

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038
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T: 03 9367 6199



Staying Connected No. 6 *27 March, 2026*

Feast of St Joseph.

Last Thursday (March 19) we acknowledge the Feast of St Joseph, a significant figure in our Catholic tradition and a model of quiet strength, humility and faith.

As a school community inspired by St Mary MacKillop, this day holds particular meaning. Mary had a deep devotion to St Joseph and was greatly influenced by his example of trust in God and his willingness to act with courage and care. Like Joseph, Mary lived out her faith through action; always responding to the needs of others.

St Joseph reminds us that leadership is not always loud or visible. It is often found in the quiet, consistent way we support, guide and care for one another. This is reflected beautifully in Mary MacKillop's words, and our school vision, "***Never see a need without doing something about it.***"

At St Mary MacKillop, we see this lived out each day in our students and staff; in acts of kindness, service and compassion within our community.

And like St Joseph, we are called to '***pray, trust and act***'; a simple yet powerful theme that underpins our year.

May we continue to be inspired by both St Joseph and St Mary MacKillop, as we work together to nurture a community grounded in faith, care and action.

Have a wonderful week everybody.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony McCluskey".

Anthony McCluskey
Principal

VACPS

This week I am attending the Victorian Association of Catholic Primary School Principals Conference in Lorne. This is a bi-annual conference. It is a week of collegiality, learning and generally 'catching up' with friends and colleagues from across the State.

PLEASE NOTE:

You may have noticed in our last Staying Connected, Important Dates to Remember;

School resumes for all students on Monday 20 April 2026.

We had planned a school closure to prepare for review; however, I am very proud of our staff who worked with diligence to complete all work required by them in one day, on our last School Closure.

Our School Advisory Council approved this decision.

Under our Multi Employer Agreement; Catholic teachers are entitled to a Staff Professional Development Day each term. A new date will be announced later in the term.

Prep 2027

We have received an unexpectedly high number of applications for Prep 2027. As a result, we are currently considering a number of important decisions, including how many students we can accommodate and the possibility of introducing a fourth Prep class.

This places us in a very positive position and reflects the strong reputation of our school as a preferred choice within our local and neighbouring communities.

In line with our enrolment priorities, our first commitment is always to siblings of current students. If you have a child due to commence Prep next year, I ask that you please submit your application by the end of this week. This will assist us greatly in gaining an accurate understanding of enrolment demand for 2027.

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

Thank you for your support.

PRINCIPAL AWARD





Maths Leaders

Some of our 2026 Leaders



Peer Tutors



Wellbeing 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 – 11am 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

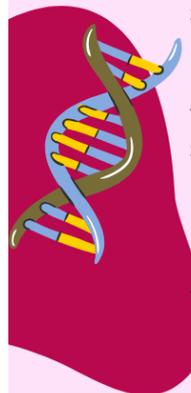
EASTER MONDAY – 6th April

9:30am Mass – St Mary MacKillop



She Who Explores

BACK FOR 2026!



Come and see what it's like to be an Ave girl with our after school program, She Who Explores.

Designed specifically for Year 4 and 5 students, this is a fantastic opportunity for our future students to explore subjects that they will be able to study at Ave Maria College.

For more information, please email Assistant Principal (Community and Partnerships), Mrs Natalie Meddis, AssistantPrincipalCommunity@avemaria.vic.edu.au or register via the QR.

Choose from one of the following subjects and join us on Wednesday, 29 April, 4pm - 5pm:

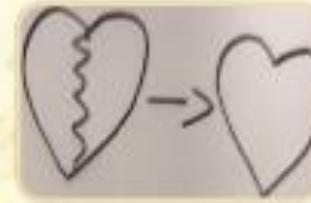
- Food Technology
- Science



First Reconciliation

We warmly congratulate our Year 3 students who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Thursday, 26th March. This sacred milestone in their faith journey provided a meaningful opportunity for students to experience God's love, mercy and forgiveness, shared with their peers and families.

We extend our sincere thanks to all of our Year 3 teachers and LSO staff, together with Mr D'Amico and Mrs Mulford, for their support in preparing the students for this important step in their spiritual lives. We also acknowledge with gratitude Monsignor Portelli and Father Vinh for their spiritual leadership and guidance in celebrating this sacrament.



In our Gospel reading we heard the Parable of the Lost Sheep. In his homily, Monsignor reminded us that we are all important in God's eyes; that He knows each one of us by name, and He loves us. Sometimes we get a bit lost, sometimes we go the wrong way. But no matter what happens, God will always come to look for us, and will always welcome us back. His love is always there and will always be given to us.



God please forgive
me for all of my
Sins from Filip

God is
our Light, he died
for us and made
us his children...

St Patrick's Mass for schools

On Friday 20 March, the Archdiocese of Melbourne celebrated the Feast of St Patrick at the St Patrick's Mass for Schools. St Patrick's Cathedral was filled to capacity, with representatives from schools across the Archdiocese gathering in the city's home church. The Mass was a vibrant expression of Catholic tradition.

During his homily, Archbishop Peter reflected on the seeds of faith that grew in Saint Patrick during times of hardship. He spoke of Patrick's deep sense of calling to proclaim the Word of Jesus Christ to the people of Ireland. This calling shaped the whole of his life and ultimately led him to return to Ireland after escaping slavery. Saint Patrick went back with a message of peace and the good news of the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Archbishop Peter also reflected on the Breastplate of Saint Patrick, a prayer of protection. He reminded those present that this prayer speaks of being enfolded in the love of Jesus and being sent to proclaim His closeness in our lives—in our homes, schools, and communities. We are called to share with others the nearness of God's Kingdom.

The School Captains, Vice Captains, Faith and Mission Leaders, Ms Billi Bosevski, Mrs Mulford and Mr McCluskey represented our school.

St Patrick's Pilgrim's Way, West Fountain



St Mary MacKillop



St Francis of Assisi



The procession of banners was lead by bagpipers.



Archbishop Peter Comensoli was the principal celebrant at Mass.



Christ Beside Me

The Concert in the Park was a great way to meet other MACS students, and great fun!



Meeting Archbishop Comensoli after Mass





Year 4 Excursion to the Melbourne Zoo

This term the year 4's have been learning about Ecosystems, Habitats and Food Chains in Humanities and Science. We enjoyed a day at the Melbourne Zoo learning first hand about how living and non living things rely on Ecosystems. We were given a guided tour and a lesson from one of the Zoo Educators.

It was an experience to remember!





Easter Hamper Fundraiser

We kindly ask families to donate a small Easter-themed item to be included in their class hamper.

The entire hamper will go home with the winning student from each class!

Raffle Tickets
\$1 each
(\$10 per booklet)
Return by Wed 22nd April

Raffle drawn on Thursday 24th April

ST MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

COMMUNITY PICNIC

ON THE OVAL

Wednesday 1st April
3.30pm to 4.30pm

Classrooms open
3.30pm-3.45pm

Limited BBQ and
icy-poles
cash payment

BYO:

Picnic rug, chairs, picnic
basket/snacks, \$\$\$ for a snag or icy
pole

In the event of inclement
weather, we will notify
families with a plan, via
text and N-forma



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

1C Santa Monica Drive
NORTH KEILOR VIC 3038
9361 5900

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Step 1. Download Qkr!
On your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users must download iPhone app.

Step 2. Register
Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register.

Step 3. Find our school
Our school will appear in "Nearby Locations" if you're within 10km's of our school, or search for our school

Step 4. Register your child
When first accessing our school you will be prompted to add a student profile for your child/children. **This allows you to make orders and payments for them.**

PROUDLY RUN BY LOCAL POLICE AND VOLUNTEERS

Easter Disco PARTY

MARCH 27, 2026 / 6-8PM

ST ALBANS COMMUNITY CENTRE
33, PRINCESS ST, ST ALBANS

STU ENTRY GRADES 3-6

DOORS CLOSE AT 6:30

MUSIC - GLOWSTICKS - CHOCOLATE - PRIZES - CHOCOLATE - PRIZES - GLOWSTICKS - CHOCOLATE - PRIZES - MUSIC - GLOWSTICKS - CHOCOLATE - PRIZES - CHOCOLATE - PRIZES

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER 2026

TERM 1

Wednesday 1 April
Community Picnic-see flyer

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

TERM 2

Monday 20 April
School commences for Term 2 @ 9.00am

Thursday 23 April
Easter Hat Parade-more details next week

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

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