

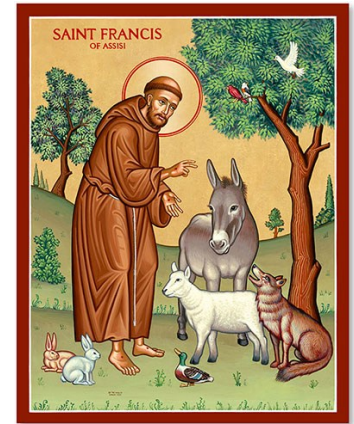


Wednesday May 13th 2026

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

Amen.



Dear Families,

It is an early newsletter this week due to our School Closure Days tomorrow and Friday. Playgroup will still take place in the Presentation Centre beginning 9:30am and is open to all St. Michael's families. For more information, contact Jazz via her mobile: 0428 385 201.

It was wonderful to see so many mums and special people at our Mother's Day breakfast and liturgy last Friday. A big thank you to Jackie, Joe and staff who lent their assistance in setting up the breakfast. As always, we enjoyed a moving liturgy in the Presentation Centre and we thank Sarah and the students for their efforts in making this a memorable occasion.



A big congratulations to Mila O'Halloran who has made it through to the next stage (Regionals) following her outstanding running at the Goldfields Cross Country event held at Mt. Helen this week. Well done also to Tristan, Jack O'Halloran, Frankie, Hideki, Matthew, Xavier Hughes, Xavier Paparousis, Archie Pearce and Vaughn who competed to the best of their ability and represented our school so well.



Next Friday (May 22) we will have a working bee at school from 3:30pm-5:00pm. If you are available at this time, please wear some comfortable clothing and bring along some equipment (if possible) such as: gloves, shovels, and wheelbarrows. All participants will be rewarded with something to eat and drink at the conclusion of our work! Students are welcome to help out if their parents and carers are also present. Thanks in anticipation of your support.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Leith family following the passing of Cam's Father Graeme last week.



Responsible Pet Ownership

Last week we participated in a Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion which taught us how we need to act safely around dogs and other pets. Well done to all students on respectfully listening and engaging with these sessions.

Soccer and Golf Clinics

Despite some challenging weather conditions, all students had the opportunity to participate in soccer clinics led by Lee Stevens during PE lessons. Students in Years 3 - 6 also worked with Tony from Golf Victoria. Both Lee and Tony will be back next Thursday. Fingers crossed for some brighter weather!



Slippers and a change of clothes

With the colder months now upon us and with the view of keeping our school buildings in great condition, we are inviting all students to bring a pair of slippers to school. When entering the school building after playing outside, students would take off their school shoes and change into their slippers.

In addition, students who use the oval to play football or soccer at recess and lunch need to bring an old jumper and pair of pants they can put on over the top of their school uniform which they can easily take off when coming back into classrooms.

Parent helpers

It has been great to see an increase in the number of parent/carer volunteers we have assisting at school in a variety of ways. A reminder that all parents volunteering on school grounds need to sign in at the front office beforehand, and then sign out upon leaving. Thank you in anticipation of your understanding in relation to this extremely important requirement.

Goldfields Athletics

Our Grade 3–6 students will be participating in the Inter-School Goldfields Athletics on **Thursday May 28** at **Llanberris Reserve, Ballarat**.

To help the day run smoothly, please:

- Accept the event permissions and conditions on PAM
- Ensure your child arrives at school by **8:00am** on the day so we can depart on time.

A program of events will be emailed to you so that you can check the approximate times your child may be competing in track and field events.

We are also seeking parent volunteers to assist with running the **Long Jump** event at various times throughout the day. If you are available to help for any period of time, your support would be greatly appreciated. Please email Manny if you can help out: ekerr@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au

Key Dates for Term 2

Week 4

Monday May 11: Students to be dressed in full winter uniform

Tuesday May 12: Year 6 Little Feet Big Footprints excursion to St. Patrick's Primary School, Gordon

Thursday May 14: School Closure Day (staff retreat)

Friday May 15: School Closure Day (staff retreat)

Sunday May 17: Confirmation Dismissal 3: St. Peter's Church beginning 10:30am

Week 5

Thursday May 21: Golf clinics for students in Years 4-6

Friday May 22: Working Bee (3:30pm-5:00pm)

Sunday May 24: Sacrament of Confirmation: St. Peter's Church beginning 10:30am

Week 6

Wednesday May 27: National Simultaneous Storytime

Thursday May 28: Athletics at Llanberris for students in Years 3-6

Friday May 29: Discovery 2 Assembly (9:05am)

Week 7

Monday June 1: PSGs Day 1

Tuesday June 2: PSGs Day 2

Wednesday June 3: Daylesford Secondary Transition Day for Years 5 & 6 students

Week 8

Monday June 8: King's Birthday Public Holiday

Friday June 12: Discovery 1 Assembly (9:05am)

Week 9

Wednesday June 17: Mini Vinnies Presentation for students in Years 3-6 (9am-10am)

Friday June 19: St. Michael's has got Talent (3:30pm-5:30pm in the Presentation Centre)

Week 10

Friday June 26: Innovation 2 Assembly (9:05am), reports home and final day of term (2:15pm finish)

School Closure Days

A reminder of our school closure days for the year:

Thursday & Friday May 14th-15th

Friday September 18th

Monday November 2nd

Please note that **Thursday December 17** will be the final day of the year for students.

LEARNING & TEACHING

Little Feet Big Footprints - Young leader's initiative

Along with students from OLHC Wendouree, St. Augustine's Creswick and St. Brigid's Ballan, our Year 6 students enjoyed a terrific day at St. Patrick's Primary School in Gordon this week. Student leaders from Damascus College, Loreto College and St. Patrick's College spoke about their experiences transitioning into High School from Primary School. Sarah Paige from DOBCEL then led a Laudato Si session, inspiring students to appreciate nature and hear the cry of the earth. Valuable time was also spent by students mixing with others who will be attending the same secondary school in 2027.



Reports

This term teachers will be planning and assessing in preparation for report writing. As per School Policy, your child will receive a report twice a year. One for Semester One and one for Semester Two. Closer to the end of the term we will provide information on reading and understanding your child's report. This is always a celebration of your child's learning and allows the children to set goals for the second half of the school year.

WELLBEING

Student dismissal at 3:15pm

We are conscious that students are very keen to be reunited with loved ones at the end of each school day. However, it is important that students do not run from the side gate towards the road. We ask that parents and carers make themselves visible to their children by waiting in the courtyard area at the front of the school. Students will be reminded about the importance of the teacher on duty acknowledging their parent or carer is waiting for them at which point they can exit safely and slowly via the side gate. Thank you in anticipation of your support in ensuring students are safely collected from school.

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

Cases of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) have recently been identified within our school community.

HFMD is a common viral illness that mainly affects young children. Symptoms may include:

- Fever
- Sore throat
- Tiredness
- Small blisters or sores on the hands, feet, and inside the mouth
- Loss of appetite

The illness is usually mild and most children recover fully within 7–10 days. However, HFMD is highly contagious and can spread quickly through close contact, coughing, sneezing, or contact with contaminated surfaces.

To help reduce the spread of infection, we are:

- Increasing cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms and shared areas
- Encouraging regular hand washing and good hygiene practices
- Reminding students to cover coughs and sneezes appropriately

We ask families to please monitor their children for symptoms and keep them at home if they are unwell. Children should only return to school once they are feeling well and any open blisters have dried.

You can help prevent the spread of HFMD by encouraging:

- Frequent hand washing with soap and water
- Avoiding sharing drink bottles, utensils, or towels
- Covering mouths and noses when coughing or sneezing

If your child develops symptoms or is diagnosed with HFMD, please notify the school office as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us maintain a healthy and safe school environment.

Toys/collector cards at school

Our goal is to provide a learning environment where every child can stay focused, feel safe, and enjoy their school day. To support this, we ask that all personal toys and trading cards are given to each child's respective classroom teacher for safe keeping. If children are bringing a ball to school, we ask that their name is on it.

Students are permitted to bring trading cards to school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday where they will have an opportunity to show their cards/trade with others in the Library from 1:55pm-2:15pm. **Cards are to remain in school bags at all other times.**

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us maintain a positive and productive school atmosphere!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SAC

The School Advisory Council plays an important role in the life of the school. For more information about our SAC members and their experiences being a part of the SAC, please view our noticeboard in the school foyer.

Playgroup

Our Playgroup sessions will continue this term on the following dates:

Thursday May 14, May 21, May 28, June 4, June 11 and June 18

Sessions will be held in the Presentation Centre from 9:30am-11:30am and will be run by Central Highlands Rural Health Playgroup.

CDF: Supporting Our Catholic Community

Your savings can do more than grow; they can strengthen Catholic schools, wellbeing programs, and communities right here in the Diocese of Ballarat.

For more than 50 years, CDF has helped make this possible, from a brand-new learning centre at **Emmanuel College** to student wellbeing initiatives like the **Paw Pals Therapy Program**. Through the collective support of our community, funds are directed back into parishes, schools, and healthcare services across the Ballarat region.

Earn a competitive return rate of interest, while supporting the life of the Church close to home.

By choosing to save with CDF, you can help care for the life of our Church today, while supporting future generations.

Visit: catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund or call **1800 134 135** to find out more.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Sacramental program

We wish Hope Hardwick and Vaughn Buby all the very best as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Hope and Vaughn will be participating in one final dismissal before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday May 24.

Dismissal 3: Sunday May 17 @ 10:30am

Sacrament of Confirmation: Sunday May 24 @ 10:30am

Catholic Education Week (May 25–29)

The theme for this year is “Peace be with you all”. The week focuses on bringing hope, compassion, and understanding to communities, reflecting a message of peace and divine love.

As Catholic Education Week approaches, we will be inviting families to join us *Catholic Identity Learning Walks which will be held throughout the week.*

The idea of these walks is to help families see how our Catholic identity is lived and breathed in our school — through prayer, relationships, curriculum, symbols, and everyday practice.

We think these walks will provide parents and carers with an experience as to what makes Catholic education so distinctive.

More information will be shared with families over the coming weeks.

Target 1000 Project - Bread Tags

Students at St. Mary’s Primary School, Clarke’s Hill are collecting bread tags so that they can save them from going to landfill. They hope to collect 1000 bread tags! Part of this project is to help our environment, and part is to help understand the Place Value number system.

Please assist by sending bread tags into St Michael’s Daylesford. We will be sending them over to St Mary’s.

Bread tags are the small plastic clips used to seal bread bags. Because of their size and material (polystyrene), they can’t be recycled through standard curb side systems and often end up in landfills.

Plastic bread tags are collected through the **Banish Recycling and Diversion (BRAD) Program**, one of Australia’s largest community recycling initiatives. Thousands of Australians send us their hard-to-recycle plastics each month.

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Uniform

There is now an expectation that the correct winter uniform is worn until the end of Term 3.

Sport/PE days: students may wear either tracksuit pants or shorts, and runners.

All other days: students must be in full correct winter uniform - NO shorts, and NO runners.

A note must be provided to your child's teacher in the instance where this cannot be adhered to. Thank you for your support with this.

School fees

Those families who have a health care card are eligible for family fee assistance and the camp/school excursion fund. If you have a health care card please supply the office with a copy for our records so that we can adjust statements as required.

Our fee payment preferred method is direct debit. Forms are available from the office to set up a payment plan, with a frequency and amount of your choosing. We also have an EFTPOS machine at school where they can be paid by card.

2027 enrolments

If you have a child or know someone that is interested in enrolling at St Michael's for 2027, could you please contact Leah (admin@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au or ph 5348 1261) and she will organise an enrolment for you to complete. We will be active in the kindergarten communities this year and will be keen to say hi to these children when we drop in.

We look forward to seeing everyone next Monday!

Kind regards,

Tim

CDF: Supporting Our Catholic Community

Your savings can do more than grow; they can strengthen Catholic schools, wellbeing programs, and communities right here in the Diocese of Ballarat.

For more than 50 years, CDF has helped make this possible, from a brand-new learning centre at **Emmanuel College** to student wellbeing initiatives like the **Paw Pals Therapy Program**. Through the collective support of our community, funds are directed back into parishes, schools, and healthcare services across the Ballarat region.

Earn a competitive return rate of interest, while supporting the life of the Church close to home.

By choosing to save with CDF, you can help care for the life of our Church today, while supporting future generations.

Visit catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund or call **1800 134 135** to find out more.

PARENTING BOYS IN A DIGITAL AGE

May 20th 2026 @ 7pm

Radius Art, [76 Main Rd Hepburn Springs](#)

Celebrating the launch of his new book "Holding Space for Your Son", Joel Hines draws on 25+ years working with boys in schools, rites of passage programs, and mental health services.

In this interactive keynote, Joel delivers actionable tools that help parents navigate the specific challenges of raising boys immersed in digital culture, from gaming addiction and online toxicity to helping sons develop genuine emotional resilience and respectful relationships.

Joel firmly believes that it all begins with authentic connection and role modelling what attitudes and behaviours we want to see from our boys.

Key Takeaways

- Understand how the landscape has changed for teenage boys
- Recognise a parent's influence as a role model
- Identify the mental health risks and warning signs
- Learn practical tools and strategies to engage boys in conversations
- Create a personal action plan for showing up more intentionally as a role model

Copies of ***Holding Space for Your Son*** will be available for purchase on the night.

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/parenting-boys-in-a-digital-age-may-2026>

Get your diary,
save the date

FOR THE
2026

ST MICHAEL'S FETE!



Sunday November 8

The biannual Fete and major school fundraiser will be held on Sunday the 8th of November 2026.

The fete is a fabulous way for us to work together as a community and showcase our school.



Many hands make light work,
we kindly ask all families
to get involved



If you would like to be a part of the
Fete Working Group
we would love to have you!



fete@smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au

WHAT DOES THE FETE INVOLVE?



As we prepare for the Fete here are some ideas of what has been included in the Fete previously.

Trash & Treasure
Spinning Wheel
Rides
Plant Stall
Silent Auction
Live Entertainment
Face Painting
Carnival Food
BBQ
Craft Activities
Novelty Toys
Live Auction
Dunk Tank
Second Hand Clothing Stall
Second Hand Book Stall
Cake Stall

Do you have any additional ideas or skills that can help?

We are looking for people from our amazing community to assist in making the day a great success.

Are you interested in joining the Fete Working Group?

Do you have a flare for design?

Can you coordinate a stall or activity?

Are you happy to run odd jobs?

Throughout the year we will be looking for the assistance of all families, in some way, shape or form. Please get involved early!

PLEASE CONTACT

FETE@SMDAYLESFORD.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU

Put November 8 in your calendar!!