Practicum Students from UNE: We welcome to our school a prac student from University of New England, Emily Wilson in 2B. We wish her well and hope Emily enjoys her time at St Mary's.

**WISHING ALL OUR WONDERFUL MUMS**

**A VERY HAPPY AND SPECIAL MOTHERS DAY**

**Foreword:** It is with great sadness that Mr. Michael Philpot informed our school community of his retirement as Principal of St Mary's. On behalf of the school community I would like to acknowledge all the wonderful things Mr. Philpot has achieved and implemented over the past 20 years. He has lead the school through many challenging and vibrant times, yet maintained at the forefront of each venture our Catholic Ethos and special spirit which epitomises St. Mary's. He has turned St Mary's from a small rural school into a large modern, educational facility which is at the forefront of technology and learning in our Diocese. We wish Michael, Jenny and family every happiness and contentment for the future.

Many thanks

**Kind Regards**

Kindergarten Teachers

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**Teaching and Learning at St Mary’s**

Our Sound Waves Program is now very familiar to all students at St Mary’s and students are making great progress in hearing phrases, segmenting words into sounds and recognizing graphemes from Kindergarten to year 6. It is a great program that teachers are working consistently with to develop and strengthen literacy skills.

A reminder that all parents can access the Soundwaves program through your child’s class pass codes.

Just go to www.soundwaveskids.com.au and log in with the class pass code to access spelling words, activities and games for the sound of the week. Have fun!

At the end of last term, as Teaching and Learning Coordinator, I reviewed all handed in Home Reading logs for all students K-4 and I have discussed progress of students on digital iPad reading logs with Stage three teachers. It was a wonderful opportunity to see the fantastic effort that so many students are putting into this very important aspect of learning.

As we want to continue to bring our children to their greatest potential in learning, one of the most important things that parents as partners in education can do, is to read with your children. How often? As part of a daily routine is ideal. We encourage all families to try to follow the guide set out in the reading logs, and support your children in reading their readers or a novel each night.

If you have any questions please contact your child’s teacher or myself, Mrs Flannery.

**Teaching and Learning Coordinator**

Cate Flannery

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**Focus on Faith**

**Grandparent’s Day Mass:** Our annual tribute Mass for our Grandparents will be celebrated on Wednesday 29th May at 10.00 am in the school hall. All members of the St Mary’s community are invited to come along and give praise to God for the wonderful gift of our Grandparents and the great support they continue to give us.

**Class Mass:** 6B will celebrate Mass next Wednesday in the school Prayer Room. All are welcome to join in our week celebration of Eucharist. Last week our Year 2G class focused on our Wondrous God and learnt that it is God's Spirit which gives us life and sustains us in our journey in faith.

**Faith In Action:** A group of our Year 6 students will be attending the Mt St Joseph’s Nursing Home to spend some time with the elderly residents this Friday. This is a wonderful ministry which our Year 6 students share so willingly with these very special people.

**Heart Matters:** Promises – This Sunday we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven. Before Jesus ascended to his Father he promised that he would be with us always. It is with great confidence that we can approach the future knowing that help is never far away. Often the ‘promises’ that we make to each other are short lived and quickly forgotten. Our children (and friends) can quickly lose confidence in us if we fail to keep our promises. Too often we hear the words, **BUT YOU PROMISED!!!** This week we should clarify the true meaning of promises with our children and the importance of keeping them.

**Thought for the Week:** “Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.” (Winston Churchill) - Blessings and have a great week – a Dan O’Brien (REC)

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**From Our Priest**

Fr Joseph would like to send a huge thank you to all the friends of St Mary’s who were so kind to farewell him and wish him well. Your prayerful support and your generous gift was much appreciated and he says he will keep in touch with his new iPad.

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It is with much gratitude that I thank Michael Philpot (with Jenny and their children) for his nearly 20 years of dedicated service to St Mary’s Primary School. As Michael has decided to enter retirement as Principal, his resignation has been accepted by the Catholic Education Office in Canberra. Michael has steered the school safely through some very dynamic times, and many with enormous challenges. He has been well supported by dedicated staff and School Boards (Councils) who have together, created an outstanding St Mary’s Primary School community striving to demonstrate all that is good in Catholic education. We all wish Michael and his family well as he embarks on the next phase of his journey, knowing that he will not be a lost stranger in town or in our Parish.

Father Richard Thompson

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**Book Club orders due back at school by Wednesday 15th May.**

Enrolments 2014

We are currently enrolling for Kindergarten 2014. If you have a child starting school in 2014, could you please call into the office and collect an enrolment package.

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**Assembly**—will be held tomorrow Thursday 9th May at 1.50pm in the hall. Host classes will be KG, 2B & 6G. All welcome to attend.

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**Southern Cross Cinema**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Movie Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td><em>Adventure in Zambezia</em> (G)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Godness (PG)</em></td>
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<td><em>Churchill</em>)</td>
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