



# School Newsletter

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## *'Be Calm and Full of Hope'*

– Saint Mary MacKillop, 1842-1909

Dear Cana Families,

Without doubt we are all finding ourselves in emotionally extreme circumstances. Stage 4 restrictions have brought many extra demands and concerns for each family to manage and work through. From Cana's perspective, everyone has

observed the required health measures (e.g a 14-day isolation period and covid testing as appropriate). I know everyone is doing as required. A **PANDEMIC CLEAN** was conducted by an authorised company throughout the school last week.

Staff are all working remotely in close partnership with students and families. In the past, we were able to support and invite students of working families to be supervised onsite. However, the government has now directed that we **MUST** follow stage 4 restrictions, whereby only explicit occupations are eligible for this support. **All students are expected to learn from home (or in the homes of family members) with the exception of children for whom both parents/guardians hold 'Permitted Worker Permits' issued by their employers.** The two-week closure that has occurred has ensured we are safe to reopen next week for these students. Please do not hesitate to email me at any point if you need information.

We all have things that we struggle with and things that seem to overwhelm us. As a result of this, we often feel lost and don't know what direction we're supposed to go in. What we often forget is that these particular seasons of our lives are incredible opportunities to turn to God for strength, hope and courage. Prayer helps us to find strength for today and hope in the midst of our greatest challenges and trials. When we trust in the power of prayer, we can really see how God is at work in our lives.

To all our families, may you be blessed with Peace and Calm, and remain Hopeful.

Carmen Blatti

Principal



**“THERE WHERE YOU ARE – THERE YOU WILL FIND GOD”**

*St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, whose Feast day is 8<sup>th</sup> August.*

At the centre of our life of faith is our awareness of God in our lives. In this weekend’s Readings from Word of God, Elijah and Peter experience this – that God is part of their lives, even in the midst of confusion and turmoil.

How much this was part of the ‘driving force’ for one of the Patron Saints of Australia– St Mary of the Cross MacKillop!

*From the formal Church acknowledgement of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop:*

Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne (Australia) in 1842 and died in Sydney on 8 August 1909. She took the religious name Mary of the Cross. Responding to the isolation of colonial families, she pioneered a new form of religious life to provide education for their children. She and her sisters shared the life of the poor and the itinerant, offering special care to destitute women and children. She is remembered for her eagerness to discover God's will in all things, for her charity in the face of calumny, and for her abiding trust in God's providence.

*From the Opening Prayer of her feast day Mass:*

O God, source of all goodness, who have shown to us in Saint Mary MacKillop a woman of faith living by the power of the Cross, teach us, we pray, by her example to live the gospel in changing times and to respect and defend the human dignity of all in our land.

*From the Solemn Blessing from her feast day Mass:*

Through the example of Saint Mary of the Cross,  
may we learn to recognise God's will for us and trust in God's providence;  
may her life of service awaken in us a deep respect for the poor and a strong will for justice;  
may we share in her courage, see with the eyes of Christian love, and learn from her holy deeds. Amen.

**ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP, pray for us!**