

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected No.1, 6th February, 2025

Hello Everyone,

Warmest Greetings! It's good to be back. Thank you for the warm welcome which I have received. It is my eighteenth year here at SMMPs and I really do feel like I have come home! I am deeply appreciative of your welcome. I am very excited and proud to be able to return to SMMPs as Principal.

I am most grateful to Anthony D'Amico who led our school as Principal with strength and commitment over the past three terms; together with Aaron Kuras, Jennie Monaghan and the whole staff team, who joined with Anthony ensuring our school continued to flourish. I look forward to continuing working with them and the team as we forge ahead and further build our school as a great place to be for kids, staff and parents.

As Principal of our school, I believe the children need to know me and in doing so learn to trust me as being there for them; ensuring they are safe, happy and learning. Relationships with all members of our school community are at the core of my leadership.

All members of our school community must pay attention to attitudes and relationships. We are all challenged to embrace the authentic mission of the Church, which calls us to build a community in which everyone works, learns and plays in a climate that is "permeated by the Gospel Spirit of freedom and love." (Congregation of Catholic Education 1988 n.1.)

We believe God created us in his own image (Genesis 1:27). We have no choice, therefore, but to respect all people and to treat them well. This is an absolute 'must' for me.

I return with a spirit of hope, prosperity and happiness. I return with thoughts, words and actions. I return with energy, strength and ideas. I return confident that St. Mary MacKillop will continue to inspire our community.

As we move into the new school year, we look to the writings of St. Mary MacKillop for inspiration,

"I am full of hope in God who has been so good to us all." 28.11.1898

Have a happy year everyone!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony McCluskey". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Anthony McCluskey
Principal

WELCOME

We warmly welcome a number of new staff to our team.

Anne-Marie Aprile (Year 6 teacher), **Isabella Aranza** (Year 5 teacher), **Charmaine Calleja** (LSO), **Bronte Cini** (Year 2 teacher), **Vanessa Deluca** (Year 5 teacher), **Melanie Gallagher** (Year 2 Teacher), **Adrian Purgaric** (Year 6 teacher)

We trust they will experience the warmth and welcome of our wonderful school community.

Scholastic Book Club

This week your child will be receiving Scholastic Book Club issue Number 1. Should you wish to purchase a book, please remember all orders are to be completed and paid for online via Book Club LOOP, we **Do Not** take orders or payments at school. **Closing date** for this issue is **10am Wednesday, 12/2/25**. Thank you for supporting the school as 15% of every purchase on Book Club goes back to our school in Scholastic Rewards to buy valuable educational resources that benefit your child.

REMINDERS

- The basketball court is used as a carpark in the morning and afternoon. The safety of our children is of utmost importance and therefore I ask that you take extra care when driving in the carpark areas. The speed limit is **5km per hour** and there is to be no double parking at all. Please only park in the designated parking spots and do not park on the **artificial turf or in pedestrian walk ways**. Thank you for taking the safety of our children seriously.



St. Mary MacKillop Primary School is committed to child safety. We believe all students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.

- From time to time our children forget to bring their lunch to school or a lunch order is ordered for the wrong day and we ask parents to bring in the missing lunch. In order to continue with our healthy eating expectations we ask that parents **do not bring in take away food** such as McDonalds, KFC etc. If you do need to purchase lunch for your child we ask that you purchase things such as sushi, sandwiches or wraps.
- The School opens at 8.30am and children can enter the classroom at 8.50am. **Please do not drop children off prior to 8.30am**. If you need to bring your child to school before 8.30am please book them into the before school hours program.
- St Mary MacKillop is a 'Smoke Free Zone' and smoking on the school grounds is not permitted. According to the law, 'The Tobacco Act 1987 bans smoking or vaping on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises.' **Please do not smoke or vape on the school grounds**.
- If your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school it must be handed into the teacher in the morning where it will be stored in a secured location and returned to them in the afternoon. Please refer to the Mobile phone policy on the school website.
- As there is no supervision on the playground area and the oval are in the morning, these areas are out of bounds and children are not to play on the playground or the oval before school.
- The front drive through area between the Church and the School operates as a drive through zone only before school.
- Due to a few near misses, those who wish to park and bring their child into class must **use the back car park area**. There is now no parental parking in bays outside the front of the Church.

2025 A Year of Hope

As you enter our Office you will notice a new display on the windows surrounding the doors. We have transformed our school doors into our version of the Holy Doors of St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, to celebrate the 2025 Jubilee. Read more about the doors over the next few pages.

Pope Francis began his Papal Bull of Indiction for this Jubilee with:

To all who read this letter may hope fill your hearts.

The Papal Bull (a fantastic read) goes on to explore themes of hope in our Scripture, Tradition and Teachings under the headings:

A word of hope,
A journey of hope,
Signs of hope,
Appeals for hope, and
Anchored in hope.

What is a Jubilee Year?

A Jubilee Year is traditionally proclaimed by the Universal Church every 25 years. It is a particular year set aside to encourage the faithful to embark on pilgrimages, to repent of their sins and forgive the sins of others, and to renew a focus on the spiritual life. In the Hebrew tradition, as recorded in Leviticus, a Jubilee was celebrated every 50 years with the freeing of slaves and the forgiveness of debts.

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII instituted the first Christian Jubilee, and since then the Church has designated each new Jubilee as a special year of grace and forgiveness, offering the faithful an opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence.

And so, we invite you to share in a Holy Year of reflection and action to bring hope to each other within our families, school community and the wider world.

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We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope*. This will indeed be the case if we are capable of recovering a sense of universal fraternity and refuse to turn a blind eye to the tragedy of rampant poverty that prevents millions of men, women, young people and children from living in a manner worthy of our human dignity.

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– Pope Francis, Letter for the Promotion of the New Evangelization for the Jubilee 2025



https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spe-s-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html

<https://www.fallriverdiocese.org/jubilee-2025/>

Natalie Mulford REL

The Holy year - Jubilee 2025

The Holy Door or 'Porta Sancta' of St. Peter's Basilica is only open during a Holy Year (Jubilee), which occurs every 25 years (the last one was in 2000). From inside the basilica, the door is usually walled up. During the Jubilee year, Catholics all over the world are called on a pilgrimage to visit Rome and the Vatican and to walk through the Holy Door. On the first day of a Holy Year, the Pope strikes the brick wall with a silver hammer and opens it to the pilgrims.

The message imparted by the Holy Door is that God's mercy reaches out to mankind's frailty. The Holy Door represents Jesus, the Good Shepherd and the gate of the sheep pen:

"I am the gate. Whoever enters through me, will be safe. He will go in and out, and find pasture"
(Jn 10:9).



This door is also called the "Door of the Great Pardon". If you 'read' the images from left to right, you can see that the panels of artwork show scenes of man's sin and his redemption through God's mercy:

1. Through disobedience Adam and Eve turned away from God and happiness and were chased from the garden; Mary receives the announcement of salvation from the angel and directs humanity back to God.
2. Through Baptism, Jesus permits us to join his People; he comes to seek us when we stray from him, as the shepherd goes in search of his lost sheep; he awaits our return and welcomes us at the door, as the father welcomes the prodigal son; he cures those who are paralyzed by sin.
3. Jesus opens the door of new life to the woman who is sinful but can love; Jesus tells Peter that one must forgive seventy times seven times. Jesus trusts anew in the man who promises fidelity and then denies him; Jesus opens the door of heaven to the thief who calls on him.
4. Jesus unlocks the heart of doubting Thomas to the faith; he gives his Spirit to the Apostles to enable them to forgive sins; he tumbles Paul from his horse and suddenly opens up a whole new world to him; he knocks at everyone's door and waits for us to open it.

At the end of the holy year, the door will be closed by the Pope himself.





The Angel at the Gates of Paradise



The Fall

What sad Eve took away



Mary
The Annunciation

Your sacred womb to man restores



The Angel of
The Annunciation



Christ's Baptism
in the Jordan

Do you come to me?



The Lost Sheep

To save what had been lost



The Merciful Father

*Father I have sinned against
heaven and also you*



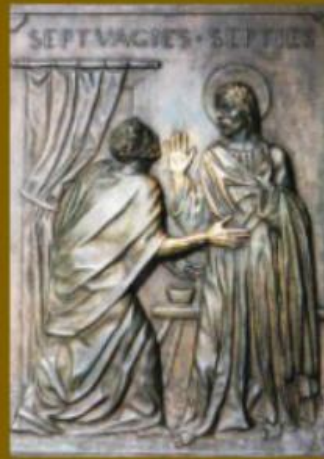
The Cure of
a Paralytic

Take up your mat and walk



The Woman who
was a Sinner

Her many sins are forgiven her



The Need for
Forgiveness

Seventy times seven



Peter's Denial

*The Lord turned and looked at
Peter*



In Front of the Crucifix
The Good Thief

*Today you will be with me in
paradise*



The Appearance
to Thomas

Blessed are they that believe



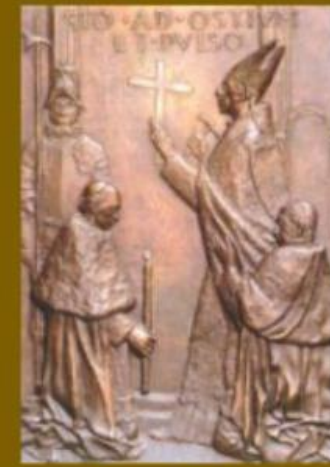
Christ's Appearance to
The Disciples

Receive the Holy Spirit



The Conversion
of Saul

I am Jesus whom you persecute



Opening the
Holy Door

I stand at the door and knock

Upcoming Events 2025

Term 1: 31 January-04 April

Friday 07 February

2026 Prep Enrolments Open

Tuesday 11 February

Parent Teacher Conversations

3.30pm to 6.00pm-normal school day

Thursday 13 February

Parent Teacher Conversations

12.30pm to 6.00pm (school finishes at 12.00pm)

Wednesday 19 February

9.30am Prep 2026 Information Session and Tour

Tuesday 04 March

9.30am Prep 2026 Information Session and Tour

Thursday 06 March

9.30am Prep 2026 Information Session and Tour

Upcoming Events 2025 continued....

Wednesday 12 March to Monday 24 March

Year 3 and 5 Naplan

Tuesday 01 April and Wednesday 02 April

School Photos

Thursday 03 April

Year 3 Reconciliation-more details to come

Friday 04 April

Last day of Term 1-All Students finish @ 1pm

2025 Term Dates

Term 1: 31 January-04 April 2025

(Good Friday 18 April-Easter Monday 21 April)

Term 2: 22 April-04 July 2025

Term 3: 21 July-19 September 2025

Term 4: 6 October-16 December 2025

(Year 6 finish Friday 12 December)