



**St. Margaret's**  
Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

*Term Three, Week 5*  
*August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

## ***From Brian's Desk***

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

The following quote "Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations!" certainly holds some significance for us in 2020. Certainly the pandemic road is a rocky challenge: learning continuity with some students at school and many at home, employment complexity, parent anxiety, legislative and policy interpretation, constant decision making and ultimately the responsibility for the safety of all!

So what could be seen as the 'beautiful destination?' For me it would be the students - their incredible resilience, positive outlook and their sense of trying to do their best. I have found this to be our school's guiding light. It helps us stay focused on our mission and sharpens our moral and ethical sensibilities and drives our purpose. Also, our teachers' preparedness to go the extra mile in delivering a remote program to cater for a diverse range of learners whilst also considering the needs and concerns of our parents.

I believe a challenge for us all in this second phase of Covid-19 is to "Be Kind To Yourself." This is certainly an extremely challenging time for school communities and our country. So as you combine your home duties, work commitments and remote learning with your children, be mindful that self-compassion plays an important role. Be okay with who you are, even when you make mistakes or things don't work out perfectly. Being self-compassionate can help reduce stress, anxiety, depression, improve your sense of self and your ability to think positively about a range of situations.

Once again Religious Education and Prayer will be an important component of our remote learning program. Prayer is encouraged each day and it was heartening to see how families set up special prayer and devotion spaces in their homes during the first phase of remote learning.

Mr Kerlin, our Religious Education Leader, has extended an invitation to participate in regular prayer by providing a prayer resource for all school families to access.

Due to the current restrictions which have denied us of attending Eucharistic celebrations, it is important that we continue to connect with our faith and spirituality.

As we approach the Feast of the Assumption, it is timely to reflect on Mary's life, her faith in God and how that resonates with our lives today. Mary was contemplative in nature, humble, devoted and strong. She endured many challenges and deep sorrows in her life, and yet she was steadfast and loyal in her relationships and ever faithful to God. She was patient.

This Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup>, we honour Mary, Mother of God. She is known as the first disciple, the mother of the Church and she is given to us all as the model of discipleship. This Marian feast celebrates the completely faithful relationship between Mary and God that extends beyond life into death.

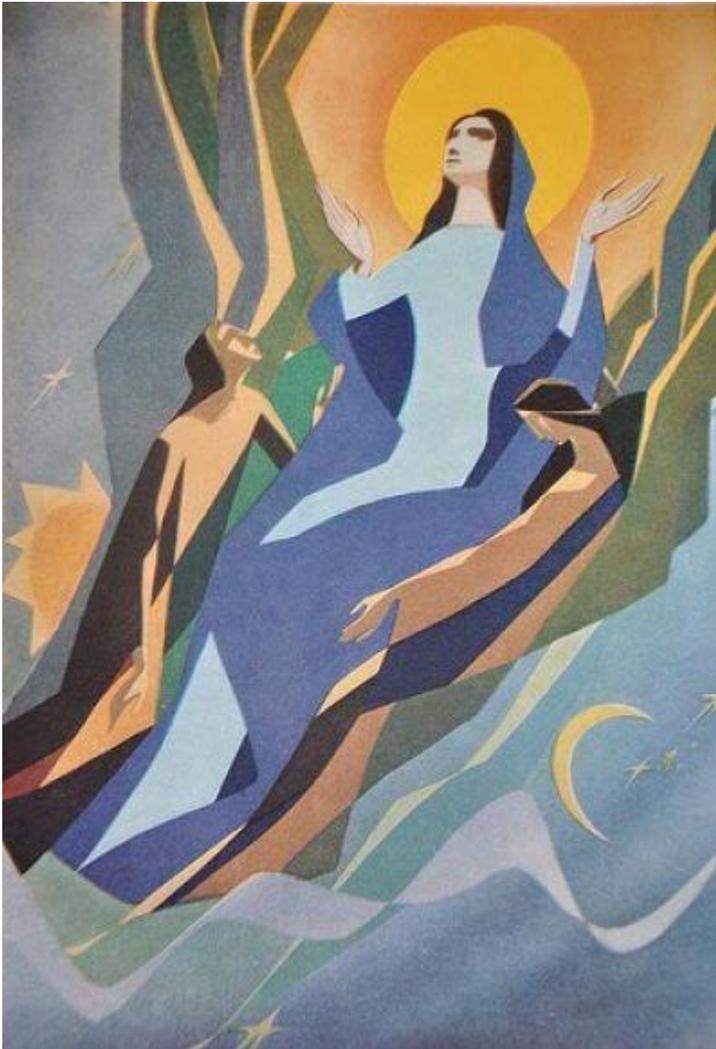
On this feast day we celebrate all that is life-giving and hopeful in our world, communities and relationships; we look to Mary for strength and inspiration, so we too can be beacons of hope and faith in the world.

## ***Leadership and Management News***



## School Community News

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to cause pain and suffering to many let us use Mary as an inspiration. I would like to share the following prayer that could be prayed by your family.



*Mary, help of Christians, we fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.*

*Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of God's holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.*

*For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them trust.*

*In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.*

*We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the entrance of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.*

*Amen*

### Family Loss

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs Miller and Mrs Cann upon the death of their sister and auntie Pat last night.



### Baby News

Congratulations to Sinead and Michael Stevenson, on the birth of Oliver. We wish them a happy family time together as they welcome their newest addition.

Congratulations also to Miss Ashley and Josh who are expecting their first child in November. We wish them well at this time.

I hope you enjoy your upcoming weekend  
Brian



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