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Holy Family School Newsletter

HOPE · 24 Apr 2025

In Faith, We believe, We belong, We learn, We grow

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Current News

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Dear Families,

I hope everyone had a restful break and a happy and Holy Easter.

This week we acknowledge and remember inspirational examples of courage, gratitude, and service shown by Pope Francis and our soldiers.

Pope Francis (Francesca Merlo)

We remember Pope Francis as a Pope of peace through his tireless appeals and constant visits to show his closeness to those suffering the consequences of one of the most unjust human-made disasters: war.

From the first days of his 12-year-long pontificate, Pope Francis spearheaded the global Catholic movement for peace advocacy. Through words, actions, and deeds, he demonstrated his unshakable belief in the power of reconciliation, the importance of dialogue, and the urgency of ending violence in all its forms.

Dubbed “*the Pope of the peripheries*,” Pope Francis always took the time to remember those suffering from conflict. While praying for peace in areas that gain most of the media attention, he also never failed to channel his prayers to some of the areas most hard-hit, yet most forgotten by the world.

One of his most symbolic gestures, and a particularly striking moment of his pontificate, was in April 2019, when he knelt to kiss the feet of South Sudanese leaders at the head of a country grappling with a horrific civil war. As he greeted President Salva Kiir and his rival Riek Machar in the Vatican, the Pope, in his humility, kissed their feet, urging the leaders to lay down their weapons and pursue paths of peace.

The Pope’s closeness to those who suffer and his advocacy for an end to global violence were always a priority. Even in moments of personal difficulty, Pope Francis remained committed to peace.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Loving God,
we give you thanks for the life and ministry of Pope Francis.*

*In him you gave us a man of humility,
one who valued listening to the voices of the voiceless,
compassion for the undervalued,
mercy for sinners and justice for the oppressed.*

*You gave us a pastor
who led through the example of his love
for your people and your creation,
who was not ashamed to smell like his sheep.*

Comfort all who mourn his passing,

*and may the angels now lead him to paradise with you
to rest in your peace for eternity.*

*May your Spirit guide the future successor to your servant Francis
to continue the work you have begun through him,
for the good of the Church and the world.*

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANZAC Day

ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

Anzac Day falls on the 25th of April each year. The 25th of April was officially named Anzac Day in 1916.

On the 25th of April 1915, Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula. These became known as Anzacs and the pride they took in that name continues to this day.

The Anzacs landed on Gallipoli and met fierce resistance from the Ottoman Turkish defenders. Their plan to knock Türkiye out of the war quickly became a stalemate and the campaign dragged on for eight months.

At the end of 1915, the allied forces were evacuated. Both sides suffered heavy casualties and endured great hardships. Over 8,000 Australian soldiers were killed.

The meaning of Anzac Day today includes the remembrance of all Australians killed in military operations.



The Power of Gratitude and Service

In a world that moves fast, taking a moment to reflect on what we are grateful for - and finding ways to give back - can ground us in what truly matters. Gratitude shifts our focus from what's missing to what's meaningful. Service turns that gratitude into action. Whether it's saying a heartfelt "thank you," helping a neighbor, or volunteering time or resources, simple acts of service can spark joy and connection—in our families, our communities, and ourselves.

Over the next few weeks, take time to notice the good. Encourage one another to give thanks, and look for opportunities to serve. Together, gratitude and service can light the way forward—reminding us we're all part of something bigger.

Pope Francis and our soldiers provided us with great examples of service by the way they lived their lives. We are grateful for these people in our history.

New Families

We have welcomed new families to our community in the last few weeks.

- Martin (Braxton Year 6)
- Phillips (Acacia Year 5 and Ashton Year 6)
- I (Gabriel Year 1, Ezekiel Year 4 and Emmanuel Year 5)
- Newlands (Everley Prep and Ashley Year 2)
- Taneja (Tejas Year 1)

Please welcome these families if you see them around our school.

New Staff

I would like to thank Rowena Murray-Lee for her support of our teachers and students in her role as a Learning Support Officer. Rowena has resigned from her position and we wish her all the best as she spends time with her family.

Kim Sundstrom has joined our Learning Support Team this term. Kim has experience as a teacher in Melbourne, Sydney and Sweden. Her most recent educational experience was as a private tutor in Japan. We are very fortunate to have Kim as a member of our Holy Family staff and hope she enjoys her time at our wonderful school.

Mother's Day Event

On Monday 5th May our school community would like to thank the ladies in our community for all you do.

Please join us from 8:30am to enjoy a coffee/tea/hot chocolate and a sweet treat followed by a prayer service in the church.



Don't Forget



Year 3-6 Parent Literacy Information Evening

Come along to this evening to see how literacy is evolving at Holy Family.

This event is open to current and prospective families so please bring your friends along.

Bookings can be made via Operoo or email ndib@hfmw.catholic.edu.au

BEYOND PHONICS

Year 3-6


Parent Literacy Information Evening


This event is open to both current and prospective parents


Join us for an engaging and informative evening as we take you inside the classroom to see how literacy is evolving at Holy Family. Discover how our teaching is grounded in the *Science of Reading* and the *Science of Learning*, and how we're equipping students with the knowledge, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills they need to thrive.

Learn about our exciting **novel studies**, **writing approaches**, our commitment to a **knowledge-rich curriculum** and morphology spelling and reading instruction that goes far beyond phonics.

Limited Spots – Book Now!

 **Date:** Wednesday the 14th of May
6:30–8:00PM

 **Location:** Holy Family School
250 Stephenson's Road Mount Waverley





NO Parking!



Please be mindful that this parking space is a reserved space between the hours of 8am-4pm. The space will be put up for auction each term, so if you would like to reserve this spot bids will be taken soon!

Watch out for more details.

Prep 2026 Enrolments

If you have a child ready to start school in 2026 please submit your enrolment form to the office by the end of April. We already have quite a few enrolments already.

Open Days

Open Days run every Tuesday at 9:30am. Please go to our website to book a tour.

Our 2025 School Captains (Micah and Georgia) and Vice Captains (Xavier and Sienna) will support these tours.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL TOURS
TUESDAYS
9:30am
ENROL NOW 2025/2026



2025 School Year

Term Two Important Dates (refer to our Google Calendar as well)

APRIL

Fri 25 ANZAC Day (Public Holiday)

MAY

Fri 2 House Cross Country (9-11 am)

Mon 5 Mother's Day Celebration

Wed 7 School Photos

Thurs 8 Mother's Day Stall

Fri 9 School Closure Day (Review Preparation and Religious Education PL)

Sun 11 Mother's Day

Wed 14 Year 3-6 Parent Literacy Information Evening (6:30-8pm)

Fri 16 Walk Safely to School Day

Fri 16 District Cross Country

Wed 21 National Simultaneous Storytime

Mon 26 Year 5/6 Concert

Wed 28-30 Year 5/6 Camp (Anglesea)

Wed 28 Division Cross Country

JUNE

Mon 2 About Real Life Program (Year 5/6)

Wed 4 Maths Family Night

Mon 9 King's Birthday Public Holiday

Tues 10 School Closure Day (Review Preparation)

Thurs 12 EMR Cross Country

Fri 13 District Soccer Round Robin (Year 5/6)

Fri 20 Winter Sport Gala Day (Year 5/6)

Sun 22 Sacrament of First Eucharist (10am)

Fri 27 Winter Sport Gala Day (Year 5/6)

JULY

Fri 4 Last day of Term 2 (1pm finish)

Wishing everyone a relaxing long weekend,

Julie David (Principal)



Parish News

It is with profound sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Pope Francis. His Holiness was a beacon of hope and compassion, whose teachings and actions profoundly impacted individuals, families, and communities across the world.

Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis walked in the footsteps of Jesus, extending compassion and dignity to the poor, the homeless, refugees and asylum seekers, the sick, those in prison, and all who were marginalised. His deep empathy and commitment to social justice inspired people of all faiths and backgrounds.

In the final week of his life, Pope Francis visited a prison in Rome — an act that reflected his lifelong ministry to those on the margins. He consistently demonstrated a profound respect

for the dignity of every individual, embracing people from diverse backgrounds and communities and was a passionate advocate of Indigenous rights.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Agnes Sheehan *CEO, CatholicCare Victoria*



For twelve years, our Holy Father has urged a new missionary heart in the Catholic community, cultivating a spirit of Gospel-centred reform, of shared and collaborative leadership, of a simple faith in the risen Jesus who is alive in his Church.

As successor of St Peter, Pope Francis has displayed a heart for the poor, praying unceasingly for peace, fraternity and dialogue. As the source of unity among the successors of the apostles, he has confirmed the local church in every place, including our Archdiocesan family in Melbourne.

I am conscious of the great humility Pope Francis showed when granting a few Melbourne pilgrims to spend time with him in an audience in 2023, when we were traveling for World

Youth Day, during which some of our younger teachers asked questions, and received frank and fearless answers from the pope.

Pope Francis has impacted directly on those of us who serve in Catholic education as he has invited us, always through hope, to renew our relationship daily with Christ. Only from this simple trust will we flourish.

We pray also to the Holy Spirit to guide those tasked with the election of the new Bishop of Rome, and pray to the Lord so that He blesses Pope Francis' successor in the time ahead.

Dr Edward Simons

Executive Director

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools



Religious Education News

Happy Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus

I hope you had a joyous Easter reflection and celebration during this most holy time in the church's year.

We had a special activity for lent at the end of last term where we participated in the Big Water Walk and raised money and awareness for communities throughout the world living with limited and poor water resources.

The stations of the cross during lent are a familiar prayer to contemplate Jesus' last day on earth. There are also 14 Stations of the Resurrection which focuses on the Easter season examining important events that occurred up to 40 days from Jesus' resurrection to his

Ascension into heaven. Students will be reflecting on these stations throughout Easter to deepen their understanding of God's love and sacrifice for us.

14 Stations of the Resurrection

1. Some women meet an angel at the tomb (Mt 28: 1-8; Lk 24: 1-5) It was early, still dark and very cold. The women thought they just had a job to do. Then they could go home and start getting back to normal after the horrific events of Good Friday. They found there was to be no such thing as normal anymore.

2. Why look for the living among the dead? (Lk 24: 5) We all do this. We wish that we could go back to the good old days. Perhaps we wish that something painful never happened. Change can be difficult. Growth requires openness to the future.

3. Peter and the beloved disciple arrive at the tomb (Jn 20:16) Peter was a serious small businessman. The other disciple is often regarded as the youngest; he ran faster and got to the tomb first but waits for Peter. The story makes it clear that young and old understood together what had happened. Our faith needs people who are different from us.

4. Jesus meets Mary in the garden (Jn 20:16) Mary of Magdala thought Jesus was the gardener. When she recognises the Lord, she is understandably emotional. Jesus tells her not to hang on to him. She has a special mission for which she must be free.

5. Mary goes to tell the disciples (Jn 20:18) Pope Francis has described Mary of Magdala as 'the apostle to the apostles.' Jesus knew that in his time the witness of a woman might not be trusted. He has not risen to new life just to reinforce the status quo.

6. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on the disciples (Jn 20:22) The risen Lord never speaks a word of revenge. He doesn't even mention Pilate or the High Priests. He simply says, 'peace be with you.' The gift of the Holy Spirit is a fresh start.

7. Jesus encounters Thomas (Jn 20:24-29) Jesus meets us right where we are. Thomas wanted hard and fast proof, so Jesus offered it. The Risen Lord meets us in the middle of all our doubts, anxieties and uncertainties. In situations of pain, he says 'here are my wounds.'

8. Jesus asks for grilled fish (Lk 24: 42) Many of the stories of the risen Lord involve food. Eating shows he was flesh and blood, not just a figment of the imagination. Food also creates community which was the key to the future.

9. Jesus meets the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24: 13-27) Jesus listens to two travellers in despair and confusion. He understands everything in our hearts as well. He might sometimes laugh gently at our expense. 'You foolish people,' he chides.

10. The disciples recognise Jesus in the breaking of the bread and return to Jerusalem (Lk 24: 28-35) Are we able to recognise the risen Lord at our own table? In our family? In our work? In the world at large with all its challenges?

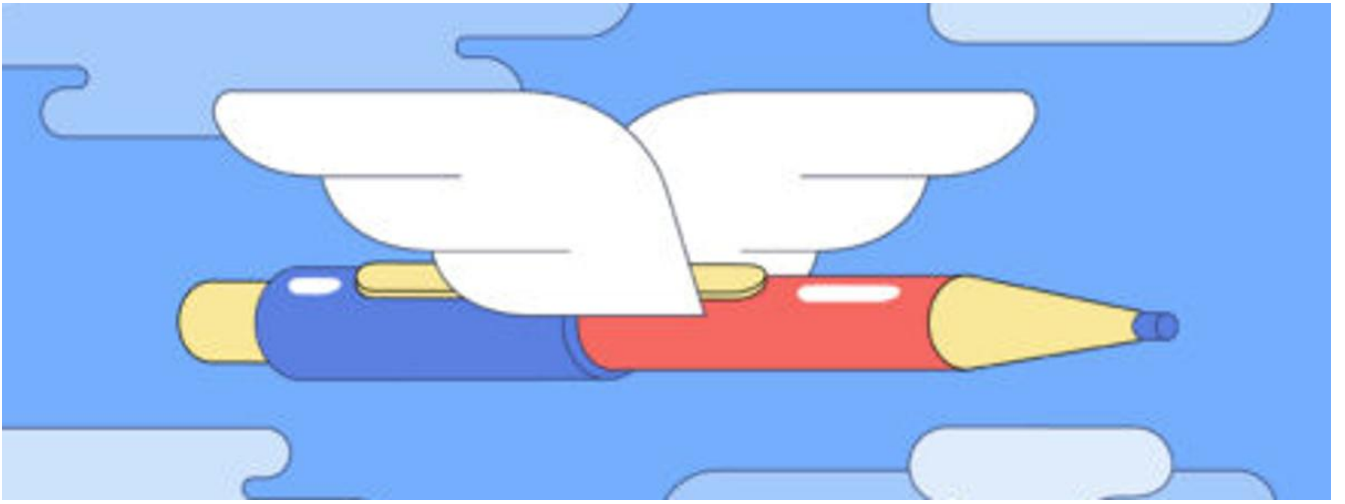
11. The disciples see Jesus on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (Jn 2: 4-7) Galilee was where the journey began. Jesus takes his disciples back to the very start. A new beginning starts with a BBQ. The Jesus journey always sets out from a place of relationship and encounter.

12. Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him (Jn 21: 15-17) Peter needs healing. He has let his dear friend down. Jesus draws out the poison of guilt and replaces it with love.

13. Jesus sends the disciples out to the whole world (Mt 28:19; Mk 16:15) The Resurrection was a victory, but it was not the end. Our life and faith are to be shared far and wide. Christian faith doesn't pat itself on the back.

14. Jesus returns to the Father (Mt 28:20; Lk 24:50) Perhaps it might have been nice if Jesus had hung around a bit longer, creating a few more witnesses. It is over to us now.

Michael McGirr is the mission facilitator of Caritas Australia



Literacy News

PARENT HELPER REGISTRATION



Would you like to help students in the junior school with reading and spelling?
Have you:

- completed a Literacy Training session with Ms Dib in 2023 or 2024?
- attended the Prep-2 Literacy Evening in Term 1?

If you answered YES to any of the above questions, and have a valid Working With Children Check, then we would love your support with assisting our junior students with learning how to read and spell.

Please fill in the form below:

<https://forms.gle/iDk64pFHNgrd6VtJA>

Sessions will run Mondays-Thursdays from 2:25-3:15

**Parent Helper sessions
will commence in Week 3,
Monday the 5th of May.**

**Training will be offered
to members that have yet
to attend a Literacy
session.**

**Express your interest in assisting
by filling in the attached form:**

<https://forms.gle/iDk64pFHNgrd6VtJA>





Library News

Dear Everyone,

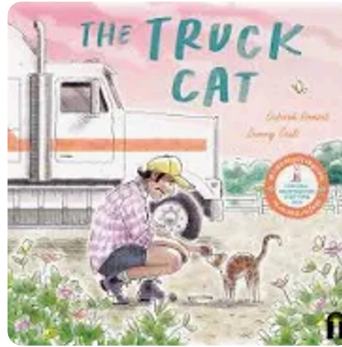
I hope you all had a wonderful Easter and a marvellous holiday!

Thank you so much last term for helping to organise your children to bring their Library bags on a Wednesday. If you are able to make sure that your child's library bag and books are in their bag on Tuesday night, for this term, that would be incredibly helpful.



If you are having trouble locating the Library bag - you can always send your child with another bag or plastic bag from home.

National Simultaneous Story Time is coming up this term on Wednesday 21st May, and the chosen book is "The Truck Cat." I look forward to exploring this wonderful book with your children.



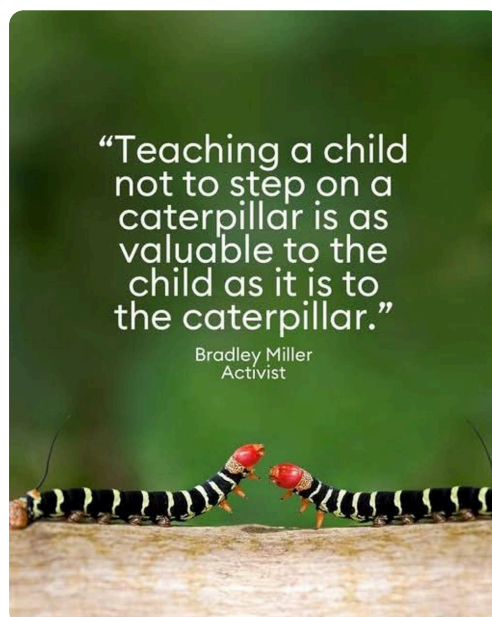
Looking forward to an adventurous year!

Regards

Janine Standfield



Gardening Club



Not many caterpillars in our garden at the moment, but LOTS of olives! If you would like some olives to press or salty soak, please come to the office and help yourself. There are loads of beautiful, big kalamata olives, so bring your container to fill up.

This term, Garden club will be reasonably quiet as we clear the garden beds and get ready for spring planting. The tomato plants were all pulled out at the end of last term and excitingly, our maintenance guru, Lee, is about to build some new garden beds so we can plant even more fruit and vegetables.

There are always weeds to grapple with, so please come along and help if you can and would like to. We have weeds to pull out and olives to pick from the tree.

Happy gardening!



Physical Education News

Dates for the Calendar - Term 2

Friday May 2 - House Cross Country (Year 3-6) 9-11am on school oval & surrounding grounds
(Avila students to assist)

Friday May 16 - District Cross Country (approx 48 students selected from Year3-6) 9.30am-
12.30pm

Friday May 23 - Winter Sport Rd 2 (9-11) Year 5/6 (5SY)

Wednesday May 28 - Division Cross Country

Thursday June 12 - EMR Cross Country

Friday June 6 - Winter Sport Rd 3 (9-11) Year 5/6 (5PG)

Friday June 13 - District Soccer Round Robin (10am-2pm) Year 5/6 (girls and boys team)

Friday June 20 - Winter Sport Gala Day (10am-2pm) Jells Park and Lum Rd Reserve

(Friday June 27 -back up day) Year 5/6 (5SY)

Running Club

Staff, parents, siblings and students are invited to join Holy Family School's Running Club, every Friday at 8am on our school running track. Please enter via the gate by the hall.



What's happening in our community?



MOTHER'S DAY STALL

Thursday 8th May

An opportunity for your child to buy
something special for mum, grandma or
that special someone.

\$4 and \$8 Tokens via CDF Pay

CDF Shop Closes:
Thursday 1st May, 12noon




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**This year
have been





Student Awards

Week 9 and 10

Class	Student	Awarded
Prep	Harley	For striving to achieve his very best with everything he learns.
Year 1 M	Denice	For listening carefully, working hard and always doing the right thing.
Year 1 W	Toby	For having a no fuss attitude towards his learning and always striving to make himself and his peers better.
Year 2 I	Johnny	For being a kind friend to all and working so hard during learning time. So proud of you!
Year 3 VG	Theo	For your eagerness to participate in class. You are always trying your hardest in all that you do, and you bring great ideas to our class!
Year 4 M	Suzanne	For excellent work in all areas and always positively contributing to our class discussions. Well done Suzie, we love hearing your ideas!
Year 4 L	Audrey	For always being a respectful and active listener. Thank you for always being ready to follow your teacher's instructions!
Year 5 PG	Suzie	For always working to the best of her abilities and extending herself in multiplication in mathematics. Well Done!
Year 5 SY	Zoe F	For outstanding effort and performance in all areas and for making a positive impact on our class. Congratulations, Zoe!
Year 6 F	Addi	For writing a lovely story about an Unexpected Guest, adding details to her writing and editing it. Also, for always trying her best. Well done, Addi. You must feel great!
		For always giving his best effort in class, for being an inspirational House Captain and for always being respectful and responsible.

Class	Student	Awarded
	Aiden	Congratulations, Aiden. You must feel so proud!
Year 6 L	Sila	Sila - For always trying your hardest with your learning. When concepts become difficult you show persistence and ask questions to further your understanding. You should be proud of the progress you have made. Well done Sila!
	Sanjvi	Sanjvi - For engaging in discussions about the Enlightenment and sharing your thoughts on the thinkers of the time. It has been wonderful to see your interest and hear your understanding of the topics. Well done Sanjvi!
Library	Grade 2I	For borrowing 246 books - the most in the Junior school For borrowing 347 books - the most in the senior levels
	Grade 5SY	For borrowing the most books in the whole school - 1128!!!
	Holy Family Staff	