



# St Margaret Mary's School

**Listen Share Act**

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Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October **Update** 2023 Term 4 Week 2

## Article: Diocese of Parramatta's 2023 Synod

Over the weekend of 13 – 15 October 2023, the Diocese of Parramatta successfully concluded its inaugural Synod, a momentous event that brought together 280 faithful from across Western Sydney, the Blue Mountains, and beyond to discuss the future of the local Church. "Synodality means that at times we put aside our personal preferences for the sake of the whole. Synodality also means we are walking with each other, but not necessarily at the same speed at times. Therefore, it requires ongoing care, attention, patience and love. If this Synod has taught us anything, it is about the cultivation of mutual relationships."

The culmination of over six months of listening and consultation sessions, the Synod was a gathering of 200 selected Members to discuss, discern, and vote on 25 resolutions under the six key themes that were raised as part of the consultation sessions. Over 5,000 people were part of this process and over 1,000 submissions were generated. A Synod Writing Group synthesized all these experiences and information into a Synod Working Document, under the theme: "Behold, I am doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:19)."

The six themes were:

1. An Inclusive and Welcoming Church
2. A Humble and Healing Church
3. A Listening Church
4. A Church Renewed in Spirit and Prayer
5. A Church that Reaches to the Margins
6. A Church Walking Together

Joining the 200 Members were 12 Observers representing various Catholic and Christian organisations to provide oversight and validate the proceedings, along with several "Periti" – experts in theology and canon law, as well as many staff and volunteers.



Commencing on Friday evening with an Opening Mass and Commissioning of Delegates at St Patrick's Cathedral, Bishop of Parramatta welcomed all as "not passive congregants but protagonists and subjects of evangelisation." He continued "the Church cannot be fully itself without involving everyone as co-responsible for its life and mission." Bishop Vincent expressed his gratitude to everyone who had participated to date.....

Throughout the weekend, members were placed in small groups where they took turns to provide their perspectives, listen actively to others, reflect in silence, and then discuss what they heard from others. This method of spiritual conversations was derived from Ignatian Spirituality and not only gave the event a productive structure but allowed for an opening up and honesty from all participants. Members then had the ability to speak from the floor, with many lining up to speak on behalf of their tables or of their own experiences. Facilitated by Professor Br David Hall FMS and Dr Trish Hindmarsh, each session concluded with voting on the resolutions. Twenty-three of the 25 resolutions received the required two-thirds majority, providing Bishop Vincent with an indication of the Holy Spirit is moving within the people of God within the Synod Hall.

To conclude the event, Bishop Vincent celebrated Mass stating *"We are richer and better not only because we are all like-minded, but more often than not, because we are prepared to learn and enrich ourselves with the insights from others. I want to thank you also for your generosity and magnanimity in working towards consensus and in accepting the results which you might not be in total agreement with."* *"This Synod has been much more than an event. It is a template and a model for engagement, discernment and decision-making process. More than a destination that says we have arrived, it is a journey of ongoing learning, openness and alignment with the Spirit. So as we conclude, we feel energised to begin again. May we go forth into our various environments and become agents of synodality, enabling our families, schools, parishes, agencies to become a community of mutual empowerment."*



**(The complete article can be found on the Catholic Outlook site of the Diocese of Parramatta)**

Take care and God bless,

*Kevin Mills*  
Kevin Mills  
Principal

# Administration

## Diary Dates

<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>StMM's Feast day Colour Fun Day &amp; Sausage Sizzle</li> </ul>
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>StMM's Parish International Food Festival</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Miss Fardella's Farewell Liturgy 2:00pm – 3:00pm</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year One Ranger Jamie Incursion</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year Three 'Zingactiv' dance classes</li> <li>Kindergarten 2024 Parent Information Evening 6:00pm – 7:00pm</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kindergarten Motiv8sport Incursion</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kindergarten Binwise Incursion</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Saints Day</li> <li>Primary Students attend All Saints Day Mass at 9am</li> <li>Kindergarten 2024 Orientation Mornings 9am – 10:30am</li> <li>Kindergarten 2024 Parent information Session 9am – 10:30am</li> <li>Year Three 'Zingactiv' dance classes</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Souls Day</li> </ul>

## Kindergarten 2024

Just a reminder to all parents who have a child starting Kindergarten in 2024. Our Parent Information Evening will be held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm in the school hall.

## Staff Formation Day



StMM's will be holding our Staff Formation Day on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. This day will be a pupil free day as staff will be focused on deepening our understanding of our Catholic faith, formation and identity.

As previously mentioned, the first two days of Term 4 were staff development days provided to all Parramatta Diocesan schools in order for staff to plan and prepare for the new English and Mathematics Curriculum.

We encourage all families to add Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November as an important date into their calendars and to make alternative care arrangements for their children.

## Leaving

If you know your child/ren will not be returning to StMM's in Term 4, please let the office know in writing as soon as possible, as we have several families on our waiting list. It is a CSPD Policy that 10 weeks' notice is given to the principal before the removal of your child from the school, otherwise a full-term fee will be required to be paid.

## Parent Reminder

As we approach our StMM's Colour Fun Day, we remind parents and carers that it is inappropriate for parents to be approaching any child regarding issues or problems they may have. This may be in the area of social, behaviour or academic concerns.

We ask that these matters go directly to the class teacher or to the office. Please remember that staff of StMM's are responsible for the safety & wellbeing of all students.

## Morning & Afternoon Dismissal

### Morning Arrival

#### Arrival Times

- Supervision begins at 8:15am
- Children at school by 8:30am
- Lessons start at 8:40am

In review, the perfect drop off scenario should be as follows:

- Kids are dressed.
- Backpacks are ready on the seat.
- Approach the drop off zone fully alert.
- Hands on steering wheel
- Eyes forward when it's your turn for car unloading.
- You initiate the "bye bye, have a great day" sequence.
- Children unload swiftly and with all of their belongings.
- Ease away from the curb
- Drive away from the school.
- Drive away slowly taking the safety of our children into consideration.

## Afternoon Dismissal

### Afternoon Dismissal

- Top Church Gate.
- Car Pick-Up - Henson Street (Car numbers are called by staff)

### Practices for Afternoon Car Pick-Up

- Car Pick-Up commences at 3:00pm.
- The only dedicated Car Pick-Up queue is the length of the school block in Henson Street between the Pick-up Signs.
- Joining this queue must be done following all road and traffic rules including signage.
- Parents/Carers are to ensure they give way correctly, taking into account all signs & road rules.
- The Police and Council Rangers will book cars not following the road rules.

Aspects to follow for Car pick-up

- Stagger your arrival between 3:00pm and 3:30pm.**
- Have your number visible for the teachers to call.**
- Remain calm and patient at all times.**
- Adults to remain in car.**
- Follow all road rules.**



# Faith Community

## Miss Fardella's Farewell Liturgy

We would like to warmly invite all families and friends to a farewell liturgy for Miss Fardella. The liturgy will be held on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 2:00pm**. We look forward to celebrating Miss Fardella's extraordinary contribution to our community and hope you will join us.

## St Margaret Mary Feast Day

### St Margaret Mary Alacoque Liturgy

On Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> of October, the students and staff of STMM's entered the hall to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Margaret Mary. We welcomed Father Jeremy, and started the Liturgy by singing



"Hearts On Fire." Students from Year Five read the Responsorial Psalm, Fr Jeremy read the Gospel and delivered the Homily. A



few Year Six

students spoke to us about St. Margaret Mary Alacoque life. We concluded the Liturgy, by singing the Sacred Heart song. Mrs. Attard led the reflection on how we could connect St. Margaret Mary to our Head, Heart, and Hands. Then, the Liturgy came to an end.



*By Grace L and Wendy W*



## St Margaret Mary Alacoque

Our parish and school is named after St Margaret Mary Alacoque. Born in France, she was a Catholic nun who is recognised for her devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She faced many challenges throughout her life - many people in the community challenged her work and many did not believe that Jesus appeared to her. Jesus gave Margaret Mary the job of spreading the devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Margaret Mary died at the age of 43. She said: "I need nothing but God, and to lose myself in the heart of Jesus." In 1920, 230 years after she died, Pope Benedict the 15th declared her a saint.



## Back to StMM's 2023

Yesterday we had the privilege of hosting a large number of StMM's former students who attended our wonderful school. They came in great numbers to



catch up with each other and their teachers.



We were very pleased to hear so many positive memories and comments about their time at StMM's. This event continues to grow in numbers and is now a tradition for our community. It was also wonderful to meet up with several of our former parents and families. A special thank you to our staff and former students who made this afternoon such a success.



## Mini Vinnies

### Recycling Project

Throughout Term 4, Mini Vinnies will be collecting and recycling **bottles, cans and poppers** through the Return and Earn system.

All of the money raised will be used for upcoming projects and to help those in need.



Please check the bottles are:

- Between 150ml and 3 litres
- In good condition (not crushed or broken)
- Empty
- Have the label attached
- Have the 10c label on the container to show it is eligible for a refund
- Remember to leave the lids on when returning your bottles

There will be labelled bins on the lower playground for your donations.

Thank you for your support,  
Mini Vinnies

## Faith Community

### Last Friday's Assembly

On Friday 13th October, we had a small assembly for the St Margaret Mary's Feast Day Celebration Week. Mr. Mills talked about the Colour Fun Day. He also mentioned that he will be testing the sprinklers leading up to the colour fun day. Mrs Kubti talked about Mini Vinnies, how they are aiming to stop all the rubbish on the playground. The first idea was to have rubbish monitors on the playground during recess and lunch to ensure that everyone puts their rubbish in the bin. The second idea was to have bins on the playground so



people could put their recycled bottles, cans, and poppers for recycling. A boy in Year Three named Samuel was very generous in donating a bag of bottles, cans, and poppers to our school.

*By Joshua .N and Daniella. N*



## Library

Each grade is allocated a time and day for the children to borrow books from the school library. Each child must have a library bag. The school office has library bags available for \$15.00 each.

All students can borrow before school Monday to Friday 8:15am—8:40am.

Kindergarten	Thursday
Year One	Monday
Year Two	Wednesday
Year Three	Before School and During Lunch
Year Four	Before School and During Lunch
Year Five	Before School and During Lunch
Year Six	Before School and During Lunch

## Teaching and Learning

### Year 1 Science Forces Incursion

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October, students in Year 1 will be involved in an incursion for Science and Technology, relating to forces. Students will learn all about push and pull forces in hands-on activities. They will see forces and energy in action with flying balloons, floating bubbles, and more. Students will design their own rockets which use air pressure to soar across the school grounds. The activities will help the students gain an understanding of the purpose of different forces, applications of strength and how different types of energy can create change in the motion of objects.

### Kindergarten Motiv8sports Incursion

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October, Kindergarten will participate in an incursion provided by Motiv8sports. Students will develop their fundamental movement skills to assist them to participate in a range of games. They will benefit from participating in physical activity and are provided with opportunities to actively engage in individual, team or group physical activities to build their confidence and competence in playing games in groups or teams. Students will develop self-management and interpersonal skills when joining in with their peers in new games. This learning experience is designed to encourage and motivate students to be active participants in physical education.

## Personal Growth

### Monday Assembly Week 2

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October, Mr. Mills spoke about the Colour Fun Day on Thursday, and the P&F gave him and Mrs Borg white T-shirts. Mr Mills' T-shirt had "Last Colour Fun Day" on it, as this will be his last with us and Mrs Borg's T-shirt had "First Colour Fun Day" as this will be her first with us.

Mr Mills also discussed what else would happen throughout the week. On Friday, it would be a rest day, it



will be a normal school day. During the assembly, Mr Greeney and Mr Maunick handed out certificates to the boys and girls who participated in the Stage 3 Football Gala Day last term. The boys also



received medals as they had won their division.

*By: Jack H and Hunter P*





## Personal Growth

### StMM's Student Attendance

I would like to congratulate our students for their fantastic attendance this week.

Our attendance percentage for this week was Monday 94.41%, and Tuesday 95.31%.

Let's keep this going for the remainder of the year.

### Stage 2 Touch Football Gala Day

At the end of Term 3 on 15<sup>th</sup> September, a group of students from Year 3 and 4 proudly represented our school at the Stage 2 Boys and Girls Touch Footy Gala Day. Despite the scorching heat, the teams were determined to give it their best and strive for victory! The boys displayed excellent teamwork and secured several wins, with Thomas scoring multiple tries. The girls also showcased their skills, defeating many teams, thanks to Sophia's impressive side stepping and quick speed! Both teams showed outstanding sportsmanship and celebrated their achievements with a well-deserved icy cold slushie.

Thank you to all the parents and families who came out to support us and cheered us on!



### Chess time

Due to the popularity of our Chess Club, we have decided to open this activity to all students. Children are encouraged to attend the sessions before school and lunchtime. There will be limited number of students allowed into the LARC area so that the atmosphere reflects the hard thinking needed to play the game of Chess.

### Congratulations

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October George H of 5Y represented his club and NSW at the Australian National Taekwondo Championship in Perth, WA. His first match was against the Victorian State Champion which he won in two straight rounds 12-1 and then 9-4. This win put him in the finals.

For the final he went up against the Queensland State Champion and won Gold in two straight rounds 8-2 and 6-3. He is now the 2023 Australian National Champion for 10-11 year olds in the Blue belt (28 - 31kg) category.

Congratulations George!



## Partnership

### P&F Colour Fun Day & Sausage Sizzle

A Few Points to Remember

- Apply Sunscreen before arriving at school
- Recess & Lunch Options
  - Canteen, P&F BBQ, BYO
- Wear Old Clothes
- **White T-shirt**
- The Colour may STAIN/RUN
- Bring a towel & change of clothes
- **DO NOT** wear school/sports uniform or hats
- **DO NOT** bring school bags, use an alternate bag for this day

If you **DO NOT** want your child to participate, please email the school office,

[stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au)

### INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

Saturday, 21 October at 7pm in the Parish Hall  
**TICKETS GO ON SALE THIS WEEKEND**  
**Adults \$20\*** **Children 3-12 years \$10\***  
**Infants (under 3 years) Free**  
*\*includes one bottled water*

Tickets will be available from the Piety Shop after all weekend Masses and selected weekday Masses, and from the Parish Office during working hours. There's always a last-minute rush, so buy yours early!

**FOOD PROVIDERS** - Please note that the information session will be held in the Pastoral Centre on **Saturday, 23 September at 9:15am (after the 8:30am Mass)**. It is essential for food providers either to attend this meeting, or if unable to attend to contact **Belinda Tippetts** beforehand (0401 587 677).

**CULTURAL PERFORMANCES** - Any performer representatives who haven't contacted **Peter Carroll** (0414 070 082) should do so ASAP, as the program will be finalised soon.

**PRIZE DONATIONS** - Although the initial response for prize donations for the raffle, door prize, coin tosses, etc has been short of expectations, there's still time to bring new items (e.g. homewares, electronics, toys, sporting equipment, business vouchers/gift cards) to the Piety Shop or Parish Office. Enquiries please contact **Mike Jacobson** (0438 590 136).

