Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Saint Mary’s

A God of mercy and compassion


I came across this Lenten reflection written by Mercy Sister, Veronica Lawson and thought I would share it with you. As we continue our journey through Lent, the 4th Sunday is when we hear one of the most well-known stories in the Gospels - The Lost or Prodigal Son. It is a story about unfailing forgiveness and love and shows us clearly how God calls us to live.

Parent-child conflict is part of life and every parent’s dream is to be able to deal effectively and lovingly with children behaving badly, including adult or adolescent children. Unfailing forgiveness and arms open to welcome back wayward sons and daughters: that is the way proposed in today’s gospel story.

There is no room in the hearts of Jesus’ critics for such forgiveness: upright law-abiding people should exclude ‘sinners’ from their company. In a first-century Jewish context, it was easy enough to be a sinner. Whole groups of people, depending on their occupation, fell into that category simply because they failed to observe one or more of the 618 prescriptions of the law. Jesus’ response to critics is the story of a parent both of whose sons lose their way for a time. One son finds his way back to the centre of family life and the support of the wider community while the other more law-abiding son seems to place himself outside the family circle, holding onto the resentment he feels at his brother’s return.

We need to fill in the gaps in the story: there may be daughters as well as sons; there is surely another parent, a mother who shares the heartache of her husband when their younger son requests his one-third share of the estate. To make such a request in this context is unthinkable: it is tantamount to wishing his parents were dead. To accede to such a request is likewise unthinkable, even shameful in that society. The head of a patriarchal household who acts thus stands to lose honour, status, and authority. [It is important to note that the older brother is not disadvantaged: he is assured of a two-thirds share according to the law as well as the ongoing love and support of his family, as his father makes clear].

When things turn out disastrously in the distant country, the younger man shows no real interest in a restored relationship with his family. Rather, he devises a plan that will put food in his empty belly—not a particularly lofty motive for returning home. He thinks up a speech about sharing the status of the family employees. Thanks to the expansive heart of an amazingly compassionate parent, he does not have to deliver the speech he has prepared, but is gathered into the heart of family and local community. That’s how it needs to be with us. It is certainly how it is with our merciful God. We can abandon, even betray our motives for returning home can be very mixed; we may even be like the unwelcoming older brother, but the God of mercy and compassion is always there for us.

Accessed from www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org.au

God Bless

Mrs Angela Myles
Principal
**Head of Primary News**

**Benedictine Values**
Each week we have a focus on one of the five Benedictine Values. This week our focus is Be Responsible. Teachers will talk to the students about what it looks like, sounds like and feels like to Be Responsible, not just being responsible for your possessions or property, and that of others, but responsible for your own actions. There is zero tolerance at Saint Mary’s with regards to inappropriate behaviour such as hitting, punching and swearing.

If children are sent to the office for poor behaviour then generally the behaviour is such that it requires some reflection and action. A reflection sheet gives the child the opportunity to accept responsibility for their actions and, just as importantly, begins the process of restoring the relationship.

If your child brings home one of these sheets for you to sign, please take the time to read the covering letter and to speak with your child about the behaviour/s, what could be done differently, and how they could demonstrate our 5 Benedictine Values – Be Safe, Be Just, Be Responsible, Be Respectful and Be My Best.

**Dance Fever Extravaganza**
Parents, grandparents and aunts and uncles are invited to the Dance Fever Extravaganza. This will take place in the last week of this term, on Monday the 21st March in the Maryknoll centre. The performances will commence at 9.00am and run for about 2 hours. The purpose of the extravaganza is so that the students in Prep to Year 6 can demonstrate the skills they have learned over the course of the last 8 weeks.

**NAPLAN**
National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy or NAPLAN
- The official test is the beginning of Week 9 in Term 2
- Tuesday 10th May – Language conventions and writing
- Wednesday 11th May - Reading
- Thursday 12th May - Numeracy with a calculator followed by Numeracy without a calculator
- Friday 13th May is catch up any students who are away for the above testing dates.

NAPLAN is a national assessment, and all students are expected to participate.

Kind regards
Ms Pam Radcliffe
Head of Primary

**Head of Secondary News**

**Camp Week**
I would like to take this opportunity to remind students of the behaviour expectations before and during camp week. Normal school rules apply while on camp. No illegal substances are to be brought to camp as is the case at school. Mobile phones are not needed on most camps and some camps have no reception. Staff will control phone calls while on camp and parents will be contacted if needed. All camps have a member of leadership or middle leader attending to deal with issues as they arise. In cases of extreme behaviour, a student may need to go home and be collected from camp by a parent. This decision is made by myself in consultation with Mrs Myles and happens rarely.

I have been speaking to some students regarding their current behaviour and attendance at camp. If I do not see an improvement in behaviour, they may not be able to attend camp. Students who attend camp need to behave at all times and follow instructors directions for safety reasons and show respect to adults who are supervising them.

Details for all camps will be coming home in the next week.

**Uniform Issues**
Parents are reminded that Tuesday is formal uniform day. Shoes must also be leather or vinyl. Hats are to be worn at all times when out in the sun.

God bless
Mr Sean Erwin
Head of Secondary

realise your dignity
Several weeks ago, I mentioned in this column that in 2015, the Saint Mary's teachers had engaged in developing what we thought was the best possible Homework Policy.

This process involved combining the most recent research with some of our local wisdom in the context of our unique P-2 College. I have already published what was developed for parents.

The guidelines for teachers are as follows:

**Homework Policy: Guidelines for Teachers**

**SHORT AND FREQUENT**
- Short exercises that consolidate classwork
- Reinforces daily learning

**CAN BE COMPLETED INDEPENDANTLY**
- All set homework should be able to be done by the student without assistance from home.

**SUBJECT TO FEEDBACK**
- Meaningful feedback should be given on all set homework.

**TIMELY**
- Be mindful of homework set by other teachers at the time.

**SUCCESS CRITERIA DEFINED**
- The purpose of the homework should be defined and articulated.
- The success criteria should be stated and understood by the student.

**SUPPORTS AND CHALLENGES**
- Has success criteria defined
- Is varied according to student ability
- Extension tasks for students who can manage and enjoy the challenge
- Is beneficial for higher ability students
- Engages and challenges the student.

**P-6 TASKS**
- Rote learning times tables
- Reading that is aligned with their reading ability
- Revision past work
- Sight words and spelling
- Practice summarizing and comprehension
- Focuses on the week's topic
- Adapted for some students
- Strong literacy and numeracy focus.

**7-12 TASK OR SUBJECT SPECIFIC**
- Read notes from class and text
- Complete assignments that the student is capable of completing.
- Prepare for tests by revising classwork, writing notes and memorising facts.
- Relevant to current classwork and engages the interest of students.

Regards
Mr John Dalton
APA

**APRE News**

**World Day of Prayer**

On Friday the South Burnett Christian Community will celebrate World Day of Prayer. Every year, on roster, one denomination hosts the ecumenical event at their Church. This year the Uniting Church plays host and again Saint Mary's has a small role. The country of theme this year is Cuba, and four of our year 10 students are involved in playing the part of three Cuban girls and a woman. I

realise your dignity
find it humbling witnessing these celebrations because it opens my Catholic world view to a broader Christian perspective, the slight nuances in words, music and even iconography are interesting and inspirational. It reminds me that we are part of a universal church whether we like it or not, a Church that has a lot of good to offer the world here in our community and globally.

**Third Sunday of Lent - 28th February**

Sunday's prayer reminds us that giving has always been identified with worship both in the Christian and Jewish tradition. In the ancient Christian church it was customary to provide not only the bread and wine for the Eucharist but also food and clothing for those in need in the community. It was the role of deacons to assist the bishop to distribute the gifts brought to Mass to the widows and orphans who depended on the community for survival.

Augustine and the early fathers rebuked members of his community who came empty handed to Eucharist on the Lord’s day. He constantly reminded them that the Christ of the altar was identical to the Christ of the poor in the marketplace. One could not encounter the Body at Eucharist without also caring for the Body of Christ living without food, shelter and clothing. One must lead to the other.

This week, Project Compassion invites us to focus on our close northern neighbours, the people of Papua New Guinea. In a nation overflowing with the beauty of its people and the richness of their cultures, we can embrace our near neighbours as they enhance their capacity to build communities of lasting peace. When we hear stories of goodness and hope we are all nourished by God’s living word calling forth in us compassion and generosity. *Taken from Weeks of Project Compassion - CARITAS*

**Interschool Swimming**

Last Thursday afternoon we sent a very small squad of swimmers to the regional school meet. This year the organisers introduced the 12 year age group to the carnival and five of our swimmers were from that age group. Most of these swimmers swam in three of the four strokes and we did field a female relay team in the final race. The College should be very proud of these seven swimmers because they achieved fourth in the overall school’s placing’s out of eight schools.

Emma Cran was the 14 Age Champion and did a personal best in her 50 m freestyle. Unfortunately a dozen or so other swimmers who qualified were not there and this may have been affected by the non-compulsory school day and the complications this meant for travel. Thank you to Mr Connelly and Mrs Davis who attended to support the students.

Swimming team- Emma Cran, Jorja Thorne, Addison Hawks, Alex Cran, Grace Hankinson, Danielle McConnell, Olivia Davis

Kind regards
Mr Martin Perrett
APRE

**Uniform Shop News**

Senior Boy's ties have arrived as well as the Trade Training Uniforms. Please note the Uniform Shop is now open Thursday afternoons 1pm to 4pm.

Thanks
Mrs Joanne Bellert
Uniform Shop

**Guidance Counsellor News**

**Altruism and Inner Peace**

We humans are social beings. We come into the world as the result of others’ actions. We survive here in dependence on others. Whether we like it or not, there is hardly a moment of our lives in which we do not benefit from others’ activities. For this reason it is hardly surprising that most of our happiness arises in the context of our relationships with others. Nor is it so remarkable that our greatest joy should come when we are motivated by concern for others. But that is not all. We find that not only do altruistic actions bring about happiness, but they also lessen our experience of suffering. Here I am not suggesting that the individual whose actions are motivated by the wish to bring others happiness necessarily meets with less misfortune than the one who does not. Sickness, old age, mishaps of one sort or another are the same for us all. But the sufferings which undermine our internal peace—anxiety, doubt, disappointment—these are definitely less. *The Dalai Lama*

Kind regards
Mr Graham Turnbull
Guidance Counsellor

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**Library Corner**

**Accelerated Reader**

Over the last couple of weeks, I have been working with Year 3-6 students and their teachers to introduce the Accelerated Reader Program. A wonderful start to the year! Accelerated Reader is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent reading practice. It motivates students of all ages and abilities to read for pleasure, whilst allowing the teacher to guide reading practice for literacy success. Your child would have brought home a flyer with more information already. Students have been borrowing AR books and been taking quizzes at school. I have provided them with a keycard with AR information and their login details. On this keycard is the ability to go to arbookfinder.com.au to search for books outside of the Saint Mary’s library collection. Please see me if you need any further information about AR and thank you for supporting this important reading program.

Kind regards  
Mrs Melanie Burr  
Teacher Librarian

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**Curriculum Corner**

**Communication with subject/homeroom teachers**

- If you wish to discuss any subject related issues e.g. homework or your child’s progress, please call/email the office at pskingaroy@bne.catholic.edu.au to leave a message for the specific teacher to contact you.
- Your child’s homeroom teacher is the best person to contact if you are concerned about your child generally.
- If you still have concerns after speaking with your child’s teachers directly, please leave a message for Ms Robertson (Yr 7-9 Wellbeing Leader), Mrs Burr (Yr 7-10 Teaching and Learning Leader) or Mr Erwin (Head of Secondary) and we will respond to your query as soon as possible.

**Longer periods of absence**

Please remember to notify the school well in advance if your child may have a longer than usual absence from school e.g. illness, travel etc. This is particularly important for trying to arrange work for your child to take, or to help them manage their assessment submission.

Kind regards  
Mrs Melanie Burr  
Year 7 to 10 Teaching and Learning Leader

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**Year 7 to Year 12 Sports Coordinator News**

Congratulations to the following students for making Wide Bay teams. We only sent 9 students and the following students made the representative teams.

- Matthew Patroni - Open Boys Cricket
- Caylan Brown - Open Boys Cricket.
- Justin Bunker - 14yrs Boys Cricket.
- Renee Irvine - 15yrs Girls Cricket

Well done students.

On the 9th March the following Secondary South Burnett Trials happen. They have been advertised on daily notices for some time. Nominations close on the 4th March so I can give names to convenors. Forms are available from me.

- 15yrs and Open Rugby League - Town Grounds
- 15yrs and Open Netball - Kingaroy State High School
- 15yrs and Open Boys and Girls Basketball - Kingaroy State High School
- 15yrs and Open Volleyball-Boys and Girls - Kingaroy State High School
- Open Boys and Girls Hockey - by nomination
- Open Golf - by nomination (must have a club handicap)
- Open and 15yrs Boys and Girls Soccer - Town Grounds
- Open and 15yrs Rugby Union - by nomination
- 15yrs AFL - by nomination

Kind regards  
Mr Allan Medlen  
Year 7 to Year 12 Sports Coordinator
**Our Flourishing Strings Program**

One very noticeable area of musical growth this year is in our Strings Program. Mrs Jo Kennedy, our Strings Tutor, has worked tirelessly over a period of 12 years to fill our cupboards with enough instruments to cater for the Year 3 and 4 String Immersion Program, as well as the students who attend private lessons.

Mrs Kennedy informed me today that for the first time in 12 years, all of the cellos have been hired, and we are completely out of ½ and ¾ sized violins. This is fantastic news!

Due to this sudden demand, Mrs Kennedy has decided to dust off the beautiful collection of violas and double basses, which have been languishing in the storeroom to make these available to our beginning string players. **We now have these instruments available for hire:**

- 1 x full-size double bass (aka “string bass” or “upright bass”)
- 1 x ¾ size double bass
- 3 x full-sized violas
- 3 x ¼ sized violas
- 3 x full-sized violins.

Students of all ages are able to participate in the Music Tuition Program, and forms are available from the Office (Student Services). New enrolments are welcomed at any stage of the year.

**Our New Music Has Arrived!**

The String Immersion Program music has finally arrived (we had to import it from the USA) and will be distributed to our young violinists and cellists in Year 4 this week. Parents wishing to give their son or daughter a preview of the music are encouraged to jump on the Internet and search for the title and composer. This will lead to the “demo” track, which can be listened to for free. It’s a great way to become familiar with a new song in a short time.

**Lunchtime Singing Activity for Primary Students**

Each Monday at second break, I will be offering group singing as a lunchtime activity. This is not a formal choir or performance group – just a chance to sing a pop song or two. All students from Year 3 – 6 are welcome to attend.

**Eisteddfod Entries Closing on Friday**

A reminder to all artistic people in the Saint Mary’s community (and beyond) that the 2016 Kingaroy Eisteddfod entries close this Friday 4 March. Entry forms are on the College website, online, and at various places around the South Burnett, including Musicians’ Oasis.

**Senior Music**

In closing, I would like to commend the members of the Senior Music class for their efforts recently with their vocal development. We began the year barely able to sing in unison, and this week, the class sang a full song in four-part harmony as sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. This is a big achievement. Well done, team.

Yours in music,
Mrs Jane Iszlaub
Music Coordinator

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**Indigenous News**

Our annual meet and greet BBQ for term 1 will be Monday the 14th March @ 4pm. This will be held at St Peter Claver Church in Cherbourg. Come along and have a yarn with our dedicated staff from Saint Mary’s.

Regards
Mrs Amanda Erwin, Mrs Karen Bond and Miss Nikita Law
Indigenous Team

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**Tuckshop News**

**Friday Specials**

Morning Tea and Lunch - Quiche $2.50 😊

Morning Tea and Lunch - Mediterranean Pasta Salad $3.50 😊

Please note: Due to supplier issues some stock will not be available for purchase. We will substitute where necessary.

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Thank you for your understanding.

***During Lent we will not be serving meat on Fridays until the end of the term.***

***There are NO Pies or Sausage Rolls sold on Fridays.***

You will note that our menu has been revamped. There have been some items withdrawn and others added in, also some price rises have occurred. Please make sure you have the current menu at home on your fridge. If you have misplaced your menu, they are available from the office.

**Donation of Goods**

If you are able to donate any of the following items during the year, it would be greatly appreciated. Below are the main ingredients we use, however, any donations are more than welcome.

- Self Raising Flour
- Desiccated Coconut
- Plain Flour
- Brown Sugar
- Caster Sugar
- Beef Stock Powder
- Small Tinned Pineapple Slices
- Small Tinned Corn

These can be dropped into the Tuckshop on Monday, Wednesday, Friday or to the College Office.

**Ordering and Payment**

For Prep to Year 5 students it is recommended that you use the paper bag system. Your child’s order can be place in the tuckshop baskets in their classroom in the mornings and this is then delivered to the tuckshop. Orders will be filled and returned to the classes at morning tea and lunch. This will ensure that they will have their lunch on time. Please do not use sticky tape or staples when using paper bags for ordering. It makes it difficult to get the bags undone without tearing. Plastic bags are not suitable for ordering, it is very difficult to place your child’s order inside them. Bags can be purchased from the tuckshop for 0.05c each.

High School students are more than welcome to use the paper bag system. The high school students place their bag orders at the tuckshop before school.

**Do you know….**

That we sell Fish Burgers! Our fish burgers are made fresh to order. They consist of a piece of crumbed fish with salad (lettuce, tomato, carrot and cucumber) and your choice of sauce (tartare, sweet and sour, soy, bbq, tomato, mustard or mayo).

We also have available Fish Bites - Battered fish in servings of 2 or 4.

Both these items are available to order for second break.

Have great week!
Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

**Whip Cracking News**

**Whip Cracking Team Upcoming Events**
- Saturday, 5th March Proston Show - (Whip cracking Competition & Performance)
- Saturday, 2nd April Kilkivan Great Horse Ride (Performance)
- Saturday, 16th April Kilcoy Show (Performance)
- Thursday, 19th May Rural Queensland Show Rural Discovery Day (Performance)
- Saturday, 6th August Royal Queensland Show Australian Stockwhip Challenge (EKKA Competition & Performance)
- Friday, 14th October Chinchilla Grandfather Clock (Performance)

**Whip Cracking Practice**

Whip cracking practice every Wednesday morning tea. Please meet outside Prep A. Please bring your whips, hats and safety glasses.

Kind regards
Mrs Lauren Arrell
Whip Cracking Coordinator

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FRIDAY NIGHT Live

Gymnastics | XBOX | Games | Jumping Castles | Pool

FRIDAY, 4TH OF MARCH, 2016
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM
MEMBER $5 NON-MEMBER $7
@ THE SBPCYC

Proston Show
Young Farmers Challenge
Saturday 5th March 2016

Age Sections:
- Mini Farmers (up to 8 including 12 years)
- Youth Farmers (13-17 years)
- Young Farmers (18 years and over)

Get a team together, get in training, get a costume, get a sponsor and most of all get ready to have a great time in the 2016 Proston Show Young Farmers Challenge!

4 members per team, nomination is free
Nominate your team by 9am on Show Day by phone - 0429 683 121

For further information please contact:
Kristy Frahm Ph: 0429 683 121 or
Glenda McArdle Ph: 0423 612 971

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