

# St Mary's Newsletter

Issue 39 –Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019

15-33 Bridlington Ave, Echuca, VIC 3564 | Principal: Brendan Atley  
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**At St Mary's all children have the right to feel safe and be safe all of the time.**

Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians,

It is certainly at the pointy end of the year where I ask everyone to be kind and patient. Look out for each other and see those in need.

Could I ask students not to attach candy canes to the Christmas cards. I witness children eating them before school and I'm sure some children manage to eat quite a few! Sugar levels through the roof at this time of year are not that helpful. We also have a number of children that are not to eat such things.

Brendan Atley  
Principal

## Catholic Identity

Advent began last Sunday. Advent is a season to look at my 'foundations'. Are my foundations strong or are they crumbling a little due to work or other stresses? What in my life is in need of some attention or repair?

As Joyce Rupp states in one of her books: 'When I am unstressed and unrushed, being a nice, caring person poses little trouble for me. The challenge to my kindness and caring occurs when my life swells to stressful proportions and I feel like screaming at everybody. That's when the mettle of my Christianity is really tested. So when the Advent days get boggled with activity and pressure, I try to approach it as a good opportunity to turn frustration and impatience into golden bricks of kindness, a time to strengthen my foundation of union with the One who is the source of all love'.

**God of patience, hold my hand and guide me toward kindness as I move among the fullness of the day. Amen.**

## **St Vinnies Appeal for Drought & Fire Affected Communities**

This Friday, 6th December, we will be a **Casual Clothes** day to help to raise money for the **St Vinnies Appeal** for drought and fire affected communities.

A **gold coin donation** would be very much appreciated.

Below is a direct link to this special appeal if you would like to donate further money or goods. <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/vinnies-drought-appeal-nsw>

## **Caritas Australia Global Gifts**

**Caritas Australia Global Gifts** This Christmas you can 'be an angel' by giving a Caritas Global Gift. For friends and family, who like you, know they don't need more 'things', your gift can help provide clean water, food or sustainable livelihoods - things we so often take for granted here in Australia. In return for your donation toward your chosen gift, you receive a beautiful card to give to your loved one showing you have made a contribution on their behalf.

Global Gifts 2019 focusses on mothers like Sileap in Cambodia. She and her husband, Simoen, worked hard growing rice and raising chickens to provide for their children and build a better future but floods, droughts and animal diseases laid waste their efforts and they struggled to feed their children. This Christmas, you can be an angel to help lift families like Sileap's out of poverty.

**The light you bring...** Sileap joined the Sustainable Change with Dignity Program. With training in sustainable farming techniques and how to raise and protect chickens from diseases, Sileap now runs a successful hatchery and earns enough to feed and support her children. Her community also had disaster risk reduction training which is helping them cope with floods and droughts. Purchase gifts online at [www.caritas.org.au/globalgifts](http://www.caritas.org.au/globalgifts) or phone 1800 024 413



## SECOND LAST!! PLAYGROUP MONDAY MORNING

All Welcome. 8.50 -10.00am. Come and enjoy a Cuppa while the children play and socialise. Call Mel 0417 822 589 if you would like more details.



# MASS TIMES



## Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve: Mass 7pm  
at Aquatic Reserve, Heygarth Street Echuca

In Church:  
Christmas Eve: Carols 9.30pm  
Mass 10pm

Christmas Day: Mass 10am

Boxing Day No Mass

## 2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR

### TERM 4

2 <sup>nd</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Swimming program Prep - 2
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Casual Clothes Day</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2020 Prep Information night 7pm
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Orientation Day</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Year 3 Mass 9.00am
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Year 4 & 5 Day at St Joseph's College
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Terrific Kid Assembly 12pm
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Prep –Year 2 Christmas Liturgy 9am
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Grade 6 graduation
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	End of year Mass 12.00pm
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last day of School (Wednesday)

### 2020

30 Jan 2020	First day of Term 1
31 Jan 2020	Foundations first day 8.45am-12pm



### School fees are now due.

Contact will be made with families who still have an outstanding balance. Thank you to those who have already finalised their accounts. We appreciate this support.



# Moama Lions Club presents

## Carols by Candlelight

Great Local Entertainment  
Father Christmas on the Fire Truck  
Candles & Programs available  
Lions BBQ 5.30pm

# Sunday 15 December 6.30pm

## Kerrabee Soundshell Moama





Would you like to know more about our Catholic faith community and spirituality?

We will be commencing our RCIA process for 2020 during the first week of February 2020.

This will be a 10-week process which includes weekly meetings until Easter time. It promises to be a journey that embraces an open and all-inclusive perspective of the Catholic faith and anyone and everyone is very welcome to attend.

If you would like to know more about St Mary's Parish RCIA journey, please contact

Malia Black

0438871100

[malia.t.black@gmail.com](mailto:malia.t.black@gmail.com)

Or the parish office 5482 1127

## "Hangabout"



A session of fun and laughter for little kids with a bit of singing and a story.

We invite carers to bring their Little People to a POP UP

## "Hangabout"

Thursday mornings 11am  
St Mary's Parish Centre  
224 Anstruther St Echuca  
Morning Tea provided  
Gold Coin donation appreciated



## Kinder Sports At Echuca Stadium

Starts 20 Jan. Will run during the school term  
**Mondays & Fridays**  
9 - 10:30am



Fun sports, play & games  
for 2 to 5 year olds

\$4.50 per child | No bookings needed

Mum & Dad can join in the fun too

Parental supervision required



For more information call Sharon on 5481 2247 or email [s.briscoe@campaspeaquatics.com.au](mailto:s.briscoe@campaspeaquatics.com.au)



## St Vincent de Paul



Are you struggling  
to buy gifts for  
your children |  
this Christmas?

Come and choose

**Christmas Toys**  
**Thursday 12th December**  
**10am-3pm**

**St Mary's Parish Centre**  
**Anstruther Street, Echuca**



**Thanks to Ulysses Club**



## Echuca Moama Community Projects Christmas Toy Appeal



Collecting November until December 20, 2019

Supporting Struggling Families. Please consider donating a TOY for our 6th Annual Toy Drive. Drop off at the following: Echuca Pool; EM Family Medical Practice both Echuca and Moama; Echuca Library; Target Echuca

DISTRUBITING TO FAMILIES IN NEED ON MON DEC 9, FRI DEC 13,  
MON DEC 16, FRI DEC 20. UNITING CHURCH HALL 10 TO 12 noon.







**SCHOOL'S OUT!** TAKING BOOKINGS NOW FOR ST. MARYS SCHOOL.ECHUCA! TERM ONE 2020! THE ST. MARYS SERVICE WILL BE RUNNING FROM TWIN RIVERS SCHOOL

\* HEAD TO [WWW.SCHOOLSOUT.NET.AU](http://WWW.SCHOOLSOUT.NET.AU)  
 \* CLICK ON THE IPORAL LINK ON THE HOMEPAGE  
 \* REGISTER AS A NEW USER  
 \* CLICK ON "FIND A PLACE" TO SECURE A SPOT IN YOUR SELECTED SERVICE!

**Quality outside of school hours care**  
 PH: 0436 819 832



## Welcome to Echuca and Moama YMCA AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM

### BENEFITS TO YOUR CHILD

Our after school program is designed to complement your child's school learning through activities and socialising. Your child and family will benefit from our programs because we focus on:

- ✓ Building their emotional intelligence.
- ✓ Improving cognitive development through activities.
- ✓ Offering families flexibility and support.

### PROGRAM DETAILS

Your child will enjoy a nutritious menu (afternoon snack) and a range of activities planned by our experienced educators to keep even the most active of minds entertained! We offer a variety of activities, including:

- ✓ Sports, ball games and team games
- ✓ Arts and crafts
- ✓ Cooking
- ✓ Creative and expressive arts such as drama, singing and dancing
- ✓ Board games and puzzles

### THE TEAM

Our passionate and experienced educators are there to support children and their families and are accredited with Safeguarding Children Training and Working with Children's Checks.

### HOURS

To accommodate our families, we provide **after school care** from **3:00pm to 6:00pm** at Echuca Primary School. We also run a School Holiday Program at Moama Public School.

### OTHER ECHUCA SCHOOLS PICKUP

Echuca after school care collects children every day from:

- ✓ **St Mary's Primary School**

An educator travels with the children on the bus from St Marys to the service at Echuca Primary School

If your children attend a different school in the Echuca/Moama area please contact the service to discuss your requirements

### FEES/ CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

Below is the full paying fee per day. These do not include access to Child Care Subsidy (CCS) amounts you may be entitled to.

SESSION TYPE	HOURS	SESSION FEE	SESSION FEE (with transport)
After School Care (ASC)	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Permanent \$27.00 Casual \$32.00	Permanent \$31.00 Casual \$36.00
School Holiday program	8:00am - 6:00pm	\$82.00	

For further information and details on how to register for your Child Care Subsidy (CCS) entitlements please contact the Family Assistance Office (FAO) on 13 61 50.

Please note that if you are only attending School Holiday Program you will be required to reconfirm CCS before each program commences.

