



The Marian

www.smseymour.catholic.edu.au

facebook.com/stmarysseymour

<https://pam.smseymour.catholic.edu.au>

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.33

Term 4

26 November 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

The Final Walk

‘Let our actions and words be shining lights for others’



The 2021 College theme, *‘Let our actions and words be shining lights for others’* sits comfortably alongside our senior class. Their positive **actions** have been obvious. Their **words** have so often been filled with kindness and respect and they were **shining lights** during COVID-19 when remote learning took hold again. At 2:45pm today College Captains Oliver Bree and Jordyn Beattie carrying the College Banner, led Year 10 through a very long guard of honour receiving a resounding round of applause from the College. The *Final Walk* is a Rite of Passage, a tradition for our younger students when they too will take that same

final walk through the gates they first entered when they were new students.

Year 10's responsibility has been huge during the time of COVID-19. Their commitment did not waver, which is testament to their resilience. They are a caring and sensitive group, they do not brag or get ahead of themselves, hence why their younger buddies see them as their heroes. They have a no fuss, humble and emphatic approach to College life and are always quick to smile. Year 10 are more positive than not, a glass half full group, Ollie and Brooke said to me during remote learning, *“there are people worse off than us.”*

Year 10 have left St Mary's and they are well equipped to move on. Their behaviour during their last weeks was seamless. They conducted themselves with grace and poise, displaying a mature approach to all that they did or were asked to do. Thank you to the parents of Year 10, you entrusted your sons and daughters into the holistic education of a Catholic education and Year 10 will take the values of St Mary's with them in heart and mind. Thank you to College Captains, Oliver Bree and Jordyn Beattie for their speeches (from the heart) on their time at St Mary's and being so thankful for the wonderful support and education from the staff. St Mary's is proud to have played our part in the lives of these fine young men and women.

The following are the Farwell Speeches from Oliver and Jordyn. No finer Captains has St Mary's College been privileged to have. Both so caring, humble and giving. Indeed, that will be my lasting memory of our 2021 Student Leaders, such a considerate and kind team who were far more comfortable giving to others than receiving. Catherine McAuley would be smiling!



College Captains: Jordyn Beattie & Oliver Bree

Vice Captains: Lucy Duff & Dominik Ciantar

Community Leaders: Brooke Leary, Saxon Ashworth, Jade Mitchell, Ebony Staples

Sports Captains Padua House: Montana Dunne & Mia

Sports Captains McAuley House: Ruby Cook & Dominik Ciantar



College Captain Oliver Bree Farewell Speech

When I was appointed School Captain for 2021, I was excited for the new school year to begin. I was eager to begin my leadership journey. St Mary's College is a great College and I was keen to make it even better for the students and to support our school community.

I wanted you to feel like you matter and truly belong. That school is not just a place you go each day, attend classes and leave, but a place where you feel safe, you want to come, you enjoy being here and can connect with others. It didn't matter where you came from, or what you may deal with every day - when you step through those gates, you are protected and cared for, you are part of this family, you are a son or daughter of St. Mary's College.

Despite COVID-19 that had us doing remote learning for much of the year, we have achieved plenty. School scarves and beanies will be added to the school uniform, working towards St Mary's College history initiative, fundraising with the Mercy Cross, Rug Up day, St Vinnies, PJ day and contributing our wish list to the master plan.

Congratulations to all students for your achievements; be they sporting, academic, artistic, or personal. Well done to the Year 10's for setting the bar high and being excellent role models.

Three cheers to the Year 6's for completing their primary schooling and high fives (Covid style) to our Foundation buddies on completing their first year of school.

Thank you to Father Ashkar for guiding our school in the Catholic tradition and our spirits on our individual faith journeys. Thanks to our amazing staff for encouraging and challenging us. My fellow leaders for supporting Jordyn and I, the College leadership team for their ongoing support and guidance. And you, the students, for being awesome.

It will be great to see the new junior primary building finished and become a beehive of learning and activity. The Mercy Oval brought back to its best, future students graduate as Year 12's at St Mary's and our College become a fully immersed thriving community hub within Seymour.

To the new leaders - never let the ideas students give to you go unheard or be knocked back... find your supporters and get them on board. Together you can create a legacy for those who come after you. Be the stepping stone for others to achieve greatness.

This may be my last time to address you as the College Captain of 2021, having fulfilled my leadership responsibilities in service of you. Should I walk back through the gates in the years to come, I know I will be welcomed with a 'cup of tea' in the spirit of Catherine MacAulay and the St Mary's way.

Good luck, God bless and best wishes to all of the 2022 leaders.

Oliver Bree St Mary's College Captain 2021

College Captain Jordyn Beattie Farewell Speech

Good afternoon Staff and students, as you all know my name is Jordyn Beattie and I'm standing here before you handing over my role as College Captain of 2021. Firstly, I would like to take the time to appreciate all the hard work and long hours put in by our teachers, throughout our remote learning period. It was extremely difficult for all of us to be separated from our friends, but our staff members made the journey seem comfortable and understood what each of us were going through. The year has been very up and down, but as I hand over my leadership role I know the 2 selected candidates will strive to make 2022 the best year possible.

Stepping away from the negatives, this year has also been a sensational and memorable time. One of my main highlights of the year would have been, without a doubt seeing Keeto (Mr Keating) back again. Throughout the year we had many highs and lows with Keeto during maths, but a major high was taking cute selfies with him following a major low of losing him due to illness and being stuck with Gordo (Mrs Gordon). But these two extraordinary teachers helped me score great Mathematics results this year. Another high would have been our swimming carnival as it was our last hoorah before lockdown hit again. It was very entertaining to see Ruby and Dom dressed up in massive blue inflatable sumo suits and Montanna and Mia in their yellow and green costumes. We even had the chance to create theme songs for each House, making the carnival experience more enjoyable.

Just before I finish up, I would like to say thank you to all the staff who have had to put up with me since Grade 4. I have created amazing bonds with all of you individually and I'm sad to see some of them come to an end. I also want to thank my fellow Year 10 classmates and all years below that, everyone has been especially nice to me and you have all always been there when needed. Thanks to Tilly, my best friend for getting me through the year and helping me with my problems in and out of school, as well as Ollie and the rest of our leadership team for being by my side. Ollie you were an inspiring 2021 College Leader who we all looked up to, you came up with new ideas each week and thought of new plans going into 2022. Lastly, a massive thank you to Mr Smith and Mrs Gordon as you have both guided the whole school including staff through the year and brought us all out happy with a smile on our faces!

Jordyn Beattie St Mary's College Captain Oliver 2021.

Taken from Father Ashkar's Farewell Homily

As you look back on your life here at St Mary's, and look around you now, can you compare what joy you have experienced in this atmosphere of Christian character, example and fellowship, how the spirit of this school has helped you to feel, welcome, valued, and as a person of dignity.


Now this has not just come from fellow class mates but also from teachers who, for some, have spent most of their teaching lives here, giving of themselves to you and for you because you are worth it. I believe that all this is what has contributed to the feelings of well-being that St Mary's has imparted. We all want you to keep carrying that spirit of worth and dignity with you wherever you will go from here. This College, students and teachers are proud of who you are and want only what will be best for you. Keep us in your hearts as we will keep you in ours and remember you are our 2021 treasure and gift we are bestowing on society. Stand tall, stand true and then you can never be false or devalued. Remember, your character is like a lighthouse in this society and many will envy your goodness.

God bless.

Father Eugene Ashkar pp

May our actions and words be shining lights for others.

Best wishes



Wayne Smith

Principal, St Mary's College Seymour

DipEd (ACU) DipRED (ACU) BEd (ACU) GradCertEdAdmin (Edith Cowan) GradDipRED (ACU) MEdAdmin (Charles Sturt)
MTheoStudies (BBITAITE)

Garden of Assissi

School Garden & Ag Studies News

In spite of our very interrupted year our school garden continues to thrive and grow. Recently we have been harvesting an abundance of carrots. We have also begun harvesting onions and garlic. Next year's crop has already been planted and when we return in 2022, we look forward to harvesting tomatoes, pumpkin, egg plant, water melon and others. We also look like having a bumper crop of grapes. We are also experimenting with indigenous food crops and have planted myrnong and prickly current. Myrnong was a staple food plant for Aboriginals across Victoria but the introduction of grazing animals almost wiped them out. Hopefully we can harvest the tubers next Autumn. With the grant money provided by Woolworths Junior Landcare, we were able to purchase two additional garden beds and to fill them with quality garden soil. Early next year our Junior Primary students will select plants to grow and harvest and the garden will become an integral part of their learning. Thanks to the Agriculture Studies students for doing the hard work of filling the new beds!



Mr Andrew Allen

andrew.allen@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Deputy Principal Operations



It has been a privilege these past two days to celebrate and farewell our 2021 Year 10 cohort. On Thursday, students and staff were involved in a morning liturgy and afternoon assembly. The assembly was ably led by the Primary Leaders, Baxter Loweke and Lilli Kelly. At the assembly the Year 10 cohort were described as an example of resilience and positivity these past two years throughout covid and remote learning. They portrayed themselves as students who had strived to be the best versions of themselves and had encouraged others to do the same. Year 9 student, Laura Hogan sang the National Anthem while College Captains, Oliver Bree and Jordyn Beattie delivered heartfelt speeches highlighting the reasons why their journey as students of St Mary's was so special to them. College Principal, Mr Wayne Smith offered words of advice on how to manage school and life post St Mary's College. Ruby Cook prepared a slide show of photos showing the growth of each student and some staff, from childhood through to now. The slideshow is always a highlight and allows students the opportunity to reminisce back to the days of ponytails, dimples and some toothless smiles. Our Foundation students presented their Year 10 buddies with a certificate of appreciation and congratulations, thanking them for their support of them through their very first year of schooling. Year 10 student Kaitlin O'Neill performed 'I just can't wait to be King' and the production cast performed a scene from 'Into the Woods'. The current Year 10 students handed over the mantel of senior students of the College to the current Year 9 cohort by giving them the blessing outlined below.

Leadership is hard to define.

Lord, let these students, the Year 10 students of 2022 be the ones to define it with justice.

Leadership is like a handful of water.

Lord, let these students be the people to share it with those who thirst.

Leadership is not about watching and correcting.

Lord, let our incoming student leaders remember it is about listening and connecting.

Leadership is not about telling people what to do.

Lord, let these students find out what people want.

Leadership is less about the love of power,
and more about the power of love.

Lord, as these students begin their journey as senior students of St Mary's College let them be affirmed by the servant leadership we witness in your son Jesus.

Let them walk in the path He has set and let those who will, follow.

Let their greatest passion be compassion.

Their greatest strength love.

Their greatest victory the reward of peace.

In leading let them never fail to follow.

In loving let them never fail.

As a Year 10 teacher and Deputy Principal I was fortunate to have the opportunity to offer the final words at the conclusion of the assembly...

'Your journey at St Mary's College may conclude on Friday but you will always in your hearts and minds carry the values that have been instilled in you throughout your time as members of our College community. As students educated in the Mercy tradition you are invited to take up a challenge, a challenge that encourages you to develop fully your own god given talents and at the same time demonstrating a desire to assist others so that they to 'may have life and have it to the full'. I leave you with a final message, remember to, let your actions and words be shining lights for others by showing compassion, justice, respect, hospitality, service and courage. Stated simply, in a world where you can choose to be anything, choose to be kind.'

Year 10 students Kayla Bender, Imogen Solomon, Will Speechley, Lachlan Canty, Paxton Thornberry and Saxon Ashworth who attended the College since Foundation lead the Year 10 students out to a rousing applause. Today Year 10 students and staff gathered for a farewell luncheon. The luncheon concluded with a final walk for our Year 10 students from the Multipurpose Hall to the High St Gate, flanked by a guard of honour formed by Foundation to Year 9 staff and students.

Mrs Genevieve Gordon

genevieve.gordon@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Year 10 Farewell Liturgy



Director of Learning and Teaching



Reporting Update

Student reports for Semester 2 will be released to parents on **Wednesday 8th December**.

A significant number of students need to be given some more time to provide evidence of their learning to their teachers. Therefore, the timeline has been moved by one week.

College Awards

Student performance and results will also contribute to the nominations for College Awards.

The College awards are to recognise student achievements in many areas. Attached is a list of awards the College is presenting to recipients at the awards presentation on Friday next week.

2021 Awards

Foundation	
Certificate for all students	
Year 1-2 (One student each class for each award)	
Award	Criteria
Most Consistent	This award is presented to a student who has been a Consistent worker throughout the year.
Most Improved	This award is presented to a student who has worked hard to show significant improvement throughout the year.

Year 3-6 (One student each class for each award)	
Award	Criteria
Academic Excellence	This award is presented to a student who has shown above Standard results in all subjects throughout the year.
Most Consistent	This award is presented to a student who has been a Consistent worker throughout the year.
Most Improved	This award is presented to a student who has worked hard to show significant improvement throughout the year.

Year 7-9 (One student each year for each award)	
Award	Criteria
Academic Excellence	This award is presented to a student who has shown above Standard results in all subjects throughout the year.
Most Consistent	This award is presented to a student who has been a Consistent worker throughout the year.
Most Improved	This award is presented to a student who has worked hard to show significant improvement throughout the year.

The Arts Awards	
Award	Criteria
Primary Visual Art	<i>One student from Year F-4 and one student from Year 5/6</i> A primary student who has excelled in the area of the Visual Arts throughout the year. This student has shown great ability to learn and display concepts taught in the area of the Visual Arts. They participate in all activities and give their best.
Kerry Hogan Performing Arts	<i>1x primary student and 1x secondary student</i> This Award is in memory of much-loved St Mary's Performing Arts teacher Mrs Kerry Hogan who passed away in 2019. The Award is provided by the Seymour Performers Workshop, in recognition of a student who has made an excellent contribution to the Performing Arts in College activities (and in the wider community).
Excellence in Visual Arts	<i>1x Year 10 student</i> Sponsored by Seymour Arts Society. Awarded to a Year 10 student who has demonstrated a genuine interest in the Arts subjects and has achieved excellent results in this area of study.

Health Physical Education Awards	
Award	Criteria
Sports Persons	<i>1x Primary Male & Female students + 1x Secondary Male & Female students</i> These students will have participated in College based sporting events, shown sportsmanship at all times and represented the College at Regional or State competitions. They are inclusive in their behaviour and respect the achievements by others.
Health & PE	<i>1x student from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10</i> For a student that excels in the area of HPE.

Technologies	
Award	Criteria
Brian O'Dwyer Materials Technology Award	<i>1x Year 7-9 student</i> This Award is in recognition and service to the College, by former teacher Brian O'Dwyer. For a student that excels in the area of Materials Technology
James Head Agricultural Award	<i>1x Year 9/10 student,</i> Sponsored By Chris and Pauline Head This Award is in memory of former student James Head. To a student who showed enthusiasm and passion during Agriculture Classes.

Community	
<i>Award</i>	<i>Criteria</i>
Lions Club of Seymour Sponsor: Lions club of Seymour	<i>1x Year 6 student</i> The Lions Club of Seymour Encouragement Award. <i>1x Year 9 student</i> The Marian Rojewski Community Award.
Mitchell Shire Encouragement Award	<i>1x Year 7-10 student</i> Shown a marked improvement, teachers nominate a student and justify their choice.
Mother (Sister) Maurice Ryan Citizenship Award	<i>1x Year 10 student</i> The student who receives this award will therefore have given of themselves, to others and the College community.
Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Award	<i>1x Year 5-10 student</i> Sponsored by Steph Ryan MLA for Euroa Demonstration of persistence and resilience to overcome hurdles and setbacks to achieve either academically, socially, culturally, in the sporting arena or in another field of endeavour.
Rotary Club of Seymour Award	<i>1x Year 6 student</i> Presented to a student who has displayed empathy and commitment throughout the year to support fellow students and the College community. <i>1x Year 10 student</i> Presented to a student who leads by example , with enthusiasm, service and empathy to the College and external community
Zonta Club of Mitchell	<i>1x Year 10 Female student</i> Who has worked diligently in her classes, has shown resilience despite adversity and has clear goals for her further education.

Faith Education and Service	
<i>Award</i>	<i>Criteria</i>
McAuley House Charism Award	<i>Primary & Secondary Male & Female students</i> For students who have given witness to the House Charism by their words and actions in the spirit of Catherine McAuley.
Padua House Charism Award	<i>Primary & Secondary Male & Female students</i> For students who have given witness to the House Charism by their words and actions in the spirit of Saint Anthony of Padua.
Mercy Award	<i>1 x Year 10 student</i> This award is in recognition of a Year 10 student who made a significant contribution to student leadership in the Mercy tradition of education at St Mary's College and has demonstrated the Mercy values of Compassion, Justice, Respect, Hospitality, Courage and Service.

The Academic Awards	
<i>Award</i>	<i>Criteria</i>
DUX of St Mary's College 2021	<i>1x Year 10 student</i> This prestigious Award is for the Year 10 student who has achieved 1 st Place overall in Academic Achievement at St Mary's College. The award consider all subjects award is given to a student who has excelled in all areas of compulsory study and electives throughout the year.
Kwong Lee Dow Award	<i>1x Year 10 student</i> The Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program is an academic enrichment program designed to support high achieving Victorian Year 11 and Year 12, and select secondary students living close to the New South Wales and South Australian borders. The Award provides a student special recognition at Melbourne University for future University studies and membership in the
VET Encouragement Award	<i>1x VET student</i> This award is for a student who has persevered, shown dedication and has excelled in their VET subject.
The Monsignor Toms Science Award	<i>1x Year 7/8 student 1x Year 9/10 student</i> St Mary's Parish Seymour (Sponsor) The recipients of this award are one student from Year 7 or 8 and one student from Year 9 or Year 10. These students have must demonstrated excellent in academic and practical results throughout the year and have shown a keen interest in all areas of Science. The students have excellent exam results.

Ms Christine Buhler
christine.buhler@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Director of Faith and Mission



Confirmation

After cancelling our celebration three times due to COVID restrictions, we were finally able to hold our Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 19th November. Thirty-two students and one staff member received the gifts of the Holy Spirit, made extra special by Father Ashkar being our celebrant.

We congratulate the following students and teacher, Mrs Katherine Kovacic.

Amelia Kovacic
Baxter Loweke
Cheyenne Newsome
Chloe Hopper
Chloe Thompson
Christian Papi
Coco Wessels
Evelyn Krammer-Shipard
Grace McLean
Hamish Melville
Harrison Thomson
Harry Homewood
Hunter Bertram
Isaac Gibson
Isaac Hanna
Isla Banks
Ivan Kovacic
Jabe Brown
James Parker
Katherine Kovacic (staff)
Lara Quillinan
Lucas Warren
Matilda Fairbridge
Michael McLean
Nishelle Godwin
Olivia D'Orria
Owen Jenkins
Patrick Matthews
Ryan McCarthy
Samuel Brown
Samuel Quigg
Shetayah Gruneklee
William Hayman



Advent

This Sunday we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. This week I have included an article, written by Father Andrew Hamilton – it's a good read. Enjoy!



When I was a student, our college looked out over the city of Melbourne. Towering over the city were the spires of St Patrick's Cathedral. Now the Cathedral is like a shed in front of the skyscrapers, a toy house. This is an image of the place of religious observance in Australian life.

Old rhythms

Once the weekly and yearly rhythms of the church corresponded to the seasons of Australian public life – Sundays, Easter and Christmas were recognisably, for some tiresomely, linked to Church practice. Now the activities of churches are like a

children's playground between high rise buildings – it has a place but is not the life of the city.

The same change has affected the celebration of Advent. When the Church calendar was the State calendar, Advent was naturally seen as a public season. It was about public events. The season when the Son of God came to us as a baby laid in a manger, naturally was modelled on the visitation, the Advent, of the Roman Emperor to outlying parts of his empire.

The imperial advent was designed to be fear-inspiring. The people were given long notice, officials would come to examine the books, and then the Emperor accompanied by battle-trying troops would come, preceded by the sound of drums, long lines of troops marching silently, and finally the Emperor sitting impassively with unmoving face gazing straight ahead in his chariot. On his arrival rewards and punishments would be announced and implemented. It was an event to be prepared prudently for.

Time of preparation

In this context, preparing for the coming of Christ at Christmas was marked out as a time of reflection and preparation. It recalled the humble coming of the Son of God at Bethlehem, and looked ahead to the awe-inspiring coming of the Son of Man at the end of time. It was also a time for personal preparation and reflection about how well one was prepared.

The Gospel of the first Sunday of Advent spells out the urgency of our time of preparation. Jesus describes it as a time when one person will be spared, another taken. It echoes the Australian experience of the bushfire season that is almost upon us. It is a time for preparation and for reflection, a time of seriousness.

The public celebration of Advent in the early church was correspondingly serious. It involved rigorous fasting and times of prayer, which we can best imagine today by looking at the Muslim observance of Ramadan.

Today's rush

Today, however, the Australian context of Advent is the rush towards Christmas in which work presses hard, preparing for family celebrations and perhaps vacation afterwards occupies the mind. It is a time when the ringing of cash registers is heard throughout the land. Advent offers us a time to find a moment of space in a busy world.

Perhaps for us the best image of Advent is that of pregnancy, which after all was the initial experience of Mary and Joseph as it is described in the Gospel stories. That pregnancy also was a time of waiting, no doubt anxious given the high mortality rate of children and the risks of childbirth, not to mention the trek described in Luke's Gospel to a crowded town of Bethlehem.

Mary's pregnancy, as is the first pregnancy of any woman, was a time of preparation for a new life which brought changing patterns of relationships and adjustment to a new and all-demanding arrival in the family.

Advent is a time for waiting, for discarding old and tired ways of living and for pondering new possibilities.

St Vinnies Christmas Appeal

We are all aware that this year has been a tough one. Unfortunately, really tough for families where parents became unemployed due to the COVID restrictions and lockdowns.

This Christmas, St Mary's will continue the tradition of collecting for St Vinnies. Please read the letter from Year 7 students, Natalie and Brielle

Dear Parents and students,

The Year 7s have been looking at CST (Catholic Social Teaching) and different organisations who help those in poverty. So, this year the Year 7s are helping run the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Your child will have a basket in their classroom, for your child to bring goods for the appeal that will help those in need. They will need to bring things such as Christmas decorations, wrapping paper, tinned foods (fruit), cake mixes, chocolate/lollies etc, spaghetti sauce, packets of pasta, dry biscuits, Christmas serviettes (really any non-perishable items).

-Natalie Lynch and Brielle Eldredge

Mrs Rochelle Gough

rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Achievements



Congratulations to Adison Thornberry on received the 2021 Under 15s '**Mag Spencer Award**' for the Avenel Football Netball Club.



Notices

Term 3

Week 9	Tue 30 Nov	Flying into Foundation Transition – 9:00am – 1:00pm
	Fri 3 Dec	Awards Presentation Assembly – Students and Staff only
Week 10	Tue 7 Dec	F - Year 9 State wide Orientation Day
	Fri 10 Dec	F-Year 9 students last day for 2021

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



St Mary's College

90 High Street, Seymour
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