



St. Patrick's School School Advisory Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Annual General Meeting 6th December 2022, 7.30pm





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Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Opening prayer / reflection
3. Attendance / apologies
4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting
5. Reports
6. Election of office bearers
7. Close





Chairperson's Report

Wow! Another school year done and dusted! Is it just me or are the years getting faster and faster as time goes on? This was my first year on the School Advisory committee and as the Chairperson. Thank you to Antoinette Toet who finished last year.

Like most new things, this role has been a bit of a learning curve for me, similarly to the last two years there have been fewer meetings due to covid interfering and ability to have a core group or general availability of members.

Despite the challenges the last few years have brought, we continued to run a number of great fundraisers including the St Patrick's Music Bingo night. It was a big hit, with community members as far and wide attended. Also, it was fantastic to see a number of events enjoyed with visitors welcomed back to the school including a Mother's Day event, Father's Day and F-2 Sports Day held at our school, as well as weekly assemblies welcoming back families.

We have had discussions regarding an update of the current uniform, which in turn we hope to make some changes in the next 6-12 months.

It is fantastic to see our curriculum and the opportunities offered to our students promoting academic, religious, cultural, physical and social development. I am very impressed by the Auslan Program being introduced throughout the classes, and have enjoyed learning and seeing the students perform songs, the national anthem and key communication such as clapping. It will be a great asset for all children to have to be able to communicate with a range of different people; I am sure it will be a functional skill that they will be able to use throughout their life.

Thank you to all staff (Mr Dalglish, Miss Williams, Mrs Creek, Mrs Bell, Ms Murphy, Mrs Dickinson, Mrs Dickinson, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Pilgrim, Mrs Rintoule, Mr Keller and Mrs Munro) for your hard work and continued commitment to providing a nurturing and safe environment for our children to not only learn and grow but to thrive. I think it is particularly important to acknowledge the resilience of staff to continue to pivot and work in such a tough environment during covid. Let's hope the new year brings less interruptions as life hopefully returns to the 'new normal'.

I wish to extend an added thank you and best wishes to Ann Munro and Lisa Creek on their dedication and service to our students, staff, school and church over the past combined 40 years. I wish them both all the best on their retirement, their knowledge and presence around the school will be sorely missed.

Thank you again to all the staff and SAC members for putting your hand up and making our school a great facility and environment for students, teachers, and parents.

Lastly, a big thank you to everyone involved in our fantastic school; it is wonderful to see our school continue to grow. Sending best wishes to our outgoing Year 6 students on their transition to



secondary school next year, and we look forward to welcoming 10 new Foundation students in 2023.

Wishing everyone a very happy holiday period and I am looking forward to continuing to represent our school and community in 2023.

Emily Gladdis

Chairperson

P&F Treasurer's Report

Fundraising for period 1/1/2022 to 30/11/2022

Music Bingo Night (including raffle)

\$598.00



Principal's Report

2022 has been a year of reconnection in many ways.

We have been able to reconnect as students and staff given that we have not had to resort to online or remote studies due to lockdowns. This was the first year since 2019 where students have been able to attend school every day throughout the school year! We acknowledged small, although we considered them major at the time, milestones such as the first term without a lockdown, the first semester without a lockdown, and now a whole year without a lockdown.

We have been able to reconnect with families and friends as they have joined us for assemblies, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grandparent's Day, etc, as well as being open for face-to-face Parent/Teacher interviews, and for Kinder visits and tours.

And we have been able to reconnect with the wider community as our children attended interschool sports and activities, and went on school camps – most of them up to Year 4 going for the first time ever!

Whilst we have celebrated these connections, there has also been a disconnection as we endeavoured to find ongoing consistency of teaching in the senior classroom. With uncertainty surrounding what became the extended absence of Ms Jo Murphy, we were not in a position to be able to seek an ongoing replacement in the classroom and had to suffice with casual relief teachers (CRTs) filling the role on a day-to-day and week-to-week basis. Thankfully we were able to engage the services of Mrs Joy Quarrell for three days per week in Term 3 and Mrs Bianca Dickinson for four days per week in Term 4. These two ladies, together with Mrs Emma Dickinson and Mr Joshua Keller as Learning Support Officers (LSOs), ensured the provision of a quality educational program for our senior students.


Our staff continue to display professionalism and have a marvellous rapport with the students. As a whole school community, we live by our Vision Statement, "As partners in Catholic education and open to God's presence, we pursue fullness of life for all."

The 2022 school year commenced with 45 students, grew to 46 during the year with the addition of a student into Year 4 in Term 2 and then returned to 44 with the departure of two students during the year.

Class teachers and LSOs were allocated as follows:

- Foundation – Year 1: Mrs Lisa Creek and Mrs Annette Hamilton
- Year 2 – 3: Miss Katherine Williams and Mrs Caroline Pilgrim
- Year 4 – 6: Ms Jo Murphy and Mrs Emma Dickinson/Mr Joshua Keller.

Mrs Tracey Bell was employed on a part-time basis which allowed for teaching staff release time on Wednesdays and Thursdays.



As a school community we continue to look to improve ourselves. Increased enrolments for 2023 tell us that the wider community have seen what we are doing well, however we need to continue to grow and develop.

All of our actions are guided by our Vision and Mission Statement and by our School Improvement Plan. Our School Improvement Plan priorities from last year's school review were:

- Developing and implementing core beliefs about learning, a Curriculum Plan, and evidence-based pedagogy across Awakenings and all Key Learning Areas of the Victorian Curriculum.
- Strengthening home/school partnerships to maximise student outcomes.
- Establishing a whole school approach to wellbeing and student engagement.

With these priorities in mind, our emphasis is to improve student learning outcomes, as well as providing opportunities for classroom teachers to increase their knowledge of the Ballarat Diocese's Awakenings curriculum and its implementation within the classroom. We have been very fortunate to have the services of Felicity Lane and Samantha Meerbach from Catholic Education Ballarat who supported the teaching staff with their professional learning and in the development of our curriculum Scope & Sequences for Reading, Writing, Spelling and Mathematics.

Christine Bulger and Bernadette Luckman from Catholic Education Ballarat also guided teaching staff in the development and implementation of unit plans for Religious Education.

Our school commenced a journey this year towards the third of our priorities above by engaging the services of Anne Ruddell (CEB) in assisting to bring School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) into our school.

The support of the above CEB personnel has been greatly appreciated by our staff throughout the year.


In reviewing our year, it is worth reflecting on the five key Characteristics of a Highly Effective Catholic School (CHECS) – Catholic School Culture, Community Engagement, Leadership and Stewardship, Learning and Teaching, and Wellbeing.

Catholic School Culture

Masses

Our school community gathered with families and parishioners in St Patrick's Catholic Church to celebrate our Opening Mass with Mons Glynn Murphy. We also had Fr Anthony lead us in our Ash Wednesday Mass.

Following his appointment to our Parish, Fr Matthew Restall joined us for classroom visits and led our Giving Mass which saw the St. Patrick's School community donate approximately \$1,000 worth of non-perishable foods, IGA vouchers and fuel vouchers to West Wimmera Health Service. Fr Matt will also be with us for our Graduation Mass.



We held a liturgy for All Souls Day at the start of November. All Souls Day is a day for us to pray for everyone who has died, especially members of our own families as they are placed in God's loving hands.

Project Compassion

Families supported Catholic Mission through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion as part of our Lenten journey. Weekly updates and stories were shared on our newsletter and all families were provided with collection boxes. Collectively we raised \$571.25 for the work of Caritas Australia. This figure does not include any online contributions made by families.

Catholic Education Week

Our students joined students from St Mary's Primary School, Warracknabeal, St Joseph's Primary School, Hopetoun, and Our Lady Help of Christians School, Murtoa, in celebrating Catholic Education Week with a combined Mass in Warracknabeal.

After Mass the students returned to St Mary's School for shared lunch and activities.

The Feast Day for Saint Mary MacKillop

The school celebrated the Feast Day for Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop on 8 August during our Assembly.

In November the whole school travelled to Penola to visit the Mary MacKillop Centre in support of their Religious Education units.

Weekly Gospel

A reflection on the Sunday Gospel is shared each week on the school newsletter. An abridged version is also shared with the students during our Monday morning assembly.

Social Justice

Our students have been kept aware and involved in a number of significant Social Justice 'weeks' or 'days' throughout the year. These included, but were not limited to, Project Compassion, ANZAC Day, National Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week, World Environment Day, World Refugee Week, National Anti-Bullying Week, Remembrance Day, and more. It has been very pleasing to see our children engaging in these social awareness and social justice events. As a Catholic school it is important for us to be aware of the plight of our brothers and sisters as well as our environment as stewards of God's world.

Sacramental Program

Monsignor Glynn and Fr Matt are endeavouring to work with School Principals and Parish representatives to develop an ongoing arrangement for children to participate in the Sacramental programs across the Parish.



DOBCEL Visit

DOBCEL Board representatives visited the schools of the Diocese this term and we were visited by Mons Glynn and Terry Handley who were both impressed by the presentation of our school and how we are progressing. Both provided very positive support for our building program plans.

Community Engagement

Music Bingo Night

A good crowd enjoyed a fantastic and hilarious night of singing and entertainment at our St Patrick's Music Bingo night. Tim O'Donnell and his off-sider Josh put on an amazing show. The feedback on the night was very pleasing and there is a lot of interest for a follow-up event.

Book Fair

Our Book Fair stall at Nhill Market was successful and the display in St Patrick's Community Hall that followed the Market was also well attended by students and parents.

Australia Day / ANZAC Day

It was wonderful to see our students involved in the Australia Day ceremony and the ANZAC Day march. More than a quarter of our students attended the service in Goldsworthy Park with most of those marching behind the school banner. We also had students form a combined schools choir with Nhill Lutheran School for the ANZAC Day service.

Mother's Day / Father's Day / Grandparents' Day

It was pleasing to see a great number of our mums, dads, grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles and other special friends be able to join us for our Mother's Day, Father's Day and Grandparents' Day activities throughout the year.

For Mother's Day, all of our guests received a free raffle ticket for the opportunity to take home one of our many donated prizes which included a sewing table, coffee pot and personal care products.

Grandparents and other special friends joined us for a morning during our Meerkat Productions performance.

It was wonderful to welcome so many of our Fathers and Father-figures to join us in celebrating Father's Day with an afternoon of hot-dogs, tee-ball and other activities.

Kit Andrews Visit

Our senior class had a visit from Melbourne-based, self-taught artist, Kit Andrews who visited Myanmar several times during the period between 2012 and 2018. Kit's pastels and paintings, drawn largely from photographs and quick sketches done in the early mornings during walks around the streets of Yangon, reflect some of the bustling activity and openness that was symptomatic of those years.



School Promotion

Kevin Cummins from Catholic Education Ballarat produced a promotional video package of our school and developed a new website for us. The youtube video of St Patrick's School can be viewed here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itvIC4coA58>

Cystic Fibrosis Red Day

We supported Cystic Fibrosis with a Red Clothes Day which helped them through awareness and fundraising.

The Push-Up Challenge

Four staff members again participated in The Push Up Challenge. The challenge was for each registered person to complete 3,139 push-ups over 24 days in June. This is to raise awareness about mental health and the impact of suicide on our communities. The number of push-ups, 3139, tragically represents the number of lives lost to suicide in Australia in 2020. The four staff each achieved their target for a **collective total of 12,556 push-ups**.

Loud Shirt Day

Given our involvement with learning Auslan, we supported this day which is in support of kids with hearing loss. There was a sea of colour in the school with a variety of shirts, styles and colours on display.

Local Exhibitions

Four doors were decorated and placed on display at Gallery Central during August as part of their Doors exhibition.

Student art and craft work was entered as part of the Nhill Show with many of the students receiving awards for their efforts.

Our Senior students entered the Lions Peace Poster competition with Sienna Philip's poster being the winning entry from our school. Jody Bee and Ma Thay Thay Khin received awards for their entries as well.

Nhill Supa IGA Sponsorship

Steve Braybrook from Nhill's Supa IGA presented St Patrick's School with a cheque for \$500 to use towards resources for our children.

ADF Parcels

We once again partnered with Nhill RSL Sub Branch Blue Lounge Social Club to send Christmas parcels off to those serving with the Australian Defence Forces.



Nhill Free Press

Nhill Free Press has continued to support us by allowing us to share articles of interest with the wider community and with a regular page showcasing what has been happening within the school.

Support from local businesses

Through our Little Joey Awards, we received wonderful support from Cambrelle's and Nhill Bakery as sponsors of the awards.

Leadership and Stewardship

New Fence

T&T Dickinson Building has completed the installation of the new fence and gate along the Church Street boundary of the school, and the new fence and gate at the front of the school. The new additions were warmly welcomed by students and parents upon their return at the start of Term 2.

Fire Drill

All students and staff participated in Emergency evacuation and lockdown drills throughout the year.

Building Program

An Educational Brief has been developed and approved by Catholic Education Ballarat. We have been in discussions with an architect from Melbourne, David Nock, and am preparing submissions for State and Federal Government funding for this building program. Submissions will be required in February/March next year with announcements made later in the year.

Long Jump Pit

Thank you to Nathan Wheeler, Dale Krelle and Tom Curtis who prepared a long jump pit at the end of our cricket nets. The children were able to practise for Long Jump and Triple Jump events using our new pit.

TreadLightly Shoe Drive

We participated in TreadLightly's Recycling Shoe Drive in March. TreadLightly is an organisation collecting old, unwanted sports and active lifestyle shoes and recycles them in an effort to reduce global waste. This tied in nicely with the work our students were doing regarding recycling.

The footwear was sent to a recycling plant here in Australia for sorting, breakdown and processing. Reusable components are extracted, including rubber, leather and fibres and the reclaimed materials are used to manufacture new products such as gym mats, floors and playgrounds. We collected in excess of 130 shoes during the week.



Kinder visit

We had over 20 families visit our school for the Kinder Open Day. As mentioned previously, 10 children have been enrolled for Foundation in 2023.

Playground Audit

An inspection and audit of our playground has been completed.

Technology

Installation of NBN was conducted during the September holiday period.

A new photocopier was added to the Admin area with the older copier placed in the library area for staff and student access.

New Chromebooks were purchased for use by the senior students.

Professional Learning

Staff have attended a large number of Professional Learning opportunities this year, some face-to-face but predominantly online.

Catholic Education Ballarat

Support from Catholic Education Ballarat has been consistent throughout the year, particularly from Felicity Lane, Samantha Meerbach, Anne Ruddell and Bernadette Luckman. Felicity and Samantha worked with all of the teaching staff to unpack the curriculum and assist in determining the essential learnings and implementing a viable curriculum for all students.

Bernadette Luckman assisted Teaching Staff with the Ballarat Diocese Awakenings program for Religious Education.

Anne Ruddell guided us in the implementation of SWPBS across our school.

Monique Ryan and Patrice Rickard have guided Lisa Creek and myself on issues relevant to the Learning Diversity Leaders, the National Consistent Collection of Data, as well as testing and screening programs for our students.

Ashleigh Freckleton has continued to support our children in her role as CEB Speech Pathologist.

Policy Updates

Following the change to DOBCEL, a number of policies have been updated to align with the change of governance.

SunSmart

St Patrick's School was once again recognised by Cancer Council Victoria as a SunSmart School.

Learning and Teaching

Staffing

There was no turnover of staff between the end of last year and the start of this year, which was a pleasant change in itself. Mrs Tracey Bell increased her allocation from one day to two days per week and Mrs Emma Dickinson from three days to four days. Mr Joshua Keller was engaged as Learning Support Officer in the middle of Term 2.

Staff Roles

Apart from their respective teaching roles, the following staff have also been appointed to specialist roles as follows:

- Religious Education Leader – Jo Murphy
- Learning Diversity Leader – Lisa Creek
- Curriculum Coordinator – Kate Williams
- EAL/D Coordinator – Lisa Creek
- Sports Coordinator – Emma Dickinson

Enrolments

We had nine new Foundation students join us at the start of the year.

Our start-of-year enrolment was 45 students, broken down as follows:

- Foundation – 9 students, 4 girls and 5 boys
- Grade 1 – 5 students, 3 girls and 2 boys
- Grade 2 – 6 students, 4 girls and 2 boys
- Grade 3 – 7 students, 2 girls and 5 boys
- Grade 4 – 9 students, 5 girls and 4 boys
- Grade 5 – 4 students, 3 girls and 1 boy
- Grade 6 – 5 students, 3 girls and 2 boys


Overall enrolment – 45 students, 24 girls and 21 boys.

During the year we had two students leave us, and we picked up one student which gave us an enrolment of 44 students at the end of the school year.

Class Structure

This year we changed to three straight classes for the whole day. Our class structures were:

- F-1 Mrs Creek
- 2-3 Miss Williams
- 4-6 Ms Murphy



Mrs Tracey Bell taught Science, Physical Education, Integrated Studies, Maths and Arts across each of the three class groups.

Ms Murphy has been absent since Week 2 of Term 3. We were very fortunate to have been able to call on the services of Mrs Joy Quarrell to work with our senior students for the majority of the following nine weeks of term. Joy's dedication and commitment to ensuring the implementation of a work program for our Year 4-6 class and that they have been able to experience continuity of learning was greatly appreciated by us all. Joy was unavailable for Term 4, however we have been fortunate to obtain the services of Mrs Bianca Dickinson who agreed to cover during Jo's absence in Term 4.

Staff Professional Learning

Following last year's School Review, one of the key priorities identified as being a focus during the next five years was to establish a whole school approach to wellbeing and student engagement. Our whole staff has been led by Anne Ruddell from Catholic Education Ballarat in the development and implementation of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support.

Further Professional Learning by staff occurred in: -

- Scaffolding Literacy
- First Aid, CPR and Anaphylaxis
- Religious Education
- Catholic Identity
- Literacy, Numeracy, Science
- Positive Partnerships

There have been collaborative sessions between staff of St Patrick's and Our Lady Help of Christians schools as we continue to work together in a number of areas that we have in common.

Auslan

Students have commenced their Auslan studies with class teachers as co-learners. It has been great to see how quickly some have picked up and used the phrases that have been introduced.

Sports Clinics and Events

Throughout the year our students have been involved in numerous sporting clinics and events. These have included: -

- Hockey, Soccer and Golf Clinics
- Water Safety and Awareness
- Hip Hop Dance, STOMP Dance, Freestyle Dance Ministry
- Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country Carnival.

Days/Weeks of Significance

Classes participated in activities related to the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA), Harmony Week, Refugee Week, National Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week, and others.

NAPLAN / PAT Testing

Students in Years 3 and 5 undertook national NAPLAN testing in Literacy and Numeracy in May.

All students were involved in PAT Testing in Reading, Maths and Spelling (Year 2 and above).

National Simultaneous Storytime and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Once again our students joined with other students around the country for National Simultaneous Storytime. We had fun dressing in the *Family Tree* theme, and Mrs Dickinson read the story **Family Tree**, along with an Auslan reading of the story also. Following the story, parents/friends celebrated Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. Our donations totalling \$200.25 (plus online donations) support the Cancer Council's raising of vital funds for life-saving research, prevention programs, and information and support services.

Excursions / Incursions


We were fortunate to have the travelling Questacon Science Show roadshow visit Nhill and all of our students attended and enjoyed the presentation.

Meerkat Productions visited the school and performed their adaptation of **Stellarphant** to a captive audience of students, staff and grandparents/special people. Meerkat Productions specialise in adapting children's literature for the stage, creating fresh and vibrant productions which prompt discussion and debate with students. The performance was thoroughly entertaining and enjoyed by all. After the performance students spent some time in the classroom with their special visitors creating rockets, and enjoyed a cuppa and chat.

Our Senior class visited the Wheeler family's farm as part of their class discussions around farm safety and agricultural procedures. Thank you to Mr Keller for arranging the excursion and to the Wheeler family for allowing our students to visit.

The Junior class had a day trip to Kaniva to visit the Kaniva Puppet Shop and other venues within the township.

Mrs Bell and the senior class presented displays and demonstrations to coincide with Science Week and its theme of **Glass: More than meets the eye**. The students welcomed the other two classes into the hall to be active learners as the Seniors explained each of their displays. The Juniors and Middles each got to look at onion cells through the microscope; to see the manner in which light is refracted as it passes through different media including perspex, oil and water; they investigated how kaleidoscopes work as well as optic fibres. It was great to see a number of parents able to join us for the displays as well.



Our Year 5-6 students combined with students from Nhill College and Nhill Lutheran School to participate in Rotary's Science Challenge in Horsham with the combined team working well together to finish Runners-Up on the day against schools and colleges from around Western Victoria. Thank you to Mrs Bell for coordinating this activity.

Camps

The Years 4-6 students attended a camp at Anglesea on 2-4 November and the Years 2-3 students went to Halls Gap on 1-2 December. Both of these camps continue to build the students' social and emotional capabilities, as well as their ability to work cooperatively and effectively within groups. We were fortunate to qualify to have both camps fully funded by the Victorian Government's Positive Start program.

Wellbeing

COVID-19 / Rapid Antigen Tests

After getting through 2020 and 2021 without experiencing COVID in our school community, we caught up with the rest of the world this year with many of our students and staff being away from school at various times due to the coronavirus.

All staff and students were regularly issued with Rapid Antigen Test kits to allow for testing twice weekly as required, and then as needed as the year progressed.

Circuit Breaker Weekend

Catholic Education Ballarat encouraged all schools across the Diocese to have a Circuit Breaker long weekend on Friday 12 August and Monday 15 August to alleviate the pressures of COVID, influenza, coughs and colds anticipated at that time.

Primary School Nursing and Dental Health Program

All Foundation students were visited by the Primary School Nursing Program. The aim of this program is to help identify children with potential health related issues that may impact on their learning and development.


The Dental Health van also visited during the year and parents were able to have their children visit the dental health nurse here at school during their visit.

PSG Meetings

These meetings continued in accordance with NCCD requirements.

Little Joey Awards and Reading Certificates

The Little Joey Awards continued to be presented at assemblies and shared in the newsletter in recognition of the achievements of the students.



Reading Certificates were also presented for achieving 'nights of reading' targets which increase in increments of 25. Again, these have been presented at assemblies and recognised via the various platforms of community engagement.

Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs) and Behaviour Support Plans (BSPs)

PLPs and BSPs have helped to develop and improve the confidence in our children as the learning tasks they undertake are developed to meet their specific learning needs.

Child Safe Standards

Vaccination Mandate for School Staff in Victoria

St Patrick's School complied with regulations as mandated by the Victorian Government and in accordance with Public Health Notice #6. Staff in schools across Victoria were mandated to have received their third vaccination dose by early in the 2022 school year. All St Patrick's School staff complied with this mandate.

Mask Wearing

Staff and students (Years 3-6) complied with regulations that masks be worn at school as mandated.

eSmart and Cybersafety

We have continued our relationship with eSmart Schools and encourage cybersafety and responsible online usage among our school community.

Our Child Safe Policy

Our Child Safe Policy and related procedures were again updated to ensure that we met legislative requirements in relation to Ministerial Order No. 870. Any student absences are followed up by 10am each day and parents are contacted about any unexplained student absences.


Revised CECV Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

A revised CECV Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, to reflect the new Child Safe Standards and Ministerial Order No. 1359, has been published on the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) website www.cecv.catholic.edu.au under Our Schools / Child Safety. This document is also published on the school website.

In closing, I wish to thank all members of the St Patrick's School community for their contributions to our school this year. I particularly wish to thank the following:

The staff of St Patrick's School for your dedication and support to our students and families.

The parents and children of St Patrick's School for the expectations that you have of us as a school and the faith that you have in us to deliver on those expectations.



The School Advisory Council for your willingness to be actively involved in the operations of our school through your input on policies and procedures; through fundraising ventures to enable us to implement various projects at school; through ensuring the grounds and facilities are well maintained; through engaging with our families and ensuring connectedness between families, and between families and school; and through your general support and friendship. Without all that you do, we would not be able to do all that we do.

I wish you all a very safe, happy, and Holy Christmas and wish you well for a Happy New Year.

Kingsley Dagleish

Principal





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AGM SAC REPORT: PARISH PRIEST (DEC 2022)

SCHOOL MINISTRY

July 2022 saw the transfer of Assistant Priests, with Fr Matt Restall replacing Fr Jim McKay. Fr Matt has since begun settling into school visitation cycles with ongoing plans for the 2023 school year.

This includes involvement in pastoral visits to schools, liturgies, school camp and staff reflection days participation and ongoing Sacramental planning.

FAITH COMMUNITIES

There are 12 identified faith community groups across Paul VI Parish, including 10 church buildings in towns plus home gatherings monthly in Natimuk and Rupanyup. Parish Finance and Pastoral committees continue to look at forward planning in the life of our faith communities, which includes the church communities connected with schools across the Parish. Future initiatives will vary across the communities, given differing demographics and large distances involved, with only two priests assigned within Paul VI region. Interest groups and working groups need to further develop.

DOBCEL

The transition of schools' administration to DOBCEL, from local parishes, has completed satisfactorily over the last year, from a parish perspective. Management issues are no longer connected with the Parish.

Christmas Holiday Period

Parish clergy will remain active over the coming holiday period, planning Sacramental timetables in advance to assist parents and schools with the 2023 cycle for Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Safe and Restful Holidays

Mons Glynn and Fr Matt ask the blessing of safe and restful holidays upon all members of school communities across St Paul VI Parish this Christmas. May our roads be places of courteous and responsible driving and may all families be refreshed by time together and resting from the yearly demands of life – even for a short while. God bless all with the presence of Christ this Christmas and new year.



Mons Glynn Murphy

Parish Priest

05 Dec 2022