

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038
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Staying Connected No. 5 *18 March, 2026*

The Feast of St Patrick

Dear Families,

This week we celebrate the **Feast of St Patrick (17 March)** – the patron saint of Ireland and also the **patron of our Archdiocese of Melbourne**.

St Patrick lived in the 5th century and his story is one of deep faith, courage and perseverance. Born in Roman Britain, he was taken to Ireland as a young teenager and held in captivity for six years. During this time, Patrick grew in prayer and trust in God. After eventually escaping and returning home, he later felt called to return to Ireland – this time as a missionary bishop – where he spent his life sharing the Gospel and building Christian communities.

Patrick is often remembered for using the **shamrock** to help people understand the mystery of the **Holy Trinity** – one God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

One of the great prayers associated with him is **St Patrick's Breastplate**, a prayer of protection and trust in Christ. A well-known line reminds us of God's constant presence:

*Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me.*

At St Mary MacKillop, we draw inspiration from St Patrick's example – his courage, humility and missionary spirit. His life resonates strongly with our school's call to **Pray, Trust and Act**, and with Mary MacKillop's words: *"Never see a need without doing something about it."*

This week our students will reflect on how they too can live with faith, kindness and courage in their daily lives.

Celebrating the Feast of St Patrick

On Friday, Natalie Mulford, Bili Bosevski, myself and a number of our student leaders will join with representatives from Catholic schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne, to celebrate the Feast of St Patrick.

This annual Archdiocesan celebration is a significant moment in the life of Catholic education in Melbourne. It brings together students and staff from across our system in prayer, gratitude and shared purpose, reminding us that we belong to something much larger than our own school community.

St Patrick is honoured not only as the patron saint of Ireland, but also as the patron of our Archdiocese. His life speaks powerfully to us today. As a missionary and teacher of faith, Patrick demonstrated courage, resilience and deep trust in God. His famous prayer, *St Patrick's Breastplate*, expresses a profound reliance on Christ's presence in every aspect of life; a message that resonates strongly with our own call to "Pray, Trust and Act."

For our student leaders, the celebration provides a meaningful opportunity to represent St Mary MacKillop Primary School and to experience the wider Catholic community gathered in worship. Moments such as these help deepen their sense of identity, responsibility and service as leaders within our school.

We look forward to sharing this experience with our students and will keep the whole school community in our prayers as we gather in thanksgiving and hope."

Wishing all families a peaceful and blessed week ahead.

Warm regards,



Anthony McCluskey
Principal

PREP 2027 ENROLMENTS-OPEN

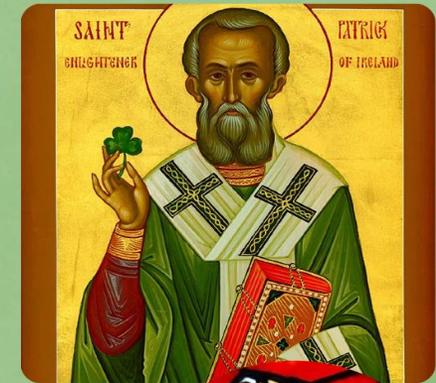
A reminder that if you have a child starting in Prep next year and you have NOT completed an enrolment form please do so immediately. We have a lot of enrolments so far and we do not want you to miss out. Click on the link below:

<https://www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au/enrolment-information/online-enrolment-form/>

St Patrick's Breastplate

A famous prayer connected to St Patrick is called, St Patrick's Breastplate. The word breastplate means armour that protects a person's heart and chest. In this prayer, Saint Patrick asks God to protect and guide him throughout the day. As we pray, let us think about how God is with us wherever we go.

**Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man
who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone
who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears
me.
Amen.**



School Assembly - Student Leadership

At this week's School Assembly, we proudly presented badges to many of our School Leaders and members of the Student Representative Council (SRC). While we celebrate these students and acknowledge their important role in providing a strong student voice within our school, we also recognise that all of our Year 6 students are leaders within our community.

As Principal, I have the privilege of teaching Year 6 each week in my role as their Faith and Life Coach. I am continually reminded what a wonderful cohort this group is. I look forward to engaging with them both formally in the classroom and informally across the life of the school. They are outstanding role models who lead by example and contribute positively to the spirit and culture of St Mary MacKillop Primary School.



Our Sport Captains



Our School Captains



The class of 2026; a group of wonderful leaders

ST MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH
2026
EASTER TIMETABLE

PALM SUNDAY – 29th March

Saturday

5:00 pm Solemn Mass - St Mary MacKillop
Please note that Confessions will end at 4.40 p.m.

5:00 pm Mass (Latin) – St Paul's
6:30 pm Mass - St Paul's

Sunday

8:00 am Mass - (Maltese) - St Paul's
9:00 am Mass - St Mary MacKillop
10:00 am Mass - St Paul's
11:00 am Mass - St Mary MacKillop
5:30 pm Mass - St Mary MacKillop

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK – 30th March

9:30 am Mass - St Mary MacKillop
10 – 11 am Confessions – St. Mary MacKillop
7pm – 8pm Confessions – St. Mary MacKillop

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK – 31st March

6.30pm Mass – St Mary MacKillop

(The earlier Mass is to allow for the priests to attend the Mass of the Oils at St. Patrick's Cathedral)

7.00 pm Adoration – St Mary MacKillop
7 pm – 8 pm Confessions – St. Mary MacKillop

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK – 1st April

9:30am Mass - St Paul's

10.00 - 11:00am Confessions – St Paul's
7.00 - 8:00pm Confessions – St Paul's

HOLY THURSDAY – 2nd April

There is no Morning Mass today

11am-12:00 pm Confessions - St Paul's

5:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper - St Paul's
followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9:00pm

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper - St Mary MacKillop
followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10.30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY – 3rd April

8:30 am The Way of the Cross - St Mary MacKillop

9:30 am - 11.30am Confessions - St Mary MacKillop

3:00 pm Solemn Liturgy of The Passion - St Mary MacKillop

3:00 pm Solemn Liturgy of The Passion - St Paul's

HOLY SATURDAY – 4th April

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Confessions - St Paul's

7.00 pm Mass of the Easter Vigil - St Mary MacKillop

This is the only Mass celebrated today

EASTER SUNDAY – 5th April

8:00 am Mass – (Maltese) - St Paul's
9:00 am Mass - St Mary MacKillop
10:00 am Mass - St Paul's
11:00 am Mass – St Mary MacKillop

There is no evening Mass on Easter Sunday

EASTER MONDAY – 6th April

9:30am Mass – St Mary MacKillop



PROUDLY RUN BY LOCAL POLICE AND VOLUNTEERS

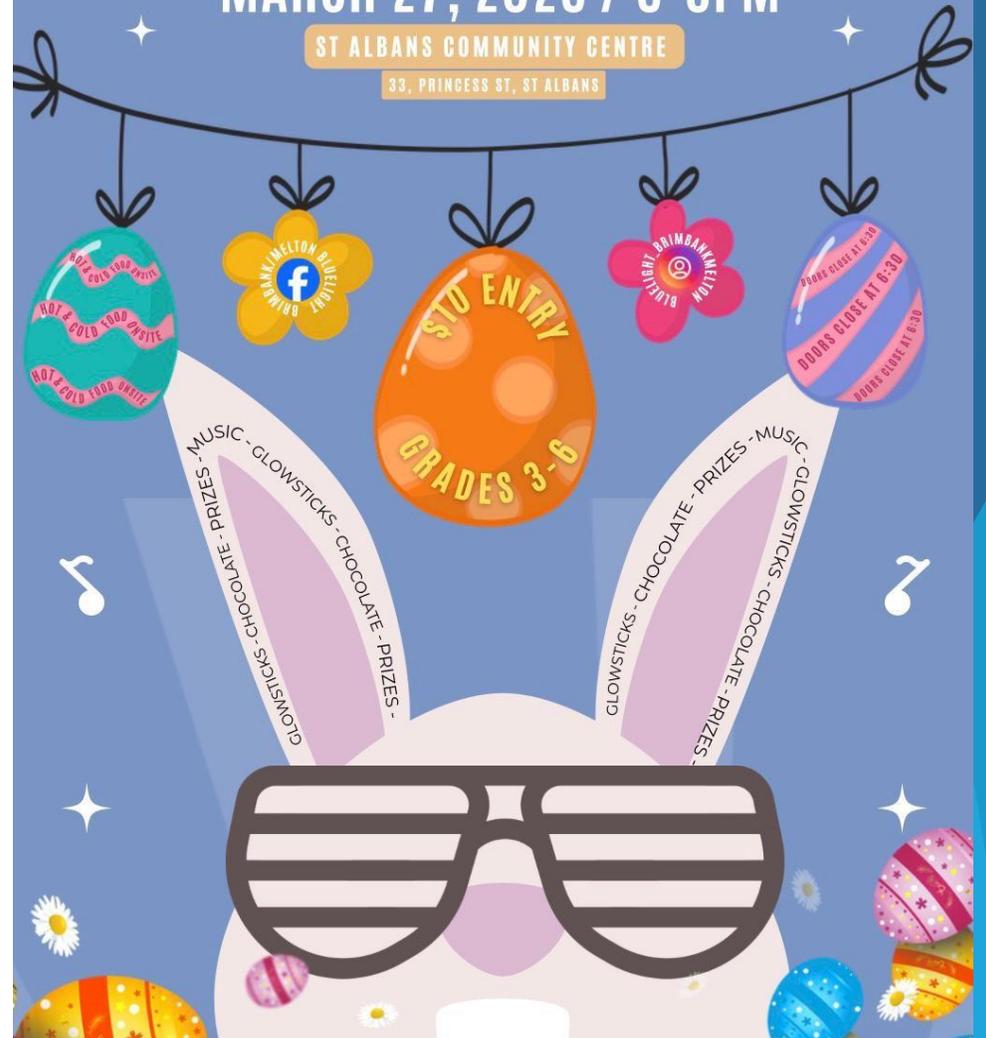


Easter Disco PARTY

MARCH 27, 2026 / 6-8PM

ST ALBANS COMMUNITY CENTRE

33, PRINCESS ST, ST ALBANS





EXPERIENCE CRC NORTH KEILOR

GRADE 5 IMMERSION PROGRAM

CRCNK are running a Grade 5 Immersion Program throughout Terms 2 & 3. Students engage directly with our inspiring staff and our Year 10 student leaders for an exciting & fun hands-on Immersion program.

From interactive projects to collaborative activities, this unique experience provides Grade 5 students with an opportunity to explore high school subjects in a safe and supportive environment and gain invaluable insight into what student life is like at CRCNK.

- Sessions run from 3:45pm - 5pm
- Students are required to attend in their school uniform
- A parent/carer is required to attend for the duration of each session and are invited to attend presentations by members of our Leadership Team.

Each program will run on a Thursday after school for 3 consecutive weeks. The dates for the Term 2 programs are as follows -

Term 2: 14th May, 21st May, 28th May 2026.

Dates for Term 3 will be released closer to the time.

Students will be required to attend all 3 sessions in one program. Places are limited so register online via our College website using the link below.

SCAN ME



www.crcnk.vic.edu.au

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NORTH KEILOR VIC 3038
9361 5900



Taylors Lakes
SECONDARY COLLEGE

*'every child,
every classroom,
every opportunity'*



LEARN



ACHIEVE



EXCEL



EXPERIENCE



FOOTBALL ACADEMY INFORMATION EVENING

(Australian Rules & Soccer)

Tuesday, 31st March 2026 at 6pm

Register at the College on 9390 3130



Taylors Lakes
SECONDARY COLLEGE

Learning Enhancement & Advancement Program 2027

ensuring the learning of high achievers are met



LEARN



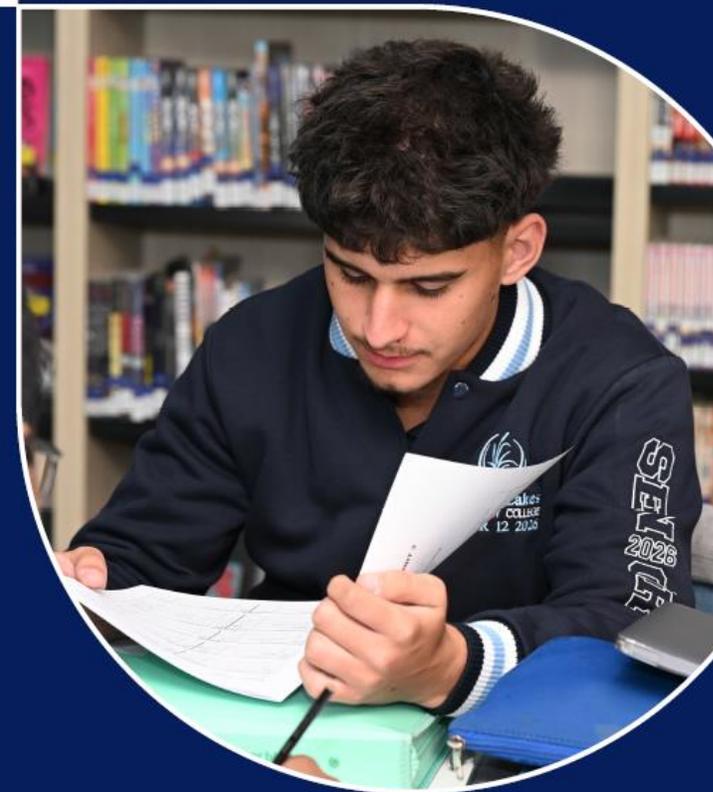
ACHIEVE



EXCEL



EXPERIENCE



LEAP INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday, 31st March 2026 at 7pm

Register at the College on 9390 3130

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER 2026

TERM 1

Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 March
School Photos

Thursday 26 March
Year 3 First Reconciliation @ 12pm

Thursday 2 April
End of Term 1: Students finish @ 1pm

TERM 2

Monday 20 April
School Closure postponed
School commences for Term 2

Friday 24 April
MACS 4-year Cyclic Review Commences

Friday 1 May
2027 Prep Enrolments Due

Wednesday 6 May
Wonder of Life Ed-Year 5 @ 6.30pm-more details to come

Thursday 7 May
Wonder of Life Ed-Year 6 @ 6.30pm-more details to come

Monday 11 May
2027 Prep New Family Interviews commence

Monday 18 May
2027 Prep Letter of Offer issued

Wednesday 20 May
Holy Communion Family Faith Evening @ 7pm-MPR

Tuesday 26 May
School Review

Thursday 28 May
School Review

Friday 29 May
2027 Prep Letter of Acceptance due

Saturday 30 May
Sacrament of Holy Communion @ 10.30am and 12.30pm

Monday 8 June
King's Birthday Public Holiday

Wednesday 10 June
Confirmation Family Faith Evening @ 7pm-MPR

Monday 15 June
2027 Prep Existing Family Interviews commence

Saturday 20 June
Sacrament of Confirmation @ 10am and 12pm

Friday 26 June
End of Term 2 Students finish @ 1pm