



Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

## Covid-19 Update No.15

**Awareness.**  
**Social distancing.**  
**Face masks 12 years and over.**  
**Enter College grounds only if essential.**  
**The safest place is at home.**



*Gracious God, give us ears to hear, eyes to see, hearts to love, and hands to act; so that 'we are shining lamps, giving light to all around us'.*

### **The Feast of the Assumption of Mary 15<sup>th</sup> August**

*'She took a chance, she said "yes" to some big invitation, a mystery, an event, an encounter. She said, "Count me in!" — She was all about being part of incarnating God in our midst. No guarantees, just life lived fully — desiring the hidden and revealing God who draws and pulls us toward more, and who pulls with us, as well...'* (Mercy E News)

The Gospel for this holy day recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the Angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles they, and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. Mary responds to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favour upon the people of Israel. Mary's Magnificat in particular, echoes the song of praise offered by Hannah, the mother of Samuel. The Assumption highlights Mary's faith. Mary's faith enabled her to recognise the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to all. Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan of salvation.



### **Thankyou Macca and Murray**

I was out on an early morning walk last Sunday listening to an Australian icon, Macca's Australia All Over. The radio program that is a forty-year institution across the Australian radio waves. Murray from Queensland phoned in from his B Double transport rig in a convoy of trucks bringing beehives down to towns along the Murray river in readiness to pollinate almond and fruit trees..... how quickly we can forget the importance of nature. Murray spoke with a gentle voice and wanted to pass on his heartiest best wishes to all Victorians going through the second phase of Covid-19 and hoping that everyone was coping with the lockdowns. Murray recommended that all Victorians watch the

YouTube clip of the Neil Daniher talk to the Melbourne AFL players (June 2019), *'If you had one wish for a person you cared for what would it be?'*

<https://www.facebook.com/heraldsun/videos/neale-daniher-message-to-the-melbourne-players/1352179778253129/>

Murray spoke about the inspirational person that Neil Daniher is. I can attest to that knowing the Daniher clan. Murray spoke about the weather, the green country side and all things life. As the phone call came to an end Murray said to Macca, *"Macca can I just add before I leave you that life can test your resilience. My wife died suddenly last year and left me to raise our two children, a four and two-and-a-half-year-old. My family and the fellowship of people was amazing. They helped me get through it and I am doing well. So to all those Victorian's listening, you will get through this."* I was reminded that the next time I think that life is not fair, I will do my best to remember the stories and more importantly the messages from Neil and Murray.

The year 2020 is written in a stylized, blue, hand-drawn font on a black rectangular background.

### **Mission 2020**

The HON RICHARD WYNNE MP Minister for Planning has approved the planning permit for St Mary's College to build the Primary Learning Centre. This is wonderful news for our College and local community. Tender documents are in the process of being finalised. The College community will be updated on the progress of the timelines and announcement of the successful tender. One of many hurdles jumped!



A group of past students attended a Google Meet with our current Year 10 classes to discuss Year 11 and 12 pathways. This is a wonderful initiative and will provide Year 10 students with excellent advice on subject choices and post school career opportunities. How blessed is St Mary's is to have past students so willing to assist.

**Thank you to:** Lizzie Wiles - Completed Biomedicine, now working as a Police Dispatcher for ESTA & now completing Graduate Diploma of Psychology; Mackenzie Spencer - Bachelor of Agricultural Science; Keenan Fanning - Certificate 3 in Electrotechnology; Courtney Aldous - Bachelor of Teaching and Exercise Science; Keegan Grant - Bachelor of Science/Chemistry Major; Jack Robinson - Veterinary Science; Hudson Kaak - Real Estate; Cameron Evans - Osteopathy.

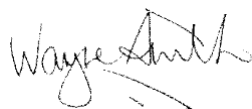
Thank you to Georgia Engel - Bachelor of Paramedicine and Dakota Griffiths - Diploma of Nursing, who both were unable to attend but wrote about their experiences.

### **Staff Professional Learning Day Monday 17 August**

Even though this date is on the College calendar usually the College publishes reminders well before the date. My apologies for the late notice. With Covid-19 requiring a lot of juggling, this date was hiding in the shadows. At St Mary's we could have taken more PD days this year but decided not to in the interests of trying to support parents. We have also changed the end of year dates so that students from F-9 are at the College for a longer period of time in Term Four. Monday is important for staff to complete online compliance training that was not possible to do with the amount of planning and work that has gone into remote learning and onsite supervision since the beginning of Term 2. **A reminder there is no onsite supervision of Monday.**

On behalf of the staff our sincere thanks for the continued support of the onsite supervision criteria, especially with many staff working offsite. Covid-19 is very contagious and the less movement there is, the quicker the down turn in the transmission rate. There has been an increase of positive tests in rural areas - no one is immune. We take no joy in being strict with the criteria but the alternative would create far greater issues for the College and even more so for many families.

Stay well and best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Wayne Smith**

**Principal**

*DipEd(ACU) DipREd(ACU) BEd(ACU) GradCertEdAdmin (Edith Cowan)  
GradDipREd(ACU) MEdAdmin (Charles Sturt) MTheoSudies(BBITAITE)*

***Foundation students have been learning about Priest Vestments in Faith Education  
Please see the collage on the next page.***

# Learning about Priest Vestments



Foundation