Dear Parents, Carers and Parishioners,

Our Lenten Journey
Last Sunday was the half way mark for Lent. As I reflected over the last couple of weeks and as I checked in with God, I asked myself, “How am I going with my Lenten promises?” In some ways Lent is a little like ‘New Year’. We ponder how we might change aspects of our life and set personal goals for the year ahead. Lent is a time where, as Christians, we are called to strengthen our relationship with God through Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Like our New Year Resolutions, it is important stop, reflect and reset our minds to this Lenten season and honestly ask ourselves, “How am I going?”

Beginning of the Year and Induction of Leaders Mass
Tomorrow, Thursday 3 March, we will gather as a community to give thanks for the new school year, our staff, friends and families. At this Mass, Father Jim will bestow blessings upon our Student Leaders as they take on this important role in our school. Mass will be held at St Mary's Church at 9:30 am. See you there.

P & F AGM
The P & F is made up of members of our school community that come together at regular meetings to support school initiatives. It is through the generosity of our parents and friends that we are able to run a Canteen, assist with our Learnscape project, enjoy family social gatherings and hold a variety of fundraising events. The P & F committee is elected at the beginning of each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This year’s AGM will be held on Tuesday 8 March at 6:00 pm in the Parent Room. If you would like to contribute to decision making or assist in a voluntary capacity, if you would like to be part of our vibrant community, please join us.

Learnscape Update
This year we will see the fruition of a number of our Learnscape projects. Mrs Amy Marks has gathered ideas from students, designed and is sourcing equipment to paint our climbing wall. She is also in the process of planning the layout of our silhouette wall outside the toilet block. Mr Mark Aspinall has finalised quotes and arrangements for the repair of the sails and height adjustment of the poles over our Mega Toy. Mr Matthew Green is actioning the eco schools grant which will see the development of a sustainable bush tucker garden, and I am in the process of seeking quotes from local builders to build the Timber Obstacle Course.

Peace and Blessings
Yvonne Rincheval

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**Calendar**

**March**

**THIS WEEK**
3 Beginning of Year & Induction of Leaders Mass
9:30am

8 P&F meeting
P&F AGM meeting

**FOR YOUR DIARY**
11 Cleanup Australia Day
Kindergarten Social Evening

17 St Mary’s Cross Country Event

21 Incitāre Year 6 students

24 Easter Tombola

25 Good Friday

28 Easter Monday

**April**

8 Parish School Retreat
Pupil-Free Day

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**Canteen**

Friday 4/3
Georgie Brown
Stacy Gallagher
Renee Zimmerman

Monday 7/3
Brendan and Ashley Albert

Friday 11/3
Jodie Yager
Tenille Thwaites
Amy Cheney

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**Mercy means Grace, Holiness and Forgiveness**
As a school community may we all extend mercy, be patient in offering compassion and comfort to all who we encounter.
Beginning of Year Mass
9:30am
Thursday 3 March
St Mary’s Church, Grafton
Induction of school leaders

God Bless,
Tarnya Jones
Leader of Evangelisation

Religious Education

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<th>Upcoming Events</th>
<th>Date and Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning of Year and Induction of Leaders Mass</td>
<td>3 March St Mary’s Church 9:30am</td>
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<td>Incitare - Year 6 only</td>
<td>21 March at McAuley Catholic College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palm Sunday Liturgy</td>
<td>21 March School Hall at 2:30pm</td>
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<td>Holy Thursday/Last Supper Liturgy</td>
<td>23 March School Hall at 2:30pm</td>
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<td>Good Friday Liturgy</td>
<td>24 March School Hall at 2:30pm</td>
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<td>Alleluia Liturgy</td>
<td>29 March School Hall at 8:45am</td>
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A Simple prayer for all in this Jubilee Year of Mercy
“Jesus Mercy Mary Help”

This week’s MJR focus is:
Positive

St Mary’s Church, Grafton
Weekend Mass Times
Saturday Vigil
6:00pm (Daylight Savings Time)
5:00pm (Winter)
Sunday Mass 8:00am

Youth and Family
Masses for 2016
Sunday 24 April in St Mary’s Church Grafton. Everyone is welcome.

Easter Egg Guessing Competition

The Year 6 students are running an Easter Egg guessing competition. From Monday 7th March, you can have a go at guessing how many Easter Eggs are in the container. You can guess before school, during recess and after school. Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers and Teachers are welcome to have a guess too!!

50c per guess.

The winner will be announced on Thursday 24th March!
GOOD LUCK.
Do you want to make a difference?

P&F AGM 2016
Tuesday 8 March
6pm
Parent Room
All Welcome

Kindergarten Parents and Carers
Social Evening
Friday 11 March 2016
The Clocktower Hotel
RSVP School Office

Easter Tombola Stall

Each child is requested to donate an Easter chocolate, be it an egg, a bunny or whatever you like, by Monday 21st March. These can be dropped off at the front office.

On Thursday 24th March, we will hold the Tombola Stall. Each child pays $2.00 for a lucky number. A chocolate prize will match their number.

So every child will go home with a prize.

City Netball Club

Are seeking girls from all age groups to play Netball
If you are interested please contact
Cate Wauchope
cmwauchope@gmail.com or 0428580815

Clean Up Australia Day
Friday 11 March
1pm to 2pm
Meet Mr Tonkin at the school gate. Join us to help clean up, fix up and conserve the environment.

Items being sent home previous:
Kindergarten Invitation for Parents
McAuley Catholic College Orientation Information

Items being sent home today:
Do you want to make a difference?
P&F AGM 2016
Tuesday 8 March
6pm
Parent Room
All Welcome
Parents, Carers and Grandparents are invited to join the St Mary’s Garden Club.

When: Fridays 12.50 -1.30pm  
Where: St Mary’s “Dig For Plenty” Vegetable Gardens  
What do you do: Help the students to plant, care for and harvest crops from our gardens  

All tools and plants supplied. BYO hat.

For more information contact: Angie Day (angieday75@gmail.com) or Matt Green (mgreen@lism.catholic.edu.au)

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**Chess Club Request**

Do you have a chess set no longer being used?

The Activities Leaders would appreciate all donations of full or part chess sets.

Do you enjoy sewing and are up for a challenge?

The floor mat for the large chess game is sadly in need of repair. Please contact the office.

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**Pupil-Free Days 2016**

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<td>School Administration Day</td>
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<td>Parish School Retreat Day</td>
<td>Friday 8 April</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Australian Curriculum</td>
<td>Monday 18 July</td>
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