



## Our Vision

An inclusive community committed to high levels of learning for all.

## Our Mission

In the spirit of Saint Mary Mackillop, we strive for excellence with love, dignity, integrity and justice.

## Dear Families

What a busy and exciting fortnight it has been! Both the staff and students need to be congratulated on their attention to detail and diligent enthusiasm they have all exhibited both in and outside of the classroom. Whilst the two black snake sightings have certainly caused a stir over the past week, we have all survived and look forward to the cooler autumn temperatures. As a school, we would also like congratulate our parents. Currently, our students are sitting on a 95% attendance rate which is a wonderful effort. As we have said on numerous occasions, every minute at school counts. Our goal is to maintain an attendance rate above 90%.

The Term 1 Principals' Forum is now well underway in Toowoomba. Dr Pat Coughlin, our Executive Director, delivered his Keynote address which centred on the notion of what capable leaders do when faced with a seemingly insurmountable agenda. Having an insurmountable agenda is something we can all identify with, whether it is related to work or family life, our individual agendas are challenging at times. Dr Coughlin, very skilfully, always reinforces the need that as leaders, we need to be 10 times clearer in our communication and assume nothing. What qualities we stand for at St Patrick's School as a learning and faith based community are:

- 1. It is all about the students! (Relationships)**
- 2. Our goal as teaching and learning professionals is to provide authentic, rigorous and innovative learning experiences where all children can succeed and grow (Not postcode based – rural context)**
- 3. Our Catholic Faith is used as a lens to create good citizens of the world, as our faith is one of invitation and our Christian story provides an identity which is totally inclusive. (Servant-leader is Servant first)**

Just like Dr Coughlin, we assume nothing and hope our three key areas identified above are nothing new to you. In a nutshell, these three key areas drive all that we do at St Patrick's School.

## School Renewal and Improvement Review (SRIP)

St Patrick's School is scheduled for a School Renewal and Improvement quadrennial school review. This review will take place from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of March, 2023.

Through a process of appreciative inquiry, panel members interview staff, parents/carers, students and community members. The questions asked are "In your opinion, what is going well at the school?" and "What could be done better?" The purpose is for the panel to report to the school community its findings and suggested improvement strategies. These inform the process of strategic plan development and the annual action plans which are also linked to the TCS Strategic Plan.

Please contact the school office if you are interested in speaking to a reviewer. You may also register your interest by emailing [Keith.Blaikie@twb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Keith.Blaikie@twb.catholic.edu.au).

This SRIP provides a wonderful opportunity for the St Patrick's community to celebrate what is going well but also to identify areas from improvement. An example from the 2019 School Renewal and Improvement quadrennial school review identified the following improvement strategy:

- Identify criteria that promote strong learning environments as clear expectations of what an effective classroom would look like at St Patrick's.

As a result of this improvement strategy, the St Patrick's Learning Rap has been developed. The 5B's (Book/ Bing, Buddy, Boss, Board or Boss) have been redeveloped and our learning dispositions have been streamlined to only four which include co-operation, resilience, accountability and confidence.

## St Patrick's P&F Care and Concern Group

The Care and Concern Group is once again ready to spring into action around the township of Allora. The aim of this group is to engage the services of our school families to support a number of local residents to manage and tidy various gardens around Allora. Whilst it is a service learning opportunity for us all, it also provides an opportunity for our students to develop a sense of empathy for those less fortunate in our local community. All parents or grandparents are welcome and encouraged to participate. Together, we can make a huge difference. Our next outing will be:

- **Saturday 25 February**—Please meet at St Patrick's at 9:00am and bring garden tools, lawn mowers and trailers for rubbish removal. **Everyone is welcome to attend!!**

## Feeling Safe

Our School Student Protection Contacts are:

**Mrs Shooter**  
**Mr Blaikie**  
**Mrs Jennifer Fenn**

## Reminders

### Uniform Days

#### Sports

Wednesday, Friday.

#### Formal

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.

### Summer Uniform

Please remember that we are a...

**'Nut Aware' School.**

**Church Times - Celebrations are up and running again with social distancing measures in place. Times for Masses are as follows:**

**1st Sunday - 9am**  
**2nd and 3rd Sunday - 5.30pm**

**4th & 5th Sunday Liturgy of the Word with Communion - 9am**

## Teaching and Learning at St Patrick's

The 2023 academic year has commenced with a flurry of activity at St Patrick's School in Allora. The teaching and learning focus for the year will centre around the utilisation of the skills and experience of our learning support and learning enrichment teachers within the classroom context.

In 2023, the school is implementing a co-teaching approach to our literacy learning. Having two teachers working together in the classroom has enabled staff to target smaller groups of students to explicitly teach the concepts and skills they require to become expert readers. St Patrick's School use a structured and systematic approach to the teaching of phonological awareness and phonics in the early years, that incorporates the use of decodable texts and explicit word work, to develop a thorough understanding of how the English code works. This also ensures that our older students have a solid literacy foundation from which to further develop their skills in all areas of the curriculum.



## Project Compassion

The St Patrick's School major focus during Lent will be Project Compassion. Whilst the money raised provides some wonderful resources for those less fortunate in the world, it is understanding the difference between charity and social justice which provides the biggest learning opportunities for our students. Our Glengallan students are currently developing a whole school plan to help raise an awareness of Project Compassion. **Individual Caritas donation boxes will be sent home this week.**

The school would also like to acknowledge Cassie, Tom and Molly who represented St Patrick's School at St Patrick's Cathedral in Toowoomba on Sunday 19 February at the student launch of Project Compassion. It was a wonderful Mass with another 18 schools from the Diocese of Toowoomba in attendance.

## Shrove Tuesday: It is more than just about the Pancakes

As we all know, the season of Lent begins on Wednesday 22 February with Ash Wednesday. Shrove Tuesday is the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday which is the first day of Lent. It is a day of penitence, to clean the soul, and a day of celebration as the last chance to feast before Lent begins.

Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Giving up foods: but not wasting them. Traditionally there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

## 2023 Term 1 School Fees

Invoices were sent to families via email on Monday 20 February (please check your junk email box). If you have any questions about your account or payment please contact the school office. Attached to the newsletter email is the file which outlines the 2023 Annual School Fees and Levies and methods of payment for your information.

## Sacramental Preparation— 2023

Celebrating the sacraments is an important step in the life of a child and a vital expression of Catholic life. There is a need to prepare for each sacrament, so that they may be received thoughtfully and thoroughly.

This year, the Sacramental Program will be run over three terms. During Weeks 6-10 of Term 1, St. Patrick's Parish will undertake the Sacrament of Reconciliation for any child in Year 3 or above. During Weeks 2-5 of Term 2, we will run the Sacrament of Confirmation and during weeks 2-5 of Term 3, we will run the Sacrament of First Eucharist. The Bishop will conduct Confirmation and the children will receive their First Eucharist at the end of August (Dates to be confirmed). Please see Karine Preston if you would like to register your child for this year's Sacramental Program. If you have any questions regarding the programs, don't hesitate to ask.

## Date Claimer: P&F Meet and Greet Parent Engagement Night

**Tuesday – 28 February from 5:00 until 7:00pm**

As a school community, we are committed to continual improvement. Building on the success of our Meet and Greet in 2022, staff will provide a number of opportunities to provide practical ideas to support both you and your child on their educational journey. Please don't hesitate in providing suggestions for workshops. Ultimately, these sessions are designed to provide an avenue for parents to target specific areas of interest which at the end of the day, can only improve the educational outcomes for all concerned.

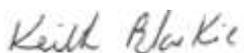
## Central Downs Swimming—By Priseis (Year 5)

Last week on Thursday 16 February students from St Patrick's School swam at the Central Downs Swimming Carnival. It was a wonderful day and lots of great swimmers tried their best but only a few people made it to Southern Downs trials. The sun was shining and hot but lots of loud voices cheered the swimmers on which made the day very enjoyable. We thank all the timekeepers and marshalls, especially Mr Nott and Mr Healy. Congratulations to Tom, Molly, Katelyn and Mahailia who attended Southern Downs swimming trials on Tuesday 21 February in Warwick.



Enjoy the rest of your week and we look forward to our P&F Meet and Greet on Tuesday 28 February. As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate in contacting the school.

Kindest regards



**Keith Blaikie—Principal**

## **DATE CLAIMERS**

### **Term 1—2023**

- 24 February—Central Downs Rugby League, Netball and Soccer trials (Glengallan)
- 25 February—Care and Concern Morning 9am meet at school
- 28 February—Darling Downs Swimming
- 28 February—P&F Meet and Greet Parent Engagement Night 5pm to 7pm
- 3 March—Whole School Assembly at 2:15pm in the Church
- 6 to 9 March—School Review and Improvement (SRIP)
- 8 March—Newsletter uploaded via Sentral
- 8 March—Southern Downs Soccer, Netball and Rugby League trials (Glengallan)
- 10 March—Central Downs Tennis trials
- 14 March—School Photos
- 17 March—St Patrick's Feast Day
- 17 March— 1.30pm Model T Club to visit
- 17 March—Whole School Assembly at 2:15pm in the Church

## **PARISH OF ST. PATRICK ALLORA**

**7th Sunday Ordinary Times – Year A - 19 February, 2023**

### **SUNDAY MASS TIMES:**

1st Sunday - 9am, 2nd and 3rd Sunday – 5.30pm

4th & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Liturgy of the Word with Communion - 9am

**Weekday Mass – Tuesday 9:30am St Patrick's Allora**

**LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Stephen Kent, Fr Don Murray, Fr. Brian Sparksman, Sr Christine Symonds, Owen Crothers, Bishop Robert

**RECENT DEATHS:** Jose Areekuzhy, (Fr Thomas' brother)

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Rev Fr Michael Hayes (1960), Rev Fr Michael Cronin (1992), Rev Fr Henry MacFarlane (1946), Rev Fr Brian O'Dwyer (2016), Rev Fr Michael Sheehan (1947), Robert Hill, Roy Smith

### **LITURGY ROSTER**

	<b>19 February</b>	<b>26 February</b>
<b>Reader 1</b>	K. Gordon	C. Cranitch
<b>Reader 2:</b>	S. Duggan	N. Byrne
<b>Offertory:</b>		
<b>Welcome:</b>	I. Chandler	A. Balmain
<b>Counters:</b>	J. & G. Peters	J. Cowley & G. Masters

**Banking for February:** J. Cowley

**Preparation for Sunday Mass for February:** A Balmain, I Chandler

**Bulletin Preparation for February:** Kaye Mullins 0448666132/46663330

**NOTICES FOR BULLETIN\_email to - [stpatricksallora@gmail.com](mailto:stpatricksallora@gmail.com)**

**PARISH OFFICE:** 4666 3377 (leave a message)

**PRIEST DIRECTOR:** Fr Warren Padilla Clifton Presbytery 4697 3177

Fr. Brian Redondo 0488147734

Emergency Contact: Warwick Presbytery 4661 1033

### **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**

Peter Cavanagh 0429666160 John Cowley 0409823147

Kaye Mullins 4666 3330 School Principal 4666 3551

**Funeral Contact:** Helen Smith 0429005609

**SVDP: contact number is 1800 846 643 SVDP** meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday monthly at 3.15pm in the Function Room MacKillop House

**P.P.C.** meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday monthly following 9.30am Mass.

### **MEETINGS/DATE CLAIMERS**

The World Day of Prayer will be held at Scot's Church on Friday March 3.

**Ash Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2023** Will be held at 9.30am in St Patrick's Church, Allora with the School Students attending.  
12.15pm @ Sts James & John Clifton with the Students of St Francis de Sales School, Clifton.

Parishioners are encouraged to attend and join with the students..

We continue to pray for rain for those in need as well as pray for the people of Syria and Turkey and the Ukraine.

**This year Lent commences on Ash Wednesday, 22 February.**

**2023 Ecumenical Lenten Studies** at St Andrew's Community Centre on Monday afternoons at 3.30pm commencing Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. Please place name on sheet at front door. Please see poster on notice board for more details.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for February

We pray that Parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

*Aid to the Church in Need* is still supporting the Catholic Church in Ukraine in its commitment to stay on the ground & deep serving its flock in the face of material & economic war. CAN is helping priests & religious who are working across the country in parishes, with refugees, in orphanages and homes for the elderly. The main cities where we are sending immediate help are Kyiv, Zaporizhya, Odessa & the region of Donetsk. We are doing everything we can to assist our Ukrainian brothers & sisters to be strengthened in their faith so that they may continue to be a light in Ukraine. CAN needs your help to continue this mission. To make an offering & learn more visit <https://aidtochurch.org/ukraine>.

**Help Syria.** *Aid to the Church in Need* has launched an emergency appeal for the people in northern Syria desperate for help following the devastating earthquakes. CAN is begging for funds to support their long tie local project partners on the ground in Syria. To read more about what ACN is doing & to make an offering please visit [www.aidtochurch.org/syriaearthquake](http://www.aidtochurch.org/syriaearthquake).

Brochures entitled **SmartLoving Engaged** are at the Church door for any couple preparing for Catholic marriage. Please pass one on to couple you know preparing for marriage.