social Night	February 8 February 9
Week 3	February 10	February 11 Mass – Yr 6	February 12	February 13	February 14 8:45am Community Prayer	February 15 February 16
Week 4	February 17	February 18 Mass – Yr 5	February 19 School Board	February 20	February 21 8:45am Community Prayer / Assembly Principal's Tour – 10am Reception Welcome Social Night - SMMSCG	February 22 February 23
Week 5	February 24	February 25 Mass – Yr 4	February 26	February 27	February 28 Newsletter 8:45am Community Prayer Yr 1 Social Night - SMMSCG	March 1 March 2
Week 6	March 3	March 4 Shrove Tuesday	March 5 SAPSASA Swimming Carnival Ash Wednesday - Mass	March 6	March 7 PUPIL FREE DAY NO OSHC AVAILABLE	March 8 March 9
Week 7	March 10 Adelaide Cup Day Public Holiday	March 11	March 12	March 13	March 14 8:45am Community Prayer / Assembly Yr 6 Social Night - SMMSCG	March 15 March 16
Week 8	March 17 St Patricks Day Parent Teachers Interviews	March 18 Parent Teacher Interviews Mass – Yr 3	March 19 Parent Teacher Interviews School Board - AGM 6:30pm Helen Scanlon Resource Centre	March 20 Parent Teachers Interviews	March 21 SPORTS DAY Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park Yr 2 Social Night – SMMSCG	March 22 March 23
Week 9	March 24	March 25 Liturgy R-2 9.00am SACPSSA Swimming Carnival for Yrs 3-6	March 26	March 27	March 28 8:45am Community Prayer Yr 5 Social Night - SMMSCG	March 29 March 30
Week 10	March 31	April 1	April 2	April 3	April 4 Newsletter 8:45am Community Prayer SAPSASA Swimming State Championship Yr 4 Social Night - SMMSCG	April 5 April 6
WEEK 11	April 7	April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11 LAST DAY OF TERM 1	April 12 April 13

* PLEASE NOTE, EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ANY CHANGES WILL BE COMMUNICATED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

WE ARE CURRENTLY FINALISING OUR 2025 EVENTS AND WILL SHARE KEY DATES WITH THE COMMUNITY SHORTLY