



CANDELA



Loving God. We give thanks for the gift of education and the opportunity to learn and grow in the light of your wisdom. May our minds be open to truth, our hearts full of mercy and our actions reflective of the love taught by Jesus Christ Amen.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

St. Mary's is a dynamic Catholic community of empowered learners engaging justly in the world.

Dear Families,

FIRE Carriers at Sorry Day Whittlesea

Last week I had the privilege of joining the FIRE Carriers and Grace Gibbons at the Sorry Day Ceremony at the Great Hall in South Morang. It was such a humbling experience to hear the stories and truth telling of descendants of the Stolen Generation. Our students participated in the Sorry Day walk through the Council lands and then joined many other schools in some activities. I was so proud of our students' genuine respect and eagerness to participate and learn.

Deepest Appreciation

The updated Basketball Court area is known as the Multipurpose play area. Over the weekend, Rob Bruzzese and Michael Falzon created a giant Chess set area behind the court as well as concreting in the Junior area. The school is so grateful to Rob for his assistance and support of improving the grounds at St Mary's and for working with Gary and Michael to beautify our school. We have ordered some bench seating and grass turf for the surrounding area as well as some plants. I look forward to ordering some sporting equipment for each class to enjoy playtimes. All of this was achievable due to the \$75,000 grant from the North East Link Community Grant and our Parent Association who contributed \$30,800. Thank you to all parents who have raised funds through the work of the PA over the years, It is so exciting to see our grounds improving and providing safer play areas for the students. Michael is also painting the building surrounding the court to improve the aesthetics.

Our students are delighted with the update this far and will benefit for many years to come. The official opening of the Multi Purpose Play area will occur at 1.30pm on 30th June parents are welcome to attend. We are inviting guests from NELP and the Parents Association

School Fair 2026

I am delighted to announce that we have a Fair Committee who are diligently organising a St Mary's Fair in early 2026. St Mary's is deeply grateful to Emma Shelton for volunteering to lead the Fair Committee. I have no doubt our Fair will be a great success as many parents have already put their hands up to support Emma, ensuring a team effort with great support. If you would like to support the Fair either financially as a business, or as a volunteer, or in any capacity, a Fair email address will be shared with our community soon. In the meantime you are welcome to contact the office with your support.

Save the date Saturday 14th March 2026, St Mary's Fair

Parents Association Update

We are excited to announce that Penelope van Gelderen (Ava 5S) has agreed to be the President of the Parents Association for 2025. We are so thankful. Please consider helping Penelope out by nominating as Deputy President. Natalie Hadley is Secretary and Sally James is Treasurer. We are grateful to our general members.

Prep 2026 Interviews

I will be conducting the Prep 2026 interviews with Fr Steve and Fr Zaher starting in June. I find the interviews are a wonderful time to get to know the students and their parents. I look forward to welcoming the students to our great community.

Wellbeing Chaplain

Our Wellbeing Chaplain, Leanne is keen to support our parents and build networks of support for families. Soon to arrive at 2.30pm at St Mary's; a coffee van. Follow the coffee sign in the carpark. Keep a lookout!

St Mary's Website Update

The St Mary's website will be updated by Digital Schools in July. We are excited to have new videos with current staff and students featured in the update. St Mary's cognitive science approach to learning and teaching and Positive Behaviour in Learning curriculum will be clearly communicated in our new version. We look forward to receiving your feedback in regards to the current website and any improvements required.

Policy Updates

Each month I will provide updated or new policies to our community for your perusal.

- [Parent, Guardian, Carer Code of Conduct](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Complaints Handling Policy](#)
- [Complaints Handling Procedures](#)

Kind Regards,

Marisa Matthys
Principal

