

St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 3 Week 5
2021

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

On Sunday 8 August we celebrated St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Her life as a spiritual guide and model to many Australians and more specifically to us as teachers. Who so often feel the calling to the vocation for education to give love, faith and service to our young children.

The early local Church didn't know Mary MacKillop as a person who would one day be recognised as a saint. It chose Mary Help of Christians as its first patron. The main reason for this was that during the early days of settlement the Mass was not widely celebrated in Australia. Rather it was the Rosary that kept the faith alive during this time. This changed in 2010 when St Mary MacKillop was officially recognised as Australia's first saint by the Universal Church.

So what makes St Mary of the Cross special for Aussies?

One possible answer is that she mirrors back to us something about ourselves, our character as a people living in this remote and ancient Great South Land of the Holy Spirit.

Like all who have come to settle in Australia, Mary was a daughter of immigrant parents. The year that Mary was born, her father, Alexander MacKillop became bankrupt and had difficulty in providing for the family due to his sometimes erratic and argumentative personality and his propensity to want to help others - often at the expense of his own family. So at the age of fourteen, Mary had to go out to work to help support her family. *Mary's life was chequered with many amazing graces but also with difficulty, disappointment, illness and tragedy. Her love of God and neighbour was formed out of empathy through adversity.*

So what makes St Mary's story one we can look to and learn from today?

Mary's greatest legacy is that she started Catholic schools for the poor and marginalised through her Sisters of St Joseph (The Brown Joeys). The first school was in a stable in the small town of Penola in South Australia. *She saw a need and she did something about it!*

Mary never held a grudge. Even when she was excommunicated from the Church she loved, she treated those who persecuted her with mercy. Her belief that God was a good God and that He worked for the care of all in His own time, was her guiding principle.

Here is a prayer you can pray as a family.

Mary MacKillop Prayer

Loving and eternal Father,
You are glorified in your Saints.
To you all praise and glory and honour!

You inspired Mary of the Cross to live by faith in your Son, Jesus Christ, and to share in the saving power of His cross.

As we travel on our way to join Mary MacKillop in our true home with you, we are asking her to pray with us this special favour.....

Lord Hear our prayer.

We pray that you send your Holy Spirit into our hearts to give us faith like her faith.

Help us to bear the cross as she did and to follow the example of her kindness.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

What can we learn from St Mary MacKillop?

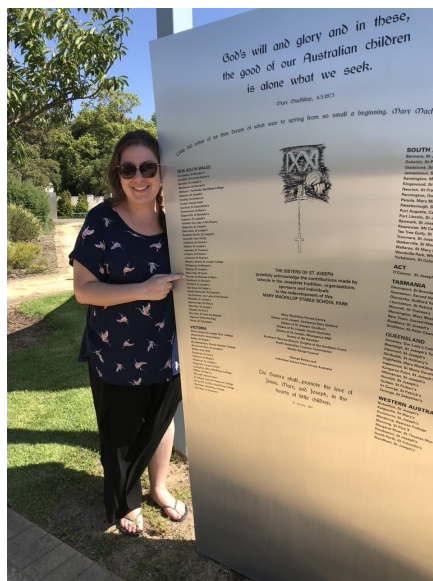
She believed everyone deserves respect, love, dignity and forgiveness. In a world that is often reactionary, her strong, quiet and constant message of Christian Love and her unstinting belief in the goodness of God (God's Providence) can seem to our cynical modern hearts to be naively idealistic. This example of her faith provides inspiration and hope for us all - particularly in these most challenging of times.

Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic
Principal



In 2019, Ms Knezevic visited South Australia and went inside the school house at Penola.

A few blocks from the school house is the Mary MacKillop Stable School Park. Here there is a big silver M and on this M sculpture are schools listed and look at which school I found...



Glen Innes, St Joseph's
Goulburn North, St Joseph's
Granville, Holy Trinity
Guildford, St Patrick's
Hillston, St Joseph's
Lakemba, St Therese's
Lithgow, St Patrick's
Lochinvar, St Patrick's
Milperra, Mount St Joseph College
Mittagong, St Michael's
Molong, St Joseph's
Moss Vale, St Paul's
Penrith, St Nicholas of Myra
Penshurst, St Declan's
Portland, St Joseph's
San Souci, St Finbar's
South Tamworth, St Edward's
The Entrance, Our Lady of the Rosary
Warialda, St Joseph's
Warners Bay, St Mary's
Wee Waa, St Joseph's
Windale, St Pius X
Woy Woy, St John the Baptist
Yagoona, Christ the King
Yatala, St Edmund's

Formation

Feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary- Sunday 15 August

Discussion Questions for your family:

1. In the Gospel whom did Mary visit?
2. How did her cousin Elizabeth greet her?
3. Mary is joyful because she knows that God does great things. What does she praise God for?
4. Let us make a prayer of thanks and pray to God, just like Mary did.

Gospel Lk 1:39-56

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;
because he has looked upon his lowly
handmaid.
Yes, from this day forward all generations will
call me blessed,
for the Almighty has done great things for
me.
Holy is his name,
and his mercy reaches from age to age for
those who fear him.
He has shown the power of his arm,
he has routed the proud of heart.
He has pulled down princes from their
thrones and exalted the lowly.
The hungry he has filled with good things,
the rich sent empty away.
He has come to the help of Israel his
servant, mindful of his mercy
– according to the promise he made to our
ancestors –
of his mercy to Abraham and to his
descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Prayers of Intercession

Let us turn to God with our needs and the needs of the world.

For the grace to imitate the faithfulness of Mary ... let us pray to the Lord

For the poor and the homeless; that those who have more will be generous in sharing with them ... let us pray to the Lord.

For women expecting the birth or adoption of a baby and all who nurture life ... let us pray to the Lord.

For the right to live for all God's creation ... let us pray to the Lord.

For those who are sick, and the people who care for them ... let us pray to the Lord.

For those who have died, and those who mourn them ... let us pray to the Lord.

Loving God, you show mercy and kindness to all. Hear our prayers and help us to remain faithful disciples following the example of Mary. We ask this through Christ our lord. Amen

Understanding Faith Login Details

<https://primary.understandingfaith.edu.au/log-in>

Username: ceo.parra.1896

Password: 32findJUMP

200 Years of Catholic Education

In the coming weeks students will be researching and getting to know more about St Nicholas of Myra Church and Primary School. If you have any historical information or know of any good research please get in contact with the school. You may have photos to share as a past student or can tell us about some of the history of our community. Please email the school with any information.



Remote Learning Events

In order to celebrate the fantastic remote learning that is taking place, we have a few fun things coming up over the next few weeks:

Week 4

Olympics Celebrations

The first of our celebration events was our Olympics celebrations held last Friday 6 August. There was a sea of green and gold and children participated in different activities including trivia, scavenger hunts, singing and chanting to name a few.







Week 6

Crazy Hair Day

On Friday 20 August will be Crazy Hair Day! We cannot wait to see your creativity during your shared reading Zooms!

Week 7

Literacy and Numeracy Week

This week is officially Literacy and Numeracy Week. The theme is "Old Worlds, New Worlds and Other Worlds". We have postponed the on site events we had planned for the week including the book dress up parade, World of Maths and trivia for when students return to face to face teaching. During remote learning, students will be completing some activities around the theme.

Musica Viva

As part of our Music lessons this term, students have been learning about the Music of ***Adventures in Antarctica***.

On **Thursday 26 August at 2.00 pm** we are so lucky to be able to participate in a live Zoom concert, where the music the children have been learning about will be brought to life!

Before the event you will receive a link to join the performance. There will be opportunities for the students to interact with the artists and ask questions throughout the session.

It is fabulous that despite the distance we are experiencing at the moment that we are able to join as a community for this event. It is sure to be a wonderful afternoon of entertainment for St Nicholas of Myra students and their families.



Look out for more details as we get closer to the date!

Behind the Mask

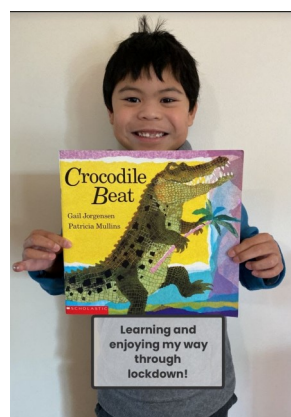
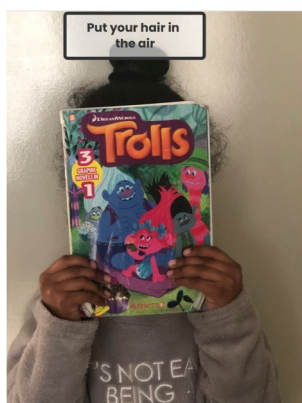
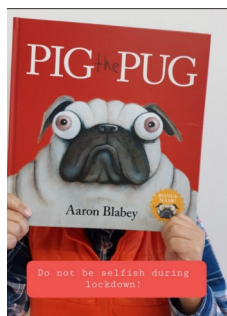
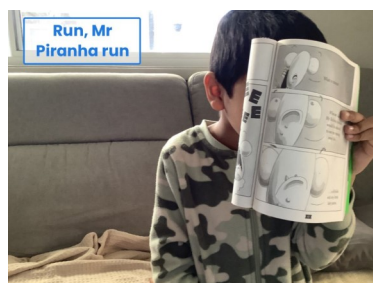
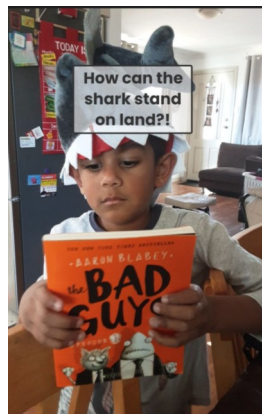


Behind the mask is a patient in fear, unsure what will happen after being brought here.
Behind the mask is someone special who, was born for this moment to take care of you.
Behind the mask is someone's son or daughter, guiding you through these uncharted waters.
Behind the mask, someone comes to you in prayer, full of mission and faith, guiding your care.
Behind the mask, someone is leading the way, planning and supporting the staff through the day.
Behind the mask someone silently prepares, clean rooms, or meals, even meds for your care.
Behind the mask someone can come where you live, bringing care, meds or equipment, more passion to give.
Behind the mask, there is one ministry for all, no role is too big, no position too small.
Behind the mask, is our promise to you, we answered the call, it's what we were all meant to do.

(Donna, Mercy Health manager from Lima, OH)

Infants Literacy Challenge: 'Sassy Snaps'

Infants have been learning to read a range of texts for enjoyment. In Week 3 Miss Khalifeh set a challenge for students to find one of their favourite picture books with a main character up close on the front cover and become that character. Students then had to take a picture and write a sassy caption to match the image. Lastly, students read the text for enjoyment.



CEDP Weekly Art Challenge- "The Creative Escape"

CAPTIVATE is launching a weekly art challenge - "The Creative Escape" - for all primary school students, beginning on Monday 6 August.

Each week a short instructional video will be uploaded to the CEDP Facebook page. The video will present a theme for the week and give students some inspiration and ideas on which to base their artworks.

Students can then upload an image of their artwork through the link provided in the post.

Each week, 10 students will be selected as their highly commended artists. These works will also be posted on the CEDP Facebook page.

CEDP look forward to seeing a wonderful selection of artworks from primary students of all ages to capture the creativity and skills of our students working remotely during this time.

2022 Kindergarten Enrolments are underway and places are being accepted!

We accept enrolment applications at any time for any grade.

2022 Kindergarten Enrolment Process has commenced and places are being accepted by families. Current St Nicholas of Myra families who have a child commencing school in 2022 are encouraged to complete an enrolment form as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

The process:

1. Enrolment forms can be found online at:
<https://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/02-Form-A-Enrolment-Application.pdf>
or in the school office.
2. Please submit your paperwork via email or post. Due to COVID this is a preferred method of submission.
3. The School Enrolment Officer will contact you. We usually make an interview time with one or both parents and the enrolling child attends, however due to COVID-19 we will be unable to conduct these interviews.
4. The Principal will review your application.
5. Once the review process has determined an outcome a letter will be sent to you.



ICAS Assessment

ICAS Assessments were due to take place over the next few weeks. Due to the extension of lockdown and remote learning, these have been postponed until October (early Term 4). New dates will be communicated to the families who have registered and paid for these assessments when we return to face to face teaching.

The deadline to purchase ICAS assessments for your child has also been extended until Sunday 19 September 2021. These need to be purchased through the online Parent Payment System to make a direct payment to UNSW Global. The Parent Payment System is a simple and secure online payment service specifically for parents to purchase ICAS Assessments.

Entries and Payments can not be accepted at school.

The web link for the parent portal is: <https://shop.unswglobal.com.au/pages/pps>

Our school's unique access code is: **WBD179**

Important: Please enter your child's name accurately into the System as it will appear on their ICAS certificate.



Since 1945 the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) has grown from a small Sydney-based group to a national organisation which exerts a profound influence on children's books. The annual CBCA Book of the Year Awards will be shared with the students at St Nicholas of Myra. Throughout the year we have shared these books with students during their library visits.

To fit in with the theme **Old Worlds, New Worlds, OTHER WORLDS**, lockdown is a perfect time to bring back the old favourite pass-time of storytelling. At the end of the day, cuddle up with your kids and tell them stories. These could be any stories - stories of you as a child, stories about their grandparents, it's priceless for children to hear these stories because it connects them to Old Worlds, New Worlds, OTHER WORLDS. The best part of storytelling is that you can be as silly as you like and exaggerate to your heart's content because that just makes the story better and brings it to life. Somedays you might like to ask the children to tell you a story.

Correspondence

- ☺ Covid Update— 6 August
- ☺ Covid Update—8 August
- ☺ Remote Learning for each Stage—Week 4 & 5
- ☺ Remote Learning Surveys and Reminders Weeks 4 & 5
- ☺ ICT Zoom Impairment
- ☺ Busways Western Sydney resume 9 August

FREE ONLINE MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP

This free mental health information session, funded by the NSW Government is to help parents, carers, teachers and community members to understand warning signs, learn coping skills and build awareness of local services and pathways.

Hosted by headspace the next Penrith session will be held on Tuesday, 17 August at 7.00pm.

To register please visit:

[Penrith, NSW Parent and Carer mental health education session Registration, Tue 17/08/2021 at 7:00 pm | Eventbrite](#)

Supporting young people impacted by COVID-19 (Ref: 204/21)

In response to the current lockdowns, HeadSpace is running additional Parent/Carer mental health education sessions, over the next 6 weeks.

The sessions are titled *supporting young people impacted by COVID-19, and provide Parents and Carers with information and strategies to proactively support their young people during these uncertain times.*

The following sessions are available via zoom

- 10 August, 2021, 6:30pm – 7:45pm, Georges River
- 11 August, 2021, 6:30pm – 7:45pm, South Eastern Sydney
- 17 August, 2021, 6:30 – 7:45pm, Western Sydney
- 19 August, 2021, 6:30pm – 7:45pm, Randwick

CSNSW works in partnership with HeadSpace and supports this initiative which provides parents/carers with helpful information during this period of increasing lockdowns and disruptions to daily life.

To register [click here https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/headspace-national-youth-mental-health-foundation-3054982222](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/headspace-national-youth-mental-health-foundation-3054982222)