



The Marian

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2021 College Theme

***“Let our words and actions
be shining lights for others”***



St Mary's College Seymour is a Child Safe School. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

Newsletter No.7

Term 1

1 April 2021

Holy Week the Great Week

Crucifixion to Resurrection



‘When I was growing up and in terms of my family’s ideas, Holy Week celebrates the death and resurrection of Christ, but it was also a way to get together as a family – spending time with each other. To be honest with you, in terms of what it means now, it still means the same. It’s not so much about the Easter eggs and the chocolate but it is more about getting together and very much about what Easter actually symbolises, which is the resurrection.’

Cross Light Easter Reflection

Easter is a wonderful time in the warmth of autumn days. Easter can be a time for catching up with family or on the road. Easter is about new life and religious ritual. Regardless of one’s denomination, personal beliefs or any other hurdles, Holy Week is the ‘Great Week’ for Christians. People admire those who have little but never complain and those who do it tough but still see the goodness in each day. Christ was no different! He relied on the generosity of others and could do what many of us at times may find difficult to do, which was to forgive. Even at the hour of his death, Jesus could still forgive those who mocked him.

Holy Week puts much into perspective.

Holy Thursday: St Mary’s Seymour Mass of the Last Supper (6.00pm).

Good Friday: St Mary’s Seymour Stations of the Cross (9.00am & 6.00pm); Passion Ceremony (3.00pm).

Holy Saturday: St Mary’s Seymour Vigil Mass with Fire (7.30pm).

Easter Sunday: Morning Masses St Joseph’s Tallarook (8.00am) & St Mary’s Seymour (10.00am).

Mr Krammer

During the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday evening, Mr Krammer will be welcomed into the Catholic Church. This is a life milestone for Leigh and a very significant decision he has made for his beliefs and spiritual journey. Leigh has been supported by Fr Ashkar in his journey. Leigh values his faith and we congratulate him and wish him all the blessings that the Catholic Faith will bestow in him.

The Best of Us

‘New Amsterdam’ is one of those popular Netflix series about a hospital where most patients cannot afford health care – the norm for many Americans. The hospital’s staff are compassionate and think beyond themselves to make a difference in the lives of their patients – dignity, respect and care are common words throughout the series. The last episode of the series struck a chord when the main character Dr Max Goodwin sets out to reform the institution and during a consultation with a patient the good doctor says, “*all we can do is pass on the best of ourselves to our children.*” A very powerful statement and one that resonates with life at St Mary’s.

College staff and parents all want to give our children the best of ourselves so they too can be the best they can be. For this to happen it requires us all to give our students the relational skills to interact well and appreciate what they have. Our College's Mercy Values: *Compassion – Justice – Respect – Hospitality – Service – Courage* and through positive communication between home and school are enablers for our students to shine.

The very best of ourselves (St Mary's College community) was on display at the Celebrate Learning evening on Tuesday with over 120 families sharing time together. It was a wonderful evening and perhaps more about connecting, having conversations and seeing the joy on the students faces that reminds us that its often the simple things we do that mean the most. Thank you to all who came along and to the P&F for the BBQ and advertising the second hand uniforms. The words of two staff sum up the evening:

"Community Spirit, Community Engagement, Team Effort - SMC is the best."

"What an amazing evening for our College community. The whole school was buzzing. Such a wonderful way to finish a very busy term."

Project Manager Appointment

On behalf of the College it is pleasing to announce that Mr Tony O'Byrne a former Principal of St Thomas Aquinas College, Ringwood has accepted the role as Project Manager to work and support the F-12 Pathway Committee. Tony comes highly recommended and after visiting St Mary's this week he is keen to support the College in its desire to return to Year 12. Parents will receive a letter with more information.

Pioneer Park

The College has the opportunity to be involved in the upkeep of Pioneer Park. The trustees of the park will share their ideas with staff next term followed by historical tours for our students. From that point a decision will be made in regard to the practicalities of involvement so that St Mary's can build a connection to this wonderful opportunity.

Chaplaincy Program

Mrs Giannarelli has moved to the role of Student Wellbeing Officer for 2021-2022. The Nationally funded Chaplaincy program is based around supporting students in wellbeing. Kellie under the guidance of Allison Moore (Director of Wellbeing) support students through programs such as lunchtime activities and Seasons for Growth. Kellie is studying the Certificate IV in Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care (CHC42315) through Alphacrucis College.

Tutor Program

We welcome Emily Noonan and Courtney Aldous for tutoring in 2021. Students across Years 5-8 will receive tutoring support, primarily in literacy and numeracy.

Thank you for your support of St Mary's and with your children's education. If you are on the roads over Easter (Victoria's busiest long weekend), please go gently and take care.



Wayne Smith

Principal, St Mary's College Seymour

DipEd (ACU) DipRED (ACU) BEd (ACU) GradCertEdAdmin (Edith Cowan)

GradDipRED (ACU) MEdAdmin (Charles Sturt) MTheoStudies (BBITAITE)

Deputy Principal Operations



Term One has come and gone so quickly. The first term has been full of so many events that bring life to our College and make it the wonderful school that it is. The events have included:

Foundation Students First Day	College Opening Assembly and Leaders Presentation	College Athletics Carnival	Reading Buddies	
Introduction of Secondary House Mentor Groups	Year 10 & Staff Mentor Morning Tea	School Photos	Joy of Sacraments Evening	Passport Evening
College Swimming Carnival	RAMS Activities	Meat Pie Monday	NAPLAN Practice Tests	Year 7-10 Social
District, Division & Hume Swimming	Staff First Aid Training	Secondary Round Robin	InitialLit information Sessions	Easter Liturgy
Shrove Tuesday	Crazy Sock Day	Foundation Proactive Police Unit Visit	College Open Day	Class Masses
		Sr. Mary Dennett College Visit	Celebration of Learning	Year 4 Robotics Program

It is our students, staff and families who have made these activities successful. I thank everybody for their enthusiasm and energy towards our College. Activities beyond the classroom enable both staff and students to build upon their relationship. It allows staff and students to share a common experience. These activities give the College community the opportunity to notice the uniqueness of each student. I wish to acknowledge the leadership of our Year 10 students throughout the Term. These students are 'letting their words teach and their actions speak' and I am confident their positive leadership will continue into Term Two and beyond.

Enjoy a restful holiday period.

We look forward to continuing our work with you into Term Two.

Mrs Genevieve Gordon

genevieve.gordon@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Director of Faith and Mission



It has been a year of waiting – waiting for lockdowns to end, waiting for a chance to visit with family and friends, waiting for the development of a vaccine and now waiting for its distribution. In parts of NSW and Queensland, many in our community now wait for flood waters to recede and for the opportunity to assess the damage, hoping that it will not be as bad as feared.

One year ago our Easter celebrations looked vastly different. We spent it isolated in our household bubbles, so the fact that this year we can again gather together is a sign of hope that better things are coming.

Below is a short story, I have taken from the *Australian Catholic* magazine, which tells the Easter story from the perspective of one of Jesus' disciples. The rawness of the piece, puts you right in the room!



As I sit in this room, I see the sun's rays upon the walls. I crouch down even further in fear as I hear the pounding footsteps of the soldiers walking by.

Peering through the slight gap of the locked door, I see their glistening armour. The guards are on patrol – they always are – but this time it feels different. My heart is beating faster and faster, hoping that they do not take me and my friends away.

Only yesterday, one of these soldiers thrust a spear into Jesus' side. Many believe Jesus was the Messiah. I called him teacher. He was a friend to the outcasts, who welcomed sinners to the table, spoke to the Pharisees and Sadducees, and confronted Pilate face to face.

Along with many other women I had followed him from Galilee. His wisdom captivated us. We were as close as we could be to him, despite the crowds. He had known our names and answered our questions.

He listened to us. We saw truth in what he taught, and we saw his love extend through miracles all over the countryside.

So what wrong had he done to deserve such punishment? The worst punishment of all.

Hiding here, in the corner of this room, the image of Golgotha is still imprinted in my mind. His body covered in lashes from the whips of his opponents, made to carry his own cross to the place of the skull. I remember the blood as the soldiers hammered nails inch by inch, anchoring his body to the heavy, splintered wood. Yet he showed no anger or remorse, even while the guards abused his flesh, mocked him, and spat on him.

On the cross, he was suspended between the two others, arms wide open, on strong wooden beams. His face bowed down. He looked into my eyes, and I looked into his. Those near the foot of the cross were all afraid, and I wondered if he was too.

At his final breath, the ground trembled, and its vibrations shook every muscle in my body. Since that moment everything I have known has become unstable. What am I to do without him? The wails of his mother and the disciples still ring in my ears.

The sorrow in Mary's face, seeing her beloved son taken and treated like a criminal – it's hard to forget. I know Jesus said 'daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me but for yourselves and for your children', but I can't help but weep.

They are now on the lookout for us, his followers, people like Peter and Mary of Magdala. We try and care for each other. But how much longer can I sit here? I've been waiting for answers all day, will he come back to us like he said he would? If he was not the Messiah, who was he – a prophet like Elijah?

We saw the tomb that Joseph laid Jesus' limp body in. Joseph felt the coldness of the corpse's flesh, and saw how Jesus' wounds were still open as they wrapped his body in white linen. All of this was done in haste, the burial of our wounded Messiah.

He is not with us now. His body is separated from us by the stone blocking the entrance of his tomb.

What is there left to do? We could be the next ones to lose our lives for believing him, and believing in him. We called him Rabbi, they labelled him as 'The King of the Jews'. If he was the Messiah, did we just lose the one who was to save us?

Everything in me desires to just freely sit at his feet and listen again, to just be next to the body of my Lord.

But in this waiting, and in this fear, I and the women I love will shelter with each other. I will search for God in all this misery, just like Jesus taught us. In every memory of this man, of this teacher, of this mystery... I will wait, and will hope and see if there is more to be unravelled.

Here, in the waiting.

So as we wait for the joy of Easter Sunday, my hope for you is that you are surrounded by family, loved ones and friends.

Mrs Rochelle Gough
rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Director of Wellbeing



Wellbeing

Uniform across the College has been looking great. Parents are reminded that Term 2 is Winter Uniform. Outback Australia at 103 Anzac Ave is our supplier. Second hand uniforms are also available at the Second-hand Uniform Shop situated at the front of the Mercy Centre. The College office will be open Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 April 10am to 3pm for uniform purchases only. St Mary's College Uniform Policy and Price List is available on our website.

Please note: Under Child Safety Regulations, Black Leather Lace School Shoes Only.

BOOT STYLE and T-BAR STYLE are NOT permitted. Black runners are not permitted to be worn on Uniform days.

PE Runners - no skate shoes or volleys are to be worn for Physical Education classes.

Please refer to the Uniform Policy and requirements under Student expectations on the College website.

<https://www.smseymour.catholic.edu.au/our-school/student-expectations-etc/>

Winter Uniform F-10	Winter Uniform F-10
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skirt –<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pinafore (Foundation to Year 4)- Tartan skirt (Year 5 to Year 10)OR• Pant - Navy tailored slacks (Midford)• Top (with pant) - Light blue long sleeve shirt (Midford)• College tie (Year 5 to Year 10)• College windcheater• Navy tights or navy long socks• Black leather lace school shoes• College winter navy coat• College Backpack	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pant - grey trousers• Top - Light blue long sleeve shirt (Midford)• College tie (Year 5 to Year 10)• College windcheater• Grey socks• Black leather lace school shoes• College winter navy coat• College Backpack

Agriculture and Horticulture

Year 9 and 10 Agriculture & Horticulture students have been very busy in recent days as crops ripen and the changing seasons bring new jobs and new challenges in the school garden. We are still harvesting an abundance of roma tomatoes and putting them to good use.

Using the passata machine, we have started making and bottling sauce. We used some of our first batch to make a pot of pasta sauce which was enjoyed by the students. We plan to offer parents the chance to sample our pasta sauce at our Celebration of Learning evening on Tuesday 30th March between 5:00pm and 7:00pm.

We will also have an abundance of ripe cantaloupe to share. Our first batch of wine seems to be progressing well. Students were able to see the CO₂ produced by fermentation passing through the airlock. They also noticed a change in colour from dark red to slightly milky, indicating the activity of the yeast. The missing 'Angel's share' was also noticed as the level in the glass fermenter could be seen to have fallen slightly. Once fermentation has concluded a small amount of preservative will be added to the wine. It will then be left to settle before finally being filtered and bottled.



Mr Andrew Allen

andrew.allen@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Parent Engagement



Congratulations to Annie Dignam (yr 8) who along with her brother Harry, participated in the Worlds greatest shave in Yea last week. Annie had her long hair cut and coloured to help raise money and awareness for the Leukaemia Foundation and in memory of her grandfather. Well done Annie - we are all very proud of you !!



Save the date: Mother's Day afternoon tea

This year's Mother's Day afternoon tea will be held on Friday 7 May. Please keep an eye out for more information.

Family Night - Celebration of Learning

What an amazing night we had!!! On Tuesday night, over 450 people participated in our *Celebration of Learning* evening.

From 5-7pm, the College was abuzz with students and families moving from one learning space to another.

As families arrived, they could have some dinner first at the Sausage Sizzle (well run by the P&F and staff- thank you!) before collecting their passport to begin the activities.

There were different learning spaces open all over the College – from recreating masterpieces in the Art room, trying out your sporting skills in the MPH, puzzling over maths challenges, making scientific discoveries or completing a treasure hunt in Indonesian! A very popular activity was the digital Technologies photography room- many of our families were able to take a trip to the Eiffel Tower, Uluru or some ancient ruins!

It was wonderful to see the school so busy and so many families engaged with learning opportunities that are offered to the students during the day.

A huge thank to you to all of our families who came and joined in on the evening, to the staff who created and ran the activities, to the P&F helping with the Sausage Sizzle and to our amazing St Mary's College Community.

Thank you for a wonderful end to a busy and productive term. It was so good to have our families back onsite!!!

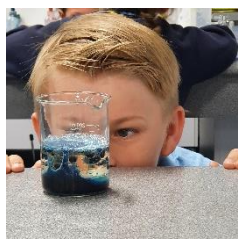




Primary Pastoral Care Coordinator

Term 1 has come and gone in a heartbeat! There has been an amazing amount of learning happening and students have endeavoured to do the best they can. Our new students have slotted in as if they have been here forever and 'old' students have gone out of their way to make them feel welcome.

Thank you to parents and carers for your ongoing support throughout the term. Have a happy and safe Easter and we look forward to seeing you all again next term.



3B have finished their first term of Science lessons. A huge thank you to Ms. Williams for teaching us about Solids, Liquids & Gases and for the amazing experiments. This week we made temporary lava lamps.

In 3B we have been reading 'The Enchanted Wood' by Enid Blyton. In the story Moonface likes toffee. Clearly showing a generation gap, no-one in 3B really knew what toffee was (for those of you as old as me, no cake stall was complete without trays and trays of toffees!) Thank you to Hudson's mum Jenna for closing this gap. Jenna made enough toffee for the whole class. It was delicious!



Foundation - Year 2 Easter Bonnet Parade Happy Easter!!



Stations Of The Cross



We visited the Church to see the Stations Of The Cross. They tell us the story of Jesus dying on the cross. This part of Jesus' life can also be called The Passion Of Christ. My station was of Jesus carrying his cross. **Jake Spratling**

Holy Week is the story of the last week of Jesus' life. It starts on Palm Sunday when Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. People put down palms and branches on the road to show respect. They thought Jesus was very precious. **Billie O'Connell**

I am preparing to make my Reconciliation. We watched the story of The Prodigal Son. It is about a boy who wanted his inheritance from his Dad and wasted all the money. It is a story about forgiveness because the father prepares a feast for him when he comes back home. We made a puppet show of the story. We wrote what the characters said and then performed for the class. **indi Purdon**

Mrs Anne Spencer
anne.spencer@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Defence School Mentor



It has been great to meet and get to know our St Mary's Defence families this term. I have enjoyed helping out in the classrooms and had lots of fun starting our Defence Kids Clubs/Hangouts at

lunchtimes. Wishing everyone a happy Easter, enjoy the holidays and see you next term.

DCO Event-Explore and Connect at Healesville Sanctuary- ADF members and families in Victoria are invited to join DCO at Healesville Sanctuary. Meet up with other ADF families and explore the sanctuary on Sunday 11th April. Registrations will close on 7th April, unless the event is fully booked earlier, see [Eventbrite](#) for more information

DCO Defence Family Helpline- Support, local community information and advice is available for ADF families through the Defence Family Helpline.

Phone-1800 624 608 or Email- DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au

ANZAC Day Appeal



Week 1 of Term 2 our Defence School Mentor Emma Marrinan will have an ANZAC Day stall set up at the front gate in the mornings before school. We will be supporting the RSL Appeal and selling badges etc. ranging from \$1-\$10. Funds raised through the ANZAC Appeal support veterans and their families in times of need.



Mrs Emma Marrinan

emma.marrinan@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

2022 Enrolments are now open!

2022 Enrolments are now open. Enrolment forms are available on our website and from the College office. An information evening for prospective enrolments will be held on Wednesday 28 April 7-8pm. Please make sure you inform family and friends that may be considering enrolling their child(ren) at St Mary's College. Please contact Gail Strahan for any enrolment enquiries. enrolments@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Community Notices

Rotary Club of Seymour: Trivia Night Saturday 24th April 2021. St Mary's College Hall, McIntyre St. Seymour. Doors open at 6.15pm. Trivia starts at 7.00pm sharp! Tickets available at Cartridge World Seymour, 2 Tallarook St Seymour Ph: 5799 2633. Quiz Master Ian Moore; No BYO alcohol. Drinks at bar prices. Tables of 10 available. Individuals placed together on tables. Bring your own nibbles/supper. \$20pp

Rotary Club of Alexandra & Yea: Cycle Dindi Saturday 17th April 2021. A charity bicycle event along the Great Victorian Rail Trail. The last weekend of the school holidays. Registrations open January 2021 email: cycledindi21@gmail.com Contact Melinda (Alexandra) 0418 378 806 Julie (Yea) 0447 762 557 or Ross (Mansfield) 0439 046 199. www.rotaryalexandra.org.au www.yearotary.org.au

Mitchell Shire: Gateway Youth & Mitchell Youth Services: Laster Skirmish 14 April 2021. 9.15am-3.35pm Cost \$10 (includes activity & transport) BYO lunch Ages 12-18. Book at any Council Customer and Library Service Centre. tel 5734 6200 email youth@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au web www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

Mitchell Shire Youth Services: Pop-up Recording Studio: Seymour Flexible Learning Centre April 12-18 10am to 6pm. Record your original music, shoot a video clip, get feedback from universal music group: register your interest: youth@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au tel: 5734 6497



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH SEYMOUR
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH SEYMOUR
SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH TALLAROOK

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P.O. BOX 100
SEYMOUR VIC 3661
EMAIL: seymour@cam.org.au
WEB: <http://pol.org.au/seymour/Home.aspx>

31 March 2021

Ref: 21_25

Dear Parents,

We are in demanding and challenging times, as we consider what our priorities are and where we could and should be with our lives.

There are St Mary's College parents who desire to have their school-aged children baptised. For various reasons or for unforeseen circumstances the opportunity or the conditions may not have been right until now. I would like to offer the baptismal opportunity to you.

If you would like your child(ren) to receive the Sacrament of Baptism please contact or email Mrs Gough (Director of Faith & Mission) at rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au or Mrs Evans (Parent Engagement Coordinator) at Catherine.evans@smseymour.catholic.edu.au. If you prefer to speak to me directly, I can be contacted at seymour@cam.org.au.

I wish to join with St Mary's School in encouraging you to pass on the faith to your children. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact any of the above; we are all here for the wellbeing of your children.

May God bless you and keep you always.

Fr Eugene Ashkar

Fr Eugene Ashkar
Parish Priest

Dates to Remember

Bell Times 2021

Supervision of students begins at 8:30am

Homeroom	8:45 – 8:55
Period 1	8:55 – 9:55
Period 2	9:55 – 10:55
Recess	10:55 – 11:20
Period 3	11:25 – 12:25
Period 4	12:25 – 1:25
Lunch	1:25 – 2:10
Period 5	2:15 – 3:15

Term Dates 2021

Term 1: 28/01 – 01/04

Term 2: 19/04 – 25/06

Term 3: 12/07 – 17/09

Term 4: 04/10 – 17/12

Term 1

Week 10	Thu 1 Apr	Easter Liturgy 11:30am
	Thu 1 Apr	No Production Rehearsals due to early finish
	Thu 1 Apr	Last Day Term 1 - <i>Students finish at 2:30pm</i>
T2 Week 1	Mon 19 Apr	First Day Term 2
	Wed 21-Fri 23	Year 7 Marysville Camp
Week 2	Mon 26 Apr	School Closure Day – Staff Professional Development
	Tue 27 April	Students return
	Fri 30 Apr	Reconciliation 7pm in the Church

St Mary's College

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Telephone: (03) 5792 2611
PO Box 269, Seymour 3661
Office Hours: 8:15am-4:30pm

St Mary's Parish Seymour ~ St Joseph's Tallarook

Parish Priest: Father Eugene Ashkar

Telephone: (03) 9412 8406 / 0455 123 509

Mass Times: St Mary's - SAT 6:00pm, SUN 10:00am;
St Joseph's - SUN 8:30am