

Term 2 :: Week 2 :: Friday, 2nd May, 2025

"Pursuing fullness of life for all by inspiring faith, lifelong learning and community engagement"

St Malachy's School

POPE FRANCIS

JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO

17 December 1936 – 21 April 2025

Thank you, Holy Father, for your life of compassion, humility, and unwavering faith. You led with love and served with grace. May God welcome you into eternal peace, and may your legacy continue to inspire hearts around the world. Rest in his light. Amen.



Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to everyone for the start of Term 2.

A lot has happened in the world in the last week. Firstly, we woke to the news on Tuesday 21st of the passing of Pope Francis. It's very pleasing to see the news coverage of His death in the World Wide news each day and respectfully so in this ever increasing secular world. Pope Francis is the only Pope our young students have grown up with and know of. Pope Francis leaves behind a legacy of the hope for a resolution to the Middle East Crisis; His passion for our environment and for the poor and marginalised. He was the people's Pope, a much respected and loved Catholic Leader for many in this modern world. R.I.P. Pope Francis.

Smiling student faces greeted us on Monday morning for the beginning of term 2. Lots of news was shared by the students of what they did during their three week break.

The three days of professional learning was highly beneficial for all our staff last week. On Tuesday in Hamilton, the staff joined with other schools working through the Pope's Encyclicals (letters) Laudato Si' about the Pope's wishes for a greener and more sustainable world. As a staff, we reflected on how best we can improve practices at school with our recycling, kitchen, gardens and R.E. focuses in this area. The new updated English curriculum was presented to us on the middle day along with working with the school's School Wide Positive Behaviour Model we adopt at St. Mal's.

We will continue to offer up our prayers for rain and good health for our school community.

-John



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Principal: John O'Sullivan

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL
President: Chris White

We acknowledge the traditional owner groups of this land. We learn, work, live and recognise their connection to land, water and community. We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging, believing we can walk together for a better future.

Jump Rope for Heart

This term, all students and staff will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart. Students will skip every day, learning new skills and challenges. Later in the term, we will host a Jump Off Day raising money for important research into healthy hearts.



Why skip?

Skipping has shown to have great benefits including:

- cardio vascular health: skipping increases oxygen capacity and reduced blood pressure
- improves coordination
- builds and maintains bone density
- increases our running speed (perfect timing for cross country)
- can improve mental health by reducing anxiety

Skipping is also easily accessible and can be done by all ages -so feel free to pick up a rope and skip along with us!!

From the Sports Desk

Kowree Cross Country @ Balmoral

Years 3 to 6 will participate in Cross Country against our District schools this Friday. We wish them the best of luck!

Western Trinity Cross Country @ Harrow

All students will travel to Harrow to participate in the Western Trinity Cross Country. Please check PAM to give permission and for details. GREAT NEWS - a Coffee machine will be available for parents to purchase coffee or tea. We are working on a BBQ option, so stay tuned. I am also looking for any parents who would be willing to marshal - stand in a spot on the track just in case a student requires assistance. Please let the school know if you are available.

Child Safety

Check out our new padding on the football, basketball and netball posts?



CHURCH MASS TIMES

1st Sunday: 9 a.m.

2nd Sunday: 9 a.m.

3rd Sunday: 11.15 a.m.

4th Sunday: Lay led @ 10 a.m.

ANZAC Day - 25th April

LEST WE FORGET

Remember the fallen,
but do not forget
the living.

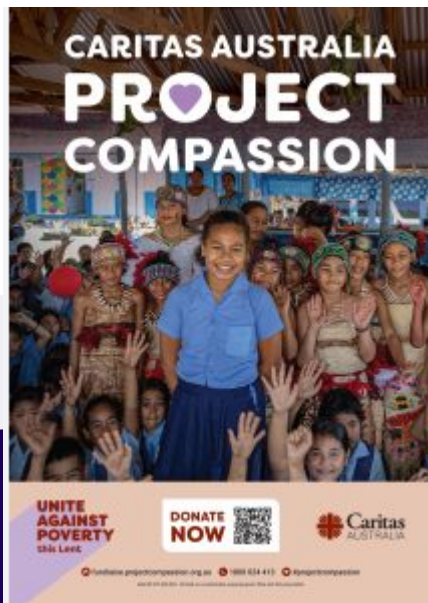


Mother's Day Games



Project Compassion

If anyone has any Project Compassion boxes at home they can be brought back to school please.



Term 2 Calendar

May:

Friday, 2nd: Kowree Cross Country @ Balmoral

Tuesday, 6th: Western Trinity Cross Country @ Harrow

Friday, 9th: Mother's Day Games

Monday, 12th: Little Desert Cross Country @ Kaniva

Wednesday, 14th: (**Pupil Free Day**) Staff P.D. @ Horsham

Friday, 16th: Walk to School Day

Thursday, 22nd: Hip Hop Freestyle Dance

Friday, 23rd: Reconciliation Sacrament Day - whole school celebration @ 10.45 a.m.

Sunday, 25th: Woodcut - location T.B.C.

Wednesday, 28th: Little Desert Winter Sports @ Horsham

Celebrating the Catholic Sacraments



**SACRAMENTAL
PREPARATION**

**Reconciliation
First Eucharist
and Confirmation**

The sacrament of Reconciliation preparation will start next week for Nellie McDonnell, Madeline McClure, Lucy Dillon, Harvey Stringer and Tecie Saranillo (EC). The sacrament will be celebrated on Friday, 23rd May at 11:45 a.m. with Fr. Cay and the school community at the church.

Term 3

The sacramental preparation for First Communion and Confirmation will commence at the start of Term 3 with the Sacrament celebrated on Sunday, 10th August at the 11:15 a.m. mass with both sacraments combined.

Nellie and Lilly McDonnell, Madeline and Rhianna McClure, Lucy Dillon, Harvey and Matthew Stringer and Tecie Saranillo (EC) will be preparing.

The preparation will take the form of two 30 min lessons per week during school time.

It is not too late if you would like your child involved.

Please see John for further details.

From Carine

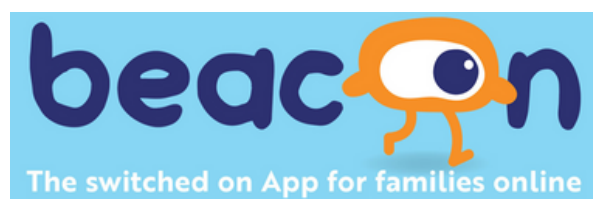
As parents and caregivers, we all share the goal of keeping our children safe online. However, knowing how to do so can sometimes be challenging. The suggestion below offers one approach to support this important effort.

Dolly's Dream has partnered with the Kids Institute Australia to get Beacon, the free cyber safety app, into the hands of parents and carers across the nation.

Co-designed with input from parents, carers and cyber safety experts including the Office of the eSafety Commissioner, Beacon provides families with trustworthy, practical resources to help them confidently navigate their children's technology use and reduce associated harms.

Families receive content tailored to their needs – including articles, videos and alerts – from a comprehensive library of strategies and tips to help address challenging issues such as screen time, gaming and cyberbullying. The content is regularly updated in response to changing Australian societal and online trends.

Follow this link for a 48 second video explaining what Beacon is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGItEOL7s3Q>



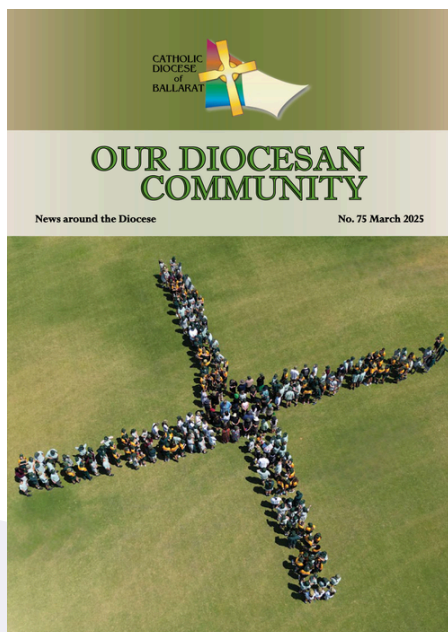
Download Beacon now, for free, by scanning this QR code on your phone.



Our Diocesan Community Magazine

This latest edition of Our Diocesan Community Magazine features an article on Fr. Cay's recent ordination.

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/ODC-March-2025-web.pdf>



Keeping your child home when unwell

To help prevent the spread of illness, we kindly ask families to keep children home if they are feeling unwell. Even mild symptoms can quickly spread in a school environment, affecting both students and staff. Common colds, flu, and other respiratory infections can be easily transmitted, so keeping unwell children at home helps protect the wider school community.

Please be aware that there is currently an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in Victoria, including in some of our surrounding communities. Whooping cough symptoms often begin like a common cold, with a runny nose, mild fever, and cough. The cough then becomes more severe, leading to bouts of intense coughing followed by a "whooping" sound, difficulty breathing, and sometimes vomiting.

If your child has been diagnosed with whooping cough, they must remain at home for 21 days from the onset of symptoms unless they have completed at least five days of an appropriate antibiotic course.

We appreciate your co-operation in keeping our school a safe and healthy place for all students and staff. If you have any concerns, please consult your GP or local health service.