



News from the Principal

Annice Lappin
Principal

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2025 school year and the Year of Jubilee! I hope you all enjoyed a joyful and restful Christmas season and holiday break surrounded by loved ones. 2025 has been declared a Year of Jubilee with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. As a school we will celebrate this important Catholic tradition throughout the year. On page two, I have included an abridged piece written by Helena Goldsmith, Program Manager, Leading in Faith, Catholic Mission and Identity, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS). My hope for this year is that, together as a school community - with faith, optimism and a shared commitment to excellence, this year will be one filled with learning, trust, friendship, hope, and joy.

It has been wonderful to reconnect with so many of you this morning and hear of your holiday adventures. Although it is only the first day, our classrooms appeared calm and students settled, with routines being established and relationships being built on mutual respect. I have no doubt that this year will begin very positively, as others have in previous years.

We warmly welcome our new students and their families to the St Mary's School community. We also extend a welcome to **Alexandria Redman**, a new Learning Support Officer and **Moira**, our new Provisional Psychologist. You are joining a vibrant and supportive learning and faith community grounded in Catholic values and traditions that have shaped our school since its establishment in 1842.

Over the years, the leadership team has worked tirelessly to create a thriving learning environment where trust, knowledge, and skills are nurtured. Today, we see the fruits of these efforts in the success of our students. Through targeted professional development, our staff has been equipped with the tools to make a meaningful impact on student learning. Together, our leaders, teachers, learning support officers and administrative staff collaborate to ensure St Mary's School operates at its very best.

The partnership between home and school is invaluable. The contributions of our families play a crucial role in strengthening our faith and learning community, benefiting every member. This year presents another opportunity to deepen these relationships and work together for the good of all.

To stay informed about upcoming activities and events, please make it a habit to read our fortnightly newsletter. If you have social media accounts, you may like to follow our official school accounts on Facebook and Instagram.

During the holiday break, the recruitment process for the Deputy Principal position was undertaken. While we had the privilege of meeting several excellent candidates, we were unable to make an appointment at this time. Each applicant brought unique strengths and experiences, but ultimately, we found that they did not have the specific knowledge and experience we were looking for to lead the Learning and Teaching portfolio.

We remain confident that the right Deputy Principal candidate is out there and will bring the expertise required to lead Learning and Teaching at St Mary's School. We will be readvertising the position in the coming weeks and will keep you informed throughout the process.

As always, my door is open, and I look forward to walking this 2025 journey together with you at St Mary's School.

Kind Regards, Annice



St Mary's School acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

St Mary's School is committed to Child Safety.

We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

CALENDAR

TERM 1

Week 1

Thursday 30 January

Foundation Students finish at 1:30pm

Friday 31 January

Foundation Students finish at 1:30pm

Beginning of Year Parish Mass; 10:00am

Week 2

Monday 3 February

School Assembly; 2:50pm

Year 5/6 Student Leadership

Tuesday 4 February

P&T Conversation Bookings OPEN, details to follow on Operoo

Wednesday 5 February

Foundation Students' Rest Day

Thursday 6 February

PFA Family Picnic; 5:00 to 7:00pm

Week 3

Wednesday 12 February

Foundation Students' Rest Day

Week 4

Monday 17 February

2026 Foundation Tour; 9:15am

School Assembly; 3:00pm

(Year 3/4 Onyx). Gates open 2:55pm

See Page 3 for full T1 calendar & updates

**2025 School
STAFF
Email List**

Follow the [link](#)



**FAMILY
HANDBOOK**

Scan the QR
Code or

follow the [link](#)



Catholic Identity

Jubilee Year of Hope

By Helena Goldsmith, Program Manager, Leading in Faith, Catholic Mission and Identity, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS).



On the evening of 24 December 2024, Pope Francis officially inaugurated the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope by opening the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica during the Christmas Mass (Castellano Lubov 2024).

'Tonight, the door of hope has opened wide to the world', the Pope proclaimed, reminding the faithful that God speaks personally to each of us: 'There is hope also for you!' (Francis 2024). In his homily, Pope Francis invited everyone to rediscover the joy of the Lord and embrace the mission to transform our world so that this year may truly be a time of jubilation (Francis 2024).

Pilgrims of hope

The theme of the Jubilee Year is 'Pilgrims of Hope' which resonates deeply with the MACS 2030 purpose to form lives of faith, hope and love in the light of Jesus Christ (MACS 2023). By intertwining the Jubilee Year's emphasis on pilgrimage with MACS' mission, we can see a shared vision: a transformative journey where individuals and school communities grow in their trust in God, strive for a life filled with meaning, and become beacons of hope for others.

Celebrating the Jubilee Year

Jubilee years are marked by pilgrimage, reconciliation, formation and prayer. The Catholic Church has created many opportunities for participation during this holy year. In Melbourne, the Archdiocese has designated 13 churches and shrines as 'Pilgrim Places', with St Patrick's Cathedral serving as the principal location. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has encouraged all to engage in local pilgrimages to Pilgrim Places.



A reflection for the start of the Jubilee Year

As the Jubilee Year begins, Pope Francis has encouraged everyone to reflect on how they can bring light, hope and kindness into the lives of others:

- How can I open a window of light in my environment and in my relationships?
- Where can I be a glimmer of light that let's God's love pass through?
- What practical actions can I do today, this term, this year in my school, home, world?

The Jubilee Year of 2025 offers a profound opportunity for renewal, unity and hope. Let us step forward as pilgrims of hope, embracing God's call to transform our world with love and compassion.

We ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to intercede for us as we embark on this sacred journey in MACS schools. Mary, star that leads to Jesus, help us to be shining witnesses of the Father's love for everyone (Francis 2025).

Every major moment of Jubilee 2025 will be made available worldwide, with the Vatican Media offering audio streams and video live and on demand through its Vatican News portal and on YouTube.

Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,

May the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Term 1 School Calendar, 2025

Wk	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
1			JAN 29 Newsletter	JAN 30 Foundation Students finish at 1:30pm	JAN 31 Foundation Students finish at 1:30pm Beginning of Year Parish Mass; 10:00am	
2	FEB 3 2:50pm School Assembly (Year 5/6 - Student Leadership)	FEB 4 P&T Conversations Bookings Open <i>Details shortly on Operoo</i>	FEB 5 Foundation Students Rest Day 	FEB 6 PFA Family Picnic 5:00 to 7:00pm	FEB 7	
3	FEB 10	FEB 11	FEB 12 Foundation Students Rest Day Newsletter 	FEB 13	FEB 14	
4	FEB 17 3:00pm School Assembly (3/4 Onyx) P&T Conversations(3/4 Garnet); 3:30 to 6:00pm PSG Meetings #1 2026 Foundation Tour; 9:15am	FEB 18 P&T Conversations; 3:30 to 6:00pm	FEB 19 Foundation Students Rest Day  P&T Conversations; 3:30 to 6:00pm	FEB 20 Year 5/6 Volleyball & Basketball	FEB 21	
5	FEB 24 Year 5/6 Cricket 2026 Foundation Tour; 9:15am	FEB 25	FEB 26 Foundation Students Rest Day Newsletter PFA Meeting; 7:00pm	FEB 27	FEB 28 WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO DAY Foundation Parents/ Carers' Welcome Evening; Centra Hotel, 7:00pm	
6	MAR 3 Foundation— Year 4 SWIMMING WEEK 	MAR 4 Shrove Tuesday	MAR 5 Ash Wednesday Mass Year 3-6 Ash Wednesday Liturgy Foundation—Year 2	MAR 6	MAR 7 World Day of Prayer	
7	MAR 10 SCHOOL CLOSED Labour Day Public Holiday	MAR 11 STUDENT FREE DAY Staff Professional Learning	MAR 12 NAPLAN Commences Sacrament of Confirmation; 7:00pm Newsletter	MAR 13	MAR 14 PFA FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY Mannix Feast Day—Wear Red or casual clothes	
8	MAR 17 Catholic Education Week 3:00pm School Assembly (1/2 Topaz)	MAR 18	MAR 19 Geelong Student Leadership Mass 	MAR 20	MAR 21 2026 Foundation Tour; 9:15am	
9	MAR 24 Cross Country Foundation—Year 2; School Site Year 3-6; Eastern Gardens	MAR 25	MAR 26 School Advisory Council Meeting; 7:00pm Newsletter	MAR 27 2026 Foundation Tour; 9:15am PSG Meetings #2	MAR 28 Lunch Order Day—Bakery	
10	MAR 31 3:00pm School Assembly (Foundation) Year 5/6 Girls' AFL	APR 1 PSG Meetings #3 Open Classrooms; 3:15pm-4:15pm	APR 2	APR 3	APR 4 End of Term 1; 1:00pm Dismissal 2026 Foundation Enrolments Close	

St Mary's School Parents & Friends' Association 2025 Family Picnic



PFA Second Hand Uniforms

2025 Orders

Please contact the St Mary's School Association Parents & Friends' Uniform shop

For second hand uniform requests, contact: pfauniforms@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au

[Pricelist](#)



St Mary's School, Geelong

2025 School Dates

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4
Wednesday 29 January - Friday 4 April	Tuesday 22 April - Friday 4 July	Monday 21 July - Friday 19 September	Monday 6 October - Tuesday 16 December

Student Free Days

TERM 1: Tuesday 11 March

TERM 2: Thursday 5 June
Friday 6 June

TERM 3: Friday 25 July
Friday 29 August

TERM 4: Monday 3 November
Monday 17 November

School Closure Days (Victorian Public Holidays)

Labour Day: Monday 10 March

Easter: Friday 18 April - Monday 21 April

ANZAC Day: Friday 25 April

Monarch's Birthday: Monday 9 June

AFL Grand Final: Friday 26 September

Melbourne Cup: Tuesday 4 November

FOUNDATION STUDENTS



Wednesday 29 January - Friday 31 January
Foundation students attend school from 8:50am - 1:30pm



Rest Days: Wednesday 5, 12, 19, 26 February



School Photo Day: Friday 28 February



F-4 Swimming: Monday 3 - Friday 7 March
(45 minute sessions)



Athletics Day: Thursday 24 April



School Concert: Thursday 28 August




Year 3/4 Day Camp: Tuesday 16 September
(Wednesday 17 September - Year 3/4 Student Free Day)

Year 5/6 2-Night Camp: Monday 10 - Wednesday 12 November
(Thursday 13 November - Year 5/6 Student Free Day)

SCHOOL TIMETABLE


8:30am - 8:50am	Gates Open
8:50am - 8:55am	Homeroom
8:55am - 9:55am	Learning Session #1
9:55am - 10:55am	Learning Session #2
10:55am - 11:05am	Supervised Eating Time
11:05am - 11:35am	PLAY BREAK
11:35am - 12:35pm	Learning Session #3
12:35pm - 1:35pm	Learning Session #4
1:35pm - 1:45pm	Supervised Eating Time
1:45pm - 2:15pm	PLAY BREAK
2:15pm - 3:15pm	Learning Session #5
3:15pm - 3:30pm	Gates Open



ST MARY'S SCHOOL
GEELONG

GATES CLOSE 8:50AM
Students arriving after 8:50am are required to be signed in by a Parent/Carer/Guardian

REPORT A STUDENT ABSENCE
absence@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au
Email prior to 8:50am on the day of absence with the reason



FAMILY HANDBOOK

SCHOOL DAY 8:50AM TO 3:15PM

Please see the school's fortnightly newsletter for updates and further school events

Community News



Saint Ignatius College Geelong

Year 7 Guided Tours Now Open

www.ignatius.vic.edu.au

A Jesuit Companion School.

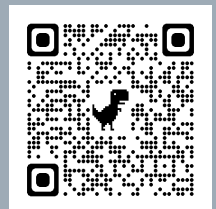
2025 Staff Email List

Follow the [link](#)



Family Handbook

Scan the QR Code or follow the [link](#)



Facebook:

[@St.Mary'sPrimaryGeelong](#)

Instagram:

[stmarys_ps_geelong](#)

School Website:

www.smgeelong.catholic.edu.au

Parent Portal password - mary175

SoccaJoeys
Australia's leading childhood development sports program

MINIS For boys and girls aged 2.5 - 3 years	PRESCHOOL For boys and girls aged 3 - 5 years	JUNIOR For boys and girls aged 6 - 8 years
PREMIER For boys and girls aged 9 - 11 years	HOLIDAYS Exciting school holiday programs	BIRTHDAYS Soccer themed birthday parties

REGISTER NOW

www.soccajoeys.com.au | 1300 781 735



St Mary's School, Geelong
www.smgeelong.catholic.edu.au

T: 5229 9453

Newsletter # 1
Term 1—Week 1