



## Important Dates

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### Holy Week

Sunday 10 April 2022

### Final day of Term 1

- 3:15pm

Wednesday 13 April 2022

### Pupil Free Day

Thursday 14 April 2022

### Royal Life Saving

SA - River Safety

Day

Saturday 23 April 2022

### Pupil Free Day

Monday 2 May 2022

### Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 3 May 2022

### Principal's Twilight

Tour

Thursday 19 May 2022

### School Photos

Thursday 19 May 2022

## From the Principal

### **Laudato Si' – Care for Our Common Home**

Pope Francis released *Laudato Si'*, meaning "Praise be to you", in June 2015. It is clear from Pope Francis' encyclical – [\*Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home\*](#) – that, as Catholics, we are called to take action for climate justice.

It is the Church's most profound clarion call yet: for us all to be protectors of creation and the poor. The Holy Father has called for a new global solidarity, where all individuals, communities and governments play an essential part in taking care of our earth and global family.

St Francis of Assisi College has begun work with Catholic Earthcare Australia, as a program of Caritas, Catholic Earthcare Australia is an ecological advisory agency to the Church and has been mandated through the activities of education, research and advocacy to give leadership in responding to *Laudato Si'* to "stimulate and sustain the ecological conversion and implement integral ecology in Catholic institutions in Australia." The College in the early stages of progressing through the Catholic Earthcare certification process to support our work in meeting the challenges put forward to us all in *Laudato Si'*.

Further information about the certification process can be found using this link: ['Cry of the earth cry of the poor'a certification process for Catholic Earthcare schools, parishes and families'](#).

## Key Dates

### Term 2:

Pupil Free Days	Monday May 2nd and Tuesday May 3rd
AGM and School Board Formation	Wednesday 18th May 6pm – 7pm
SFoAC Staff Retreat Day – Pupil Free Day	Friday June 24th

## School Board and AGM

As the School Board Nomination period has come to a close, I am delighted to share our inaugural St Francis of Assisi College School Board Members:

### 1. Ex-Officio Members:

President of the School Board	Fr Paul Bourke
Executive Officer of the School Board	Nathan Hayes (College Principal)
College Finance Manager	Anthony Pickering
Board Secretary	Claire Smith

### 2. Nominated Members:

OLOR Parish Pastoral Council Representative	TBC
SFoAC Staff Representative	TBC

### 3. Elected Members:

Tanya Allan	Paringa
Ben Dring	Renmark
Paul Searle	Paringa
Tim Pfeiffer	Renmark
Michael Atsaves	Renmark
Prue Kempthorne	Barmera

Whilst not a formal AGM as we are in the process of establishing our first School Board, the College Team will provide updates on key progress, and key priorities of the College to date.

At the AGM the School Board Members will meet to elect the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Chair of the Finance Committee. The parent members of the Board bring an outstanding range of experiences, capabilities and a collective commitment in supporting St Francis of Assisi College to achieve our strategic priorities in the coming years.

## Learning Continuity and COVID19

Term One has continued to have it's challenges with the impact COVID has had on families and College staff, and it seems likely to continue into Term Two. Whilst not ideal, all challenges present opportunities and as Principal, I have been heartened to see how students, parents and carers, and teachers have collaborated to maintain relative learning continuity for students. Where it has been students or teachers isolating due to COVID impacts, we have been able to maintain planned curriculum and assessments, supported

largely by the use of ICT's such as SEQTA and Microsoft TEAMS.

Thank you for your continuing support to adapt to the changing circumstances throughout the term, and for supporting your child to engage with learning at school, and where necessary using our Learning Management System, SEQTA, to support quality learning from home.

You will recall that the year began with additional time set aside for staff to prepare for the term in the knowledge that COVID-19 would cause disruption. It is now clear that Term 2 will be at least as challenging as Term 1 has been to date.

In order to ensure we are best prepared to support learning continuity for and wellbeing of our students throughout Term 2, Catholic Education South Australia has endorsed two additional teacher preparation days ahead of Term 2 for all Catholic Schools in South Australia.

Our pupil free days will be as follows:

- the first additional pupil free day will be held on Holy Thursday (14 April),
- we have an existing pupil free day scheduled for the first day of Term 2 (2 May), where will participate in training for our whole school wellbeing framework with David Kelly from the Life Buoyancy Institute,
- the second additional pupil free day will be held on the second day of Term 2 (3 May).

The additional preparation days will be used by staff to undertake marking and reporting and to prepare teaching and learning programs for Term 2 with a focus on being ready to deliver blended learning where that becomes necessary, with our focus being to ensure SEQTA Learn is appropriately set up and prepared for Term 2, keeping in mind the continued uncertainty around students potentially learning from home at different times due to the ongoing impact of COVID.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to our staff, students and our school community for the way you have supported each other during this challenging time.

If you have any immediate queries in relation to this correspondence, please contact me.

### **School Uniform Updates**

The College uniform is the most visible symbol of identity for students at St Francis of Assisi College. It is expected all students take pride in their appearance and ensure their uniform is well-fitted, clean, neat, and worn in a dignified and respectful manner during the school day, while travelling to and from school and at school related functions.

I have been pleased with the pride students have taken in wearing our uniform, and the support parents and carers have given to ensure our uniform is worn to a high standard, acknowledging some garments have not yet been in stock.

The Student Uniform Policy is available [here](#)

As Yates Menswear will have all outstanding uniform garments in stock by the school holiday break in readiness for Term 2. I would like to highlight the specific policy expectations around the blue academic jumper and the sports jacket (this expectation will be in place once the academic jumper is in stock):

The sports jacket is not compulsory, it can be worn with the sport uniform, and can be worn over the academic jumper, not instead of, mainly on the particularly cold mornings.

The academic jumper is the jumper to be worn with the everyday academic uniform, and as listed above, the optional sports jacket is not to be worn with the everyday uniform instead of the academic jumper.

Given all compulsory uniform garments will be in stock by the end of Term 1, students will need to be wearing only St Francis of Assisi College approved uniform garments from the beginning of Term 2.

**Nathan Hayes**

**Principal**

## **Religious Identity and Mission**

**Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Mark 11:9-10**

The crowds greeted Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with joyful enthusiasm. A few days later some of those people were undoubtedly part of

the hate-filled crowd screaming “CRUCIFY HIM!” Peter, who promised Jesus that he would never betray him, does so just hours later. How can something so wonderful take such an ugly turn? How does that happen in our world, lives, and hearts? How can it get so bad so quickly?

It isn't easy to be a hero, or to stand alone. It isn't easy to do what's right when doing what's right isn't popular. It's easier to go along with the crowd. When they shout, “Hosanna”, we shout “Hosanna!” When they scream, “Crucify him”, we scream “Crucify him!” The history of the Church, from Jesus to the present moment, is filled with the witness of saints and martyrs who didn't accept the social and personal sins of their times as just “the ways things are” but instead followed the way of Jesus, even knowing it was the way of the cross. Sadly, many of us are too easily swept into the fear and hatred of the crowd, and willing to unleash our rage on the most convenient innocent victim.

Jesus, the Suffering Servant, who came to speak a word to the weary, who did not shield his face from spitting, who emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, who was obedient unto death—this is our Lord, who we are to follow no matter where he leads, no matter how difficult the path.

Perhaps we began this Lent with a firm commitment to pray more deeply, fast more faithfully, give alms more generously. But as the weeks went by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving became less appealing than arguing with one another about who among us is the greatest. Whose country is the greatest, whose politics, whose candidate, whose policies, whose ideologies.

There is still war. There are still refugees. There is still racism. The poor we still have with us. But because Jesus' name is above every other name, because we bend our knee before him and confess him as our Lord, we will carry the cross that has been given to us. We must never go along with the violent angry crowd. We are not abandoned or afraid.

“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Wishing you all a blessed Easter and a safe holiday break.

**Nanda de Winter**

**Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission**

## Stations of the Cross

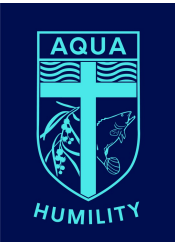
On Wednesday our students and staff came together as a College community and enacted the Stations of the Cross, calling us to remember the suffering of Jesus as he carried his cross to Calvary. Today our Way of the Cross focuses on the suffering of mother Earth and its creatures. The earth, along with all of creation, is on a critical journey as we are challenged by poverty and climate change.





## College Community Wellbeing

During Term 1 students have worked diligently to develop the College's House Groups and House Group Crests which are now finalised.

	<p><b>Origin:</b> Water</p> <p><b>House Colour:</b> Blue Sky</p> <p><b>House Flora:</b> River Cooba Tree</p> <p><b>House Fauna:</b> Murray Cod</p> <p><b>House Virtue:</b> Humility</p> <p><b>From the Canticle:</b> <i>Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water, So useful, humble, precious and pure.</i></p>
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Aqua, representing the lifeblood of our world, water. The flora and fauna were chosen for their enduring connection to the Murray River. The River Cooba Tree can be found across Australia, usually near water sources in inland arid areas, and is present in woodlands and floodplains along the Murray River. Our virtue of *Humility* encourages us to act with modesty and reminds us of the precious nature of water in our environment.

	<p><b>Origin:</b> Fire</p> <p><b>House Colour:</b> Sunset Orange</p> <p><b>House Flora:</b> Black Beak Duck Orchid</p> <p><b>House Fauna:</b> Dingo</p> <p><b>House Virtue:</b> Courage</p> <p><b>From the Canticle:</b> <i>Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.</i></p>
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Ignis, representing the light that fire provides in times of darkness. The flora and fauna were chosen for their resilience to adversity. The Black Beak Duck Orchid is a critically endangered native species that requires fire and smoke for seeds to germinate. After the 2020 Kangaroo Island bushfires, four new populations were observed along the fire scar. Our virtue of *Courage* strengthens us to be bold and daring in our learning and to speak for social justice.



**Origin:** Earth  
**House Colour:** Earth Red  
**House Flora:** Sturt Desert Pea  
**House Fauna:** Red Kangaroo  
**House Virtue:** Tenacity  
**From the Canticle:** *Praised be You my Lord through our Sister Mother Earth*

*who sustains and governs us,  
producing varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.*

Terra, representing our connection to land and the grounding earth provides us. The flora and fauna were chosen for their presence and symbolism of the South Australian outback. The Sturt Desert Pea was chosen as it is the state flower of South Australia has a tenacious ability to withstand harsh climates. The Kangaroo has a strong presence in our region and especially in our College grounds. Our virtue of *Tenacity* drives us to be resilient in our learning and reminds us of the strength of Mother Earth.



**Origin:** Wind  
**House Colour:** True White  
**House Flora:** Ghost Gum  
**House Fauna:** Pelican  
**House Virtue:** Solidarity  
**From the Canticle:** *Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,*

*And fair and stormy, all weather's moods,  
by which You cherish all that You have made.*

Ventus, representing the role wind has in sustaining life and providing energy in a sustainable world. The flora and fauna were chosen to represent our Riverland region, their strength, and the pivotal role they play with the local ecosystem. The river red gum was selected for its presence across the Riverland region and the support it provides to numerous species. The pelican reminds us that even a force as destructive as wind can be used to our advantage. Our virtue of *Solidarity* asks us to stand together and requires other virtues to be displayed. It captures our need to collaborate and be united to achieve our goals.

**Luke Cotter**

**Leader of Wellbeing**

**Leader of Learning**

**Online Continuous Reporting**

**What is it?**

Continuous reporting or progressive/ongoing feedback refers to the process of teachers providing timely and targeted feedback to students about their learning progress in a subject. At St Francis of Assisi College this is achieved through our learning management system - SEQTA. This term all teachers have been working hard to utilise this function in SEQTA by providing assessment information and specific feedback for assessment tasks. This is visible to students through SEQTA learn and similarly to parents through SEQTA engage.

#### **What is the advantage?**

The main advantage of continuous reporting is that students and parents receive feedback in a 'timely' manner about how the child is progressing. End of semester reports are often seen as too little, too late, with not enough targeted feedback and time for the student to improve their learning. Research shows high-quality feedback that is specific and on-going has immediate feedback on learning progress.

#### **What is your role as a parent/care giver?**

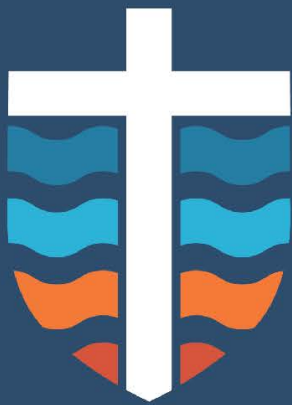
Continuous reporting not only allows students to constantly reflect on their progress and make improvements as they go but involves parents more in their child's educational journey as they receive frequent updates of their progress. If any situation arises where you, as a parent have a concern or question regarding the feedback provided, it is critical that as a parent you:

- 1) Initially discuss the feedback with your child.
- 2) If required, encourage your child to seek further clarification from their subject teacher.
- 3) If this is ineffective, or you have any major concerns with your child's learning progress, then please utilise our normal channels of communication through the relevant subject teacher.

Supporting your child to take ownership of the feedback provided is critical in assisting them to develop into reflective and independent learners.

**Natalie Meuret**

**Leader of Learning**



**St Francis  
of Assisi College**  
*Laudato Si'*

# Pupil Free Days

Reminder of pupil free days

**Holy Thursday - Thursday 14 April 2022**

(Wednesday 13 April is last day of Term 1)

**Monday 2 May 2022**

**Tuesday 3 May 2022**

(Wednesday 4 May is first day of Term 2)

Families who require their child / children to be supervised at the College, on Thursday 14 April and/or Tuesday 2 May, please confirm by contacting the College Administration Team, on 8595 4500.





St Francis  
of Assisi College  
*Laudato Si'*

# Principal's Twilight Tour

Thursday 19 May 5:45pm

Register: [www.assisi.catholic.edu.au/news-events/events](http://www.assisi.catholic.edu.au/news-events/events)



# RIVER SAFETY DAY

**23 APRIL 2022**

**9AM-12PM**

**BERT DIX**

**MEMORIAL PARK,  
PARINGA, SA**

- **FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE**
- **GAMES AND PRIZES TO WIN!**
- **CPR DEMONSTRATIONS**
- **LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICE VEHICLES TO EXPLORE**

[WWW.ROYALLIFESAVINGSA.COM.AU](http://WWW.ROYALLIFESAVINGSA.COM.AU)



**ROYAL LIFE SAVING**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



On Saturday 23 April 2022, Royal Life Saving South Australia is hosting a River Safety Day at Bert Dix Memorial Park, Paringa.

Royal life Saving South Australia are the peak body for inland water safety education and drowning prevention. They have operated in SA for over 115 years, educating communities to be safe in, on and around water. Key activities in the community include:

- Engaging with local stakeholders to develop drowning prevention strategies
- Delivering swimming and water safety programs in key communities
- Educating communities in metropolitan and regional SA
- Upskilling residents with Bronze Medallion, First Aid and Pool Lifeguard training

The event is part of the 'Make the Right Call' campaign. It will promote the safe use of the river and other inland waterways. Details on the event are as follow:

**Time:** 9am - 12pm

**Cost:** Free

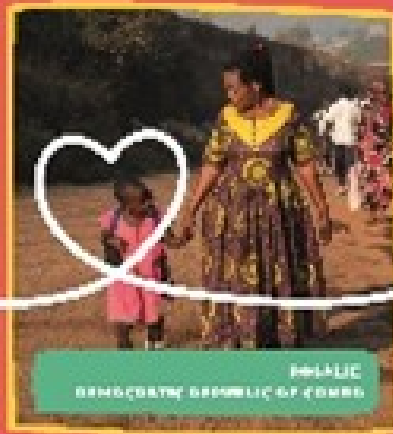
**Activities:**

- Safety demonstrations
- Water rescue demonstrations
- BBQ lunch and more

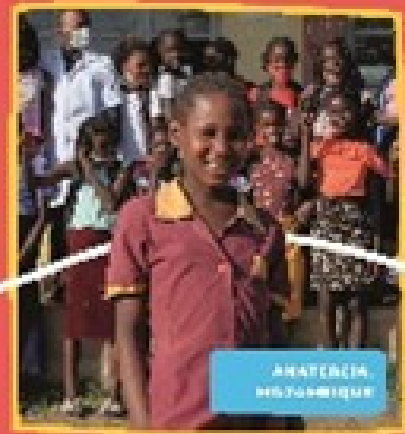
## Project Compassion - Holy Week



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MELALIC  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



ANABELLA  
BURUNDI

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# FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS



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**DONATE NOW**



[lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au)

1800 024 413

#projectcompassion



End poverty  
Promote justice  
Uphold dignity

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As we enter Holy Week, we continue to reflect on the lives of people vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice and how we can respond through supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion appeal.

Your generosity is the pebble that allows Caritas Australia to create the ripples that will improve the livelihoods of vulnerable communities, supporting them to flourish and create opportunities for future generations to live to their full potential and thrive.

Thank you!

Please return all Project Compassion boxes and envelopes to the school office by Friday 27th May or donate online via the Caritas website at [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au)

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