



*Newsletter 17th February, 2021*

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents/Carers,

### COVID-19

We are once again experiencing the devastating effects of a virus that remains a constant threat to our health and wellbeing. We are pleased that all students will be able to return to school tomorrow. Normal drop off and pick up arrangements will remain.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these difficult times of sudden change.

### CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE MELTON SOUTH

The continued population growth in the western suburbs has placed consistent pressure on enrolments at Catholic Regional College Melton. To cater for the increasing number of families seeking a Catholic education for their children, land for a new educational facility has been purchased at 108 Alfred Road, Cobblebank.

Throughout 2020, a strategic planning group consisting of parish priests, principals from both CRC Melton and Caroline Springs and consultants from Catholic Education Melbourne worked in collaboration with architects Baldasso and Cortese on the masterplan for this new educational setting. Towards the end of 2020, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) decided to establish this new facility as a second campus of Catholic Regional College Melton.

The new campus will welcome approximately 150 Year 7 students in 2023 and grow to accommodate 1500 Year 7 to 12 students by 2028. Stage 1 of construction will enable the College to cater for 600 students with further stages planned as intake progresses.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Today is Ash Wednesday. On this special day we would normally receive ashes placed on our forehead which remind us of our mortality and symbolize the spirit of Penance. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent.

### LENT

The church has set aside certain times throughout the year to help us remember particular events in the life of Jesus, and to remind us of who we are and what we are called to do. Over the coming year the mystery of Christ is unfolded from his birth through to his Ascension and to Pentecost. Lent is a time of reflection and repentance. It is a time for us to renew our faith commitment to God.

### EUCCHARIST PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

This is still planned to be held tomorrow Thursday 18th February in the Hall beginning at 7pm. Information has been sent home to families involved with the Eucharist program this year.



## **FOUNDATION (PREP) ENROLMENTS 2022 - ST ANTHONY'S / ST LAWRENCE**

**OPEN - Tuesday 9th March**

**CLOSE- Monday 16th August**

## **SCHOOL TOURS FOR 2022 ENROLMENTS**

St Anthony of Padua Catholic Primary School invites all prospective families to tour the school's facilities prior to submitting an enrolment form. These tours will be conducted at the school on the following dates; **Tuesday 23rd February, Thursday 25th February, Monday 1st March and Wednesday 3rd March 2021.** Times vary and tours are limited to 10 adults. Please limit the number of small children attending if possible.

Note that St Lawrence of Brindisi Catholic Primary School (31 Waterway Boulevard) will open in 2022. Zoning arrangements will apply for St Lawrence and St Anthony's.

These tours are only for families residing/(or planning to reside) in the St Anthony's zone. If you are unsure of which zone applies to you please refer to the zoning map on our website or contact our school office to discuss.

For those families residing in the St Lawrence catchment area please contact our school office to discuss enrolment arrangements.

Should you wish to book an enrolment tour for St Anthony's, please head to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au)

You can now book in a suitable time using the code **hq3zq**

For more information, please speak to our friendly reception on 8099 7800.

## **NUT ALLERGIES**

Please note that a number of our students have nut allergies and in some cases students can have a severe reaction called anaphylaxis. I ask that you please be careful when sending students to school with food. Please avoid nut products.

## **SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS**

Please note there are two closure days in term one.

**Wednesday 31st March and Thursday 1st April - staff conference.**

**The last day of term will be Tuesday 30th March at 3.20pm.**

**Friday 2nd April is Good Friday.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Schuster'.

**Damien Schuster**  
**PRINCIPAL**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Date	Event
Wednesday 17th February	Remote Learning ASH WEDNESDAY	Wednesday 24th February	
Thursday 18th February	Eucharist Parent Information Night	Thursday 25th February	Reconciliation Lent
Friday 19th February	Stations of the Cross 9.45am Assembly Yr 3 – Yr 6 Year 6 Summer Sports	Friday 26th February	Stations of the Cross 9.45am Assembly Yr 3 – Yr 6
Saturday 20th February	Yr 3 Commitment Mass 5.00pm	Saturday 27th February	
Sunday 21st February	Yr 4 Commitment Mass 5.00pm	Sunday 28th February	
Monday 22nd February	Swimming Yr 2 (Cefai/Butler, Hodge & Calleja), Yr 4 (Serafin & Rabica), Yr 5 (all) Assembly F - Yr2	Monday 1st March	Assembly F – Yr 2 Swimming Yr 2 (Fahey & Szelest), Yr 3 (all), Yr 4 (Blasis & Lafranchi)
Tuesday 23rd February	Evacuation Drill	Tuesday 2nd March	

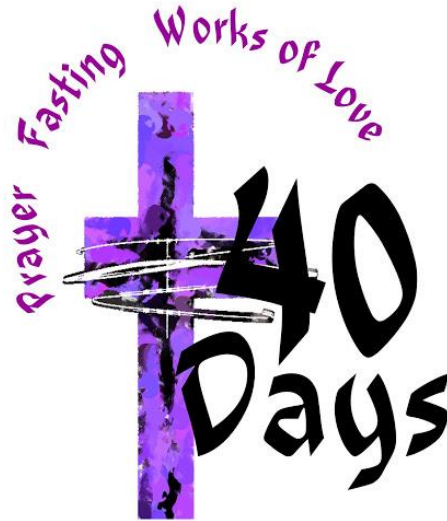
# Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Church's season of Lent. The marking of the ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday is an expression of our faith and a sign that we are asking God for forgiveness.

It is a time of prayer, fasting and giving to others. When we pray, we come closer to God so that we are better able to realise our baptismal promise to live justly as Jesus teaches us. Fasting helps us remember the needs of the poor, who often have no choice but to go without basic needs such as food, water and shelter. Giving to the poor, or 'almsgiving', is a sign of our commitment to justice. It reminds us of our blessings and allows us to give thanks for all that God has given us. We think especially of all those around the world who have been affected by the COVID-19 virus. On this day, think about what you are going to pray for, what you are going to give or give up and how you can make a difference to others, or the environment, this Lent.

As we prepare for Easter, the most important time in the Church's calendar, let us remember Jesus' messages of love and mercy, and ask God to bless us so that we can 'Be More' in our own lives and in the lives of others.

*(Ref Caritas Australia)*



## Our Lenten Prayer 2021

God of all peoples and nations,  
As you accompany us on our  
Lenten journey,  
May our fasting strengthen our  
commitment to live in solidarity,  
Our almsgiving be an act of justice, and  
Our prayers anchor us in love and  
compassion.  
Through living simply and loving  
generously,  
May we care for our global family  
and our common home, as we  
"Aspire not to have more, but to be more".  
We ask this in Jesus' name.  
Amen.  
*Saint Oscar Romero*

The  
Season  
of  
Lent



*St Anthony's school acknowledges the traditional custodians who have cared for the lands and waters for thousands of years. We pay our respects to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, their Elders past and present, who maintain strong spiritual connections and traditions to this land. We commit ourselves to the on-going work of reconciliation and justice for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*





## Desert Temptations

The story of the temptation is a wonderful portrait of physical and spiritual realities in juxtaposition. On one side is the Spirit, driving Jesus inward to encounter Satan for a contest over authority. In the end, we find Jesus in the company of wild beasts and angels, in perfect harmony, as if heaven and earth were finally made whole. The lion lies down with the lamb, and an angel protects them both.

Jesus struggles over temptations that appeal as much to the body as to the spirit. Both his physical and spiritual natures must be surrendered to God's will, and it is that surrender which marks the beginning and end of his work on earth. "Into your hands I commit my spirit," Jesus sighs from the cross. His body is already committed.

The image of Jesus with beasts and angels reminds us of humanity's ideal: to be at peace with this world and the next. So long as we neglect our responsibilities to one or the other, we won't know lasting peace.

### *How are your temptations both physical and spiritual?*

Honour the natural world. Honour the spiritual world. Renew your commitment to the spiritual works of mercy.

This Lent, in seeking forgiveness, look to the sky and see the rainbow. God has promised is forgiveness. We need only to humbly ask for the unconditional love that God has promised. It is there for us now, and we will see it in another beautiful symbol, the cross, on Good Friday.

### **The Commissioning**

We listen to the unwelcome words. **John tells us truths we do not want to hear.**

We listen to jarring ideas. **John calls us to listen to truths we have ignored.**

We listen to the forgiving voice. **John calls us to reflect on our shortcomings and make a fresh start.**

We listen to the discerning voice. **John tells us to heed the guidance of Jesus, God's beloved. Amen.**

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## Swimming Trials

On Tuesday the 9th of February some students from year 4, 5 and 6 went to Swimmers and tried out for a swimming competition coming up. There are four strokes; Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly. We saw a lot of encouragement coming from the students.

There are 3 age groups; 10 year old, 11 year old and 12 year old. In every age group the students were separated into boys and girls. Each group had the chance to compete against each other.

Some students were able to make it into relay teams during the trials. We saw resilience from those who bounced back up and tried again.

Thank you to all of the students who participated in the swimming trials, and thanks to Mr Lafranchi, Mrs Martin, Miss Conroy and Mrs Clarke for helping and encouraging us.



*Credits to Addi, Gabby and Sanya R for writing this article.*



## Numeracy

Children need lots of experience to understand the magic of numbers. Here are a few suggestions to try at home:

### Car Number Plates

- When your car pulls up behind the car in front, you might have a competition to see how many different answers children can make using the numbers from the car number plate. For example, if the number plate is 152 the children might say:  
 $1 \times 5 + 2 = 7$ , or  $1 + 5 + 2 = 8$   
They may practise saying the number ... One hundred and fifty two  
They could make the largest number from the 3 digits on the number plate ... 521

### Guess my Number

- One player thinks of a number between 1 and 100, the other player can ask questions but only the words "Yes" or "No" will be given as answers. The aim of the game is to guess the answer with as few questions as possible.

### Number bust

- Write down a number between 10 - 100. Then write down as many sums as possible that have that number as the answer. Eg. 43 could have  $4 \times 10 + 3$ ,  $40 + 3$ ,  $2 \times 20 + 3$ ,  $50 - 7$ .

## Be Sun Smart



At St Anthony's we aim to protect children and staff from too much UV to help minimise future skin cancer risk.

All children are required to wear a **school hat during Term 1 and Term 4**, students without a hat will be required to stay under sheltered areas.

To further ensure sun protection, we strongly recommend the application of broad spectrum sunscreen (SPF30+) before school.

Children are also encouraged to keep hydrated during warmer weather.



## eSafety

As part of our commitment to Start the Chat about online safety, this week we will look at what is cyberbullying and what you can do as parents to support your child/ren.



### Cyberbullying

#### I think my child is being bullied

Your child may not tell you if they are experiencing bullying behaviour online because of a fear it might make things worse for them or they may lose access to their devices and the internet.

##### Signs to watch for:

- being upset after using the internet or their mobile phone
- changes in personality, becoming more withdrawn,
- anxious, sad or angry
- appearing more lonely or distressed
- unexpected changes in friendship groups
- a decline in their school work
- changes in their sleep patterns
- avoidance of school or clubs
- a decline in their physical health
- becoming secretive about their online activities and mobile phone use

#### What can I do?

Talk to your child about cyberbullying before it happens. Together you can work out strategies to address any potential issues and reassure them you will be there to support them.

##### If your child is experiencing cyberbullying:

- **Listen, think, stay calm** — talk to them about what happened, try to remain open and non-judgemental, ask them how they feel and ensure they feel heard.
- **Collect evidence** — it is a good idea to collect evidence, such as screenshots, of the bullying behaviour, in case you need to report it later on.
- **Block and manage contact with others** — advise your child not to respond to bullying messages and help your child block or unfriend the person sending the messages.
- **Report to site or service** — many social media services, games, apps and websites allow you to report abusive content and request that it is removed.
- **Report to eSafety** — if serious cyberbullying is affecting your child and you need help to get the material removed from a social media service or other platform you can make a cyberbullying report to us.
- **Get help and support** — check in with your child regularly about how they are feeling. If you notice any changes that concern you, get help through a counselling or online support service.

Further tips and advice for parents/carers on cyberbullying are available on [eSafety's website](#).





# **Eucharist Information**

**Information Night for**

**Year 3 Parents only**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**7.00pm**

**School Hall**

**Facilitated by Father Fabian**

You will be required to fill out the attendance sheet.  
It is necessary for all families to attend.

**Year 3 Commitment Mass**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 5.00pm**

**St Anthony's Church**

You will be required to fill out the attendance sheet. It is necessary for all families to attend.  
You will also be asked to select the Mass time that you would prefer for your child to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

**Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**St Anthony of Padua Church**

**at 9.30am or 11.30am**

**Year 4 Commitment Mass**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 at 5.00pm**

**St Anthony's Church**

You will be required to fill out the attendance sheet. It is necessary for all families to attend.  
You will also be asked to select the Mass time that you would prefer for your child to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

**Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**St Anthony of Padua Church**

**at 1:00pm or 3.00pm**



# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

**Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.**

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

### St Anthony's CSEF SCHOOL FEE DISCOUNT -

Please note that families who qualify for CSEF are also eligible for a discount on their School Fees **\$650 per family for a family with 1 child**  
**\$700 per family for a family with 2 or more children**

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.







**We are excited  
about coming back  
to your school!**

**Teeth On Wheels is returning to  
your school next term.**

If you completed a form this year, we will see your child. If you are unsure if you have handed a form in, please click on the link below and complete a new form!

<https://teethonwheels.com.au/consent-forms/consent-eform/>

For any questions or queries, please feel free to contact our team 03 9338 1191

**WE ARE A COVID-19 FRIENDLY PRACTICE**

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a positive dental experience

