

Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for **Week 6 Term 4, 2021**.

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of the College,

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning;
We will remember them.*
Laurence Binyon, 1914

On Remembrance Day, the College paused to reflect on the important contribution of the many military men and women who served Australia in times of war, including Australians currently serving overseas. We also acknowledge the contribution of many First Nations soldiers who fought and died protecting this land. We thank them for their service and continue to recognise their courageous involvement in Australian conflicts.

On Remembrance Day, we remember the bravery of those men and women who fought and died so that we could stay free, and we pray that their sacrifice shall never be forgotten.



Book of Remembrance

During the month of November, we have a *Remembrance Book* in the College Chapel. All members of the community are invited to list their loved ones for our prayers this month. *May perpetual light shine upon them and may they rest in peace.*

Year 12 (2022) Parent and Student Information Evening

Year 12 (2022) are now well into their HSC course studies. The Parent and Student Information Evening held last Tuesday night provided some key information for students and parents about the year ahead. Thank you to **Mr Lane** and **Ms Tynan** for their very professional presentations.

Casual Covid Contact Update

Earlier this week, I wrote to the community to advise that five of our students have been notified, via text message, by NSW Health that they were **POSSIBLE CASUAL** contacts with a positive COVID-19 case. The College followed all Catholic School Broken Bay and NSW Health guidelines. **I am pleased to be able to advise you that all five students have tested negative.**

Whilst the risk to the community was very low it does serve as a reminder of the importance of being vigilant in regards to safety protocols and adhering to the College [Return to Campus Safety Plan](#).

I would like to thank the students and parents involved for their cooperation and our staff at the College for the calm and professional way they dealt with the situation.

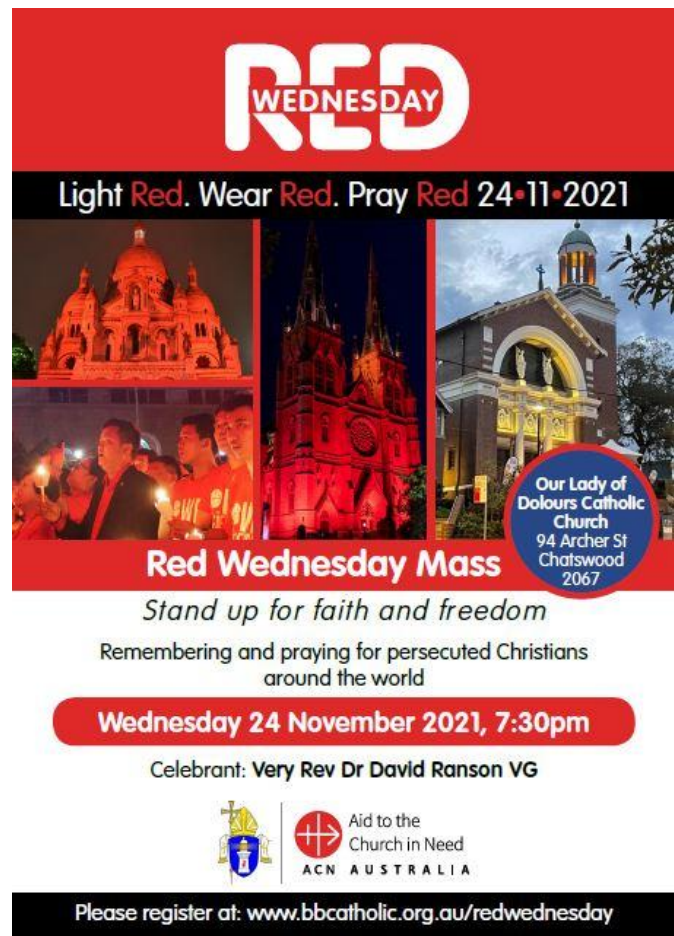
Red Wednesday Mass

Red Wednesday is a day to gather to draw attention to the plight of those who are persecuted and oppressed for their religious beliefs. The purpose of Red Wednesday is to join together and raise a strong voice in support of the persecuted who are unable to speak freely, and who look to us - their brothers and sisters in Christ - to speak on their behalf. Cathedrals, churches and public buildings around the world will light up in red to show solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The St Leo's community is invited to join a special Mass on November 24 to pray for persecuted Christians around the world. The Mass will be held at Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church, Chatswood. Please [PRE-REGISTER HERE](#).

HSC Examinations Commence

The Class of 2021 commenced their HSC examinations on Tuesday 9 November. The final exam for our students will be held on Friday 3 December.

This year the ATARs will be available to students on Thursday, 20 January 2022. Please keep our Year 12 students in your prayers during this time.



The poster features a red background with the text 'RED WEDNESDAY' in large white letters at the top. Below this, it says 'Light Red. Wear Red. Pray Red 24.11.2021'. There are three images: a cathedral at night, a church at night, and a church during the day. Below the images, it says 'Red Wednesday Mass' and 'Stand up for faith and freedom'. At the bottom, it says 'Remembering and praying for persecuted Christians around the world' and 'Wednesday 24 November 2021, 7:30pm'. The celebrant is 'Very Rev Dr David Ranson VG'. There are logos for 'Aid to the Church in Need' and 'ACN AUSTRALIA'. At the bottom, it says 'Please register at: www.bbcatholic.org.au/redwednesday'.

RED WEDNESDAY

Light Red. Wear Red. Pray Red 24.11.2021

Red Wednesday Mass

Stand up for faith and freedom

Remembering and praying for persecuted Christians around the world

Wednesday 24 November 2021, 7:30pm

Celebrant: Very Rev Dr David Ranson VG

Aid to the Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

Please register at: www.bbcatholic.org.au/redwednesday

Dear Lord
Help our young people to relish what is true and right.
Help them to persevere in their
preparation and continue to apply themselves to their studies.
Give them the strength
to face the challenges of this examination period
and achieve their personal best.
In all of life
may they know their worth
and peacefully follow Christ,
who is the Way, the Truth and the Life,
forever and ever.
Amen.
Pope St Leo the Great, Pray for them.

Anthony Mahoney,
Acting Principal

Vending Machines in MMC

While the canteen is temporarily closed for refurbishment, two vending machines have been placed in the foyer of the Mary Mackillop Centre with a limited selection of drinks and snacks for your convenience. Please note the vending machines are tap via **card only**. Students are only permitted to access the vending machines **during recess and lunch**. Purchasing from the machines during class and in between periods is not allowed.

Key End of Year Dates

HSC Exams	Tuesday 9 November – Fri 3 December
Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Surveys	Open now until 19 November - <u>COMPLETE THE PARENT SURVEY</u>
2022 Student Leader Induction Ceremony	Wednesday 17 November , 8.35 - 9.25am (live streamed for parents <u>VIA THIS LINK</u>)
Year 10 Meningococcal Vaccinations	Wednesday 24 November
Year 10 All My Own Work & Minimum Standards	Thursday 25 November & Friday 26 November
Year 7 Vaccinations	Postponed until 2022
Year 12 (2022) Leaders Afternoon with Bishop Anthony	Thursday 25 November, 12.45-3pm (via Zoom)
Year 10 Advent Liturgy/Year in Review presentation (last day of formal classes for Year 10)	Thursday 2 December
Year 10 Semi Formal	Thursday 2 December
Year 12 Graduation	Monday 6 December, 10am-12.30pm (will also be live streamed)
Year 12 Formal	Thursday 9 December
Advent Liturgies/Year in Review presentations (Last day of formal classes for students: Years 7-9 & 11)	Friday 10 December
Year 12 Short Graduation Experience (for those who could not attend on Monday 6 December)	Tuesday 14 December - 10:00am (College Chapel)
Last day of academic year/College Office closes	Thursday 16 December
Year 7 2022 & new Year 8-12 students start	Monday 31 January 2022
Year 8-12 students return	Tuesday 1 February 2022
College Open Day 2022	Tuesday 15 March 2022
Last Day of Term 1, 2022	Friday 8 April 2022

Earth Care Summit

This week, 11 students from the Year 8 Social Justice League participated in the 2021 Earthcare Youth Summit that was run by Catholic Earthcare Australia and students from Mount St Benedict's College. They joined virtually with over 200 other students from Catholic, independent and public schools to hear from speakers about environmental issues as well as to share ideas about what they as school students can do to make a difference.

"From Little Things Big Things Grow was the topic of this year's summit. It not only allowed us to share but to learn and take influence about what things other schools do to help the environment. We gained insight from activists from Kiribati. The main thing I took away from this summit was the people who contribute least to global warming are the same people that are affected most."

Morgan, Year 8



"I learnt ideas from other schools about things we can do to improve on caring for the environment (eg. having compost bins, a blackout day, solar panels etc). I also learnt that we need to care for our environment more and how if we don't care for our environment now, things will be critical by 2050."

Bernadette, Year 8

Cyber-bullying - Staying Safe Online

Despite our young people having settled back to on-campus learning very well, the identity and connections they have formed online remain incredibly important to them. Nationally, research and expert opinion suggest there has been a spike in online bullying (and other social media related problems) since school-aged students have returned to the classroom. The reason for this is being put down to young people trying to assert and re-establish themselves in social groups and *pecking orders*. It is often easier for them to do this either behind a keyboard or on a social media platform (such as Tik Tok). As such, the ramifications are significant and both families and schools are having to manage the fallout.

Every bullying incident is different as there are a range of factors that influence them. At St Leo's, we aim to provide an environment that is free from bullying where all students are respectful and tolerant of others. We, at times, do not always get it right but have a number of different management processes and intervention strategies that we use when managing a reported matter.

We often hear, however, that parents are at a loss as to how they can best help their child when it comes to staying safe online. There are a wide range of resources and tools for parents to read and access that can be of benefit. Two resources that we often suggest when it comes to advice about how to best support young people with their online experiences are:

- [e-Safety Commissioner Website](#): A great tool with valuable resources. Reports can also be made through this platform. From this site, here are [5 Tips to Keep Your Family Safe Online](#).
- [Reachout.com](#)

We do hope that you find these resources beneficial.

Lost Property

There have been a growing number of uniform items handed in as lost property over the past few weeks, Where items are labelled with a student's name, we contact the student to collect the item from Reception. Where items are unlabelled - sadly, the majority of items handed in - they are added to the lost property box in Xavier Court for students to search and collect.

A reminder to **please label all uniforms and other items, including headphones** which are regularly lost. Labelling ensures we are able to return these items to students as soon as they are handed in.

Important Reminders:

Parent TTFM Survey - We Want Your Feedback!

The annual Tell Them From Me Survey (TTFM) Survey is NOW OPEN! We are asking all parents and carers for their feedback after such a challenging year to identify what St Leo's did well and areas for improvement.

Please [COMPLETE THE PARENT SURVEY HERE!](#)

Students will complete the student version of the survey in Mentor classes next week, and staff will also complete a survey. This valuable feedback will help us target specific areas of improvement at the College.



Uniform and Grooming

Now that the students have successfully returned from Home Based Learning, we remind you that all students are expected to be **dressed in full Summer uniform and appropriately groomed**.

Uniform and grooming expectations can be found in the Student Personal Planner (diary) and also on the [College website](#). It is an expectation that any student not in correct uniform reports to their Year Leader before 8.30am with a valid note/diary entry from their parent/carers so that a Uniform Pass can be issued.

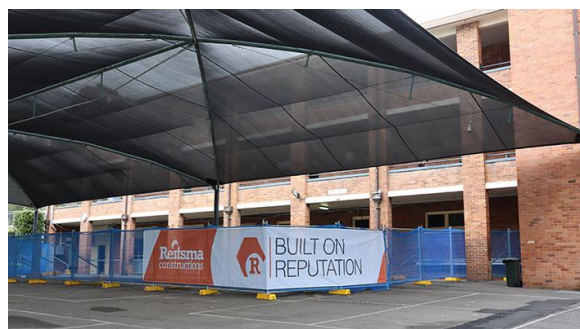
Face Coverings/Masks

A reminder that students are expected to **bring their own face coverings** to the College each day. Face coverings are to be worn by students, at all times, when indoors, and they are also recommended when outdoors. Spare masks are available at Reception only if necessary.

C Block Refurbishment

The refurbishment of the College's 'C-Block' is underway. This will provide us with additional learning spaces for next year as well as updated canteen facilities. C-Block is one of the original buildings in the school.

It will be great to have this important piece of College history restored. It is expected that there will be minimal disruption to students and staff, with the project due for completion for the start of the 2022 school next year.



Year 12 (2021) Formal and Year 10 Semi Formal

Invitations for the Year 12 Formal at Curzon Hall on December 9 were sent to Year 12 2021 students and posted to their Google Classrooms last week. Payments must be made by **Monday 22 November**.

Invitations have also been sent to Year 10 students and posted to their Google Classrooms for their Semi Formal, to be held at the Epping Club on December 2. Payments for the Semi Formal are due as soon as possible.

Expressions of Interest for Dance 2022

Students interested in Dance are encouraged to complete the [Expression of Interest form for our Dance Co-curricular groups for 2022](#). Please contact [Mr Vince Tavernese](#) for any enquiries.

Year 8 Students Interested in Duke of Edinburgh Program

An information session will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, 25 November at 7pm** for interested students and their parents/carers who are currently in Year 8 and are interested in participating in the Bronze Award next year. A link will be sent out closer to the time of the meeting.



Bush Regeneration - All Students Welcome

Bush Regeneration started up again this week with Years 9 and 10 participating and working on two separate areas. Anyone in Year 9 or 10 is welcome to join us (even non-Duke of Edinburgh students) on Wednesdays from 3.10pm to 4.10pm. Please meet in Muru Mittigar and bring afternoon tea, plenty of water, dress appropriately and wear sunscreen and a hat.

Christmas Appeal 2021

'A Christmas without a home is no Christmas at all. But it doesn't need to be that way. Your generosity can help bring joy and comfort to people this Christmas. Because your donations will mean the chance of a better future.'

A reminder that we have begun collecting goods for our 2021 Christmas appeal. Together with **Vinnies** and **JRS** (The Jesuit Refugee Service), St Leo's is organising shopping bag hampers for those less fortunate than ourselves.



Jesuit Refugee Service

Please see the **range of goods that Vinnies and JRS are asking us to donate**. Mentor teachers have suggested items for students to bring.

Please send in all donations **by 3 December (end of Week 9)** so that they can be packed and sent to families in time for Christmas.

School Photos

Our photographers, MSP, are back in full swing after being closed during the lockdown in an area of concern. They are currently processing our St Leo's photos and will have them to us as soon as possible before the end of Term.



Intake 2021 Vaccinations

Unfortunately we have been unable to reschedule **Intake 2021 vaccinations** for this Term and they will be postponed to the start of next year. If parents prefer not to wait until next year, they are free to arrange this vaccination with your regular GP.
