



#### Upcoming Events

- **Year 5/6 Touch Footy Gala Day**  
Friday 18th November
- **Year 5 Family Mass**  
Sunday 20th November  
9.00am
- **Kinder 2023 Transition #3**  
Wednesday 23 November  
9.15am
- **Advent Liturgy #1**  
Thursday 24th November  
1.50pm
- **Staff Development Day**  
Monday 28th November
- **Northlakes Rotary Awards**  
Wednesday 30th November  
6pm
- **Advent Liturgy #2**  
Thursday 1st December  
1.50pm
- **Mr Williams' Farewell Liturgy**  
Friday 2nd December 9.15am
- **Kinder 2023 Transition #4**  
Wednesday 7th December,  
9.15am
- **Advent Liturgy #3**  
Thursday 8th December 1.50pm
- **K-2 Annual Class Awards**  
Thursday 8th December  
2.45pm-3.10pm
- **Year 6 Thanksgiving Mass**  
Friday 9th December  
9.15am
- **K-6 Award Ceremony**  
Monday 12th December
- **Christmas Carols Night**  
Wednesday 14th December  
5.30pm
- **Advent Liturgy #4**  
Thursday 15th December  
1.50pm
- **Year 6 Guard of Honour**  
Friday 16th December 2.45pm

Dear St Mary's Catholic School Community,

As you would have read in my letter to you last week, the diocese is ceasing the role of Family Liaison Officer (FLO) in schools next month. I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the tremendous work of Mrs Donna Falzon. Donna has worked tirelessly in the role of FLO since 2014. The role itself is complex and nuanced, work of which Donna is highly skilled. Over the 9 years as our St Mary's FLO, Donna has supported countless families dealing with a whole range of family challenges, often helping them to first contact local support agencies. Donna has worked with many community groups such as Together4Toukley and built relationships with our local pre-schools. Donna has run at least one Seasons For Growth group each year, which is a program that supports children affected by grief and loss, and has annually run our 1, 2, 3 Magic Parent Program. Donna also runs our successful *Playgroup* each term and our *Storytime* in the library each Thursday morning. Donna has also worked as our canteen coordinator.

Regrettably, Donna will be leaving our school at the end of the year. Our school has been enriched and strengthened by the gifts and talents Donna had brought to the role of Family Liaison Officer, daily. On behalf of our school, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Donna for everything she has given to our school community. Donna, you have impacted the lives of so many families and children, and we have such deep gratitude for you. Parents, when you see Donna around our school over this next month, please thank her for the impact she has had on your family.

#### Parent Helpers

We need help! We recently purchased new decodable readers for all of the Kinder - Year 2 classrooms. There are thousands of new books that have now been added into our library system that now need to be covered. On Friday we are holding a book covering morning. If you can attend (bring a friend!) please meet in the library at 9.00am. If you can not attend but would like to help, please call the office.

#### End of Year

Earlier in the week I sent out an overview of events that fill in the next month.....our many liturgies, farewells and end of year celebrations. I extend an invitation for you to join us whenever you can.

#### Gates

Our electronic gates will be become active next week! Both of our walk-in gates have finished having their external intercom buttons installed. When the gates are closed you will need to 'buzz in' from the gate to come onto school grounds and the gate will be automatically opened from the office. Before 9.30am and after 2.45pm the gates will stay open due to the volume of foot traffic entering our grounds. We are still ironing out some small problems as they arise, so we ask for you to please be patient.

#### Year 5 Family Mass

This Sunday morning, all of our Year 5 students will be attending their 9.00am Family Mass with parents and classmates. We look forward to seeing you there and hearing you share your song.

#### Staff Development Day

This term we have our final Staff Development Day for the year, to be held on Monday 28th November. This will be a pupil free day.

Kind regards,

Emma Sellars  
Principal

#### Parish Details

Ph. 4396 4455  
Email. [toukleyparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:toukleyparish@bbcatholic.org.au)  
Office Hours. Monday-Friday  
9.00am-2.00pm

#### Merit Awards

Kai D  
Amari R  
Amelia R  
Tariq M  
Morgan P  
Ondine R  
Mackenzie O  
Martial G  
William N  
Jordan S  
Nixon P  
Rawson B  
Mila C  
Darcy P  
Anne T  
Cooper B  
Van B  
Koa F  
Madison C  
Sophie C  
Vincent B  
Aila K  
August K  
Emeri B  
Harry B  
Hunter H  
Piper E  
Phoebe E  
Sosefo K  
Mia H  
Ella S  
Elise C  
Matilda S  
Harrison M  
Joshua Y  
Molly W  
Elizabeth L

## From Our REC

### Year 5 Sunday Mass

This Sunday 20th November at 9am Year 5 will lead our Sunday Mass. We would like all our Year 5 students to attend. Our new kinder students for 2023 will be invited to join us.

### Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Mr Hochkins and our choir are beginning to prepare for the "Lighting of the Christmas Tree." It has been a couple of years since we have been able to participate in this event. It will be held on Saturday 3rd December. If you have a child in choir, save the date!

### Christmas Eve Mass

Last week a form was sent out via compass for children wanting to participate in our Christmas Eve Mass. Thank you to the families who have responded. There will be a variety of roles from acting, liturgical movement and choir. Sr Jennifer and Sam Hanham will lead the reenactment, Sr. Josie the Choir and Naomi Hepplewhite the liturgical movements. We would also love the support of other parents to help us out. There will be practises during school time and another longer practise in the week leading up to Christmas. The link to the form is included here: <https://forms.office.com/r/iejWQ8LyD1>

### Choir – Christmas Eve Mass

Our choir members have been invited to

## From Our Family Liaison Officer

It has been wonderful to see our incoming 2023 Kinder students (and parents) at their second transition session this morning. As these sessions progress it is exciting to see how the children evolve from sometimes nervous, reserved demeanor to more confident, smiling, happy students.

Parents, you have done a fabulous job of preparing your children for 'big school', which helps make their transition through the big changes ahead for them next year a lot smoother. Families and staff working together in partnership to support your children in their educational journey is the cornerstone of what St Mary's is all about.

Results of this positive partnership is evident in the children's sense of belonging at school, their engagement in the academic, social, sporting and community aspects of school and a positive mindset and sense of wellbeing at school. Our school environment serves to provide not just an excellent academic, but a holistic education for children's social/emotional skills, values and all around wellbeing as well.

participate in our Parish's Christmas Eve Mass. It begins at 6pm on Christmas Eve. Sr Josie will prepare our students for this. If your child would like to join us for this celebration, please RSVP to Mrs Kyle by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December by emailing [catherine.kyle@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:catherine.kyle@dbb.catholic.edu.au)

### Advent Liturgies

Our Advent Liturgies will run from Week 7 through to Week 10. Please see below when our different grades will be leading the liturgies. All liturgies will be held in the church on Thursdays from 2pm. We look forward to sharing these with you.  
Week 7 - First Week of Advent - Kinder and Year 4  
Week 8 - Second Week of Advent - Year 3  
Week 9 - Third Week of Advent - Year 1 and Year 2  
Week 10 - Fourth Week of Advent - Year 5

### St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hampers

This week we began collecting food for the St. Vincent De Paul Hampers. Each year all classes are asked to create a food hamper for families doing it tough. Your child/ren should have received a star asking them to contribute a food item to add to the class Christmas Hamper. Hampers will be presented to St Vincent de Paul at an Advent Liturgy. We thank you for your support in helping those in need.

Cath Kyle  
Religious Education Coordinator

**Storytime in the Library.** Our last Storytime will be in Week 9, Thursday December 8. If you can't make it back to library, but have outstanding books, you can return them via your older child at school on their regular library day or at the office.

Our annual St Vincent De Paul Christmas appeal has begun with the collection of hamper items for those vulnerable families in our community. If you can help, it will make a great difference. It is a tough time for many this year and if you and your family are experiencing difficult circumstances Vinnies, Toukley Neighbourhood Centre and Lakes Food Care are all available with many different kinds of support.  
St Vincent De Paul  
Ph. 4353 5614  
Toukley Neighbourhood Centre.  
Ph 4396 1555  
Lakes Food Care, 199 Main Rd, Toukley  
Ph. 4307 1234

Donna Falzon  
Family Liaison Officer  
[donna.falzon@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:donna.falzon@dbb.catholic.edu.au)



## A Spotlight on Year 6



### Canteen News

Lunch orders are via the Qkr! app. Cut off time for orders is 9am. You can order up to 2 weeks in advance.

Thank you  
Donna & Lauren

## From Our PE Teacher

### Year 5/6 Touch Gala Day

A reminder that the buses for the Touch Football Gala Day this Friday will be leaving school at 8.20am. We are still looking for helpers on the day. Please call the office on 4396 5100 if you can help.

Thank you  
Liz Bain  
Sports Coordinator



### Parish Secretary vacancy – Toukley-Lake Munmorah Parish

#### Permanent, part-time

Could you see yourself as the face of the Toukley-Lake Munmorah Parish, providing high level administrative support and a warm and inviting welcome to visitors?

The Catholic Parish of Toukley-Lake Munmorah is seeking to recruit a new permanent part-time Parish Secretary, Mondays to Fridays, 9:00am to 2:00pm. This role plays an important part in the Parish team, providing support for Parish communications, administration, financial processes, Parish property, compliance and Diocesan support. If you have high developed administration skills coupled with well-developed relational and rapport building skills and this role interests you, please email a brief cover letter and CV to

[recruitment@bbccatholic.org.au](mailto:recruitment@bbccatholic.org.au)

Applications close Friday 25 November 2022.



## A Spotlight on Year 6 continued



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