**Dates to Remember:**

12 February  Opening School Mass, 9 am  
Cathedral

16 February  P&F meeting 5.30 pm

18 February  Board meeting 5 pm

19 February  Assembly Room 2—8.40 am

Year 5/6 students to the  
Bombing of Darwin service

**A Prayer for all Children**  
(continued from last week)

We Pray for all children  
Who can’t find bread to steal  
Who never get dessert  
Who will eat anything  
Who will never go to the circus  
Who have never seen a dentist  
Who aren’t spoiled by anybody  
Who live and move but have no being.

We Pray for children who want to be carried and for those who must be. For those we never give up on and those who don’t get a second chance. For those who will reach out for the hand of anyone kind enough to offer.

Amen

**St Mary’s Star of the Sea Cathedral**

90 Smith Street, Darwin

Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday (Vigil) 6.30 pm

Sunday—7.30 am/9.30 am/7.00 pm
Dear families

Today is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Fr Miguel and students in Year 5/6 Room 15 led our whole school in a special liturgy in the Mary Mackillop hall this morning. As we were marked with the sign of the cross, we were reminded to reflect on our lives, to turn back to God and to think of ways in which we can each make a positive difference to the lives of others. Each family will be given a Project Compassion box to place in a prominent position at home. By giving generously during Lent we have a wonderful opportunity to bring joy, hope and basic necessities to those in need. Your support is appreciated.

Opening School Mass: Families are encouraged to join us for our Opening School Mass this Friday at 9am in the Cathedral with Fr Miguel. Our Opening Mass is a special occasion to mark the beginning of our year together and to bless and commission our 2016 student leaders. We will also be launching and blessing our new logo and website. Please join us for this celebration.

Parent information evening: It was fantastic to see so many parents in attendance at our Parent information evening last night. I appreciate how busy family life can be and thank you sincerely for taking the time to attend these sessions. Your presence and participation at school events is valued and a great indication of your support for our teachers and your commitment to your child’s education!

Sporting Vouchers
$100 Sporting vouchers are available for all students in T-6. Any child who hasn’t received their sporting voucher through the school will need to contact the Department of Sport and Recreation phone 1800 817 860; email sport.voucher@nt.gov.au or www.sportvoucher.nt.gov.au

Student leadership: Year 6 student leaders for this year are as follows:

School Captains
Amber Moore
Andre Riccardi

Hartzer House
Leif Aratema
Jamelia Hollamby

Little House
Brody Reed
Ciaralii Parnell

Chevalier House
Rex Coleman
Jelaine Yumul

O’Sullivan House
Kye Cutter
Aby Bowman

Congratulations

Learning in Faith & Love
Parents and Friends: St Mary’s P & F will be holding their first meeting on Tuesday, 16 February at 5:30pm. New members are encouraged to join our P & F committee which meets monthly on a Tuesday. Children are welcome at the meetings. Nomination forms are available in the front office.

School Board: St Mary’s School Board AGM will be held on Thursday March 18th at 5pm. Parents who are interested in nominating for a position on the Board are asked to contact Julie in the front office to arrange a meeting with myself and Fr Miguel prior to the AGM. This meeting will provide prospective members with an opportunity to discuss the roles and responsibilities of St Mary’s School Board members.

Safety: Please be aware that Darwin City Council Rangers often patrol Lindsay Street and surrounding areas, issuing parking tickets for infringements. For the safety of children and families in our school, please take careful note of the signs displaying parking times. Your attention to this matter is appreciated and will help you avoid costly parking tickets.

Bombing of Darwin
On Friday 19th February at 9:15am our Year 5/6 students will be attending a special service commemorating the 74th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin at the Darwin Cenotaph. If you are able to assist with supervision, please contact the class teachers.

Attached to this week’s newsletter is some great insights for parents from Michael Grose on how to make this the best year ever for your child at school.

God bless you all and keep you safe

Mrs Jacqui Langdon
Principal
RE News:

For Your Interest and Information:

Sacramental Program:
St. Mary’s Catholic Primary School and the St. Mary’s Parish will offer The Sacrament of First Eucharist and The Sacrament of Confirmation in Term 2 (Dates to be confirmed). The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered in Semester 2.

Please note:
Sacrament of Reconciliation is currently being offered at St. Paul’s and Holy Spirit Parish. If you wish for your child to commence their Sacrament of First Eucharist in Term 2, they must have completed the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to beginning the Sacrament of First Eucharist.

Ash Wednesday
Today marks the Season of Lent. This is traditionally a time commemorating Jesus’ 40 day fast in the wilderness after he was baptised where he prayed and generally contemplated his life and mission. Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter - there are the 40 days of Lent and the six Sundays of Lent. The Sundays of Lent are not counted as days of lent because each Sunday of the year is a day on which the joy of the resurrection is remembered and celebrated.

Coming Up:

Friday 12th February- Beginning of Year Mass and Launch of the new St. Mary’s School Logo and Website.

Seosaimhin McLaughlin
Assistant Principal Religious Education
PE News...

Welcome back to a brand new school year. This term will see us ALL getting hot and sweaty in our beloved gym as we focus on developing and improving our Gross Motor Skills. The early years (T-2) will be developing and mastering their locomotor skills - running, jumping, hopping, skipping, leaping, sliding & galloping. It is vital to develop these skills early, as it increases coordination and movement necessary for a variety of sports and games.

The next few weeks will see our middle and upper years (3-6) developing and improving their strength, flexibility and fitness with some basic fitness training and testing. In addition to this, our sporting focuses for the term will be Netball, Swimming and Ultimate Frisbee. A major focus for all our students this year will be developing and enhancing our teamwork and sportsmanship.

Students must wear appropriate footwear, hats and bring their water bottles to PE classes. If for any reason your child can not participate in PE session please send a note along or email me directly at sarah.muller@nt.catholic.edu.au

We always have a great need for parent assistance throughout the school year to ensure sporting events and days run smoothly. If you are interested in being a parent helper, please come and see me either in the gym or in room 10 - this year I am working 3 days a week Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Alternatively, you can always contact me via email for any questions or concerns.

Inter-School Sports

Throughout the year our Year 5/6 students will be provided opportunities to compete in inter-school sporting competitions. The main focus for these events is for students to be given the opportunity to compete against other schools in the Darwin Region. St Mary’s aims to attend 2 inter-school sports days each Term.

All students are given the opportunity to participate in these inter-school events but on occasions there may be limited places available. Selection for St Mary’s teams will be based on the following:

- Student behaviour in class, during PE and on the playground
- Sportsmanship and teamwork
- Respect for officials
- Interest in the sport

Our first inter-school sports day will be Basketball which is held on Monday, 15 February at the Darwin Basketball Courts. Please ensure notes and money is returned by Thursday, 11 February 2016.

Sarah Muller
PE Teacher
Student of the Week Awards

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<th>Room 5</th>
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<td>Drossos Tsikouris</td>
<td>William Thurgood</td>
<td>Stavros Mostris</td>
<td>Pippa Moore</td>
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<td>Addrian Jayanth Daniel</td>
<td>Lachlan Cowdery</td>
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<td>Aliza Mahmood</td>
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<td>Isabelle Baldock</td>
<td>Thomas Favelle</td>
<td>Jake Cowdery</td>
<td>Kodi Pineda</td>
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<td>Alex Robaye-Remfrey</td>
<td>Mahlia Burroughs</td>
<td>Taylah Kernahan</td>
<td>Jelaine Yumul</td>
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<td>Archie Hopkins</td>
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<td>Blake Dutton</td>
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<td>Maria Borras-McCorey</td>
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MJR News: Our Wall of Fame winner for this week is Amelia Mayo (room 2) for reaching out to others in a welcoming, warm and caring manner. Well done!
This week MJR house team winners were...Louis Lakin (Little) let someone borrow a pencil...Mac Leo Edwards (Hartzer) encouraging others......Jack Forgie-Liddle Ella Green (O'Sullivan) helped me have a good first day in school......Faye Mack Jackson (Chevalier) played with me when I was lonely.....Liam

Congratulations

Learning in Faith & Love
**Parent Involvement**

- Please return to your child’s class teacher

Parent Name: _________________________________ Contact: __________________

I am able to contribute to St Mary’s school community in the following area(s):

- Join our dynamic Parents and Friends Committee (monthly meetings Tuesdays)
- Parent Representative for your class
- Assist at our P & F Family Fun Nights
- Assist with Harmony Day and cultural activities
- Assist at sporting events
- Assist at the school swimming carnival
- Assist in classrooms (ochre card required)
- Working Bees
- other: _________________________________________

Thank you very much in anticipation of your support.

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**Darwin Language Centre—Italian Lessons**

Italian lessons are held on Tuesday’s at Darwin Language Centre, 1 Nemarluk Drive, Ludmilla on Tuesday afternoons during school terms.

A bus collects students from St Mary’s at 3.15 pm and delivers students to the Language Centre.

For further information please contact Darwin Language Centre, phone 8985 5359; www.darwinlanguagescentre.com

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**St Mary’s School App:** Don’t forget to download our app to your phone—free of charge to families.

The newsletter and other notifications are available on the app.

The newsletter is also available on the school website.

http://www.stmarysnt.catholic.edu.au

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**Learning in Faith & Love**

LINDSAY STREET, DARWIN NT 0800
GPO BOX 2413, DARWIN NT 0801
School Banking -

School banking is available on Thursday’s.

Students with bank books and deposits are asked to bring these to the office by 9 am on Thursday mornings.

Any queries please contact Lisa on 0427 616 992.

Thank you
FamFit Families, Fun-Fit, Tween-Fit, Kids Yoga, and Tween Yoga...

**FAMFIT FAMILIES**
For Parents / Carers with unlimited children (age 3 years and up)
Saturdays @ 8.30am
Starts 20th February 2016
$159 full 6 week block (sports vouchers accepted)
**FUN-FIT (4-7 yrs)**
Mondays @ 3.30pm
Starts 15th February 2016
$90 for block (sports vouchers accepted)
**TWEEN-FIT (8-12 yrs)**
Mondays @ 4.15pm
Starts 15th February 2016
$90 full block (sports vouchers accepted)
**KIDS YOGA (4-7yrs)**
Tuesdays @ 3.45pm
Starts 16th February 2016
$90 full block (sports vouchers accepted)
**TWEEN YOGA (8-12yrs)**
Thursdays @ 4.15pm
Starts 18th February 2016
$90 full block (sports vouchers accepted)

**VENUES**
Kids / Tween Yoga - Dance Studio
FunFit / TweenFit / FamFit Families - Undercover area
Rosebery Middle School,
Forest Parade, Rosebery.

**HOW TO BOOK:**
PLACES ARE LIMITED - Please email Leah at famfitnt@gmail.com to secure your spot.

*DOWNLOAD OUR APP FROM PLAYSTORE OR APP-STORE TO KEEP UP TO DATE ON FAMFIT NT, EASY WAY TO BOOK & SEE OUR TIMETABLE!*

www.famfitnt.com.au
Find us on Facebook - Famfitnt
Find us on Twitter - @famfitnt4
Email - famfitnt@gmail.com
Ph - 0401 945 426

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**I can BEE CARING**
by showing concern and helping others.

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**ST MARY’S NEWSLETTER**
LINDSAY STREET, DARWIN NT 0800
GPO BOX 2413, DARWIN NT 0801
St Mary’s Reading Army

Volunteers needed!

We are seeking the assistance of willing and able parents to join our ‘Reading Army’. All you need is a current NT Working With Children (Ochre) Card and a willingness to do some reading with a range of students across the school. Only for half an hour at whatever time you wish.

Please fill in the slip below and return to the office at your earliest convenience or email rebecca.nancarrow@nt.catholic.edu.au and we will be in touch about the program and beginning date (hoping to get underway week beginning 29 February).

Many, many thanks in advance!

Rebecca Nancarrow
Inclusion Support Coordinator

I am happy to join the ‘St Mary’s Reading Army’

Name: ____________________ Phone: ______________ Email: ___________________

Ochre card number: ________________
To begin process of obtaining an Ochre Card for the first time, visit; http://www.workingwithchildren.nt.gov.au/

Please circle -
Days Available: Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri
Preferred time: 8.40am 9.10am 9.40am 10.10am 11.10am 11.40am 12.10pm 12.40pm