Let your Mercy be on us
As we place our trust in you

We begin our second term with lots of excitement and good news.

Six of our young people will be receiving Eucharist for the first time on Saturday evening. We pray that Christ is a constant presence in the lives of Christina, Krystal, James, Analiese, Tayla, Akol and Deng. This is an important time in the faith journey and we welcome them with open arms into the parish community of St Theresa’s.

Our school continues to grow and we start the term with 111 students. It was not that long ago that our enrolments were in the 80’s. The demonstrated interest in our school is a recognition of the great work we are doing together in partnership.

At our assembly on Friday we will welcome Mr Paul Sharkey, Director of Catholic Identity and Education Services at Catholic Education Melbourne. Paul will be presenting us with a certificate that recognizes us a certified Restorative Practice school. Please join us at assembly at 2.20pm if you are able.

We congratulate Kerry Young, who last night was recognized for her many years of voluntary work in the community as runner-up in the Brimbank Volunteer of the Year awards. She is the best runner-up in the history of Brimbank!!!!! Couldn’t be more proud of you Kerry!

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**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 16</td>
<td>First Eucharist liturgy Mother of God Church 6pm</td>
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<td>Apr 18</td>
<td>School Nurse (Preps)</td>
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<td>Apr 21</td>
<td>Bishop Vincent Long visit for confirmation children 11.30am</td>
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<td>Apr 21</td>
<td>Bulldogs player visit 2pm</td>
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<td>Apr 25</td>
<td>ANZAC day public holiday</td>
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<td>Apr 27</td>
<td>MLC Excursion to Immigration Museum</td>
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| Apr 27 | Family Forum: Restorative Practices 1st session 3.30pm – 5pm  
Shared Dinner 5pm – 6pm 2nd session 6pm – 7.30pm |
| May 4 – 5 | SLC Camp Boomerang |
| June 14 – 15 | Staff Conference (School is closed these two days.) |

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First Eucharist, Saturday April 16, 6pm at Mother of God Church
**Important School News**

**SPECIAL WELCOME TO 2 NEW FAMILIES**
It was an exciting time on Monday when we welcomed two new families to our school community: Erika and Alvaro Merino and their children, Jeremy (Yr 4) and Selina Yr 1) and Rita and Sam Mamaia and their children Carlton (Yr 1) and Christina (Yr 3). The Merino family join us from Derrimut while the Mamaia’s arrived from New Zealand a few days ago.

**FAMILY EMAILS**
Recently we sent out a call for everyone’s email addresses as we would like to increasingly use emails to communicate to, and ask for feedback from, families. If you have provided us with your email addresses, you will shortly receive messages regarding some surveys. We would also like to send the school newsletter electronically. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically in place of a hard copy, please send an email to principal@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au with “Newsletter” in the subject line. We will then forward all newsletters to you via your email and cease sending you hardcopies. If you have not yet sent us your email address, simply send me an email at the above address and we will add you to the school mailing list.

**MOGS STUDENT PORTAL**
The MOGS Student Portal is an online resource to let you know of the learning and curriculum focus in each of the three areas of our school: Junior Learning Community (Prep – Yr 1), Middle Learning Community (Yrs 2-4) and Senior Learning Community (Yrs 5 & 6). You can access the portal from the front page of the school website www.mogardeer.catholic.edu.au Simply click on ‘Intranet’ at the bottom of the screen then click on the link to MOGS Student Portal.
FAMILY FORUM WEDNESDAY APRIL 27 – RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Our first family night for the term will be on Wednesday, April 27. We will offer two sessions of the same program, one from 3.30pm – 5pm and the second from 6pm – 7:30 pm. We will have a shared meal (where you are invited to bring along food to share) in between from 5-6pm. The focus of the evening is to explore together the principles behind Restorative Practices which forms the basis of our Positive Behaviours Policy at school. Child minding and interpreters will be available. A letter asking you to indicate which session you might attend will be going home next week.

MOG SCHOOL EVENTS CALENDAR

We have developed a MOG School events Calendar to promote all the special events and important dates for families. It can be viewed on the school website www.mogardeer.catholic.edu.au/newsandevents. It is also now a feature on the MOGS Skoolbag App. In this app you will receive notifications when new events and dates are posted. You can find the app by searching Mother of God Ardeer in the App Store.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Parish Leadership Team comprises Fr Barry Hughes pp, the principals of both parish schools, Rob Maklen (St Theresa’s Albion) and myself along with parishioners from the three churches in the parish: St Theresa’s, Queen of Heaven and Mother of God. We meet of provide leadership for the parish and support Fr Barry in his ministry. We are looking for new members. If you would be interested in joining, please contact me at school or call on 0403 192 594.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS IN JUNE

Every two years we have a staff retreat and this year that is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, June 14 & 15, immediately following the Queens Birthday long weekend. On these two days we will be working with Paul Spence, exploring the catholic nature of our school and how we provide leadership in a catholic school in these times. There will be no school on these two days and no staff will be in attendance at school.

OPENING SCHOOL GATES ON MAXWELD STREET

As of Monday, we will be opening the school gates on Maxweld St in the mornings and afternoons. This is partly due to the increased traffic on Blanche St in the mornings and afternoons. We will continue to dismiss all children from the front of the school on Blance St, however, if you have parked in Maxweld St you are able to walk through the school grounds.

MOGS SKOOLBAG APP

A new version of the Skoolbag App is now available there is also dedicated iPad version in the iPad App Store! You must accept notifications so that you can be alerted to new messages from school. If you have an earlier version of Skoolbag installed on your devices, you will see this new version as an app update, and should install it as an update. You may already have automatic updates switched on, in which case the app will update itself. It is important that your users install the latest update. Please note also that this Android update requires at least version 4 OS software on Android devices to run.
A+ The Abbey Solo Foundation

Abbey was diagnosed with leukemia at 3 years old and underwent 6 years of treatment. Her courage, strength, humility, grace, gratitude and selflessness during this time seemed beyond her years. Sadly, Abbey lost her battle with leukemia last year, in 2015, aged 9 years old. Her soul, spirit and energy live on through her dedicated and generous family and friends, many of which make up a part of Abbey’s Foundation.

Abbey had many dreams to help our world, but one of them was very close to her heart. During her many stays on the Kookaburra Ward at the Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne, Abbey met a wide range of children and families. Many had to travel from rural or interstate towns. Unfortunately this meant that, often, only one parent would be accompanying the child who had just being diagnosed, as it was too expensive and difficult to find appropriate accommodation on short notice.

Abbey, being the beautiful and compassionate soul she is, felt that we could do better. Her vision is to be able to offer practical support to families (from rural or interstate areas) in the first week of their child’s diagnosis. Support comes in the form of close and accessible accommodation for the whole immediate family/support team, accompanied by resources and information that would provide comfort and ease in one of the most difficult and scary times in a family’s life.

We launch the foundation on June 4 at Kensington Townhall 11am – 3pm. Please come along and join in the spirit of an amazing young girl who we all loved dearly.
SAVE THE DATE!

A+ The Abbey Solo Foundation invites you to our Soft Launch!

Family Fun Day

SATURDAY, JUNE 4
KENSINGTON TOWN HALL
40 BELLAIR ST, KENSINGTON
11AM - 3PM

Jumping Castle | Face Painting | Balloon Artist | Domino the Magician
Fairy Floss | Kids Yoga | Mindfulness Meditation | Market Stalls
Stall Prizes | Craft | Live Performances | Kids Carnival Games
Cake Stalls | Sausage Sizzle | Sushi | Coffee Van | Hot Food

Gold coin donations on the day
Amazing door prize! You won’t want to miss it!