

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## *Staying Connected No. 7*

*1 April, 2026*

Hi Everyone,

As we come to the end of Term One 2026, I look back with great pride and satisfaction, and look forward in a spirit of hope.

Our children are great kids. They are, in the main; settled, responsible, respectful, kind and attentive. Yes, we have our hiccups along the way, but the overall sense of calm and order in our school is consistently noted by both our community and visitors. I am very proud to lead such a wonderful staff team and such a fine cohort of children.

Next term we undertake our MACS four-year Cyclical Review. This review is an important opportunity for us to reflect on what we are doing well and to identify areas where we can continue to grow and improve. It will focus on the five key spheres of school life: Religious Dimension, Learning and Teaching, Student Engagement, School Community, and Leadership and Management. At its heart, the review is about strengthening our core work in learning and teaching, guided by the Vision for Instruction and Vision for Engagement, ensuring that every child continues to flourish.

As we enter the final days of Term One, we also move into the sacred time of Holy Week; the most significant week in the Church's calendar.

**Holy Week** invites us to journey with Jesus through the final days of His life: from the joy of Palm Sunday, to the gift of the Eucharist on Holy Thursday, through the sorrow of Good Friday, and into the hope and new life of Easter Sunday. As the image below reminds us, a lot can happen in seven days.

We recognise that times might be challenging for some families. Life does not always slow down, and for many, there can be personal struggles, loss, or uncertainty. As a faith community, we hold one another in prayer and support, trusting that even in difficult moments, hope is never lost.

Easter is ultimately a story of hope; a reminder that light overcomes darkness, and new life can emerge when we least expect it. **In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we are called to Pray, Trust and Act; to lean into our faith, to care for one another, and to respond with compassion.**

May this Holy Week bring peace to your homes, strength in times of challenge, and a renewed sense of hope for the days ahead.

Wishing all our families a blessed and hopeful Easter. Have a safe and happy Easter break .

**Anthony**



#### **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.

**ST MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH  
2026  
EASTER TIMETABLE**

**PALM SUNDAY – 29<sup>th</sup> 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 – 30<sup>th</sup> March**

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

**TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK – 31<sup>st</sup> 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 – 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

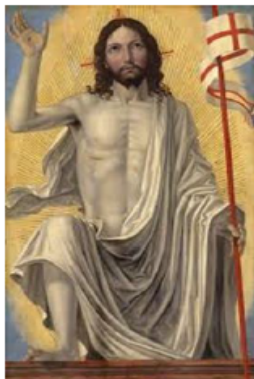
**EASTER SUNDAY – 5<sup>th</sup> April**

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 – 6<sup>th</sup> April**

9:30am Mass – St Mary MacKillop



**PRINCIPAL AWARD**



**IT Leaders 2026**

# *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 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Raffle drawn on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
at the Easter Parade

# *Easter*

CELEBRATION & PARADE

Easter Hat  
OR  
Easter Poster  
Easter Hair  
Easter Artwork

| Day  | Date | Month | Time |
|------|------|-------|------|
| THUR | 23   | APRIL | 9am  |

Come along and celebrate the mystery of Easter at our extraordinary whole school Assembly with a reflection led by the Faith and Mission Leaders, songs by the Preps and Choir, and a whole school Easter Parade!

# Order School Lunches!

**EASY • SECURE • CONVENIENT**  
Accept payments 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**Qkr! Download Qkr!**

Now you can pay for:  
**School Lunches, anywhere, anytime!**

View your receipts on the app and get them sent by email if required.

**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.**

# 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](mailto: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



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER 2026

### TERM 1

#### 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-see flyer

#### 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

Mother's Day stall

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

#### Friday 8 May

Mother's Day stall

Mother's Day breakfast-more details early next term

#### Sunday 10 May

Mother's Day

#### 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