

OLW NEWS 2021

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Issue: 37

Dear Parents & Families,

Last week we had a number of children go home who were unwell at school. There are a few 'bugs' circulating at the moment, so if your child is unwell in the morning before school, please keep them at home and monitor them. Current guidelines for schools requires that 'any student (or staff member) who becomes unwell with COVID-19 symptoms while at school must get tested and return home.

The symptoms to watch out for are:

- · loss or change in sense of smell or taste
- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose

Some people may also experience headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, sneezing, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.'

Vomiting and diarrhoea are both quite prevalent in the community at the moment.

PREP 2022 ORIENTATION

Our first Prep 2022 Orientation Session went very well with our new students all excited to be onsite at OLW. Our next session is this Friday, November 19, with future sessions on November 23 and December 7. All sessions commence at 9.30am and conclude at 11.00am, with entry and exit through the black gates.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our final School Advisory Council Meeting for 2021 is an online meeting this Wednesday November 17 at 7.00pm. Minutes and Agenda have been distributed through our app and a meeting link invitation was forwarded to members last week.

INCURSIONS & EXCURSIONS

Our Prep students have headed off to Myuna Farm in Doveton today as part of their Inquiry Unit of study around animals. Over the coming weeks we hope to be able to undertake a few incursions and excursions linked to our areas of study across all levels of the school.

ARCHBISHOP PETER'S LETTER

In the coming weeks, the Victorian Parliament will vote on legislation that will affect religious freedom and the independence, integrity and ethos of Catholic agencies and organisations, including schools.

Under current laws, Catholic organisations – along with other Christian,

Date: Monday November 15 2021

Jewish, Islamic and all faith-based educational establishments – have the right to choose to hire employees who are dedicated to upholding their religious identity.

The proposed legislation will seriously diminish the rights of religious organisations to manage their services and employment according to their faith and beliefs. Please read through the attached information so you can be aware of the proposed changes, and feel free to contact members of parliament if you wish to share your concerns.

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation for Year 2 2021 students will be celebrated on Thursday November 18 and Year 3 2021 students will celebrate the Sacrament on Thursday November 25. Parents will have received a home activity to complete with their child prior to the Sacrament as part of their role in preparing their child. *FIRST EUCHARIST*

First Eucharist this year has been moved to February 2022. Year 4 2021 students will celebrate the Sacrament on Sunday February 20 at 11.30am. Year 3 2021 will celebrate the Sacrament on Sunday February 27 at 11.30am.

Year 3 2022 celebrate the Sacrament later in the second half of 2022.

SCHOOL SPORTS CARNIVAL

Our 2021 Sports Carnival will be held over 2 days in December with Year Prep – 2 competing in their events on Wednesday December 8 and Years 3 – 6 competing on Friday December 10. At this stage, due to COVID regulations, it will be a student only event. If there is any change to this, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Stay safe and enjoy the week!

Kevin Burke

WORD OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to everyone who found out that species means 'a group of similar organisms that are able to reproduce' and is 'a classification used for comprising related organisms that share common characteristics'.

Our word for this week is: **FAUNA**

Find out it's meaning and origin and see if you can add this word to your vocabulary over the next week!



We proclaim a crucified Christ 1Cor1.23

10 November 2021

To: Members of the Victorian Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council

Concerns about the diminishing of religious freedom and the accumulation of power

Dear Honourable Member,

My prayerful greetings to you. I write to express grave misgivings I share with other faith leaders, in relation to the Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021.

The proposed legislation diminishes the ability of faith organisations to confidently manage employment matters according to their faith and conscience.

As a point of principle, this is a serious over-reach of the Government into the rightful freedoms of faithbased organisations in Victoria. Organisations of care charity, including religious and church agencies, have a right to practice their faith without new administration burdens and pressures.

In my own context, Catholic organisations are inclusive and welcoming places, not despite but *because* they are Catholic. Across all sectors in Catholic organisational contexts, I am particularly concerned that the introduction of an 'inherent requirement' test is a serious intrusion into the expression of faith, and an unnecessary instrument of power. It will lead to vexatious claims being adjudicated by a Commissioner or the Courts, neither of which have competency to define religious matters for believers.

The Government has been unable to identify a single problem in Catholic schools with which this legislation is meant to address, and many in my community are therefore concluding that the Government means to diminish the rights of large religious communities and concurrently target religious minorities. I hope this is not the case.

To people of faith, this is looking increasingly like a willingness to hurt the rightful expression of religious faith coupled with an extravagant adoption of political power over our lives. Please see attached my statement to the media of 2 October.

With great respect to our public representatives, I urge a mature re-think on both of the above proposals, and for a fairer and democratic approach to be taken.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli Archbishop of Melbourne

St Patrick's Centre, PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 8002 Australia Tel: +61 3 9926 5612 Email: <u>archbishop@cam.org.au</u>





Standing up for religious freedom

Across all areas of society, Catholics run organisations with an open and inclusive commitment to all people in their care.

Ur excellence in the provision of services including education is recognised by many – evident in the large numbers of students attending Catholic schools and educational institutions.

What makes these schools unique and distinct is the holistic way faith is taught – as a coherent body of teachings, permeating all aspects of life. Our faith is taught not just in the few hours of religious education classes each week, but is part of the very make-up and fabric of each school.

Unfortunately, in yet another move to restrict religious freedom, the Victorian Government is seeking to change the current approach, which is working well.

Currently, Catholic organisations, including our schools can freely hire those who share our religious beliefs, values and ethos. Incredibly, the Victorian Government has introduced legislation seeking to change this. If it passes, the *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021* will affect religious organisations all across Victoria, who will be limited in their ability to employ staff, run their schools and provide other services that adhere to their faith, values and ethos.

Strangely, other organisations like political parties will not have the same restrictions placed on them. In other words, the Government will impose on the staffing of faith organisations but not on the staffing of political organisations. Why the imbalance?

Under the new legislation, religious bodies and educational institutes will no longer be able to employ staff who hold the same religious beliefs and values unless they can prove that it is an "inherent requirement' of the job. The Government has given the example that in a school, the only roles where religious beliefs might be an "inherent requirement' of the job include positions of senior leadership [e.g., a principal] or religious education teachers. However, what the Government fails to understand is that faith is holistic, it affects the way we see the world and conduct our lives. Just as we don't live our faith for only a couple of hours on Sunday while we attend Mass, nor do teachers and staff in our schools teach and pass on the faith only through set religious education classes. Likewise, it is entirely reasonable and fair that religious bodies should be able to preference those who share their beliefs and values in their own private employment matters.

In a healthy pluralist democracy, the role or importance of faith in a faith-based organisation cannot be relegated to a bureaucrat or a secular court. This is another sad example of religious faith and the freedom of religious organisations being unfairly targeted. As people of faith, it is our right and responsibility to make our views known about this matter.

The Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021 is currently before our Parliament and will be debated before Christmas. I encourage all people of faith and goodwill, to stand up for religious freedom and ask our parliamentarians to oppose the Bill, particularly the introduction of an 'inherent requirement' test.

How to stand up for religious freedom

1. Contact your local Members of Parliament in Victoria

Writing to Members of Parliament (MPs) is an effective way to communicate with them about this Bill. A short letter [emailed or mailed] respectfully expressing concerns with the legislation will help them understand what is important to people of faith.

Each Victorian has one MP representing their local **district** and six MPs who represent their wider **region**. If you're unsure who to write to, you can find out which district/region you are part of and the contact details of the MPs representing you here: <u>www.parliament.vic.gov.au/about/electorates</u>

2. Contact your federal Members of Parliament

Writing to federal Members of Parliament to tell them about what is happening here in Victoria is also vitally important, because religious freedom legislation is potentially being considered on a federal level. You can write to them to share your concern and ask them to act to protect the religious freedom of all Australians.

Each Victorian has one local MP representing their geographic **area** and twelve Senators who represent their **state**.

Details of your local federal Member of Parliament can be found here: <u>www.aph.gov.au/Senators</u> and <u>Members/Members</u> Simply scroll down to 'Search Members' and type in your postcode to find your MP.

Details of Victorian Senators can be found here: https://bit.ly/3BNVYAL

3. Share your concerns with others

You are also encouraged to tell your family, friends and those in your local community about your concerns and ask them to become active too.

4. Get active on social media

You may also like to become active on social media – particularly by sharing your concerns with your Members of Parliament via their social media pages.

Parish of Our Lady of the Way Kingsbury

Presbytery: 13 Green Ave, Kingsbury, 3083



Parish Priest: Fr Terry Bergin Email: terrybergin1@bigpond.com Tel: 0488 020 364

School Tel: 9460 6684

Parish Website: OLW Kingsbury

Mass Timetable

Saturday – Vigil Mass: Sunday: Weekdays: Sacrament of Reconciliation: Rosary Monday to Saturday: Divine Mercy Chaplet Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: *Baptisms and Marriages by appointment:* 6.00PM 8.00AM and 10.00AM 10.00AM Saturday from 5.15 to 5.45PM 9.30AM After Mass Daily Friday from 9.00 to 9.30AM

Hello Everyone.

Entrance Antiphon:

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

Communion Antiphon:

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

Please be advised we need to be double vaccinated & registered at the front entrance or sign in as per usual to attend mass.

Ageing & Awakening: God's surprising gifts!

We welcome, finally, Sr Kerin Caldwell to OLW to assist us in seeing new gifts in our lives as we age. Dates: 2022 Jan 28th, Feb 11th & 25th, Mar 11th & 25th & Apr 8th. All Friday mornings 10.30am – 12.30pm. Anyone wishing to attend this free seminar, please sign the page in the foyer titled Ageing & Awakening Seminar. It is available to sign in today.

Reconciliation Rites OLW:

Tuesday 21st Dec at 7pm.

Christmas Masses OLW Kingsbury:

Friday 24 th Dec	5.30pm & 8.00pm
Sat 25 th Dec	8.00am & 10.00am
Sun 26 th Dec	8.00am & 10.00am

Eucharistic Ministers:

Nov 13th: 6pm Jenny Glover & Eileen Gleeson
 Nov 14th: 8am Martina & Garard Dowling 10am Margaret Leonard & Ashlei
 Nov 20th: 6pm Kath Zanini & Jim Conway
 Nov 21st: 8am: Martina & Garard Dowling 10am Sharon & Angelina Crupi

Readers:

Nov 13th: 6pm Pat Hearity Nov 14th: 8am Maria B 10am Maureen Jones Nov 20^{th:} 6pm Frank Williams Nov 21st: 8am Carolyn Nguyen 10am Wendy Theunissen.

With thanks, Father Terry.



Prep 2022 Orientation Session 1

FACE MASKS





\$5 each or 3 x \$12

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Thanks











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