



ST STEPHEN'S
Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER

MONDAY 17th MARCH, 2020 – Term 1, Week 8

Principal: Mr Richard Keele

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Community Playgroup

2018

Every Wed. 9.00 –
10.30

Office Hours

Mon to Thurs
8.30 am to 3.30pm

Uniform Times

Dear St Stephen's Families,

It has been a busy two weeks since our last newsletter. For those who may not have heard the news, Richard became a grandfather again to beautiful Maisie. He is currently on leave, enjoying his beautiful family in Queensland. God bless little Maisie and her family.

Our first Open Day was last Saturday and it was a great success. Many young families toured our beautiful school and are looking forward to enrolling in 2021. Remember if you have siblings to enrol in 2021, to get an enrolment pack from



the office. Remind your extended family and friends too that enrolments are opened.

Thanks to all who helped to make the Open Day a great success. From the families who folded flyers, to those who walked and did letterbox drops, and those who helped clean spaces, and sewed curtains. Your efforts are valued and appreciated! A huge thanks also to the students who helped us greet the new families and showed everyone what a fabulous school community we have.

It's **Harmony Week** this week and in light of all the events going on globally it's an opportunity to reflect on the importance of treating everyone with dignity and respect. This **Friday March 20th** we are encouraging all students to wear something orange. (It can be as small as a ribbon/sash etc... Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

Holy Week Liturgies will begin with **Preps this Friday March 20th at 2:45** in the community space. All parents are encouraged and welcome to attend these liturgies. They will help us to reflect on the events of Palm Sunday. The remainder of Holy Week liturgies will continue in the last week of term.

We will continue to keep in our prayers the students who will be receiving Sacraments. Working with St Gabriel's Parish and School, it has been decided to postpone the Sacrament of Reconciliation which was meant to take place next week and will now take place just prior to First Communion at school. The Sacrament of Confirmation has been postponed with further advice to come from the Archdiocese. Please note that this only means that the Sacraments are being moved, they are not being cancelled.

Simon from **ACARA** visited last Thursday working with classes on digital technologies as part of our involvement with the Digital Technologies in a Focus project. This involved working with 1/2s on sharing their learning with coding website 'Scratch'. The 3/4s are developing a computer game and the 5/6s worked on creating apps through app development.

Some very satisfied customers enjoyed their first order from **Lunch mums** last Wednesday. **Remember this service is available every Wednesday.** Orders to be completed via app or website. Handy hint: Don't forget to click submit!!!

Coronavirus Update:

Our first priority at St Stephen's is the health and safety of our school community. I want to reassure you that the school is well-prepared for the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

We are being provided the latest advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd to ensure that our school practices are helping to keep our school community safe from the outbreak.

Any incidents that arise will be addressed in accordance with the Critical Incident and Emergency Management Plan. We will also have access to resources and support from Catholic Education Melbourne and the Department of Health and Human Services.

As parents, you have a critical role in helping the school manage this situation:

- Exercise good judgment by keeping children home if they are feeling unwell for any reason.
- Talk to children about the situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. You have a key role in helping students feel prepared and safe.
- Encourage children to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with the school and their teachers.

Some workplaces are currently asking employees to work from home. We will continue to be flexible to work with families as needed. If your workplace is currently working through the process of assessing a possible case of COVID-19 then you need to inform the school so we can discuss if your child should stay home.

The Department of Health and Human Services has a number of resources on its website, which explain the virus, detail risk-reduction practices and behaviours, and answer frequently asked questions. These are available at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

You can also find information about Catholic education's response at <http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents>.

This is an evolving situation, but we will keep you updated as things change.

I ask that you continue to work closely with the school and to contact the office should you have any concerns.

Thank you for your support and patience with these unusual circumstances.

Rosetta Rametta



HOLY WEEK

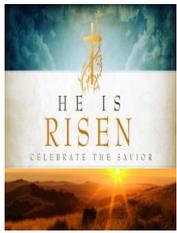


On **Palm Sunday**, we celebrate Our Lord's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem where he was welcomed by crowds worshiping him and laying down palm leaves before him. It also marks the beginning of Holy Week.

On the night of **Holy Thursday**, Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place where the faithful remain in the presence of the Eucharist just as the Disciples kept a vigil with Christ. Following the Last Supper, the disciples went with Jesus to the Mount of Olives, where he would be betrayed by Judas.



Good Friday is the day we commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Jesus was betrayed by Judas on the night of the Last Supper. Jesus was sent to Pontius Pilate and to prevent a riot and to protect his station, Pilate reluctantly agreed to execute Jesus and sentenced him to crucifixion. Jesus was convicted of proclaiming himself to be the King of the Jews.



Easter Sunday is the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead. It marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, the last day of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday), and is the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year. Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day following his crucifixion. His resurrection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death. It is the singular event which proves that those who trust in God and accept Christ will be raised from the dead. Since Easter represents the fulfilment of God's promises to mankind, it is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar.

HOLY WEEK – MASS TIMES

5th April – Palm Sunday

Sat. 6 pm Vigil Mass St Stephen's

Sun. 8.30 am English / Italian St Stephen's & St Gabriel's

10 am Procession with Palms St Gabriel's

9th April – Holy Thursday

7.30 pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Gabriel's

19th April – Good Friday

10 am The Way of the Cross St Stephen's

11 am Ecumenical Way of the Cross (commencing outside St Gabriel's)

3 pm Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion at St Gabriel's

11th April – Holy Saturday

8 pm The Easter Vigil St Gabriel's

12th April – Easter Sunday

8.30 am Mass English & Italian St Stephen's

8.30 am Mass English & Italian St Gabriel's

10 am Sung Mass St Gabriel's

LATENESS and EARLY DISMISSAL

Our first bell rings to start the day at 8:50am. If a student arrives after the 8:50 bell, they are to wait outside their classroom until meditation is over. If a student arrives after 9:00am, they are to go to the office, accompanied by an adult, for a late pass. It is a legal requirement for all students who arrive late and/or for early dismissal, for whatever reason **MUST** be accompanied by an adult to sign in/out on the iPad in the foyer.

EARLY TO SCHOOL

Please be reminded that the school grounds **are not supervised before 8.35 a.m.** No children should be at school before 8.30 a.m.

ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

If your child is away parents **MUST** notify the office in the morning before 9am.

IMPORTANT DATES

Please put these dates in your Calendar

TERM 1 2020

MARCH

Thursday 26 th March		Easter Raffle
Friday 27 th March	3.30 pm	End of Term 1

APRIL

Sunday 5 th April		PALM SUNDAY
Thursday 9 th April		HOLY THURSDAY
Friday 10 th April		GOOD FRIDAY
Saturday 11 th April		EASTER SATURDAY
Sunday 12 th April		EASTER SUNDAY
Tuesday 14 th April		Term 2 Commences
Tuesday 21 st April	5.30 p.m.	Parents & Friends Meeting
Wednesday 22 nd April	9.30 a.m.	Beginning of Term Mass
Friday 24 th April		ANZAC Day Liturgy
Saturday 25 th April		ANZAC DAY
Tuesday 28 th April	4 p.m – 6 p.m.	Open Evening

Unforeseen events may cause some dates to change

CLASSROOM REQUIREMENTS



Please ensure your child has their coloured pencils, textas, pens, etc. for use in the classroom every day. Please put your child's name on these items. Could each child also bring a box of tissues per term for use in their classroom.



Thank-you.

CSEF (Camps, Sports, and Excursions Fund) ELIGIBILITY

Some parents have already applied to receive CSEF funding this year. CSEF is \$125 per child and this funding will only be applied to camp, swimming and excursion expenses. To be 'eligible' for this fund a parent or legal guardian of a student must be a current holder of a Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCAA) and must be successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of Term 1 29th January, 2020. For more information you can go to the website: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef. If you have not filled out a form already please come to the office to collect one, with a copy of your Concession Card. Applications need to be submitted by **Friday 17th April 2020**. If you have any **questions please see Mrs Forde in the school office.**

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK (WWCC)

Parents who wish to assist in the school must apply for a **WWCC**. These forms are available from the Post Office or Online. Parents coming into the school for Tuckshop, classroom assistance, cooking classes, etc... **MUST** sign-in at the office on arrival and sign-out when leaving. Please make sure that your **WWCC** card has not expired if you currently have one.

MOBILE PHONES, IPODS, ETC.

*If a student walks to school alone and a parent wishes them to carry a phone for safety then you must inform the Principal and the phone **must be left at the office for the day** and collected when leaving at the end of the day.*

SCHOOL ENTRANCE

The entrance to the School grounds in the morning and afternoons should be the Front School entrance and the back double gates. The electric gates to the Church carpark is not to be used as a walkway for children into the school as this entrance is used for cars only.

SCHOOL DROP OFF

The School drop is **ONLY** to be used as a drop off, not a parking bay, BE AWARE infringements may occur as enforcement officers have been seen in the area, and we have NO control over notices.

SCHOOL FEES

All Curriculum Levies, Student School Levies and Swimming Levy, needed to be paid by 26th February. Camp fees need to be paid by 22nd April 2020 and First Instalment of school fees by the end of Term. Could this please be done as soon as possible? Outstanding fees of 2019 will need to be finalised. Thank you to all those families who have already paid. There is the option of making payments online through internet banking, please make sure that you enter your **account number** (it is on the top right hand corner of your statement) or your child's name so that the payment is allocated to the correct family. We have **Direct Debit now set up**, if there is anyone interested please see Mrs Forde in the office.

SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 fees and Levies need to be paid by end of term. I thank families who have paid and are up to date.

(Cash or Cheque payment or via EFT transfer)

If you have not yet PAID these levies please do so before the end of this week.

Account Details When making payments

BANK	BSB	ACCOUNT NUMBER
NATIONAL	083 – 347	143250728

AFTERSCHOOL CARE

As you would be aware **After School Care** is being offered in 2020 and I would urge **ALL families to sign up on the Youth Leadership Victoria** website under St Stephen's and also fill out Centrelink details in order to receive any rebates that you may be entitled to. If every family is signed up at least that way if you are running late or something has required you to make alternate arrangements then your children can be accommodated in the afterschool care program. If there is enough interest we can also look at a **Before School program** commencing. Please also remember that afterschool care is provided not just for working parents as it is a different avenue for children to interact with quality activities being offered five nights a week until 6.30pm. Website: www.ylv.com.au Email: admin@ylv.com.au Contact Details: Rita 0412 958 601 or email rita@ylv.com.au



Please remember that orders are to be in the day before 8:30am on Wednesdays. Remember to click 'submit', otherwise it will stay in your cart and not processed.

HOT CROSS BUNS

All orders for hot cross buns **MUST** be back at school by Friday 20th March
with full payment.



Delivery will be on Wednesday 25th March 2020,
All Hot Cross Buns will be sent home with the children on this day.



Donations of Easter egg can be dropped off in the classroom
or left at the School office for the Easter Raffle.
All raffle tickets need to be returned by 24th March 2020.

The Easter raffle will be drawn on
Thursday 26th March 2020.

Helpers will be needed to organise our raffle prizes.