Dear Parents / Guardians,

Bishop Patrick O'Regan visits St Laurence’s

Our diocese new Bishop, Patrick O'Regan celebrated Mass here at St Laurence’s Church, last Saturday evening. The Gospel reading was about Jesus growing angry and clearing the temple of traders and money exchanges. Bishop Patrick asked us; what are the injustices we should be angry about today and how can we respond to these injustices? Sometimes we are called upon to stand up for what we know is right. He continued to explain how the 40 days of lent should be a time for self-evaluation, and a time to ‘clear out’ what is distracting us from our relationship with God.

After Mass the Bishop enjoyed a cuppa and a chat with parishioners.

LATER SCHOOL PHOTO ORDERS: Do not bring them to school.

If you have forgotten to bring in your photo envelope please send it directly to Spargo Photography, 230 Bessie Creek Rd, Nar Nar Goon, Vic, 3812 or order online at www.spargophoto.com.au/schoolpackcomp or for family photos www.spargophoto.com/schoolfamily

DIRECTIONS FOR ONLINE ORDERING—Log onto www.spargophoto.com.au

- From the menu (RHS) select School Photography
- From the brown area slide down to option 6 School Photo Shop Front
- In the search area type St Laurence O’Toole PS
- You can shop for you pack/s from there.

If you have any inquiries please contact Spargo Photography on (03) 5942 5234.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS

TUESDAY, 17TH MARCH
NO BUSES
STAFF RETREAT

END OF TERM
27TH MARCH
2:00PM FINISH

Loving Father of mine,  
I feel the pace quicken, the time draw near.  
I am filled with joy as I move toward Easter  
and the promised reconciliation with you.  
Teach me to follow the example of your Son,  
to be worthy of being called one his people: a  
Christ-ian.  
Help me to live each day as he did  
turning hatred to love and conflict to peace.  
I await the new life with eagerness, faith  
and a deep gratitude.
The newsletter can be accessed via tiqbiz and the website only. From March fortnightly newsletters begin 11th March. To view it online go to www.sttleongatha.catholic.edu.au under “News & Events” along the top on the right hand side OR via email. If you would like to have newsletters via email please forward an email to principal@sttleongatha.catholic.edu.au and we will add you

PARENTS AND FRIENDS EASTER RAFFLE:  
Raffle books were handed out to each family. Tickets are $1 each. Please return books sold or unsold by Wednesday, 25th March. Put your money/tickets in the foyer in the slot called ‘Easter Raffle’. Raffle will be drawn on Friday 27th March after assembly. Proceeds raised from raffle will go towards readers for the students.

EASTER DONATIONS NEEDED: We ask that each family donate an Easter Egg for the Hampers or an Easter item (non-perishable). Donations can be left at the office.

ASSEMBLY  
Friday assembly is at 9:00am in the Big Shed. All parents welcome.

P & F  
Tuesday Ice-creams/Slushies

SLUSHIES $1  
CHOC COATED ICE-CREAMS $1  
YOGHURT ICE-CREAMS $1  
ZOOPER DOOPERS – 50c  
ICYPOLES – 50c

NO DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

It is policy of St Laurence’s that there are to be NO dogs in/on the school grounds even if on a lead. Assistance dogs accepted.

PROJECT COMPASSION - 2015  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 15 March

John 3:14-21 Jesus meets Nicodemus

One night a well-intentioned Pharisee, Nicodemus, sought counsel from Jesus. Jesus responded openly, giving him key insights into his own identity and mission.

Jesus explained to Nicodemus that God had sent his only Son into the world so that the world might be saved. Everyone who believed in the Son – the light of the world – would enjoy eternal life. Those who lived by this truth would themselves be a light in the world, a light to others.

Our journey through Lent to Easter reminds us that Jesus, the light, has come into the world dispelling the darkness of evil and restoring broken lives. One example of the light of Jesus – and the transformation it brings – is a project in rural Nepal where, despite its natural beauty, many people are very poor, barely surviving by farming small plots of land.

When Caritas Nepal, supported by Caritas Australia, initiated the Kolkata Fish Raising Group eight years ago, one of the first to join was mother-of-three Sarita whose small farm was not producing enough to provide for her family.

Caritas Nepal gave the group of eight men and four women a low-interest loan, along with the training and equipment they needed to establish a successful business of raising and selling fish.

The group leased a natural pond on the northern side of their village, and with much hard work their business has grown to become one of the most successful enterprises supported by Caritas Nepal.

‘The program has provided our family with good health and hope,’ says Sarita. ‘And it has become a platform for the unity and growth of the community.’

Human growth and potential relies on adequate food for life.

MARY’S WALK

Each year our family raises money for the Royal Children’s Hospital in memory of our daughter Mary Kathleen O’Keefe. We invite St Laurence’s school community to join us on Good Friday morning in walking or cycling from Kilcunda to Wonthaggi along the rail trail. To meet our fundraising goal of $3000, we suggest a donation of $20 per family or $10 per person.

For more information please visit https://goodfridayappeal2015.everydayhero.com/au/Maryswalk#post_438042 or contact Bridget O’Keefe on 56723228.
DIVISION SWIMMING SPORTS

Friday, 27th February we had a team of 20 students compete in the division level of swimming with placegetters moving onto the next stage at Sale on 12th March.

All of our students competed wholeheartedly and represented the school well. Once again we had an excellent representation amongst the parent body and their support and encouragement is always appreciated.

The following swimmers won selection and will now compete at Sale.

Division Results:
1st Taite Cumming 11yrs 50m butterfly in a new division record time
2nd Taite Cumming 11yrs 50m freestyle
Merrin Giles 12/13yrs 50m backstroke
3rd Will Croatto 9/10yrs 50m backstroke, 9/10yrs 50m butterfly
Matt Fowkes 12/13 50m breaststroke.

SALE—REGIONAL SWIMMING TEAM

Taite Cumming, Will Croatto, Merrin Giles & Matt Fowkes will swim in Sale tomorrow 12th March. Congratulations and good luck team.

ICY POLES—Caritas—ICY POLES

FRIDAY LUNCH TIMES
TERM 1
-50cents

To be sold at the kitchen window

COMMUNITY NEWS

Leongatha Junior Football Club training under 10, 11, 12, 13’s starts next week Wednesday 18th March, 4.30pm at Velodrome under 14’s Thursday 19th March at 4.30 pm at Senior Oval. Call Tim 0428544950 Online Registration Only www.foxsportspulse.com/club_info.cgi?c=0-6151-80403-0-0

Leongatha Community Pre School Centre: Enrolments applications for 2016 are now being accepted in the 4 and 3yr old programs. Contact Deb on 5662 4600 or visit www.leongathapreschools.org.au

LEONGATHA KNIGHTS FOOTBALL CLUB Soccer Registration Day for U7, 9, 11, 13s and 16s Leongatha Knights Football Club is holding a registration/come and try soccer day, Saturday March 21st, 10.30 - 12 noon at Mary MacKillop College, Horn Street, Leongatha. Sausage sizzle and games of soccer will be run by the coaches. Hope to see you there. Any queries contact lknightscommittee@gmail.com
It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true. The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!
It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either
Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.
It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!” Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”.

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

AS A PARENT:

- Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- Consider catching-up on missed work.
- Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.


parentingideas.com.au