



Week 8 | Term 1 | 2026

Faith Focus

Three Little Words

What comes to mind when you see this title? Is it “I love you”?

I thought I might try to sum up the Easter story in three little words, and I must admit that my first few attempts were centred on chocolate and an extended long weekend.

“Eat chocolate eggs”

“Extra days off”

Then I tried the echo of “Worship, Worship, Worship.” The Easter story, like most narratives has an introduction, a problem to overcome and a conclusion. Easter worship follows this pattern too. On Maundy Thursday we are invited to always remember Jesus, on Good Friday we see what love looks like, up close and personal, and on Easter Sunday we celebrate the risen Jesus. While these three words might tell the Easter story, they do not fully capture the essence of Easter. I needed to dig a bit deeper into why we share and celebrate the Easter message and how it might impact our daily lives.

Finally, I chose these three words:

The first is “Loved”

This is what we are, no preconditions or prerequisites. In Luke 6:17–19, Jesus is surrounded by a large crowd of people from Judea, Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon. They came to be cured of all sorts of diseases and unclean spirits, and they were healed simply by being in his presence. Other than turning up, they did not do anything; love is a gift.

The second is “Forgiven”

Forgiveness is at the heart of Easter. In Luke 6:27-36, after healing the crowd, Jesus teaches them about forgiveness, letting go of resentment, and making space for new beginnings. Forgiveness does not erase hurt but opens the door to peace. We are asked to treat others as we would want them to treat us, not do as others do.

The third is “Alive”

This is the mysterious aspect of Easter: the story does not end with Jesus’ death on the cross; what comes after is the ‘never-ending story’. We believe that Jesus rose again, alive, bringing hope and new life. “Alive” is a word full of energy, renewal and possibility.

We are Loved, Forgiven and Alive because the three words most often repeated on Easter Sunday are, He is Risen!

I pray you are prepared for a new beginning in the never-ending story of Easter.

Meredith Page

Principal Ponderings

We had a wonderful day at Friday's Twilight Sports Day and it was fantastic to have such great weather and such a great turnout for the day. I really appreciated the opportunity to catch up with so many members of our wider school community and it was great to see so many former students returning to St Mark's for the day. Congratulations to the Dunn team for taking out the trophy again this year. We said a lot of thank yous on the day but I just want to reiterate that and express my gratitude to everyone who volunteered their time or made the extra effort to help make the day a success.

We have another busy week coming up and several more to follow as we get closer to the end of term. Our Year 3 and 5 students finished their two-week NAPLAN window this week. They did a great job of calmly dealing with all that testing, and they were supported by a great team of classroom teachers, learning support teachers, wellbeing staff and LSOs – we are blessed to have so many dedicated staff to provide this support. Mr Scott has hardly had a chance to draw breath and is now preparing the athletics team for SAPSASA. Our Year 4 students head off next week on their camp to She Oak Run at Finniss, where they have a few exciting days planned. Our Foundation and Year 1 students will have some visitors from the SANFL take them for an Auskick clinic. There is a lot going on, with some wonderful opportunities for the students at St Mark's.

Thank you

A huge thank you to the Balhannah Butchery, for providing 500 sausages, free of charge, for the P&F BBQ at Friday's Sports Day. That was a really generous donation and we're very appreciative. Balhannah Butchery's owner, Brad, was a former student at St Mark's. If you're in Balhannah, do take the opportunity to stop in.

P&F Election BBQ

If you tuned in to 5AA yesterday morning, you might have heard Jess, talking about the polling station at St Mark's and giving a plug for the P&F's election day barbecue. Jess entered the 5AA Democracy Sausage competition on behalf of the P&F and managed to win 600 sausages to cook up on the day. Thanks again to our P&F for fronting up after the big day last week to run this fundraiser.

If you can spare an hour or two on Saturday to turn some sausages, we'd love to see you there.

Parking on Hampden Road

Please be aware there are some parking restrictions outside the school on Hampden Road in the mornings and afternoons.

There are spaces on either side of the road which are allocated as no-parking spaces from 8:15 - 9:15am and from 2:45 - 3:45pm. This is to allow for bus parking when students are being dropped off and picked up, as well as allowing space for cars to enter and exit Hampden Road safely at times when there is considerable traffic.

Thank you for observing these restrictions and helping us to maintain a safe environment outside our school and good relations with our neighbours.

Andrew Boesch
Principal



REMINDER

Learning Conversations - Early Dismissal

Please note that there is early dismissal at 3pm on the nights of the Learning Conversations. These dates are:

- Monday, 30 March,
- Wednesday, 1 April,
- Tuesday, 7 April.



SchoolTV Special Report: Cultural Diversity

Cultural diversity encompasses the variety of cultures, beliefs, and traditions present globally, contributing to a rich tapestry of human experiences and perspectives.

Inclusion is about more than just words; it's about fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance for every child, regardless of their cultural background. When children and adolescents feel seen and valued for who they are, they can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Valuing and understanding cultural diversity, helps our communities benefit from a wealth of perspectives and experiences, enhancing our collective capacity for empathy and innovation.

As parents and adult carers, instilling an appreciation for cultural diversity is vital to equip young people with the tools they need to navigate an increasingly interconnected world. Through leading by example and showing that kindness and understanding knows no boundaries, we can encourage them to embrace multiculturalism. This will not only prepare young people for personal success, but also for contributing to a world that views diversity as a strength. Through collective efforts, we can help pave the way for a more accepting and vibrant future.

In this edition of SchoolTV, learn how best to embrace and celebrate cultural diversity with your children. Click [here](#) for the full Special Report

P&F Update

Thank you

A big thank you to everyone that helped with the BBQ and cake stall at Sports Day.

With your help we were able to raise over \$4,200 in revenue.

We were so thrilled to have Balhannah Butchery kindly donate all the 500 sausages we cooked up at Sports day. If you drop by their stores in Balhannah and Aston Hills, please give them a huge thank you from St Marks.



There is still time to volunteer for the Election day BBQ at the school. Setup is from 7am till 2pm.

Thanks to David and Will from 5AA radio, the P&F have won 600 sausages for this weekend's voting BBQ provided by Nojobe. We look forward to serving these tasty sausages to the voting crowds

Easter Raffle

P&F will be holding an Easter Raffle starting from Saturday. Raffle tickets will be available for \$2 each from the BBQ stall and then in the afternoons at pick up time. There are two prizes to win with a Easter basket valued at \$200 and a secondary prize valued at \$50.



School life

Sports Day

Last Friday was St Mark's Sports Day, and the Senior Primary students engaged in activities like High Jump, Long Jump, 100metre sprint, shotput, javelin and goal throw. Junior Primary students participated in Long Jump, Accuracy Throw, Sprints, Dress Up relay and more. We asked Year 4 students if they liked doing the senior primary activities this year and this is what we got:

"I loved the activities this year it was way better than the junior ones." -Liam, 4K

"I loved doing long jump, and I felt like I was way better this year" -Mila, 4K

We also asked Year 6 students if they liked their last sports day at St Marks and they said:

"I loved it and it was fun because we didn't do any learning and got to stretch our legs all day." -Patrick, 6K

"It was fun and I love having Sports Day at St Marks. My favourite event was the relay race." -Jenon, 6K

Written by Navneeth, Year 6 student on behalf of the St Mark's Scribes

One of the sports senior primary students did was High Jump. Students competed against the standards and made great progress as they kept jumping. We also did Long Jump. It was great to see all the progress made as the Year 5 and 6 students did their second- and third-years of taking part in these events. The Year 4s did great on their first senior primary Sport Dday. They all enjoyed it very much and they all did very well.

Written by Sylvie, Year 6 student on behalf of the St Mark's Scribes



REMINDER

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 2 Catalogues send home this week.
Orders due by the 20th March 2026.

School life

It was a real big time for the Foundation students, as it was their first-time participating in Sports Day. Goal throw was a really fun event for everyone. I think everyone had a fun time shooting in the goal. I hope everyone got a throw and got it in.

There were some new activities which were the egg and spoon race and dress up relay and parachute. The egg and spoon race was a fun time for the Junior primary kids. Long jump was a fun time for Junior Primary because I think they were practicing for weeks and they had been excellent at jumping over them. Sprints I saw them soaring through the wind into the winning end. It was so exciting to see them having a surprised smile on their face winning 1st 2nd or 3rd, soooooooooooooo fun.

Written by Jemima, Year 6 student on behalf of the St Mark's Scribes



Colouring Competition & Casual Day

We will be having a casual day on the last day of term (Friday 10th April) for ALWS. The theme will be 'Blue' and a gold coin donation towards Fish for Freedom - ALWS would be greatly appreciated.

The SRC are also holding a colouring in competition. Colouring sheets can be found by the Year 4 classrooms as part of the fish display. You can choose which sheet you would like to enter. Only one entry per student, with each class having a winner. Please deliver completed entries to School Captains in 6k.

School life



Diary

March

Mar 20 - Chapel 9am
 Mar 23-25 - Year 4 Camp She Oak
 Mar 24 - Assembly 2.40pm
 Mar 27 - Chapel 9am
 Mar 30 - Learning Conversations - 3pm dismissal

April

Apr 1 - Learning Conversations - 3pm dismissal
 Apr 7 - Assembly 2.40pm
 Apr 7 - Learning Conversations - 3pm dismissal
 Apr 8 - School photos
 Apr 10 - Closing Chapel - 9am
 Apr 10 - Casual Day - Blue theme
 Apr 10 - Whole School Musical Jam 1.45pm

Friday Chapel

Chapel is held every Friday at 9am in the Hall. We look forward to Class 4AY leading us in Chapel tomorrow.

Parents and friends are welcome to attend and join us in the staff room, before and after Chapel for coffee, tea, hot chocolate and biscuits!



Autumn School Holidays at Woodhouse Adventure Park UNPLUGGED Bookings Now Open!

Whether the kids are attending the 'Drop & Go' UNPLUGGED program, you're visiting as a family for the day, or settling in for an overnight stay, you can expect memorable screen-free fun at Woodhouse in Piccadilly!

School Holidays UNPLUGGED, our 'drop & go' kids-only day camps, feature adventures designed to keep primary school kids active and entertained all day... with a different theme daily, including Challenge Hill obstacle course and Tube Slide (weather permitting).

Just \$80 per day (Scout Members save 20%) from 9am to 5pm

www.woodhouse.org.au

Mini Mavs – U10 Girls Pathway Program

Calling all young hoop stars! ✨

Start your basketball journey on Sunday mornings, 8:30–9:15 AM at St Francis de Sales College. Terms 2 & 3 focus on fun, skill-building, and game play, helping girls aged 4–9 years develop confidence, teamwork, and a love for basketball. All sessions are led by experienced coaches who make learning the game exciting and inclusive.

👉 Cost: \$200 for both terms - training singlet included

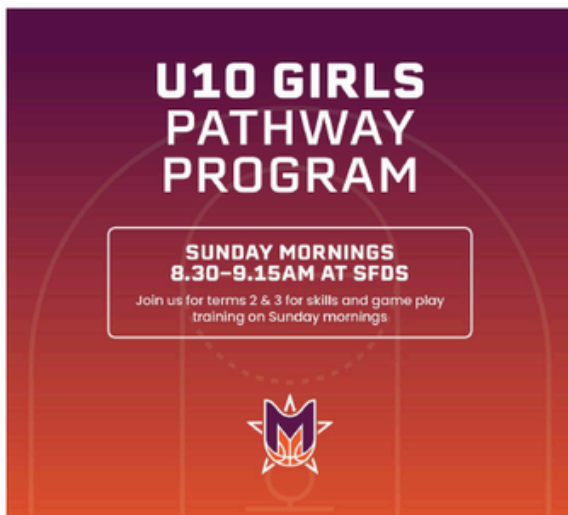
📅 Start Date: Sunday, 3rd May

❌ No training: 31st May, 7th June, 28th June, 5th July & 12th July

📍 Where: St Francis de Sales College

This program is the first step toward Mini Mavs, giving young players the foundations to join our pathway programs in the future while having fun, making friends, and learning the game in a safe and supportive environment.

Register: Email admin@easternmavericks.com.au



News & Community Events

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

In-House	FULL FEE	\$69.90	CCS REDUCED FEE*	\$10.05 - \$36.85
	Excursion/Inclusion	FULL FEE	\$90.80	CCS REDUCED FEE*

*Estimation of fees after subsidy is applied

Vacation Care | 13 April - 24 April

WEEK 1

Monday 13 April	Tuesday 14 April	Wednesday 15 April	Thursday 16 April	Friday 17 April
In-House Bedazzling Gem Art	Excursion Bridge Bowling	In-House Heroes On Wheels	In-House OSHC Olympics	Excursion Monarto Zoo
Dive into a world of creativity with OSHC. Bedazzle fun items, take part in engaging art and craft activities, and enjoy a hands-on experience filled with colour, sparkle, and fun.	Enjoy action-packed games and plenty of fun as we roll into a day of strikes and smiles. Depart: 11:00am Return: 3:00pm Transport: Private Bus	Bring your wheels and join the Superhero Training Academy! Create your own costume, tackle a fun training course, and design comic strips. Don't forget to bring your bike and helmets!	A sports day for all to enjoy. Pick a colour, create some team posters and complete in a team. Obstacles, games and competitions. Who will win?	Let's jump on the Monarto bus and see what animals we can find. Depart: 9:00am Return: 1:00pm Transport: Private Bus
Outcomes: 1, 4, 5	Outcomes: 1, 3, 4, 5	Outcomes: 1, 4	Outcomes: 2, 4, 5	Outcomes: 1, 3, 5

WEEK 2

Monday 20 April	Tuesday 21 April	Wednesday 22 April	Thursday 23 April	Friday 24 April
In-House Dress To Impress Career Day	In-House Tiny Town	Excursion A Day At The Movies	In-House Show and Tell Disco	Excursion Bounce
Dress up as your dream career and show off your style, there's a prize for the best costume! Everyone will get a chance to share why they chose their career, so don't forget to bring your accessories.	Let your imagination bloom! Create miniature houses, magical fairy gardens, and build your very own tiny town!	Let's go to the cinemas to see a movie. When we come back, we will continue the fun with some themed activities. Depart: 9:00am Return: 2:00pm Walking (15mins)	Bring something special from home to share with everyone! In the afternoon, get ready to light up the dance floor at our OSHC Glow Disco and groove to all your favourite tunes.	Get ready for a fun-filled day of jumping, climbing, and moving to keep active and energized. Depart: 9:00am Return: 11:00am Transport: Private Bus
Outcomes: 2, 3	Outcomes: 1, 4	Outcomes: 1, 2	Outcomes: 3	Outcomes: 3



Book your session via the Xplor Home App
Visit sa.ymca.org.au/OSHC for more information

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News & Community Events

