



SMJ NEWSLETTER

7 McLachlan Street, Horsham
Phone: 5382 3000 email: office@smjhorsham.catholic.edu.au

Principal ~ Andrea Cox

Deputy Principal ~ Michael Rowe

School Advisory Council
Chairperson ~ Heath Watson

Issue 7 19th March 2020

Caring, Learning, Growing: Every Child, Every Day

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience and support during the week as we have dealt with the ever-changing landscape of COVID-19. It has undoubtedly become a challenging time as we deal with the availability or lack of many food items in the supermarket. This week has shown the worst and very fortunately, the very best of humanity in the way that we have shared and cared for members of our community.

To hear stories of people doorknocking to offer support to people in their neighbourhood is heartening and shows the compassion, concern and care that we can show to each other in these most challenging of times.

Some updates for your calendar:

- School photos are rescheduled to 15th September. We thank Leading Image for being so accommodating in being able to find an alternative date for us.
- Grade 4 Portland camp has been rescheduled for 25th – 27th November. These were the only dates available and clashed with Grade 3 Halls Gap camp which will now be the 3rd and 4th December.
- The Senior teachers continue to negotiate with Urban Camp and Sovereign Hill to find alternative dates, and we will inform you as soon as these become available. These two destinations are always very heavily booked; therefore, we may need to make alternative arrangements.
- St Brigid's College have postponed the transition days in April to a date yet to be determined.
- St Brigid's has cancelled Bright Sparks for next term.
- The professional learning day for staff scheduled for the 24th April will now be the 1st December.

Further updates to come as the current situation unfolds across the year.

In line with the Government announcement limiting non-essential gatherings to 100 people the Victorian Bishop's have suspended all liturgies and celebrations of the Mass until further notice. A letter from the Bishops has been attached to the newsletter.

Wishing you all a happy weekend,
Andrea



The Reconciliation program that was scheduled for tonight Thursday 19th March at 5pm and 7pm has been postponed. The parents meeting regarding the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation has been postponed until further notice and hopefully this will happen later this year. Sorry for any inconvenience however is it out of our control.

Alison McKinnon - Sacramental Co-ordinator

Dates to remember over the next week...

Fri 20th	NO ASSEMBLY Icy Poles sold at Lunchtime. 50c
Friday 27th	NO ASSEMBLY Last Day of Term 1 Fun Friday - 2.25pm finish

YEAR 3,4,5 & 6 PARENTS

Sorry for the mix up but your child's sports day will go back to normal next week

Years 3-4 will wear their sports uniform on Tuesday

Years 5-6 will wear their sports uniform on Thursday

LAST DAY OF TERM



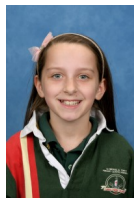
**Next Friday the 27th March is the last Day of term and we are
Celebrating the Day with 'Have Fun Friday'!**

**On this Day students can come Dressed in coloured clothes
and will spend the Day Participating in various activities,
tabletop sports, movies, icy poles and
the Great EASTER EGG raffle!**

SCHOOL FINISHES AT 2.25PM

★ STUDENT'S OF THE WEEK ★

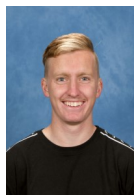
Kirah M for listening
in class and doing what is
asked.



Maella W for always being
happy and including
others.

TEACHER OF THE WEEK

Mr Kemp for helping
everyone and explaining
things well.



Well Done Kirah, Maella
and Mr Kemp



2020 FOOTY TIPPING COMPETITION STARTS TONIGHT

This year we are running our school footy tipping
competition again through ESPN footytips.

All families wishing to enter need to follow the instructions:

Go to : www.footytips.com.au

Competition Name: **2020 SMJ Horsham Footy Tipping**

Password: SMJ2020

If you don't have internet or are having trouble
registering please see Jane at the school office.

The costs is \$20 for the Season.

(please pay at the front office ASAP)

The number of entries will determine the prize money.



Bright Sparks

BRIGHT SPARKS - POSTPONED

Dear families, we are continuing to monitor the
situation regarding the COVID-19 concerns within
our community.

As a precautionary measure, St Brigid's College has
made the decision to postpone our planned Bright
Sparks Program for Term 2 until later in the year.

Whilst we are extremely disappointed about this
postponement, we will look forward to running a
fantastic variety of workshops during a time that is
more certain and safe to do so.



We are currently seeking donations of Easter
Eggs for our annual end of School Term raffle!
We would appreciate one Easter Egg per
student enrolled donated but whatever you can
manage would be wonderful! Students then
have the opportunity to win these donated
Easter Eggs on the last day of term.

Please drop the donation off to the School office
by Monday 23rd March. Any questions please
contact the front office.

Many thanks in advance for your contribution!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...
Gary & Eadie



A LETTER FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF VICTORIA

18 March 2020

Prayerful greetings to the people of God across Victoria,

This morning, the Prime Minister announced that non-essential indoor gatherings will be limited to 100 people, and outdoor events of more than 500 people will be disallowed, effective today. Given the seriousness of COVID-19, we support this measure as being responsible and sensible, and we encourage everyone to follow public safety guidelines respectfully.

The Bishops of the Province of Victoria have given this prayerful and considered reflection, and have determined the following actions:

- Immediate suspension of public liturgies, celebrations of the Mass, until further notice.
- All other gatherings are suspended. For clarification of any concerns, please contact your local diocesan authority.

We are very aware that this restriction will be particularly difficult for families who are planning liturgies such as funerals, weddings and baptisms. At this time, so long as appropriate precautions are able to be put in place (such as distancing between participants), it may be possible for these liturgies to proceed with a carefully limited congregation. Deferring these liturgies may also be an option that is offered to families.

In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). We encourage you to continue active participation in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

We encourage our priests to continue to celebrate Mass for the spiritual good of God's people, the intentions of the faithful and the alleviation of the present crisis. We assure our people that the Mass is being offered for you in our parishes and that while you are not physically present, you still participate spiritually and that you are close to the hearts of your pastors in the Eucharist.

We urge the clergy to make themselves available to visit individuals, especially those who are unwell and vulnerable. This includes viaticum and all the opportunities for healing through the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation.

(Continued overleaf ...)

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Again, we encourage you to regularly consult your local websites for further details of local arrangements.

Tomorrow further pastoral guidelines will be shared in the Dioceses of Melbourne, Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst. Clergy and religious should consult with their Ordinary if any questions remain uncertain.

All of this is happening during the Season of Lent, a time of preparation for the Easter mysteries. While we are invited to be self-sacrificial at this time, we must remember the words of Jesus upon appearing before his disciples after his resurrection: Again and again he said 'peace be with you.' (Jn 20:19) Let us not panic, nor be anxious, nor reduce ourselves to caring only for ourselves. This is a time to be sensible, practical, prayerful, and to share Christ's peace with those who are struggling to feel calm and safe.

Thank you for all your patience, prayers and resilience.



Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE



Most Rev Paul Bernard Bird CSsR MA, DD
BISHOP OF BALLARAT



Most Rev Shane Mackinlay
BISHOP OF SANDHURST



Most Rev Patrick Michael O'Regan
BISHOP OF SALE

DATES TO REMEMBER AT SMI 2020

MARCH		
Fri 27 th		Last Day of Term 1 School finishes at 2.25pm NO ASSEMBLY
APRIL		
Tues 14 th		First Day back for Term 2

AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE



\$1 & \$2 Badges
\$3 Wrist Bands
\$4 Bag Tags
\$5 Pens



Ss Michael & John's
Catholic School
Parent Access Module

PLEASE COMPLETE ASAP... IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING STUDENT MEDICAL DETAILS

Could all parents/carers please make it a priority to check their child's medical/emergency contacts within PAM. We require 3 emergency contacts (eg; Mum, Dad & Grandparent) stating their full name and relationship to the child with the most appropriate contact number. Please note that the contacts you list should be the students PRIMARY emergency contacts - who will be contacted as a first point of call in an emergency. If you have any questions, please contact the school office. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.



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FAMILY NIGHT

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