



# St Margaret Mary's School

*Listen Share Act*

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Newsletter No 5

## Bulletin

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2022

### Diary Dates

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March

Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March

Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March

### Open Morning

St Margaret Mary's will be holding an open morning on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March** from 9:30am—10:30am, for New Kindergarten 2023 families.

### Thank You

I would like to say thank you to the StMM's school community for all the birthday wishes and lovely gifts. I feel very honoured and blessed to have so many well wishes from the students, parents and staff here at StMM's.  
Mr Mills

### Skoolbag App



All parents are encouraged to have the Skoolbag App, as this will be the main preference for communication to all parents. Our **School Name** for Skoolbag App is **SMMPM**.

### School Website

The school website is [www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au)

## Principal's Message

Dear Parent, Carers and Children,

After reading Pope Francis' message for Lent 2022, I have taken two important points to encourage our community during this year's season of Lent. **Let us not grow tired!** Let us not grow tired of prayer and let us not grow tired of doing good! Pope Francis asks us to reflect on St Paul's letter to the Galatians:

***"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all" (Gal 6:9-10)***

**Let us not grow tired of prayer**

Pope Francis says Saint Paul encourages us to use our time for sowing goodness in view of a future harvest. Lent is certainly such a time as it invites us to conversion, to a change in mindset not so much in possessing as in giving, not so much in accumulating as in sowing and sharing goodness. During Lent, Pope Francis, calls us to respond to God's gift by accepting his word, which is "living and active". Regular listening to the word of God makes us open to his plan for our community and is an activity we can do each day during Lent. We need to pray because we need God.

**Let us not grow tired of doing good**

Christ's resurrection brightens our lives with the hope of eternal life, planting the seed of salvation in our present time. The Lenten season calls us to place our faith and hope in the Lord, since only if we fix our gaze on the risen Christ will we be able to respond to St Paul's appeal, "Let us never grow tired of doing good" (Gal 6:9). *Pope Francis asks us to take special advantage of this Lenten season to care for those close to us and to reach out to our brothers and sisters who lie wounded along the path of life (cf. Lk 10:25-37). Lent is a favourable time to seek out – and not to avoid – those in need; to reach out – and not to ignore – those who need a sympathetic ear and a good word; to visit – and not to abandon – those who are lonely. Let us put into practice our call to do good to all, and take time to love the poor and needy, those abandoned and rejected.*

As we enter this important season of our Church, let us take time to pray and do good for all the people in our lives.

God Bless.

Mr Kevin Mills  
Principal

### Prayer for Ukraine.

We pray for those who will be killed on both sides of this unjust war. We pray for the families who will suffer needlessly from the consequences of this war, in the wake of the aggression and any necessary responses to it including suffocating sanctions. We pray that our Australian leaders will be generous to those seeking refuge from war not of their making. Let's think peace. Let's talk peace. Let's pray for peace. Let's make peace, together in faith, hope and love.

Fr Frank Brennan SJ



### Enrolments

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2023 are now taking place. If your child was born between 1st August, 2017 and 31st July, 2018, please collect an enrolment form from the school office. Interviews will commence in May. Last year we had a waiting list with over 120 applications.

# Administration

## COVID-19

### Stepping back from COVID Restrictions

From Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February:

- Families can choose when to use the RAT Kits
- For StMM's, masks will continue to be required indoors for all school staff
- Visitors will be allowed on site (outdoors) in a limited manner (COVID Safe)

From Monday 7 March:

- Morning Arrival & Afternoon dismissal will revert to pre-covid arrangements
- School visitors will be allowed back on site regardless of their vaccination status
- Masks will no longer be mandatory. Any student or staff member who wants to continue to wear a mask may do so

As you would expect, we will continue to do everything we can to keep our community safe. In general terms, StMM's will continue to use a sensible COVID-smart approach when we plan activities and events.

## School Hours

### Arrival Times

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

### School Office Hours

8:15am - 3:15pm

### Arrival Procedures

#### Morning Arrivals

1. Top Church Gate - Staff on duty to Sanitize.
2. Car Drop off - (Henson Street ) Staff on Duty to Sanitize.

#### Departing Times

- ⇒ Classes finish at 3:00pm
- ⇒ Supervision finishes at 3:30pm

If you are running late you must contact the school office.

### Departure Procedures

#### Afternoon Departure

1. Top Church Gate - (names of families are called by staff)
2. 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.

## School Fees

All Invoice/Statements have been sent out by CEDP. If you have not received your statement, please contact Maria in the school office. Term One School Fees are due by 17<sup>th</sup> March unless you have entered into an arrangement with the school or with CEDP. Details as per your school statement. Any queries with regards to your 2022 Statement or arrangements, please contact Maria Pagano on 8633 8400.

## Rubbish in the Hall

Please be aware that we have had problems with rubbish in the hall due to the wet weather and high humidity. We have cleaned and sprayed the areas of concern and instigated a new practice of disposing of the rubbish. We will continue to monitor the space for any ongoing issues.

## Personal Growth

## Sports News

### Zone Swimming Carnival.

How great is it that we can finally compete against other schools again! On Monday, 28<sup>th</sup>

February 2022, the Zone Swimming Carnival was held at Mount Druitt Swimming Centre.

It was very muddy and wet at the pool, but we didn't worry as we were going to get wet swimming in our races. Eleven students represented our school in many races.



The students that participated in the carnival were Alex, Gabi, Isabella and Ryan from Year Five, Jay from Year Four and Elena, Lily, Nikolai, Elissa, Leeroy, and Xavier from Year Six. We participated in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly.

The following students won ribbons in their races; Jay, Isabella, and Ryan. They will now compete in the Diocesan Swimming Carnival on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you Mrs Foley for organising the students to compete in the Zone Swimming Carnival.



## Faith Community

### Shrove Tuesday

On the 1st March, Years 3, 4 5 & 6 celebrated Shrove Tuesday. We were lucky enough to enjoy pancakes with different toppings like chocolate, strawberry jam and maple syrup! As Catholics we participate in pancakes on this day to help us prepare for Lent.

*By Rose Tahan and Zara Yazbeck*



## Partnership

### P&F News

On behalf of the P & F Committee for 2022 we would like to welcome all our parents new and old to our StMM's Community. We as a committee try to do as much as we can for our children and our school. It's a great way for new parents to get involved, and to meet other parents in our school community. Our first event for the year is our Easter Raffle. There will be more information sent out next week with dates and times for preparing raffle tickets, the wrapping of Easter eggs and the raffle draw.



Hope to see you all very soon.

Wendy Ndaira  
P&F President

## Partnership

### Project Compassion Lenten Appeal

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March marks the beginning of the Lenten Season with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. As part of Almsgiving, St Margaret Mary's as well as many other schools across the diocese support Caritas Australia through their initiative 'Project Compassion'.

The 'Mini Vinnies' student group work to support this worthy cause within the school by bringing awareness to the great works of Caritas and the people in need that Project Compassion helps.

Project Compassion donation boxes will be available in each learning space from March 2nd, for any student who wishes to contribute. In the past we have experienced great generosity from our community with examples of students giving a portion of their pocket money or change from their canteen money.

This year, families can also make an online donation through the school supported app 'Qkr'. *Information on how to make a donation through Qkr is on the last 2 pages of this newsletter*

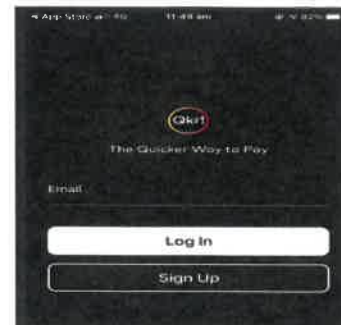
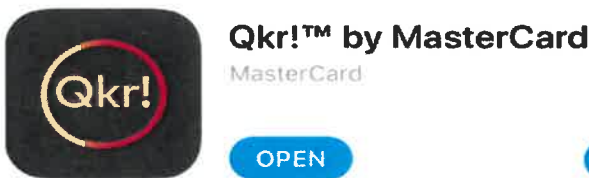


Please follow the instructions provided below:

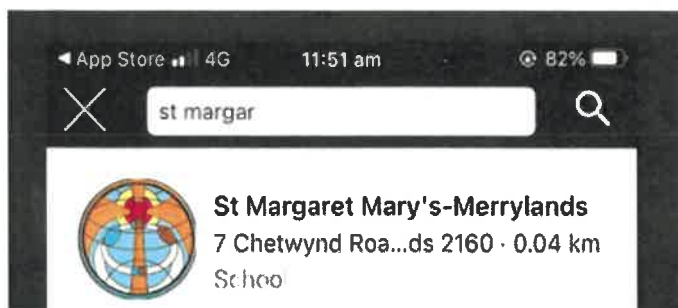
### Qkr! mobile phone app

How to get started with Qkr!:

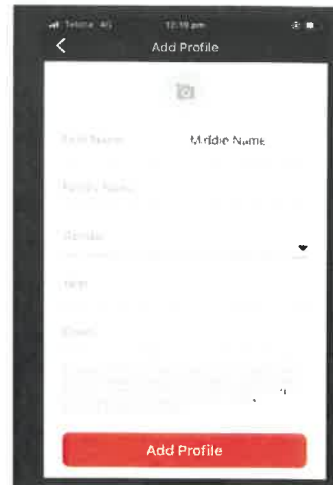
1. Install the **Qkr!** app on your smartphone and after you pressed 'open', sign up - email address and password, back to the main screen and Log in. Start profile.



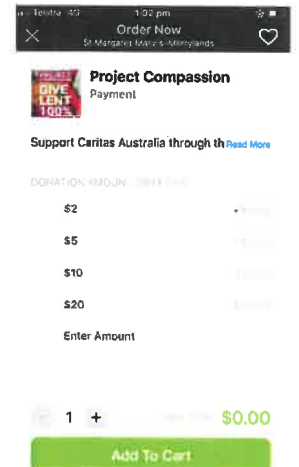
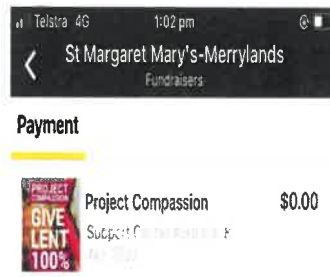
2. Touch the magnifying glass and start typing "St Margaret Mary's" and touch the magnifying glass again. Touch the school name St Margaret Mary's - Merrylands. to select



3. Select **Add Profile** and create a profile for your child/children.



4. Once you have created a profile, go into the **menu** and you may view **fundraising**. Please select **Project Compassion**, select your donation amount and add the item to the cart and **checkout**.



5. Add payment card details and continue with purchase.

6. Please note as purchases are made, a digital receipt will be stored within the app under My Receipts.

1. To access My Receipts, select < (top left)
2. Select ≡ (top left)
3. Select **My Receipts**

