



Holy Child Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Issue 18, November 2021

Month of the Souls in Purgatory

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Church commemorates all her faithful children who have departed from this life, but have not yet attained the joys of heaven. St. Paul warns us that we must not be ignorant concerning the dead, nor sorrowful, "even as others who have no hope ... For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven ... and the dead who are in Christ shall rise.

The Church has always taught us to pray for those who have gone into eternity. Even in the Old Testament prayers and alms were offered for the souls of the dead by those who thought "well and religiously concerning the resurrection." It was believed that "they who had fallen asleep with godliness had great grace laid up for them" and that "it is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins." We know that a defiled soul cannot enter into heaven.

Excerpted from Liturgical Meditations, The Sisters of St. Dominic.

Duration of Purgatory

Purgatory is not eternal. Its duration varies according to the sentence pronounced at each particular judgment. It may be prolonged for centuries in the case of the more guilty souls, or of those who, being excluded from the Catholic communion, are deprived of the suffrages of the Church, although by the divine mercy they have escaped hell.

Prayer for the Dying

O most merciful Jesus, Lover of souls, I pray Thee, by the agony of Thy most Sacred Heart, and by the sorrows of Thine Immaculate Mother, cleanse in Thine Own Blood the sinners of the whole world who are now in their agony and who are to die this day. Amen.

PRINCIPAL AND DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians

We welcome Mr Guy Toomey as the new Deputy Principal of Holy Child. He began this week in the midst of many activities and I am very pleased that he is still standing at the end of this week.

The tree damaged in the storm was removed Wednesday after many false starts. We had a crane onsite at 7:00am this morning that was too big to gain access to the tennis court area. Patterson Building Services project manager negotiated with the tree removalist and the crane company for an alternative time this afternoon that was able to work for all parties and the tree was removed. The stumps of the two trees will need to be ground down and that will happen in the next couple of weeks.



Term 4 Operations guide MACS has been offering online meetings about several COVID - 19 related issues. We will continue to meet with all dioceses schools in Melbourne. We have discussed and been advised about Rapid antigen testing, providing support to staff members and requirements of vaccination status. We expect a new Operations Guide very soon with more information about the next steps of the Government's Plan.

Graduation planning for 2021 has begun and we are planning for an outdoors ceremony where we can cater for 100 people. This may change as we reach a 90% vaccination rate in the state. We remain hopeful that we may be able to hold the event in the hall.

A delivery of 12 air purifiers was delivered to Holy Child School, Dallas the 16th November. Each air purifier comes with air filters to use straight away. The Department of Education and Training will also provide additional filters to support use for two years, with filter changes expected every six months.

God Bless you all.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Dear Families,

It is with much enthusiasm that I am joining your school community as Deputy Principal/Religious Education and Faith Leader. I am passionate about seeing school communities thrive; to be places of learning for students, as well as developing their individual faith by growing closer to the values taught through the life and lessons of Jesus.

At the centre of Catholic schools are families who are extended an invitation to walk alongside their child throughout their school life. Families within our Holy Child community should feel that our school is a place of belonging that supports both students and families. A community of connection and welcome, where respect is shown to all.

I am looking forward to leading and working with the staff, students and families of Holy Child. My name is Guy Toomey and I am looking forward to meeting you.

Blessings be with you,

Guy



SCHOOL GROUND HOURS

GATES OPEN	8.30AM
GATES CLOSE	3.40PM

Children playing outside the school grounds, before and after school, are not supervised until 8.30am before school and up to 3.40pm after school. Many children are going to the Jack Culpin Car Park\Reserve and Gibbs Reserve, before and after school, to wait for their parents' drop-off and pick-up. We are not able to supervise your children in these areas.

Please ensure that your children are collected from the School Grounds in Area 1. If your child is not collected by 3.40pm they are to be collected from the Reception Foyer.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE is available, contact **Camp Australia** directly on 1300 105 343 or oshc@campaustralia.com.au.

EASY PLAN AHEAD LUNCH BOX IDEAS

Nutrition Australia says that "Packing a healthy school lunchbox will help children to learn and play well and be happy at school." For more information please see <https://heas.health.vic.gov.au/schools/healthy-lunchboxes>

SUN SMART

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world.

In Victoria, from September through to the end of April, average UV levels are 3 and above, which is when UV radiation can damage skin and eyes and lead to skin cancer. When the UV Index is 3 and above:



1. **Slip** on sun-protective clothing
2. **Slop** on SPF30+, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen - put it on 20 minutes before you go outdoors and every two hours afterwards
3. **Slap** on a hat - that protects your face, head, neck and ears
4. **Seek** shade
5. **Slide** on some sunglasses - make sure they meet Australian Standards.

Holy Child is a SunSmart School and we enforce



Children must wear the school hat during the break times at school.

During warmer weather, DRINK MORE WATER

As the weather warms up it is important that our children drink regularly.

Children will need a clearly named and refillable drink bottle.

Please do not send food that needs re-heating. Due to health and safety, we are unable to heat children's food at school.

FEES AND LEVIES

Parent / Carer

A reminder that all fees and levies are now overdue.

If you do not pay through direct debit, please pay at the very latest by 29 November, in particular, families that are not returning to Holy Child.

If you are having difficulties, please make an appointment to see Mr Smith as soon as possible.

PAYMENT
OVERDUE

Is your child returning to Holy Child in 2021?

If not, please come to the School Office and fill out the form for your child/children who WILL NOT be returning to Holy Child next year.

DO NOT FILL out if your family has a Year 6 student leaving only.

100 DAYS OF PREP CELEBRATION DAY

On Friday 5th November, we were able to finally celebrate (our delayed) 100 days of Prep! First we did literacy activities based on 100 and wrote about what we will be like when we are 100 years old. We painted 10 groups of 10 to make 100, using cotton buds. Then we made wonderful self-portrait collages of what we think we will look like when we are 100 years old. At the end of the day, the students got 100 day certificates at the whole school assembly.

Thanks so much for helping the children dress like they were 100 years old. They laughed when they saw us dressed up too! It was a fun filled day.

Miss Richardson and Mr Marchione



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Wednesday	24	2022 Prep Transition Day - Session 1 (Groups 1, 2 & 3)
Thursday	25	2022 Prep Transition Day - Session 1 (Groups 4, 5 & 6)
Friday	26	PUPIL FREE DAY

DECEMBER

Wednesday	1	2022 Prep Transition Day - Session 2 (Groups 1, 2 & 3)
Thursday	2	2022 Prep Transition Day - Session 2 (Groups 4, 5 & 6)
Wednesday	8	Reports sent home
Monday	13	Year 6 Excursion
Tuesday	14	Year 6 Graduation Prayer Service
Wednesday	15	Last day for students, finish at 1pm

JANUARY

Friday	28	Staff begin
Monday	31	Students begin

UNIFORM

The Uniform Shop will be closed until further notice.

If you need to buy Uniforms for your child please put money in an envelope with your order. Your order will then be filled and returned to your child. Please add sizes you need and your child's name and class.

Thanks Mrs Grace



UNIFORM ORDER FORM

Date _____

Student's Name _____

Sex F M

Year Level _____

UNIFORM ITEMS	QTY	SIZE 4-10	SIZE 4-10	SIZE 12-18	SIZE 12-18	MONEY ENCLOSED
School Windcheater			\$40.00		\$45.00	
School Jacket			\$45.00		\$50.00	
School Polo Top (S/S)			\$25.00		\$30.00	
School Polo Top (L/S)			\$30.00		\$35.00	
School Grey Long Trousers			\$45.00		\$50.00	
Girl's Summer Dress			\$50.00		\$55.00	
School Girl's Pleated Pants			\$45.00		\$50.00	
Grey Shorts			\$20.00		\$25.00	
School Hat			\$15.00		\$15.00	
School Beanie			\$15.00		\$15.00	
School Bag			\$40.00		\$40.00	
School Raincoat			\$55.00		\$55.00	
Sports Uniform						
School Navy Shorts			\$20.00		\$25.00	
School Track pants			\$40.00		\$45.00	
School Team Colour T-Shirt			\$20.00		\$25.00	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please return Order Form with cash in an envelope with your child Order will be filled and the uniform will be sent with your child 						
<p style="text-align: center;">يرجى إرجاع استمارة الطلب للذي المدرسي مع النقود في ظرف مع طفلك (لا يتوفر EFTPOS) سيتم تعبئة الطلب وسيتم إرسال الزي المدرسي مع طفلك.</p>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vui lòng trả lại Mẫu đơn đặt hàng, và <u>gửi</u> bằng tiền mặt, trong một phong bì với con của bạn (không có sẵn EFTPOS) Đơn hàng sẽ được <u>sắp xếp</u> và đồ đồng phục sẽ được gửi cùng với con bạn 						



3-year old
and
4-year old

KINDERGARTEN 2022

**Call 9306 1662
to enrol**

**A brand new Kindergarten
located at Holy Child
Primary School, Blair St, Dallas**



- Free or low cost kindergarten available
- 3 and 4 year old sessional programs
- Before and after care programs
- High quality learning
- Smooth transition to school
- All children and families welcome!



HOLY CHILD
Kindergarten | Dallas





Standing up for religious freedom

Across all areas of society, Catholics run organisations with an open and inclusive commitment to all people in their care.

Our excellence in the provision of services including education is recognised by many – evident in the large numbers of students attending Catholic schools and educational institutions.

What makes these schools unique and distinct is the holistic way faith is taught – as a coherent body of teachings, permeating all aspects of life. Our faith is taught not just in the few hours of religious education classes each week, but is part of the very make-up and fabric of each school.

Unfortunately, in yet another move to restrict religious freedom, the Victorian Government is seeking to change the current approach, which is working well.

Currently, Catholic organisations, including our schools can freely hire those who share our religious beliefs, values and ethos. Incredibly, the Victorian Government has introduced legislation seeking to change this. If it passes, the *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021* will affect religious organisations all across Victoria, who will be limited in their ability to employ staff, run their schools and provide other services that adhere to their faith, values and ethos.

Strangely, other organisations like political parties will not have the same restrictions placed on them. In other words, the Government will impose on the staffing of faith organisations but not on the staffing of political organisations. Why the imbalance?

Under the new legislation, religious bodies and educational institutes will no longer be able to employ staff who hold the same religious beliefs and values unless they can prove that it is an 'inherent requirement' of the job. The Government has given the example that in a school, the only roles where religious beliefs might be an 'inherent requirement' of the job include positions of senior leadership (e.g., a principal) or religious education teachers. However, what the Government fails to understand is that faith is holistic, it affects the way we see the world and conduct our lives. Just as we don't live our faith for only a couple of hours on Sunday while we attend Mass, nor do teachers and staff in our schools teach and pass on the faith only through set religious education classes. Likewise, it is entirely reasonable and fair that religious bodies should be able to preference those who share their beliefs and values in their own private employment matters.

In a healthy pluralist democracy, the role or importance of faith in a faith-based organisation cannot be relegated to a bureaucrat or a secular court. This is another sad example of religious faith and the freedom of religious organisations being unfairly targeted.

As people of faith, it is our right and responsibility to make our views known about this matter.

The *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021* is currently before our Parliament and will be debated before Christmas. I encourage all people of faith and goodwill, to stand up for religious freedom and ask our parliamentarians to oppose the Bill, particularly the introduction of an 'inherent requirement' test.

How to stand up for religious freedom

1. Contact your local Members of Parliament in Victoria

Writing to Members of Parliament (MPs) is an effective way to communicate with them about this Bill. A short letter (emailed or mailed) respectfully expressing concerns with the legislation will help them understand what is important to people of faith.

Each Victorian has one MP representing their local **district** and six MPs who represent their wider **region**. If you're unsure who to write to, you can find out which district/region you are part of and the contact details of the MPs representing you here: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/about/electorates

2. Contact your federal Members of Parliament

Writing to federal Members of Parliament to tell them about what is happening here in Victoria is also vitally important, because religious freedom legislation is potentially being considered on a federal level. You can write to them to share your concern and ask them to act to protect the religious freedom of all Australians.

Each Victorian has one local MP representing their geographic **area** and twelve Senators who represent their **state**.

Details of your local federal Member of Parliament can be found here: [www.aph.gov.au/Senators and Members/Members](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members) Simply scroll down to 'Search Members' and type in your postcode to find your MP.

Details of Victorian Senators can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3BNVYA1>

3. Share your concerns with others

You are also encouraged to tell your family, friends and those in your local community about your concerns and ask them to become active too.

4. Get active on social media

You may also like to become active on social media – particularly by sharing your concerns with your Members of Parliament via their social media pages.



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1.23

10 November 2021

To: *Members of the Victorian Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council*

Concerns about the diminishing of religious freedom and the accumulation of power

Dear Honourable Member,

My prayerful greetings to you. I write to express grave misgivings I share with other faith leaders, in relation to the *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021*.

The proposed legislation diminishes the ability of faith organisations to confidently manage employment matters according to their faith and conscience.

As a point of principle, this is a serious over-reach of the Government into the rightful freedoms of faith-based organisations in Victoria. Organisations of care charity, including religious and church agencies, have a right to practice their faith without new administration burdens and pressures.

In my own context, Catholic organisations are inclusive and welcoming places, not despite but *because* they are Catholic. Across all sectors in Catholic organisational contexts, I am particularly concerned that the introduction of an 'inherent requirement' test is a serious intrusion into the expression of faith, and an unnecessary instrument of power. It will lead to vexatious claims being adjudicated by a Commissioner or the Courts, neither of which have competency to define religious matters for believers.

The Government has been unable to identify a single problem in Catholic schools with which this legislation is meant to address, and many in my community are therefore concluding that the Government means to diminish the rights of large religious communities and concurrently target religious minorities. I hope this is not the case.

To people of faith, this is looking increasingly like a willingness to hurt the rightful expression of religious faith coupled with an extravagant adoption of political power over our lives. Please see attached my statement to the media of 2 October.

With great respect to our public representatives, I urge a mature re-think on both of the above proposals, and for a fairer and democratic approach to be taken.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

Letter to Federal MPs

Dear <MP NAME>

I am writing to you as my federal member of parliament to make you aware of the Victorian Government's proposal to introduce laws which will seriously diminish the rights of religious organisations to manage their activities according to their faith and conscience.

This is particularly important given that the federal parliament is expected to debate its own Religious Discrimination Bill soon.

As a parent, I have chosen to educate my child in a Catholic school because the traditions of the Church are not only passed on through what is taught, but what is practised and what is witnessed in our learning communities.

The role of teachers and support staff in my school community is more than just teaching or performing administrative duties - it is expected that they model the Catholic ethos in their daily lives and conduct.

I am very concerned that the Victorian Government's changes might mean that Catholic schools could be forced to hire staff who are actively at odds with the teachings and ethos of the Catholic community. The proposed changes could leave it up to a bureaucrat or a legal court to determine what a necessary or inherent aspect of a religion is, and what jobs in a school require conformity with the content of a school's religion. This poses a clear threat to the integrity of my school by severely undermining the faith and values-based education it currently provides.

The change in law appears to be written without an understanding of Catholic school communities. The principles, values and beliefs that form the culture of a Catholic school don't disappear when the bell rings at the end of the day, but are an inherent part of the fabric of school life.

Parents living in your electorate, like me, have a right to expect that, when they choose a Catholic school for their child's education, their child will be educated in an environment that is consistent with the teachings of the Church.

If the current law changes in Victoria, there is still a significant chance that the Australian Government's Religious Discrimination Bill can play a vital role in serving to protect the traditions and ethos of my school and parish community.

When the time to debate the Bill comes, I urge you to stand up for my faith and my right to choose the kind of education I want for my child.

Yours sincerely

Dear <MP NAME>

I write to you in reference to the Victorian Government's proposed *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021*, which will seriously diminish the rights of religious organisations to manage their activities according to their faith and conscience.

As a parent, I have chosen to educate my child in a Catholic school because the traditions of the Church are not only passed on through what is taught, but what is practised and what is witnessed in our learning communities.

The role of teachers and support staff in my school community is more than just teaching or performing administrative duties - it is expected that they model the Catholic ethos in all aspects of their daily lives.

I am very concerned that the Victorian Government's changes might mean that Catholic schools could be forced to hire staff who are actively at odds with the teachings and ethos of the Catholic community. The proposed inherent requirements test could leave it up to a bureaucrat or a legal court to determine what a necessary or inherent aspect of a religion is, and what jobs in a school require conformity with the content of a school's religion. This poses a clear threat to the integrity of my school by severely undermining the faith and values-based education it currently provides.

The change in law appears to be written without an understanding of Catholic school communities. The principles, values and beliefs that form the culture of a Catholic school don't disappear when the bell rings at the end of the day, but are actually an inherent part of the fabric of school life.

Parents living in your electorate, like me, have a right to expect that, when they choose a Catholic school for their child's education, their child will be educated in an environment that is consistent with the teachings of the Church.

Please don't take that right away from me and my family. Please vote against the Victorian Government's proposed *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill*.

Yours sincerely



The Catholic Contribution

Presented by Professor John Haldane

The aim of this series is to understand the nature, development and self-understanding of Roman Catholicism and its contribution to the culture of Europe and beyond, not just historically but through to the present day and into the future.

Main Points

- *The Catholic Contribution* is a six-lecture series by Professor John Haldane, co-presented by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.
- The series aims to help participants understand the nature, development and self-understanding of Roman Catholicism and its contribution to the culture of Europe and beyond, not just historically but through to the present day and into the future.
- The third lecture in the series, 'Rebuilding of the West' <https://sites.google.com/cem.edu.au/haldane/lecture-series/lecture-3-rebuilding-of-the-west?authuser=0>, is available on The Catholic Contribution website. In this lecture, Professor Haldane explores the development of Christianity from the 5th to 15th centuries and the contribution made to rebuilding the West following the fall of the Roman Empire.
- From next week, five-minute summaries will be available to schools for professional learning purposes.
- Following Professor Haldane's summary, two related questions will be posed for reflection and discussion.
- The other lectures in the series are also available on The Catholic Contribution website, <https://sites.google.com/cem.edu.au/haldane/>.

REFUGEE ACCESS SERVICE

Breaking down barriers to mental health care

Secondary Consultation

Assessment & Mental Health Linkage

Capacity Building

Partnerships & Care Collaboration

General contact
ph: 9966 9100
(Request to speak with Refugee Access clinician)

**REVOLUTION
IN MIND** *ory
gen*

REFUGEE ACCESS SERVICE

Facilitating mental health access and support for children and young people (0-24 years) of refugee or asylum seeker background. Specifically for those who have arrived in Australia within past 5 years.

Secondary Consultation

Looking to discuss a child, young person or family member of concern? Refugee Access Clinicians are available by phone, email, fax, as well as onsite at set times. Simply contact to arrange the most appropriate consultation method and time.

Assessment & Mental Health Linkage

Refugee Access Clinicians will complete mental health assessments, brief intervention and linkages to ongoing services depending on needs of the child, young person or family. And yes, we do have access to Interpreters.

Capacity Building

Are you working in the settlement and refugee space and want to build your capacity in managing mental health concerns? We have options for reflective practice in small groups and can construct targeted training for large groups.

Partnerships & Care Collaboration

Working in partnerships will provide better outcomes for clients, families, and services by targeting Consumer and carer involvement, continuity of care, communication, roles and responsibilities & collaboration

Project lead/Team Leader
e: Jacqui.mackinnon@mh.org.au
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Senior Clinician
e: Gabrielle.boyd@mh.org.au
p: 0428 687 536

Senior Clinician
e: Lucy.angwin2@mh.org.au
p: 0407 766 350

Senior Clinician
e: Amy.gibbs@mh.org.au
p: 0419 577 691



BRIDGEWATER LAKE
Retirement Estate

FREE
ENTRY
AND
PARKING

INDOOR CRAFT MARKET

Saturday 20 March
10am - 2pm

Devonshire Tea, Candles, Cakes,
Jams, Hampers

BARGAINS GALORE
All items are Homemade!

All enquiries call Peter on 9308 8335
9 Wedgewood Road, Roxburgh Park

9308 8335 | bridgewaterlake.com.au

HOLY CHILD PRIMARY SCHOOL IS COMMITTED TO THE
SAFETY, WELLBEING AND PROTECTION OF THE CHILDREN IN OUR CARE



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Primary School | Dallas

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