

# CANDELA



*A Prayer for Peace in troubled times  
Eternal Father, in a world torn by strife and shadows,  
we cry out for Your divine peace.  
Calm the storms that rage within our nations,  
and hush the wars that battle in our minds.  
Send Your Spirit like a gentle rain  
to soften hardened hearts,  
to wash away hatred,  
to silence the noise of fear.  
We ask You, Lord, to walk into our chaos,  
not with thunder, but with mercy.  
Wrap every soul in the warmth of Your peace.  
Heal the divisions that keep brothers apart,  
restore the bridges we've burned in pride,  
and teach us again to see the image of God  
in every face we meet.  
Amen*



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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



**Dear Families,**

Welcome back to Term 4.

## St Mary's Art Exhibition

What a wonderful exhibition of our student's creative prowess. Jan Tivisini, Art Teacher and the staff of St Mary's were immensely proud to display the wonderful artistic talent of our students at the Biennial St Mary's Art Exhibition from Sunday 14th September through to Tuesday 16th September. The theme of our 2025 Art Exhibition tied in with Pope Frances call for 2025 to be the Year of Pilgrims of Hope. Many families, parishioners and visitors went on our journey of discovery, enjoying the colours, textures and creative talent of our students. Congratulations to Jan Tivisini (Visual Art Teacher) who taught the techniques and had the vision and organised the entire exhibition, our staff who supported the mounting and naming of each piece of art, the students who created the pieces and shared their talents. Thank you to all families who visited to admire the artistic works.







### St Mary's Parish 70th Anniversary Mass and Celebration

On Sunday the 14th of September the Parish and School celebrated St Mary's 70th Anniversary. Thank you to Fr Steve, Belinda Cheong and the Committee who organised the Mass and luncheon. Thank you to Bernie Girolami who provided the lovely luncheon. I was privileged to speak with Ellen Mills the very first lay teacher to teach at St Mary's. When Parish and School work together there is something really rich and special that culminates in a vibrant Catholic community coming together, sharing the past, present and vision for the future.

We were delighted to hear our new School song performed by our choir and written by our current Year 6 students in collaboration with Gareth Leach, their current Performing Arts Teacher. Such a great legacy to leave for St Mary's. This was such a wonderful opportunity to reminisce about the past, celebrate the present and feel hopeful about the future of our great Parish and School. Thank you to the school families, staff and parishioners who attended.

Catholic Schools

MARY'S GREENSBOROUGH





## Trivia Night/ St Mary's Fete 2026

The Fete Committee invites everyone to support fundraising by joining us all at a Trivia Night on October 25th in the St Mary's Hall. Grab your tickets now. Thank you to Emma and the Team involved in organising the event. This event is hoping to raise funds for the School Fete. The funds from the St Mary's Fete will provide the furniture for your children in the new refurbished build. We look forward to a great social night. Please read the information further in the Candela. Get a table together to support this wonderful initiative.

The fete email address is [fete2026@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au](mailto:fete2026@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au)

**Save the date, Saturday 14th March 2026**

## Prep 2026 Interviews and Welcome to St Mary's Evening

The Prep 2026 interviews are almost complete. The interviews have been a wonderful time for Fr Steve and I to get to know the students and their parents. I look forward to welcoming the students to our great community and Parish. It is an absolute pleasure getting to know the prospective St Mary's families. We have 75 Preps for 2026 with a waiting list.

On Thursday 16th October, St Mary's School invites all Prep 2026 Parents and Carers to a Welcome Evening at 7pm. This event will provide greater clarity regarding teaching and learning and all the logistical elements related to joining a school community. The families will meet Fr Steve, our Leaders and Prep team of teachers, School Advisory Chair, Parents Association, Maintenance President, St Mary's "Camp Australia" Team and Uniform Shop personnel as well as socialising with Prep 2026 parents and carers. We look forward to welcoming you to this event.

## Staffing Update

Over the break I have been busy recruiting staff to St Mary's. As you are aware, Allison Luff has been promoted to Deputy Principal at St Thomas' Greensborough. I am so excited to announce that Maria Caputo, previous Literacy leader at Marymede and teacher at St Luke's Lalor has been appointed as Literacy Leader at St Mary's beginning January 2026. Maria has completed her Masters at La Trobe University in Language and Literacy and has had many years of experience in both classroom teaching and leadership. She has a deep understanding of Cognitive Science and the Science of Reading. We look forward to Maria working with us for many years to come.





## Anonymous Parish Donor

Thank you to the generous parishioner who donated some money to our benevolent fund to support a student who may be struggling to acquire their uniform or pay fees. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and demonstrates the support and partnership we have as school and parish. May God bless you and your family.

## Infrastructure Update

The final tender report has been sent to the Archdiocesan Planning Committee to be processed for the refurbishment of the two storey building. We have decanted the building in readiness for the program to begin. The Maintenance team now has a workshop up in the staff carpark. I will update you with any further information as soon as it becomes available. We do not yet have a firm start date.

## Traffic Safety

Once again, I ask that all parents are patient and follow staff directions for the smoothest and fastest entrance and exit to and from St Mary's during the Grimshaw St closure for NEL works. We will all get into a safe routine.

In October, for four weeks Grimshaw Street closed in both directions between Greensborough Bypass and Greensborough Road from 5am, Monday 6 October to 5am, Saturday 1 November. NELP has advised the school of major interruptions to traffic and to plan accordingly. We have devised a contingency plan for entrance into the school via William St & Grimshaw Street. Attached is the **updated** map and clear directions that must be adhered to for clear traffic flow. We also request everyone to be patient and understanding as drop off and pick up may take longer than usual. I will ensure any updates provided to me in relation to road closures or access to the school are shared with you immediately so that you can plan your trips accordingly.



## National Teaching Matters Summit

I was so privileged to be invited to represent MACS Principals and share my experience of Charting the Course: A Leader's Guide to Navigating Change with Glenn Fahey (Director of the Centre for Independent Studies) moderating our conversation with Michael Roberts (Managing Director Mastery Schools Australia), Kerrie Flynn (Principal St Peter Chanel, Smithton Tasmania), and Anna Masters (Principal Merici College ACT). The panel discussion took place in Tasmania at the National Teaching Matters Summit. Our journey at St Mary's has been such a positive experience to share, especially the alignment of academics and behaviour where we have seen such growth and continue to strive for excellence and equity for all of our students. I am extremely proud of the efforts of our leaders, teachers and students.

## Policy Updates

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

New Policies – all Policies can be found **[here](#)**.

- **[Student Dress Code and Uniform Policy](#)**

Please keep Fergal O'Reilly (PE Teacher) in your prayers as he has just returned from Ireland following the death of his beloved father Seamus and subsequent illness of his mother. Our prayers and thoughts are with Fergal at this sad time.

*Marisa Matthys*

Principal





# PBL Champions

