



# 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.34

Term 4

2 December 2021

**Dear Parents and Guardians**

## ***F-12 Pathway Committee***

## ***Spiritus Ducti***

### ***‘Motivated by the Spirit’ Catherine McAuley 1778-1841***

*Before the F-12 Pathway Committee was formed Father Eugene and I discussed the integral essence of our mission as pastoral and Catholic educational leaders and the importance of our students experiencing the wholeness of a Catholic education right through to the end of their compulsory years of education. With that in mind the F-12 Pathway committee journey was given the theme Spiritus Ducti ‘Motivated by Spirit’, which called upon the committee to embrace in its decision making and conversation, the remarkable life of Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy she founded who have such a special place in the history of St Mary’s College in the town of Seymour and local region.*

*“The College believes its quest for a full secondary provision reflects  
Catherine McAuley’s spirit and approach to mission.”*

*..... F-12 Pathway Committee*

The F-12 Pathway Committee met on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November for its last meeting of 2021. The committee in consultation with Melbourne Archdiocese, will delay the submission to February 2022. This is primarily due to the disruptions of COVID-19. Currently the Master Plan is being costed along with a five-year financial plan. The final submission will be approximately 25 pages, covering all areas of the original Terms of Reference that was established at the first Pathway Committee meeting.

Mitchell Shire is the fastest growing local government area in all of Victoria. Seymour itself is expected to grow considerably in the years ahead and well ahead of the growth of other small country towns in Victoria that have a Catholic secondary school. The submission paper covers College recent history, dating back to 2017 when a Catholic Education Planning Unit Enrolment Review was undertaken on the viability of secondary education at St Mary’s.



The tradition of Catholic education in Seymour is fast approaching 140 years of commitment with two lay people recorded as having begun classes for children of the area in the early 1880s in the then parish church. The turn of the century saw the Sisters of Mercy arrive at the invitation of the parish priest and they carried on their ministry and leadership until 1993. In 1988 the two schools amalgamated to become known as St Mary’s College. Sacred Heart College had previously offered the full suite of VCE courses but this ceased in the late 1980’s and coincided with the decision of Marist Education at the time to move to offer full co-education at the previously all boys Assumption College. Seymour is the only township with a Victorian Catholic secondary school not to offer the full suite of VCE studies.

## **Pathway Committee**

The Committee was formed in 2020:

Wayne Smith	Principal/Chair
Genevieve Gordon	Deputy Principal Operations & former student of the College
Fr Eugene Ashkar	Parish Priest
Chris Bence	Regional Leadership Consultant Northern Region MACS
Andrew Graham	Advisory Board Chair & Parent
Felicity Melville	College Business Manager
Andrea Richards	College Data Analyst Leader

A consultant was also appointed to act as Project lead. Experienced educator Tony O'Byrne - former principal of Aquinas College Ringwood, from AJO Consultants was engaged and took up this role.

### **Project Brief**

The Committee developed a project methodology by identifying key sources of data and information inputs that would enable the recommendation as to whether VCE was viable or not for the College. The diagram below outlines the sources of data that were analysed by the Committee.

The Catholic Colleges at Yarrowonga, Kyabram, Benalla and Myrtleford were consulted from 2020-2021 with a view to collect data and information about the viability of the project as well as learning how to build for buy in to partnership development and enhancement.

The committee looks forward to the final submission in February 2022 which will be accompanied with a letter of support from CECV Chairperson Bishop Terry Curtin.

### **Religious Discrimination Bill 2021**

The Religious Discrimination Bill 2021 is currently before Federal Parliament. There is much media commentary but what is important amongst all the headline grabbing is the truth of what our Catholic Schools stand for. Father Frank Brennan SJ AO a well-known Jesuit priest, is a lawyer and respected writer on Church and matters of government both at state and national level. Father Frank wrote, *'We can still accord dignity and equality to all while permitting religious schools to adopt hiring policies different from state schools so as to maintain the distinctive ethos of religious schools.'*

The media comments that Catholic schools will be heavy handed in the pursuit of strict beliefs is so far from my 37-year reality and experience in Catholic education. What is neglected in this conversation is that Christ, Catherine McAuley, St Mary Mackillop, St (Mother) Teresa and many, many more extraordinary people in our Catholic history, devoted their lives to serving all – they did not discriminate but what they did expect from those who served alongside them was to be authentic Christians through word and action and who believed in Christ's message of love. Indeed, when AIDS was a major health issue in the 1980s particularly amongst the homosexual community, the Catholic Church did not put the walls up but was one of, if not the first on the front line of health care and pastoral support. In a letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> November from Archbishop Comensoli to the Members of the Victorian Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council he states, *"The Government has been unable to identify a single problem in Catholic schools with which this legislation is meant to address."* Is the world perfect, hardly, but my years in Catholic education have taught me that a holistic education embraces all who are willing to support our Colleges ethos and belief in Christ's message.


### **Awards Presentation**

Tomorrow students will be presented with Awards for 2021 achievements. A tricky year it has been for learning but full credit to our students and staff for the commitment to learning and teaching during those challenging months. Tomorrow, there will also be the announcement of, and the handover to the 2022 Student Leadership team. The votes are in from Year 3-9 students. To receive a leadership badge is always an honour and comes with a similar responsibility.

### **Staffing Appointment: Laboratory Assistant**

After Panel Interviews on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December, I am pleased on behalf of the panel to announce that *Ms Sophia Dal Lago* has accepted the position of Laboratory Assistant. Sophia has worked in the health care industry for 15 years as a Medical Scientist and currently works in the Clinical Laboratory field in haematology; biochemistry and microbiology. This role also requires the maintenance and calibration of laboratory equipment. Sophia's qualifications include a Bachelor of Science (Biological) and of Computer Technology (La Trobe University). Sophia is looking forward to working with the Science teachers; maintaining and overseeing the good order of the Science Preparation room; preparing experiments and assisting in classes as required. Sophia has two children at St Mary's Eli (2B) and Hunter (5/6C) and we look forward to Sophia joining our College staff and contributing to the Science team.

May our actions and words be shining lights for others.



**Wayne Smith**

**Principal, St Mary's College Seymour**

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

## Director of Wellbeing



With school holidays approaching it is a timely reminder that we still need to monitor what our children view on online streaming devices. These platforms are fantastic, as they provide many different programs for families to access. However, unlike traditional free-to-air TV, unless parental controls are in place children can easily access programs that are not age-appropriate. You may have read in the media about a popular show called **Squid Game** which sounds like a children's show, but it is a **highly violent Adults Only program**.

Unfortunately, we are aware that Primary students have accessed and watched these violent shows and they can then re-enact them on the playground. It can be difficult keeping across all of the latest trends so Common-Sense Media is a fantastic website for parents to find up to date information about all kinds of media that your children may be viewing.

<https://www.common sense media.org/>



**Mrs Allison Moore**

allison.moore@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

## Secondary Pastoral Care Coordinator



Just a reminder that tomorrow, Friday 3 December will be our awards ceremony and we would like all students in full summer uniform. I congratulate all of our Leadership contenders for their willingness to put themselves forward. I would also like to congratulate the Awards winners for 2021. These awards reflect the hard work and dedication our students have to their learning, our school values and the broader community and I am sure that each one is a worthy recipient.

Also, a reminder that next Tuesday is Orientation Day where students will experience a day at their 2022 level and we will be welcoming our new students as well.

Friday 10th December, will be an activities day for Year 7- 9. More information to follow on Operoo.

Finally, I would like to say thank you for your support this year.

Best Wishes to all for the Christmas Season.

**Ms Angela Molinaro**

angela.molinaro@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



# Director of Faith and Mission



Advent is a time of preparation. We prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, and welcome his presence into our lives.

During a time of Christmas shopping, holiday parties, and family gatherings, it can be hard to find the time to prepare properly for this faith-filled season. However, the Catholic Church has a rich history of traditions to help keep our minds focused on the true meaning of the season.

The meaning of Advent focuses on the birth of Jesus, and families place an Advent wreath in their home. The Catholic Church also uses different colours to represent the season.

That deep purple that you see in Advent, that very rich colour, is the colour of repentance. It reminds us of the sober and somber character of the season and tells us that we should be preparing not just our homes, not just our surroundings, but our hearts.

The Advent season is not one entirely characterized by somberness, however. 'Joy' Sunday represents the midway point of the Advent season and is a Sunday of rejoicing. On Joy Sunday, which is the third Sunday of Advent, a rose coloured candle is illuminated.

Christmas and the Advent season is ultimately of light and we see that in the candles of the Advent wreath. While many think primarily of the outward signs of Advent, this time of year is deeply rooted in the inward preparation we are called to as we draw closer to the birth of Jesus.

The spirit of Advent, then, is to be ready each Christmas to receive Christ into our life in a new and deeper way.

## Week 2 - Candle of Peace

Jesus came into this world at that first Christmas for you, to bring meaning and deep satisfaction into your life, to fill you with lasting joy, and ultimately to bring you to eternal happiness with him in heaven. That's what we celebrate at Christmas.

Are you ready? Advent is a season of preparation. And if we want to experience the true meaning of Christmas, we need to get our hearts ready.



Out the front of the College, our large advent wreath candles is a reminder for the community that Advent has begun. Each Monday a candle is lit -Heidi did the first one!



## Vinnies Christmas Appeal

### St Vinnies Christmas Giving Tree Reminder

Can you help?

All classrooms have baskets. We have until Dec 10<sup>th</sup> to have them filled!

Any donations of non-perishable food stuffs, Christmas decorations would be gratefully accepted.

**Mrs Rochelle Gough**

[rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au)

# Performing Arts



Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we are not able to have parents onsite for our end-of-year Christmas concert. We are as disappointed as you.

Despite this, students have been busy rehearsing, choreographing, and preparing for our Christmas concert all term, and are excited to perform for their peers at a school concert/assembly. *Students are invited to wear Christmas themed clothing OR red, green and white clothes for the whole day on Wednesday the 8th of December.*

The concert will be filmed and uploaded to YouTube as an UNLISTED video. This means that you must have a link. This link will be provided by the school in order to view the video. *It will not be accessible to the general public and there will be no names or closeups of students on the video.*

I understand that there are complications with students being on camera for safety reasons, so we require you to complete the Operoo form that was sent home, enabling you to accept or decline their involvement in the filming.

Please note that if your child is unable to be filmed, they will not be able to perform at the concert. However, should you wish to, you could provide a mask or face paint they could wear for the filming.

If you have any questions, concerns or queries please feel free to email me.

**Miss Naomi Hanlon**

[naomi.hanlon@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:naomi.hanlon@smseymour.catholic.edu.au)



# Year 10 Farewell Luncheon 2021





# Notices

## Term 3

<b>Week 9</b>	Fri 3 Dec	Awards Presentation Assembly.
<b>Week 10</b>	Tue 7 Dec	F - Year 9 State wide Orientation Day
	<b>Fri 10 Dec</b>	<b>F-Year 9 students last day for 2021</b>

## 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