

# Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury Newsletter

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197 Urana Street Jindera, NSW, 2642

Week 5, Term 1, 2020

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February



## Dates for your Diary:

### Term 1 2020

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March –  
RAS Swimming

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March –  
BISSA Swimming

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March –  
Kinders First Wednesday  
at school

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March –  
School Working Bee  
10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March –  
SMMC Athletics Carnival

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Whole  
School Assembly

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April – Last  
Day of Term 1

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April –  
ANZAC Day

Dear parents,

The following words are used in the collect for Mass on Ash Wednesday: campaign, battle, armed, weapons. "Sound the trumpet in Zion!" calls the prophet in the First Reading. Lent is the liturgical equivalent of going to DEFCON 3. But rather than wielding weapons of destruction, the Lenten campaign of prayer, fasting and almsgiving seeks to bring healing, peace and tenderness.

Students are being actively encouraged to visit Our Lord in St Mary's church each day. Confessions are available at lunchtime on Thursdays for high school students, in addition to prior to Mass each day. Students in Years 7-10 will be working and praying with their chaplaincy journals in the coming weeks and months.

These encouragements and opportunities are aimed at forming a lifelong practice of prayer and the desire to spend time with God. For those of you with post-school children, may I also recommend *No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk through Christ's Passion*. This is a 5-week, video-based program for 18-22 year olds. It takes place at the Esencia Cafe, starting next **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm**. The **cost is \$25**, for which each participant receives a study guide. Please contact me for more information.

Ian Smith  
Principal

### NACF Conference

The National Association of Catholic Families Conference is being held on **the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of April**. Please see attached pamphlet for further information and how to register.

### Swimming Carnival

Well done to everyone who participated in the college swimming carnival. Thank you to all the parents and friends who volunteered their time to help on the day. A big thank you to Mrs Mott-Pekolj for putting so much effort into organising the day. Congratulations to Saint John Bosco for taking out the win with a total of 1296 points. Attached is a photo page of the day.

Students will now be selected to represent our school at the RAS and BISSA swimming competitions. Parents of those selected will receive information to their PAM account shortly. We wish these students all the best.

### Winter Uniforms

It is a good time to start thinking about ordering Secondary Blazers from Lowes in Albury for term two. Lowes carry limited numbers of blazers and it can take quite a few weeks for them to arrive if stock needs to be back ordered. Please visit the SMMC uniform shop website for further information regarding uniforms or to place orders: <https://www.smmcuniformshop.com/>

### Working Bee

Our next school working bee will be held on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March** from 10:00am to 1:00pm. A BBQ lunch will be supplied for all volunteers on the day. A list of jobs we hope to achieve will be supplied closer to the date. Any help given on the day will be much appreciated as we aim to make the school a pleasant environment for our students.

### SMMC Athletics Carnival

The SMMC Athletics Carnival will be held at the Les O'Brien Athletics Precinct on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**. Students will need to be dropped off and picked up from the venue by parents or an adult guardian. Parents are encouraged to stay for the day to support their children. There will be a flyer with further information sent out closer to the date.

### Kinder's First Full Week

Kinder students will begin their first full week of school in Week 7, with **the 11<sup>th</sup> of March** being their first Wednesday at school.

### Monica's Mothers Prayer Group

The Monica's Mother's Prayer group has changed to Thursdays after the 8:30am Mass. The group pray for intentions, say a mother's prayer to Saint Monica and offer a Rosary for children, grandchildren and Godchildren. All mothers are welcome to attend.

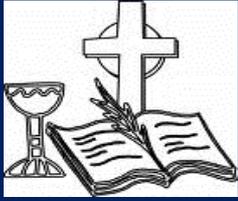
### 2020 Debutante Ball

Holy Spirit Parish Catholic Debutante Purity Ball for Young Ladies 16yrs and older (as of the date of the Ball) will take place on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2020**. All interested parties please request registration details via email: [ssbcfireball@gmail.com](mailto:ssbcfireball@gmail.com) or contact Donalee Murphy on 0403 619 044.

## *Curriculum Corner - Mrs Annita Bell*



Firstly, a big congratulations to last year's HSC Legal Studies class on their fantastic HSC results for Legal Studies. It was great to have their enthusiasm in the classroom over the two years of study. This year's HSC class have been working on completing our unit on Crime. This is a very interesting unit which incorporates all of the basic legal principles of criminal law while allowing students to investigate some very interesting cases. We have been following with interest, the Cardinal Pell case and look forward to seeing some positive resolution in the High Court in March. We took a break from some intensive theory during the Crime unit to perform a Crime Scene Investigation so the students could put into practice some of the knowledge and skills they had learnt while studying the criminal investigation process. The year 11 Drama class brilliantly came up with a crime scene scenario which they acted out, complete with fake blood and a life-like corpse. The Legal Studies students had to then use their knowledge to discover who the parties to the crime were (taking fingerprints, shoe prints and hair samples), interview all those involved and discover the reason behind the crime. It was an interesting way to practically apply their skills. Along with a couple of visits to the Albury Local Court, the course thus far has been very interesting and rewarding for both the students and their teacher.



## LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

Lent is a time to work on your children's character, promoting virtue and banishing vice. Firstly, what is character and why bother promoting virtue? James Stenson, the author of *"Lifeline, The Religious Upbringing of your Children"*, defines character as the "sum total of good habits formed in the minds and wills". If virtues are these good habits, then these are what we have to be striving for. Vices are bad habits or inclinations of the will; these you seek to overcome. How are we to develop these good habits in our children? By the day to day loving interaction where the good of the individual and the family as a whole are considered.

The family is the school of virtue. Within the family a person is loved just for being who they are. A good family desires the best for each of its members aligned with God's design. The family then is the best place for true character formation, where love is the motivating force. In the Vatican II document, *"The Church in the Modern World"* the primacy of the family is emphasised: "the family is, therefore, the first school for social human virtues, which societies need". The better the job the family does in lovingly forming the character of their children, the better our society will be.

This Lent aim to work on character. Firstly, remember that your good example in living out a life of virtue is what your children will mirror. Encourage your children to practise particular virtues. Give them opportunities to develop fortitude, for example, by performing difficult tasks such as long walks or cleaning jobs around the home. Encourage temperance during Lent by giving up food they love and keeping it up even when Lent is over (now that is a difficult one!). Practise Faith during Lent by attending extra Lenten devotions and making an effort to be more reverent. Choose one of the virtues each day of Lent and by the end of each week all seven (faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance) will have been cultivated in some way.

Children need to be reminded each time they fall into the vice of the opposing virtue they are striving for. Mary Ann Budnik in her book, *"Raise Happy Children, Teach them Virtue"* suggests focusing on particular vices children are prone to. If a child is prone to laziness by only choosing the easiest task, extra work on fortitude is required. If a child enjoys finding fault with others, strive for justice and charity more in the family. A child who continually makes bad decisions needs to learn more about prudence. Parents need to pray for guidance in knowing how to lovingly lead their children along the path of virtue.

This Lent may be the time for parents to draw up a booklet with a section for each child. On each page note the natural virtues a child possesses and the ones they have to strive for. Draw up a 'Battle Plan' on how to promote the virtues most needed and how to counteract the opposing vices.

Pray that Our Lord will inspire you on what you can do to be an agent of change in bringing about the character formation that God has in mind for your child. Each child's path to sanctity is unique, and only God has the big picture in mind.

"God has entrusted the souls of your children to you because he has great confidence that you can raise them to be saints. As Hildebrand's sister told him when he was on the verge of becoming a Catholic, "Grace is knocking at your door. If you don't answer it, you will lose it." Use now the grace given to you through the Sacrament of Marriage as well as other sacraments to raise them to be saints." - Mary Ann Budnik

**VIRTUE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY: LOVE**  
God is our loving Father, we have nothing to fear.