



Covid-19

# ST. MARY'S COLLEGE SEYMOUR

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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'.



Update No.21

Friday 2nd October 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

## Vale Monsignor Anthony Kevin Toms

21/3/1938- 25/09/2020

I did not know 'the Mons' but heard so much about him to understand he was indeed a local legend whose heart was truly in Seymour and deeper still within St Mary's College.

The following reflection on the late Monsignor Toms is by Mrs Evans.

*'On Saturday, we received the sad news that Monsignor Anthony Kevin Toms had died peacefully at home in Melbourne, on the night of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.*

*Monsignor Toms, or 'Mons,' as we all knew him, was the Parish Priest of St Mary's Seymour for just over 20 years- 1996-2016. As Parish Priest, Mons was a leader and an integral part of our school community, guiding our College with wisdom, courage and compassion.*

*Mons was a tireless supporter of the College and was always a vocal advocate for the students, families and staff. He was an active member of the School Education Board during his long tenure at St Mary's and a vital support to the two Principals he worked with – Mr. Adrian Mitchell and Mr. Peter Kelly.*

*Mons provided guidance and leadership with the Sacramental programs and always had a great story to tell the students when he came to help prepare them for the sacraments.*

*Monsignor Toms had a great love of learning and a particular interest in science. The Science building was named after Mons when he celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> year of priesthood in 2014. Our annual Science Awards are also named after him, as a testament to his passion for science and encouragement of student learning.*

*Mons had a terrific sense of humour and really enjoyed a good laugh over a cup of tea and one of his much loved Tim Tams. He had a keen intellect and could converse on a wide range of subjects – and loved a good debate or animated discussion!*

*Monsignor Toms served as a Missionary Priest in Thailand (1964-78), served many years as a Brigadier in the Army Chaplaincy (1979-96) and then as Parish Priest of St Mary's Seymour (1996-2016) where he served for longer than any of his predecessors going back to 1890.*

*Vale Mons- thank you for your wonderful contribution to the St Mary's College Community.*

## Monsignor Toms' Funeral

Year 10 leaders and staff will represent the College in the Guard of Honour. There are only 20 worshippers allowed in the Church for the funeral with live streaming provided <http://www.pscp.tv/floydfunerals> from 11.30am. The Rosary will be recited at 9.30am. If you wish to attend the Rosary please contact Fr Eugene.



## Primary Learning Centre Building Tender

After reviewing the tender applications, the M2020 committee have a preferred tender. The successful tender for the Primary Learning Centre will be announced within three weeks.



### Mercy Centre Chapel

The Chapel will be brought back to life in 2021 - repainted, carpeted, furniture and decorated as a place for personal, community and faith initiatives. The chapel is for the College community and a sacred place for liturgy; retreat, personal and group reflections and gatherings, as it was over 115 years for the Sisters of Mercy. We look forward to students, staff, parents and parishioners having opportunities to access the chapel.

### College Operations Term Four

<i>Subject to Victoria State Government and Catholic Education Victoria changes.</i>	
F-6 return	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> October
7-10 remote learning	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October
7-10 return	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October
Canteen	No recess purchases. Lunch Orders placed in the morning. No over the counter orders/sales.
Masks	Secondary students are not required to wear masks.
Assemblies/2021, Orientation Days & Assemblies	To be advised by CECV.
Term 4 Camps & Excursions	Were cancelled in Term Three.
College Covid Safety Plan	Is now required by CECV as restrictions are loosened. The plan is in place as required for random visits.
Entering College Grounds	Current restrictions still apply. Only enter if essential and report directory to the College Office.
Playground Equipment	Is open for student use.
Water Bottles/Drink Fountains	Individual drink bottles required. Drink Fountains are closed.
Cleaning	Extra cleaning continues into Term Four. Hand sanitisers remain in place for classroom hygiene.
Chromebook/Device Returns	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October Mercy Centre 9.00am-4.00pm

During Term Four we navigate a calendar that will require continued flexibility. The students will be excited to return to their College and staff and (without doubt) parents and grandparents will look forward to seeing the children back in the classroom. Term Four will focus on keeping interruptions to a minimum so that learning time is optimised.

Stay well and thankyou again for your support and commitment during the highs and lows of remote learning.

Best wishes

Wayne Smith  
Principal

*DipEd (ACU) DipREd (ACU) Bed (ACU) GradCertEdAdmin (Edith Cowan)  
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