



St Mary's Newsletter

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
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Thursday 1 March 2018 Week 5 Term 1

We want our children to be:
CARING, BELIEVERS, OPEN, SECURE, WELL BALANCED, GENEROUS, CREATIVE

Dates to Remember

Thursday 1 March @ 9am

Thursday 1 March @ 2.40pm

Monday 5 March

Tuesday 6 March

Thursday 8 March @ 8.30-8.50am

Thursday 8 March @ 9am

Thursday 8 March @ 1-3:30pm

Friday 9 March @ 9:15am

Friday 9 March

Sunday 11 March @ 10am

Year 2 Oral Language Presentation

Year 1 Oral Language Presentation

Public Holiday

Pupil Free Day

Bendigo Student Banking

Year 3 Oral Language Presentation

Uniform Shop open

Year 6 Oral Language Presentation

First Eucharist Retreat

First Eucharist

The Uniform Shop is open on
Thursday afternoons between 1pm and 3:30pm☺
Term 1 is Summer Uniform



MASS TIMES

Saturday 24 February

Kirup @ 6pm

Sunday 25 February

Donnybrook @ 8.30am

Altar Server: Joshua, Christopher and Dylan

Capel @ 10.00am

Donnybrook @ 6pm

HOLY WEEK

Tues 27 March @ 11am **Chrism Mass** @ Cathedral

Wed 28 March @ 7pm **Reconciliation** @ St Mary's

Holy Thursday 29 March @ 7pm **Last Supper** @ St Mary's

Good Friday 30 March Capel @ 10am & Donnybrook @ 3pm

followed by **Stations of the Cross** after 9pm Mass

Easter Vigil 31 March @ 6.30pm – Donnybrook

Easter Sunday 1 April @ 8.30am Donnybrook & Capel 10am

NO 6pm Mass Easter Sunday

*No matter how big an
adversary, God empowers
us to do all things through
the power of Christ
(Philippians 4:13).*

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Learning

At St Mary's we aim to promote learning in lots of different forms. You will notice some provocations outside our junior primary classes which promote children exploring concepts in a play-based approach. Mathematics and literacy are all around us and we aim to make real world connections with our students. How you frame your questions to your child about school, helps to frame their ideas about expectations and the importance of learning. Some great questions you can ask your child about their day at school include:

Tell me something good about your day?

Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday?

What did you do that was creative today?

What was something that challenged you?

What is something you saw that made you think?

What made you feel proud? Loved? Happy?

Did you learn any new words today?

Engagement

In Week 7 and Week 8 we will be holding our parent/student/teacher meetings to talk about your child/ren's progress. A note will be sent home this week to nominate a time for your parent/teacher/student interview. Please fill in your preferred time and send it back as soon as possible to ensure you get your preferred timeslot. These meetings are a great way to work in partnership with the school to support your child's learning and engagement.

Accountability

Just a reminder there is no school on Monday (public holiday) and Tuesday (pupil free day). Staff will receive training about mandatory reporting on this day. Students return to school on **Wednesday 8 March**.

Just a reminder to fill out the survey before the end of next week. Your feedback is appreciated.

<https://www.tellthemfromme.com/stmarys>

Discipleship

Don't forget to keep filling up your Caritas boxes. This money goes to worthwhile projects around the world which provide people with the skills to be self-sufficient and move out of poverty. On Sunday at mass we viewed a power-point which showed Caritas had supported one woman to buy one sewing machine to start a business - through her hard work and Caritas support she now has a thriving business with eleven sewing machines. Caritas boxes are due back to school at the end of this term and every little bit you give can help change the life of someone else.

God Bless
Annette Quirk





Tell Them From Me

In the coming weeks we will be inviting students, teachers and parents to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey. The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process.

We would like to invite you to complete the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning* survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at St Mary's Primary School Donnybrook.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You are able to access the parent survey on your computer or mobile device by using the URL below:

<https://www.tellthemfromme.com/stmarys>

You are invited to attend
***The World Day of Prayer
this friday***

*This is an international ecumenical
Christian laywomen's initiative.*

*It is run under the motto "Informed
Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is
celebrated annually in over 170 countries
on the first Friday in March.*

*The movement aims to bring together
women of various races, cultures and
traditions in a yearly common Day of
Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship,
understanding and action throughout the
year.*

*The service is held this year at All Saints
Anglican Church
(South West Hwy) on Friday 2nd March at
9.30am.*

*Following the service Morning Tea will be
provided.*

Saint Mary's 50km Club

This year we will be running the Saint Marys 50km Club on Friday mornings before school and at recess time. By running this program, we hope to encourage students to build up their fitness by completing the 50km (250 laps of the oval) by the end of the school year. Students will be rewarded with a special token of their efforts at the 10km and 25km mark, as well as when they reach 50km.

Children are to meet on the oval at 8.30am to participate in the morning session. Parents are more than welcome to watch or even join in!

Mrs Pettersen

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

If using the Drop Off/Pick Up around the church, parents please do not use this as a parking area. Students need to independently walk into the school.

If using the back, car park, via Owen and Ecclestone Street, parents must park and walk their children into the school and collect them from their classroom.

PUBLIC



NOTICE

Please be advised the Donnybrook Apple Fun Park will be closed for maintenance from Monday 19th March to approximately Friday 23rd March 2018 between the hours of 7am to 4pm.

BBQ's and toilets are also located at Apex Park (Preston River Foreshore) and playground equipment at Vin Farley Park, Cnr Marmion and Emerald St.

Please refer to our website for further updates or contact the Works & Services administration on 9780 4209.

Of Eagle and Sparrows – by Father Gerald

Obviously, there are noticeable differences between an eagle and flock of sparrows. An eagle is definitely huge in size, with powerful wings, sharp & formidable talons, magnificent feathers, an awe-inspiring sight as it glides through the skies. From the great heights it flies, an eagle has a tremendous view of what is happening down below. An eagle is a symbol of strength, of greatness, of magnificence. The sparrows on the other hand are tiny, unimpressive creatures. They do not inspire awe as there is nothing in them that would elicit admiration. Sparrows are common, dull birds; they are not even cute. They do not fly high from the earth, they mostly congregate together, and make so much noise.

Humans can either aspire to be an eagle or to be identified with a group of sparrows. While we can adapt the characteristics of an eagle and become a paragon of strength, of grace, of greatness, there is a tremendous price to pay and it is quite too steep a price that many people opt to choose to live like sparrows. And the world is teeming with many sparrows and there are less and less eagles hovering above the skies both literally and figuratively.

Eagles are known for being solitary creatures. They do not fly in groups but prefer to be alone. Greatness demands solitude. People with depth of character are formed in solitude away from the maddening noise of the world, the useless chatter of men. As Aldous Huxley said, “the more powerful and original the mind, the more it will incline towards the religion of solitude.” Great thinkers, people with depth of character know for certain how important silence is, how valuable solitude is. While many would prefer endless noise and useless chatter, tawdry form of entertainment, and stupid bantering, some prefer the company of silence or the company of a wise person who imparts wisdom to them. And like an eagle who has less distraction as it flies in high altitude, a wise person has the gift of insight, of seeing things as they are and therefore know how to act and when to act. Sparrows on the other hand are noisy as they congregate together. Similarly, people who prefer noise and endless chattering are easily prone to mindlessness, inanity and meaningless conversation that rather drains the spirit rather than uplift it. The sparrow mentality also subsist in toilet jokes, comedy shows that are made at the expense of others rather than the use of wit and satire. If one is to soar like an eagle, one must love solitude and be embraced by loneliness.

An eagle doesn't shy away from storm. It is the only bird that bravely meets the storm while all the rest would seek shelter. It uses the wind of the storm to rise higher in no time at all. An eagle uses the pressure of the storm to glide higher without having to use much of its energy. A person who chooses to be like an eagle does not shy away from a challenge and sense of responsibility and duty. A person with a quality of an eagle doesn't demand for his entitlement and privileges but rather bears the burden of his responsibilities and carry them with diligence and in the process earns the respect of people. Sparrows on the hand hardly commands any respect because they are never brave enough to even go out in the rain much more a storm. People who demand respect do not simply demand it because they feel entitled to it, they must earn it and the best way to earn respect is to show a knack for being responsible and carrying their troubles with grace and dignity.

“When an eagle gets older and weak because of worn out feathers, which slows down flight speed and maneuvers, the eagle retires away in the rocks and will pluck all its old feathers until it is completely bare. It waits until a new set of feathers grows and comes out of its body. It stays in the hiding place until all the new feathers come back to make it fly dynamically and royally again without much effort or toil. This happens at about the age of 30. What happens is that when the eagle reaches the age of 30, its physical body condition deteriorates fast making it difficult for it to survive. What is really interesting is that the eagle never gives up living, instead the eagle retreats to a mountaintop and over a five month period goes through a metamorphosis. It knocks off its own beak by banging it against a rock, plucks out its talons and then feathers. Each stage produces a regrowth of the removed body parts, allowing the eagle to live for another 30 years.” A person with insight knows when to retreat for a while and regenerate himself. He knows there will be moments when he is most vulnerable and has the humility to acknowledge that there are things he cannot handle for the moment, that he is not afraid to acknowledge his vulnerability. Arrogance is the fastest way to fall from grace and loss favor from people. Humility on the other hand propels one to greatness.

There are lessons to be learned between eagle and sparrows. While eagle is highly admired and revered and respected that is has become symbols of the mighty Roman Empire and the seal of the President of the United States, there is a price to pay and unless we are willingly to pay the price, our fate will be tied to that of the sparrows. But we were created for greatness, not to become sparrows.