



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

2nd May 2025

The term has started with short, sharp, yet eventful weeks which have left the heart (and calendar) full. Since our last newsletter we have commemorated ANZAC Day and the glorious celebration of Easter. I find myself reflecting on the profound themes of sacrifice, resurrection, and hope that both occasions embody. These moments in our calendar are not only significant historical and religious events, but also opportunities for us to come together as a community to honour, remember, and rejoice. Last week, visitors to our school commented on the respect and reverence shown by our students throughout Thursday's ANZAC DAY Prayer Service. This sense of commitment and community was then continued at the ANZAC DAY March on Friday. It was heart warming to see the large number of students, staff and parents who presented with hat, poppy or rosemary in hand to march in solidarity. Again, I received wonderful feedback and an acknowledgement of how our school continues to exude a commitment to passing on tradition and a culture that celebrates being a part of something bigger than ourselves. I guess you could say we spread the green all the way down Bourbong Street over the Public Holiday and for that we are very grateful. Thanks to all involved!

ANZAC Day, is a solemn reminder of the bravery, sacrifice, and unity demonstrated by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps during World War I. It is a day to honour and remember all those who have served and continue to serve in our armed forces, safeguarding our freedoms and way of life. For me, I see it as a way to show appreciation to those shoulders we have climbed on, in order to enjoy the free existence we very much value in Bundaberg and Australia today. Values first born from the Easter story and Jesus' life sacrifice, through to the ANZACs and then those in our own lives that remind us never to take for granted the things that make our communities great places to grow and thrive. Over the past week we have lost two great examples of exemplary men who did this so well, in Pope Francis and Brother Lionel 'Ted' Magee.



Pope Francis will be remembered as a beacon of light for so many in our world, especially those most in need. He consistently emphasized how peace begins at home, urging people to foster reconciliation and understanding, describing the family as the 'wellspring of fraternity and the foundation for peace'. Lionel Magee was a Christian Brother, educator, but most known as a highly acclaimed College Principal and most recently for his work in our Bundaberg Catholic Parish. Lionel was Shalom Catholic College's Principal when I attended in its formative years. I remember Br. Magee as having a calm, charismatic and measured presence. I don't remember Br. Magee raising his voice often. This may have been because he had a way of being a step ahead. He had his finger on the pulse. He seemed to know what we were planning before we had a chance to put it in to action. Not only through the school day, but beyond. He had a way of nipping things in the bud. We rarely stepped out of line to avoid disappointing Brother. He invested so much time in our school and wanted us to respect ourselves and each other under the red, black and white banner.

Shalom's mission statement mentions the importance of harnessing the enthusiasm of youth and this is definitely what Lionel and his team achieved. They looked for ways to engage us in Saint Vincent De Paul initiatives, including selling donated fruits and vegetables from the end of the Holy Rosary Church which later grew in to the Shalom Markets. Then, his love of the role that sport played in building character in young men and women. He was a great supporter of Confraternity Rugby League (QISSRL) which was originally born from Shalom College in the early days. The attached image shows Lionel presenting his Queensland Independent Secondary Schools Confraternity Carnival Team Jersey to Jonathan Thurston, of St. Mary's Toowoomba (and later NRL) at the 2000 carnival hosted by Shalom Catholic College. A great reminder of how such initiatives, turn young men and women in to the champions of our day. Brother Magee had big dreams and great 'hopes' for Shalom College which was at that time a blank canvas, a bare, fairly grassless space. He planted many seeds of hope. I am sure his 'hopes' were realised when he returned to Bundaberg to witness the College still thriving under the leadership of Principal and good friend, Dan McMahon and to know how integral the members of his family (Aplin/Hass families) had been in continuing to catapult the school forward and to see his own Nieces and Nephews attend. The funeral Mass for Br. Ted will be celebrated next Wednesday, 7th May at Holy Rosary Church, Bundaberg, commencing at 12:15pm.



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS (cont'd)

2nd May 2025

As we continue to journey through this year, let us hold onto the values of faith, hope, and love that ANZAC Day and Easter inspire. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our children and in our wider community, as demonstrated through the lives of Pope Francis, Lionel and so many that have paved the way forward. Lionel attended the St. Patrick's Children's Mass last weekend and was instrumental in this Parish/School initiative. In honour, it would be wonderful to see as many St. Patrick's Catholic School community members attend St. Patrick's Church, on the 25th May at 9am. He was always keen to ensure there was morning tea and a chance for an after Mass chat, so please bring a plate to share if you can.

This week we had many opportunities to 'harness the enthusiasm (and energy) of our youth' via the Cross Country and Obstacle Course. A big THANK YOU to Mr. Jason Egan who co-ordinated these events for the first time and for all who supported us throughout the first couple of busy weeks. Enjoy another long weekend and this beautiful weather!



A reminder to all parents to join us on **Tuesday, 13 May** for **Patty's PEN** (Parent Engagement Night) with Diocesan Consultant **Bianca McLeish** who will be hosting a session for parents to learn about the '**Strength-Based Education Model**'. St. Patrick's staff, teachers and students are presently embracing.

This is a great opportunity for parents to meet in a space where you get to suggest topics for conversation.

For catering purposes and seating arrangements, please register by using this [online form](#). There is also a place for anyone wanting to suggest a topic for conversation. We look forward to seeing where Patty's PEN might take us.

Kim O'Shea-Hard

Principal



Click our
school crest
to go our
school
website
calendar.



Click the
Parish logo
to go to the
Parish
website



Click the
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icon to go to
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page



Absentees

4994 8336

spb_absentees@rok.catholic.edu.au

Pope Francis



Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, became the 266th pope of the Roman Catholic Church in 2013. He was the first pope from South America, the first Jesuit pope, and also the first to take the name Francis, choosing it in honour of St Francis of Assisi, a saint known for his simplicity, humility, and love for the poor. He was a voice for peace and compassion.

His leadership style was marked by a down-to-earth approach and a heart for those on the margins of society. Even though he held one of the most influential positions in the world, Pope Francis often chose a humble path, riding in simple cars, staying in modest rooms, and calling people personally to offer prayer and encouragement.

Pope Francis consistently spoke out for peace, justice, and care for the vulnerable. He encouraged believers to focus not just on tradition, but on living out the love of Christ in everyday life. He also reminded the world that faith without compassion means little, and that the Gospel calls us to serve others.

Throughout his papacy, he highlighted issues like poverty, the dignity of all people, and the importance of forgiveness. His words and actions inspired millions of Christians around the world—Catholic and non-Catholic alike.

Pope Francis passed away on Easter Monday, just one day after Christians around the world celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. The timing is a powerful reminder of the hope we have in Christ. No matter our role or status in life, true purpose and peace are found in Him alone.

As we remember Pope Francis, we give thanks for a life lived in service to God. His legacy of humility and compassion will continue to inspire generations to come.

(Adapted from information from Vision.org.au)

Mother's Day



On Friday, May 9 we will once again be holding our Mother's Day Prayer Celebration. We really value the mothers in our community and would love for you all to join us in celebrating them at our Liturgy on May 9, at **9.00am** in the Multi. Please ensure you send one photo per family of mum and the kids to sboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au no later than Wednesday May 7 to be included in the presentation.

We look forward to celebrating with all of the special ladies in our community.



Tracey Cook

APRE



ANZAC DAY 2025

Our Anzac Day commemorations this year included participation in the Bundaberg Civic Ceremony and March, our whole school Prayer Service and Courtyard Prayer led by 5G. We were blessed to have Sergeant Leon Hart be with us to read The Ode & Miss Kate to play the Last Post, Rouse along with the New Zealand and Australian National Anthems. Our students were outstanding ambassadors for our school at such important events. Lest we forget.



SENIOR CROSS COUNTRY

The school community congratulates and applauds all students on their individual performances, sportsmanship and team spirit at the Inter-house Cross Country held on Monday 28 April. All students showed their determination to finish and gain valuable points for their team.

Congratulations to **Coolock House** for winning the Senior Trophy for our Interhouse Cross Country and to our 2025 School Cross Country team who will represent St Patrick's at the upcoming District Cross Country trials at Avoca State School on **Friday 16th May**. The team consists of Essie M, Chase L, Byron J, Immogen K, Georgia S, Kelan E, Reeve L, Sophia L, Lily P, Thomas H, Jax S, Kenzie S and Ivy L. We wish all competitors the very best at this upcoming event.

Congratulations also to the students who ran their hearts out in the Junior Obstacle Course. Based on the efforts displayed by our Prep to Year 2 students today, we certainly look forward to seeing them in future years as they take on the longer distances involved with the Senior Cross Country. The winners of the trophy will be announced at Courtyard Prayer Tuesday morning, for the whole school to witness.

Also a huge thank you to Shalom College for the use of their amazing grounds for the Senior Cross Country carnival. Their support of this event is very much appreciated.

2025 SENIOR CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS

Age Division	Name	House
8yrs Boys – Born 2017	Joseph S	Coolock
8yrs Girls – Born 2017	Isla P	Coolock
9yrs Boys – Born 2016	Alex D	Coolock
9yrs Girls – Born 2016	Sophia K	Xavier
10yrs Boys – Born 2015	Chase L	Xavier
10yrs Girls – Born 2015	Immogen K	McAuley
11yrs Boys – Born 2014	Kelan E	Coolock
11yrs Girls – Born 2014	Sophia L	McAuley
12yrs Girls Multi-class	Esse M	Coolock
12yrs Boys – Born 2013	Thomas H	Xavier
12yrs Girls – Born 2013	Kenzie S	Mackillop



BOOKCLUB — ISSUE 3



Book club catalogues, [Issue 3](#), were sent home with your child last week.

A reminder that all orders need to be made **ONLINE via LOOP payment** on the Scholastic website via www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP. No cash will be accepted.

All orders are due by **Wednesday 7th May**.

As soon as orders are dispatched to us, we will then send home with your child.

SPORTS NEWS

School Sports Representatives

Congratulations to **Laynee M** on her selection in the Wide Bay Schools Netball Team.

Well done to **Will E** on making the Bundaberg Schools Rugby League Team.

Also, congratulations to **Kendall L**, **Daniella H** and **Ellie R** who have been selected to represent Bundaberg Schools 12 years Girls Hockey team at the Wide Bay trials. Well done girls!



SHOUT OUT TO MS TARYN GOLLSHEWSKY

2025 Australian Athletic Champion!

Congratulations to Ms Taryn Gollshewsky claiming her 5th title, placing 1st in the recent Open Women's Discus in Perth at the Australian Athletics Nationals 2025.



Thank you to Ms G for her efforts to prepare for Cross Country at Shalom College last week. Not even the rain could stop her!

TERM TWO PLANNER

WEEK 1	Week 22nd April - Friday 25th April		
Monday	PUBLIC HOLIDAY - EASTER MONDAY		
Tuesday-Wednesday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	5G
Thursday	ANZAC DAY Liturgy	8:40am	5G
Friday	PUBLIC HOLIDAY - ANZAC DAY		
WEEK 2	Week 28th April - 2nd May		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00am	Year 5 & 1
Monday	Senior Cross Country - Years 3 to 6	9:00am	Shalom
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	4M
Friday	Junior Obstacle Course - Prep to Year 2	9:00am	St Patrick's
	Interschool Sport	12:30pm	Years 5-6
WEEK 3	Week 5th May - 9th May		
Monday	PUBLIC HOLIDAY - LABOUR DAY		
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	4F
Friday	Mother's Day Liturgy	9:00am	Year 2
	Interschool Sport	12:30pm	Years 5-6
WEEK 4	Week 12th May - 16th May		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00am	Year 6 & Prep
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	4K
Friday	District Cross Country - no interschool sport	All Day	Avoca SS
WEEK 5	Week 19th May - 23rd May		
Monday	Parish Mass	8:40am	Year 3
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	3T
Friday	Interschool Sport	12:30pm	Years 5-6
WEEK 6	Week 26th May - 30th May		
Monday	Parish Mass	8:40am	Year 2
Tuesday-Wednesday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	3L
Thursday	BUNDABERG SHOW HOLIDAY		
Friday	Interschool Sport	12:30pm	Years 5-6
WEEK 7	Week 2nd June - 6th June		
Monday	Parish Mass	8:40am	Year 4
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	3C
Wednesday	Questacon Science Circus	All Day	Prep - 6
Friday	Interschool Sport	12:30pm	Years 5-6
WEEK 8	Week 9th June -13th June		
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	1H
WEEK 9	Week 16th June - 20th June		
Monday	Field Events Day - students born 2015, 2014 & 2013	All Day	St Patrick's
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	1B
Tuesday	Music Retreat Day - Junior & Senior Strings students	All Day	Chaverim
WEEK 10	Week 23rd June - 27th June		
Monday	Senior Athletics Carnival - students born 2016, 2015, 2014 & 2013	All Day	Shalom
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	1C
Friday	Junior Athletics Carnival - students born 2020,2019, 2018 & 2017	All Day	St Patrick's

2025 SPORT DATES			
28th April	Cross Country	Years 3 to 6	Shalom College
2nd May	Junior Obstacle Course	Prep to Year 2	St Patrick's
23rd June	Senior Athletics Day	Students born 2016, 2015, 2014 & 2013	Shalom College
27th June	Junior Athletics Day	Students born 2020, 2019, 2018 & 2017	St Patrick's
21st November	Swimming Carnival	Years 3 to 6	Bundaberg

2025 TERM DATES	
TERM 1	Monday 28 January - Friday 4 April
TERM 2	Tuesday 22 April - Friday 27 June
TERM 3	Monday 14 July - Friday 19 September
TERM 4	Tuesday 7 October - Friday 5 December