

Saint Mary MacKillop College

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"Christians must close the doors to the jealousies, envy and gossip that divide and destroy our communities. (Pope Francis I)

Week 8, Term 1

Friday 23rd March 2018

Dear Members of our Community of Faith,

I hope you have all had a great week. It is hard to believe how quickly time is flying by, with only 3 weeks of term left!

Next week our Yr.12 students Hannah, Lucy and Sam sit their mid-year exams. Please keep them in your prayers throughout the week.

Fathers and Sons Camp

Final call for Father and Son Camp participants. Please email Fiona at office@smmc.nsw.edu.au by tonight if you will be attending. Logistics of the camp will be finalised next week and a note sent out to everyone coming along. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

St Joseph's Feast Day

What a wonderful day we had on Monday celebrating Saint Joseph – a great model of humility and obedience. Thank you to the SRC Representatives for their efforts in providing cupcakes for everyone at Recess. All money raised is being donated to Caritas Australia as part of their Project Compassion fundraising efforts. We also made short work of two large pans of paella for lunch. Thank you to Mr Williams and all his able assistants for providing this great feast. Well done to all the students who entered the St Joseph Feast Day Competition and to Mrs Galvin for creating a great display in the hall to honour this great saint.



Swimming News

Congratulations to Lucy Von Marburg, Max Von Marburg, Max Clarke and Matthew Woods who have been selected to represent SMMC at State Level in Sydney. We wish those who choose to go all the very best and thank them for representing our school. Well done also to Xander Saliba who

represented our school in swimming in Sydney this week. Photo to come at some stage!

Safety Concern

If your child walks or rides to school it is imperative that they cross at the school crossing. They are to walk (not ride) their bikes from the crossing to the school. This is for their own safety and wellbeing. I have mentioned this a number of times at assembly, but some students are still crossing further up the road and coming up the driveway towards the Church. If you could please reiterate with your children the importance of using the crossing that would be appreciated and we'll monitor it our end. Many thanks!

As the season of Lent draws to a close, I thought it worthwhile to once again reflect on this quote from Pope Benedict XVI.

"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..." -- Pope Benedict XVI

These are certainly big ideas, but as Catholics we are called to reflect on the bigger picture and to see how the hand of God is at play throughout history and in our times. In *The Lord of the Rings* Frodo wonders why it is him who must take on the responsibility.

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

We are all playing a role in history. We have a 'blank page' on which to write and need to decide what we will do with the time given to us.

There will be no newsletter next week, so I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Joyous and Holy Easter with your families. There will be no school on Good Friday or Easter Monday, so enjoy the four day break. Please take the time to read the article on Holy Week contained in this newsletter, which helps us to understand the importance of Holy Week and Easter.

Have a terrific weekend!

God Bless, Luke Burton (Principal)

2018 Dates for your diary...

Term 1 – Tuesday 30th January – Friday 13th April

- Monday 26th – Friday 29th March – Yr.12 Exams
- Friday 6th – Sunday 8th April – Father/Son Camp at Howman's Gap
- Monday 9th April – Yr.7/8 TAS Market Day during lunch 12:45pm – 1:30pm. Parents welcome.
- Wednesday 11th April – SMMC Athletics Carnival at Alexandra Park
- Friday 13th April - Whole School Assembly after 9:15am Mass

Term 2 – Tuesday 1st May – Friday 29th June

- Friday 4th May – SMMC Cross Country at Jindera Golf Course 11:30am – 2:00pm
- Tuesday 8th May – ICAS Digital Technologies
- Monday 14th May – BISSA Cross Country
- Tuesday 15th - Thursday 17th May – NAPLAN
- Thursday 17th May – P&F Meeting 7:30pm
- Friday 18th May – Road Safety Talk for K-2 @ 1:45pm
- Tuesday 29th May – ICAS Science
- Thursday 21st June – BISSA Athletics at Alexandra Park

Term 3 – Tuesday 24th July – Friday 28th September

- Saturday 11th August – Saint Mary MacKillop Gala Dinner
- Thursday 9th August – RAS Primary Athletics at Alexandra Park
- Friday 24th August – Yr.9-12 Snow Trip
- Wednesday 5th September – The MacKillop Cup. Held at Saint Mary MacKillop College Wagga

Term 4 – Monday 15th October – Thursday 6th December

- Saturday 27th October – SMMC Annual Fete

Curriculum Corner – Mrs Magdalene Kaur

Enjoy some poetry by our talented Yr.11 students

Her hair tangled by the breeze,
Kissing her cheeks and the tip of her
nose
Turning them pink.
Tickling as it whispers in her ear
Knocking the hat off her head
And making it float through the air

She tugs down at her dress
Which only wants to play with the wind.
Her eyes tear as the wind yells in her
face,
Her walk turns into a jog
As the wind pushes her from behind.

'Whoosh' comes the warm air
As the door is opened
The wind pushes her inside
And the door is shut behind her
The wind howling at the windows to
come in.

In a world that exists beyond time
In a place where my mind often goes
A world that escaped the grasp of
reality
There I face my foes

This is a to world where Jenny Green
Teeth lurks in the lakes
The stories of knights and valour
awake
And Dragons curl up in their caves
As the trees move and shake

This is the world that shaped
The sea is a mysterious as the lakes
And the sea monsters live on land
In the strange world that I make.

As I stare into the depths of your eyes,
All I assume is a lie,
But come to the reality,
It is all just a mystery,
Just like our history,
Where did it go?

It's only just started,
But I feel my pumping heart,
Beat through my lonely being,
Bleeding for you.

Looking back behind me,
You were the enemy,
Now I look forward,
And I see clearly,
And know I did wrong.

Every time you pass with a smile,
I fall into a pile,
But I feel I owe you,
That is not a lie.

When our eyes meet,
Time freezes, everything freezes,
It's a feeling of forever,
But little time passes,
Just like a dream.

The faint words of love cross the mind,
But you are already behind,
You have passed me already,
Those words to never pass,
These lips of mine.

Subway 13,15,15,14

It's here now, the moonlight subway,
Come to take me away.
This tunnel; the eye of a gun
Through which I can see myself,
On the wrong side of the mirror.
But I'm going, going on the subway
With it comes the track the endless, the
ongoing, the forever day.
And it's when the train's doors are
closing
That the time slips through.
From the broken pavement,
With white knuckles I go.
I go on.
I go on the moonlight subway.

Time is racing away,
Stone that is moulded and then mortared,
High beams and lucid lapis lazuli
Roses fragrant and tender.
Performing antic rounds,
The warm, merciless flower swells brighter
still.
A child's laughter and all is quite.
Freezing glaciours, mindless gelid seas
Oh, were that God in his kindness look upon
with favour.
A windless tragedy where spindles of love
conspire.
A world of beauty and no more.

As loud as Silence

The silence is deafening
Slowly killing me.
Like a dead corpse
I can feel myself quietly decaying,
Decaying.
And then like a phantom you appear
Staring as if you can see straight into my soul.
Just watching
In the silence.

Headlights

The gnarly trees grew starkly,
Amongst the pitch-black blue,
Where a thousand little headlights,
Twinkled like the dew.

A thousand little headlights,
Seen from Heaven above,
All a precious gift from God,
Unknowingly in search of their soul's love.

The unborn dreams yet to arise,
The plans to be fulfilled,
The watching, waiting, and anguish,
Of a future to build.

We think we know the highway,
To make a successful man,
But God desires we share the airways,
Of his inconceivable plan.

All at Sea

My heart is like a boat.
And I am all at sea.
I see waves rising,
Waves of anger and sadness,
Waves of cruelty and doubt,
Of fear and lies.
They threaten to spill over my little boat.
And I am so busy watching them that I do not see the waves behind
me:
Waves of hatred, unforgiveness and despair that loom
Over me to.

I am tossed and bruised, and my heart is stung.
I can see no light to relieve me,
No ray of hope to give me reason to carry on.
I cry out to a God
Who seems not to care
Who seems not to hear
Who seems to do nothing.

My trials seem to tear at my heart.
Yet I have no way to stop and shelter.
So I continue the day-to-day drudgery.

But no!
I believe in
A God.
A God of
Love,
Of mercy,
Of compassion and power.
So stubbornly,
Blind though I be,
I will say,
"I trust and believe in you."
I will hold my head high,
I will smile through tears,
And with Gods help,
I will love through pain.
When my heart is full of doubts and darkness,
I will turn my thoughts to the light.
My feelings may not obey my command,
But my thoughts and actions can.

When the waves threaten to overwhelm me,
I shall turn to God with a smile,
No matter how fake it feels.
And I will throw myself in his arms,
Knowing that
That's where I've been
All along.



LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

HOLY WEEK

As Lent draws to a close so do our preparations for the great feast of Easter. It is time to turn up the pace. This is the most important time in the liturgical calendar. It is the time when the Old and the New Testaments come together in the New Passover when the Lamb of God, Jesus, is crucified, buried and rises again.

'Palm Sunday' or 'Passion Sunday' began Holy Week. Palm Sunday is the day when Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem. The Jews thought that Jesus was their new King and they heralded him as such, waving palms and laying them under his feet. They thought he was coming to save them from their earthly problems of living under the suppression of Roman Empire. They had little understanding of the real mission of Christ despite the many writings of the prophets foretelling the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Take your children to all of the Easter ceremonies of the Triduum. It is a visual experience for both those who understand what is happening and those who don't. This habit of setting aside time for God will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Remind children to be quiet and prayerful from the end of Mass on Holy Thursday until the Easter Vigil. It is a time to enter into the events of the Passion. Thinking about Our Lord as he prays in the Garden of Olives, is imprisoned and then goes on the Via Crucis (way of the cross). Think of him during his bitter passion and then Our Lady as she receives the lifeless body of her beloved son into her arms leaving him in the cold tomb.

On Holy Thursday explain to your children the Passover and how Jesus is the true Lamb. This is the time for the institution of the Holy Eucharist and also the priesthood. Read to your children about Abraham and Isaac. In the same way that Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his only begotten son, so too does God the Father. This is the first time Jesus reveals the 'breaking of the bread'. Scott Hahn in his book 'The Lamb's Supper' speaks about how the early Christians were known as 'flesh eaters' or 'cannibals', since they ate the body and blood of Jesus. After Mass the altar is stripped and the Blessed Sacrament removed to the Altar of Repose, usually out of the Church. After Mass there are no signs of life in the church (there is no water or candles).

On Good Friday the priest enters the church clothed in red, symbolising blood. There are no candles or water, no bells are rung. The readings are of the Old Testament prophecies for the life and brutal death of Our Lord. They then move on to the retelling of the Passion. It is a very solemn time, so remind your children to leave the church in silence. On Holy Saturday there is no Mass, as at this time Jesus is in the tomb. It is fitting to think of the expectant waiting of Mary and the apostles.

The Easter Vigil ceremonies can only happen after dark, symbolising Jesus rising before the dawn. The Vigil ceremony is filled with signs of life. The candles are brought into the dark church symbolising Christ rising to life and dispelling the darkness of sin. The priests wear white or gold vestments. The bells are rung the whole way through the Gloria. The Holy Water is blessed and we are all sprinkled with it. It is a time for new life and hopefully people to enter the Church. Celebrate! Christ is risen! We now live in the time of grace, and thanks to Jesus we are able to go to Heaven. Alleluia!

Virtue for the Month of March - *Hope*

“The confidence of Christians is the resurrection of the dead; believing this we live.”

Tert, De res. 1,1:PL 2, 841