Praying Lent This Year

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we’ve done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.

Lord,
your mercy is the key
to my freedom, my peace,
my pardon, my hope,
my future...

And like you, Lord,
I carry mercy in my pocket.
I hold a key for unlocking hearts chained by my grudges, hope held captive by my judgment and relationships shackled by my resentments, fettered by my stubbornness, cuffed by my pride, and bound by my bias...

You never withhold your mercy from me, Lord:
you turn your key at my first prayer of penance and contrition:
you unlock my heart
and set this captive free...

Help me then, Lord, to turn the key I carry, to share the mercy that is mine to give and so unlock what’s in my power to forgive and to let go...

Help me turn my key of mercy, Lord, to open wide a path to freedom, peace and pardon, to hope and to a future where your mercy is my key...

Amen.

A Year of Mercy, A Lent of Healing
Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

In this weeks edition of our newsletter I have included information regarding the new Child Safe Standards.

During January the State Government introduced a set of standards that aim to protect all children from abuse and neglect. In response, a Ministerial Order was passed. This legislation came out of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry-2012-2013 called the Betrayal of Trust Report.

A recommendations from the report was to adopt 7 Child Safe Standards. These standards relate to everything we do here at school to keep children safe. The seven standards also aim to:

- promote the cultural safety of Aboriginal children
- promote the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- promote the safety of children with a disability.

**The Child Safe Standards**

**Standard 1:** Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including thorough effective leadership arrangements

**Standard 2:** A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety

**Standard 3:** A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children

**Standard 4:** Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel

**Standard 5:** Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse

**Standard 6:** Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse

**Standard 7:** Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

We have many policies and procedures already in place to keep the children at our school safe but we need to review what we have and develop some more. At our next Board meeting on the 19th of April we will start the process of moving towards compliance. Over the next term I will keep you updated as to where we are with our journey. We have until August the 1st to be fully compliant.


**Andrew Chinn Concert ~ Thursday 14th April**

Andrew Chinn will be visiting our school on Thursday 14th April. Andrew is a renowned Musician and performer who compose up-beat liturgy music. If you have ever been to any school masses chances are you would have heard Andrew’s music. Andrew will be at school running workshops and concluding with a whole school concert at approximately 12:30pm(all welcome).
**Proposed outline of the day:**
8:15 Arrive and set up
9:10-10:00 ~ P-2 Workshop
10:05-10:55 ~ 3-6 Workshop
11:35-12:20 ~ Choir Workshop
12:25-1:30 ~ Whole school concert


**Easter Egg Raffle & Donations**
We are still accepting donations of Easter Eggs up until Tuesday morning (22 March 2016).

We need a volunteer to help sell raffle tickets out the front of Brereton’s Bakery from 12 noon to 12.45 pm on next Thursday, 24 March 2016.

We have no volunteers to sell raffle tickets at the Easter Bash except for Mr Summers who is able to sell tickets from 11.30 a.m. to 12 noon. We need volunteers to sell the tickets from 9 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Please contact the school if you are able to assist.

Tickets for the Easter Egg raffle can be purchased at school: $1.00 a ticket or 3 for $2.00.

This is a major fundraiser for our school and in the past has raised significant funds; any time that you may be able to give would be greatly appreciated.

**Assembly change of time:**
Assemblies will be at **2:15pm Monday afternoons**. Our next Assembly will be this Monday 21\textsuperscript{st} March 2016.

**School Board News ~ School AGM**
On Tuesday our school AGM and first official Board Meeting for the year was held. We formally nominated and endorsed four new members to our school board and elected / re-elected the positions of School Board Chair and Deputy Chair.

We welcome the following members to our School Board:
Andrew Carr;
Wayne Morgan;
Corina McLeod; and
Monique Bryant.

Rob Myers and Alison Dietrich have recently stepped down from their positions on the school board. We thank Rob and Alison for their commitment, leadership and continued support of our school community.

**St Francis School Board Members:**
*Chair:* Mr Jim Brereton (re-elect ~ thank you Jim)
*Deputy Chair:* Mrs Leanne Halden (new to the position ~ thank you Leanne)
*Canonical Administrator:* Fr Michael Grace
Board Representatives:
Mr Chris Summers ~ Principal
Mrs Veronica Williams ~ Deputy Principal / REC
Miss Newman ~ School Representative
Veronica Daniel ~ School Representative (admin)
Louise Robertson ~ School Representative (finance/admin)
Bronwyn Bramwell ~ Parent Representative
Dean Limbrick ~ Parent Representative
Monique Bryant ~ Parent Representative
Wayne Morgan ~ Parent Representative
Andrew Carr ~ Parent Representative
Corina McLeod ~ Parent Representative

On behalf of our school community I would to thank our school board for their continual support of our school and look forward to strategically working together to lead, improve and grow St Francis.

Our next Board Meeting: Tuesday 19th April.

School Office Notice ~ Money matters!!
If our office is unattended or busy please ensure if you are paying an account, school fees, buying a hat or bag or anything else that requires the handling of money that you put all monies in a clearly labelled envelope stating money purchase. A receipt must be given to ensure all money is accounted for. This process is especially needed to balance and keep track of all school expenses.

St Patrick’s Day ~ 17th March
We had a fantastic day yesterday celebrating all things green. Thank you to students, staff and parents who wore green and got into the spirit of St Patrick’s Day. A gold coin donation ensured we are continuing to be positive contributors to our commitment to Project Compassion for 2016.

St Patrick’s Day Prayer

God our Father,
you sent Saint Patrick to preach
your glory to the people of Ireland.
By the help of his prayers,
may all Christians proclaim your love
to all people.
Grant this through
our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.
Parish News:

Mass Times
New Mass Time: Sunday liturgy 9:00am (commencing this Sunday March 20th)

Easter Liturgies
Holy Thursday: 7pm
Good Friday: 3pm
Easter Saturday: 7pm
Easter Sunday: 9am

Harmony Day – St Francis PS Monday 21 March 2016

We will be celebrating Harmony Day on Monday, 21 March 2016. Commencing at 11.30 am we will have visitors who either originate from another country, or their parents or spouse have immigrated to Australia. Each guest will give a short talk on their country of origin and there will be time for the children to ask questions. Our students will be given the opportunity to sample some food from our guest speaker’s countries. Yum! Remember this will just be a taste so students still need to bring their lunch. We are looking forward to an interesting, informative and enjoyable session.

The Stations of the Cross
On Thursday morning, from 9.15 am we will gather on the oval with the staff and students of St. Mary of the Angels to take part in our shared Holy Week liturgy in preparation for Easter. This will involve prayer, drama and song being used to enact the Stations of the Cross, and all are welcome to come and be a part of this special event.

What are the Stations of the Cross?
Early Christians started to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to pray at the place where Jesus died and rose to life. The followed the same way that Jesus had walked as he went to the cross. When they returned home they wanted to remember this ‘way’ and continue to meditate on Jesus’ passion.

In the 14th century some Franciscan monks decided to recreate this ‘way of the passion’ inside churches, for all people who couldn’t go to Jerusalem. That is why you find the stations or ‘Way of the Cross’ in our churches today.

Confirmation & First Holy Communion Preparation, 2016
St. Mary’s Parish Sacramental Program for Confirmation and First Communion begins on Monday the 18th April at 7pm in St. Francis School library. This meeting will provide information about Confirmation and First Communion, as well as being the first session of six sessions for the Sacramental Program. Please contact Veronica Williams (0408 136 010) or St. Francis Primary School (5866 2271) if you wish to be a part of this. The celebration of Confirmation and First Communion will take place on Friday night on the 3rd of June.

School Photos
Our school photos will take place on Friday, 15 April 2016, which is the first Friday of Term 2. Students are required to wear their summer school uniform for the photos. Photo envelopes will be sent home shortly.

On photo day, every student attending the school will be photographed. Additional order envelopes will be available from the school office for separated parents and grandparents. Be
sure to write “Mum's Order” or “Dad's Order” on top of the envelope. Family envelopes are also available from the school office for siblings attending the school.

Some tips from the photographers to ensure you get the most out of your school photos
- Ensure your child is groomed and in the best, cleanest uniform, with the correct shoes.
- Ensure your child is on time to school on photo day.
- Encourage your child to smile - Happy children are beautiful children.

The school cannot help you with your enquiries. Please direct your questions and comments straight to MSP Photography at admin.mrr@msp.com.au or phone (03) 5881 3436.

School Uniform Changeover:
Students will be permitted to wear either their summer or winter school uniform for the first three weeks of Term 2, however, on school photo day (Friday, 15 April) students are required to wear their summer uniform. Students are not permitted to wear a hybrid of both uniforms. They must wear either the summer uniform or the winter uniform. In week four of Term 2 students will be required to wear their winter uniform.

Walker Learning Updates

What is a Reporter?
The Walker Learning Approach includes the opportunity for all children to be a reporter once a fortnight. The reporter “reports” on student learning, but the tasks are personalised and directed by the teacher. The reporter also shares the learning of others at reflection time. They are encouraged to document their observations in various ways. The reporter may include drawing, writing, making videos or using the laptop.

A great You Tube clip to help explain the Walker Learning Approach: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtNPtfT6Fco

St Francis Walkers Club
As part of our commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle and emotional wellbeing for our students, during lunchtimes on a Wednesday children are invited to participate in a Walking Club.

Our Walking Club is open to all students and will run between 1:30pm – 2:10pm at Lunchtime on Wednesday afternoons. A permission note for each family has been sent home. If any of your children wish to participate in the walking club they will need to have this permission form completed, signed and returned to school prior to next Wednesday.

ICAS ~ International Competitions and Assessments for School

Please find below information regarding the ICAS – International Competitions and Assessments for School.

Have a great week.

Chris Summers
Dear 2-6 families,

Learning is lifelong. However, now is the time your child most needs you to help them learn, grow and reach their full potential, and ICAS can help you do this.

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is an independent, quality skills-based assessment program which rewards and recognises achievement. ICAS gives you broad insights into your child’s performance across English, Mathematics, Science, Digital Technologies, Spelling and Writing. ICAS (sometimes referred to as the UNSW assessments) has been developed by Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) since 1981.

When your child takes part in ICAS assessments, we can track their learning as they progress from year to year. It also helps us to focus our teaching more purposefully to ensure all students achieve their best.

Each student receives:
• an engaging and challenging full-colour test booklet
• an individual diagnostic report highlighting strengths and weaknesses and year to year progression
• login details to access their online results which can be analysed and downloaded
• a High Distinction, Distinction, Credit, Merit or Participation Certificate acknowledging their level of achievement
• the chance to receive an individually-engraved UNSW medal for the highest scoring student in each year level for each subject.

Help your young ‘spelling bee’ succeed
The early years set the stage for lifelong learning. From 2016, Year 2 students will be able to sit an ICAS Introductory Spelling paper. This paper will help your little ‘spelling bee’ succeed by measuring their spelling ability and, importantly, identifying very early in their schooling where your child may need some extra help.

This paper is the only Spelling paper available in advance of Year 3 NAPLAN testing.

The decision to introduce a Year 2 Spelling paper is based on 30 years’ experience in school assessments, which have allowed EAA to identify some common difficulties that children face in Year 3. This paper will help every child get the best start.

You can learn more about common spelling problems faced by Year 3 students and the new ICAS Year 2 Spelling Paper at: www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/spelling-introductory-paper

To learn more about ICAS go to www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about Remember, EAA has some very helpful tools to help your child prepare. You can access practice assessments at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/preparation

To enrol your child in ICAS, please complete the registration form overleaf and return it, with your entry fees, to the school no later than (Friday 15th April). PLEASE NOTE NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Kind regards,

Chris Summers
2016 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Please return this form to your child’s school by Friday 15th April.
(Note: Entries for digital technologies must be returned by: March 24th.)

I _____________________________ give permission for my child___________________

Class:

to participate in the following 2016 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS).
Please select the subjects you would like your child to enter:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject/Paper</th>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Official Sitting Date</th>
<th>Entry Fee, incl. GST</th>
<th>Fee Enclosed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies*</td>
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<td>17 May 2016</td>
<td>Please insert the fee here (see schedule at <a href="http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/dates-and-fees">www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/dates-and-fees</a>)</td>
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Students must sit on the official sitting date for each subject to be eligible for UNSW medals. However, your school may choose to sit at another time to fit in with other school activities and routines.

- Previously known as Computer Skills.
- Entry for Digital Technologies close April 5th. Please return forms to school by March 24th.

Please find enclosed total entry fee.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Costs of Competition per subject.

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TOTAL
SAKG News
We had a very special guest for morning tea this week! We welcomed Mr Halden from the Bendigo Bank and enjoyed a lovely morning. We are so very grateful for the grant money and an extra little surprise gift this morning.

This week in the kitchen Grade 5/6B made pasta sauce for our Harmony Day which is being held on 21 March. The smell wafting from the kitchen made everyone hungry and eagerly looking forward to tasting the sauce on Monday! Our Foundation, Grade 1/2’s and 3/4’s were using knives for the first time. They made fruit wands with a honey and cinnamon dip as well as a vegetable platter with a creamy basil dip. The best part was that everyone got to sit down and have a try of what they had made. The dips were fabulous and so quick and easy to make. Yum!

SOCIAL SKILLS BLITZ

This week, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is Tolerance

Tolerance is a skill, which can reduce conflict. It is an ongoing process. Tolerance encourages us to respect opinions and practices, which differ from our own, and to be free of bigotry. Tolerance encourages understanding and appreciation of individual differences, minimizes generalisations and helps combat prejudice and discrimination.
St Mary of the Angels
Secondary College, Nathalia
2016 Information Evenings

St Mary of the Angels – Nathalia - Monday 2nd May 2016 (7.30pm)
Sacred Heart Primary School – Tocumwal - Wednesday 4th May 2016 (7.30pm)
St. Joseph’s Primary School – Cobram - Monday 9th May 2016 (7.30pm)
St Joseph’s Primary School – Numurkah - Wednesday 11th May 2016 (7.30pm)

Open Day - Wednesday May 18th 2016
- College Presentation, including tour at 9.30 & 11.30am
- Student Led Guided Tours 10am – 2.30pm

St Mary of the Angels offers:
- Yr 7 & Yr 10 Scholarship Program
- Performing Arts Opportunities
- Camps Program Yr 7 – 11
- Aboriginal Immersion Opportunities (Yr9)
- Comprehensive VCE offerings and academic curriculum
- Rigorous VCAL & VET Programs
- Supportive environment with clear behavioural expectations for students

All interested parents and students are invited to attend.

Enquires are to be directed to: The Principal’s Assistant, Chapel Street, Nathalia 3638.
Ph: (03) 5866 2222 Email: principal@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au
Visit us online at www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au

St Mary of the Angels – ‘Explore the Opportunities’
St Mary of the Angels, Secondary College, Nathalia
Transition Timetable 2016

Term 2

Year 7 2017 Information Nights – See Brochure for location details. Enrolment forms will also be available and will be delivered to all schools

Year 7 2017 Scholarship Applications Opening Date – Monday 2nd May 2016

OPEN DAY - Wednesday 18th May 2016 9.30am – 2.30pm

Grade 6 College Production Performance - Monday 23rd May 2016 11am Start

Year 7 2016 Scholarship Applications Closing Date – Friday 27th May 2016

Year 7 2016 Scholarship Exam – Friday 10th June 2016

Year 6 Transition Day - Tuesday 21st June 2016

Term 3

Year 7 201 Enrolments Closing Date – Friday 29th July 2016

Year 5 Transition Day – Tuesday 13th September 2016

Term 4

Year 7 2017 Information Night – Tuesday 8th November 7.30pm

Year 4 Transition Day Students and Parents (half day program) - Monday 7th December 2015

Year 6 Orientation Day – Tuesday 8th December 2015, All Day
# Community News

**March/April 2016 Vacation Care Program – Week 1**

Operating hours: Full day 8.30am – 5:30pm Cost from $3.30-$5.47
Half day 8.30am-1pm / 1pm-5.30pm Cost From $4.50-$26.20

For Bookings Phone: 5866 2088  
Centrelink benefits apply  
PLEASE BRING ALONG: Lunch box with Morning tea, Afternoon tea, Lunch, a water bottle and Sunhat

WE ALSO PROVIDE LONG DAY CARE FOR SCHOOL PUPIL FREE DAYS

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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>March 28th</td>
<td>March 29th</td>
<td>March 30th</td>
<td>March 31st</td>
<td>April 1st</td>
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<td><strong>Easter Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Library</strong></td>
<td><strong>Craft Morning</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gardening</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nathalia Hospital Nursing Home</strong></td>
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Please note: this program is a guide and we have other resources including ipads, lego, craft supplies, board games and outdoor equipment to engage the children. We want all children to feel comfortable and have fun so we also encourage the children to bring along their own scooters, ipads, ipods and anything else they might like to share with their peers.

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**North Eastern Interschool Equestrian Team Challenge**

Saturday April 16th & Sunday April 17th 2016  
Tatura Equestrian Centre  
Haste Street, Tatura Vic

Lots of great prizes including  
“Taylor Farley Memorial” Perpetual Trophy presents to High Point Individual.  
Garland & Trophy for best performed Individual of each year level  
Trophy & Rosettes for Champions  
Ribbons F” to 6th in all classes  
OFF THE TRACK HIGH POINT AWARD for the best performed Thoroughbreds

CATERING AVAILABLE

Saturday Night Dinner and Entertainment Indoor Arena

SPECIAL EVENT – Free Workout to Music – Team Event

**GAMES** – consists of 4 games #1 class Old English hunt, bend, flag, stepping stones  
HANDY MOUNT  
SMARTEST ON PARADE  
HANDLER CLASS

**RIDER CLASS**  
BEST EDUCATED MOUNT  
PLEASURE MOUNT  
DRESSAGE & SHOW JUMPING – Open to students with a current club membership card

Except classes 15 & 24 as these open to ungraded riders 8 years and under

Entries Close:

**Friday 1st April 2016**

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Proudly sponsored by:

- [Horseland](#)  
- [Clarkeville Park Stud](#)  
- [BARWO VIEW](#)
  
- [Lucks East Feed](#)  
- [Boys Pocket](#)
Nathalia Easter Tennis Tournament
Friday 25th March - Monday 28th March, 2016
Nathalia Lawn Tennis Club
Park Street, Nathalia

- Men's & Women's Singles Knockout Championships (Friday & Saturday)
- Men's & Women's Doubles Knockout Championships (Friday & Saturday)
- Round Robin: 10/U, 12/U, 14/U, 16/U Singles (Friday)
- Round Robin: 12/U, 14/U, 16/U Doubles (Saturday)
- Round Robin: A, B, C, Men's Veteran (40 and over) Singles (Saturday)
- Round Robin: A, B, C, Social C Doubles (Monday)

Conditions of Entry
1. The Committee shall have the entire control of the Tournament and players must abide by its decisions.
2. Play will commence punctually as programmed each day and will continue until dark. Players must be ready to play as called.
3. Players will be limited to two minutes hit up before a match.
4. Regulation tennis attire must be worn. Boots or shoes with spike soles, heels or spikes will not be allowed.
5. The Committee reserves the right to, require a player to withdraw from a particular event, vary the number of sets or games in any match, or combine or cancel events where insufficient entries are received, should the need arise. The Nathalia Lawn Tennis Club synthetic grass courts will be used, if needed, to ensure a satisfactory conclusion to the program.
6. No Refunds will be issued.
7. Players can enter ONLY ONE Round Robin Singles event plus an Open Event except under age singles entrants who, due to time constraints, CANNOT ENTER THE OPEN SINGLES EVENT.
8. OPEN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS: These Events will be played on Friday & Saturday in addition to Singles Events. The Events are open to all players except those entered in under age singles. Players entering in OPEN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS (Friday & Saturday) are also eligible to play Round-Robin Doubles on MONDAY.
9. ROUND ROBIN EVENTS: Trophies will be awarded to all court winners. In the event of a pair withdrawing prior to the final set, all sets previously played by that pair are forfeited. In the event of two pairs on a court scoring exactly the same number of games both for and against, the winners will be the pair winning the most sets. If still no decision, the pair winning the set between the two pairs will be the winners.
10. BOYS & GIRLS EVENTS: Ages are taken as at the day of the commencement of the event.
11. Players who won a Grade Event in the previous year are asked to enter a higher grade or may remain in the same grade at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
12. Payment must be included with entry by cheque or direct deposit ([Account Name: Nathalia Lawn Tennis Club Inc.; Account Number: 110021664; BSB: 633-000] (Bendigo Bank)). Therefore, phone entries cannot be accepted.