



The Monica March 2018

St Monica's Parish Moonee Ponds

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## Greetings from the Editorial Team

As the period of Lent draws to an end, it is difficult to believe that Holy Week will soon be upon us! In typical style, St Monica's Parish is brimming with activity prior to Easter.

Our first edition for 2018 reflects this busyness – St Monica's tennis club finished the season on a high with some impressive wins. We celebrate the arrival of the warm and humble Fr Daryl, our new Assistant Priest following the departure of the much-loved Fr Minh. We explore the important role of the St Monica's Parish Council and the soon-to-be-launched Renewal Program driven by the Archdiocese. Catholic Education Week concluded last week, and it was a vibrant celebration of youth. We acknowledge the efforts of the parish flower-arrangers whose passion for blooms enhances the sanctuary of our Church. So, in this edition of contrasts we celebrate the beauty of nature, the camaraderie of sport, the wonderful attributes of a young man called to do God's work, our Parish volunteers and overwhelmingly we acknowledge Christ's sacrifice in the name of love. Have a happy and Holy Easter,  
from the editorial team.



## A Pastoral Letter

Easter 2018

One of our regular Acclamations of faith used to be:

Christ has died.  
Christ is Risen.  
Christ will come again.

Now we no longer say these words. Not because Christ did not die. Not because Christ is not risen. But because the Risen Christ with us here and now; He does not leave us orphans!

Easter is not only the story of the crucified One risen, it is also the story the Risen One being with us, though so often, like the disciples of the road to Emmaus, we do not recognise him.

The Risen One is here amongst us now! In the poor, the suffering, the thirsty, the hungry, the lost and the homeless he comes amongst! When we reach out to help, support, feed, clothe and visit the least of our brethren, He tells us that we help, support, feed and clothe Him!

Yes, Christ has died, Christ is Risen and now He, the Risen Christ, is to be found in our midst. As He comes amongst us may our ears be open to hear him in the cry the poor; may our eyes be open to recognise him in the stranger; may our hearts be open to love him in all people, for when we love the least of our brothers and sisters we are loving and making a home for the Risen One in our lives.

Easter is truly is a great feast, a celebration of joy, in which 'Alleluia' is our song, for the Lord is truly Risen!

Easter is it is also a great challenge for us as we are called to recognise the Risen One in our midst walking with us and coming to us in the moments and the people we would least expect.

May he always find an listening ear, a seeing eye and a loving heart, welcoming Him in you and me!

Happy Easter everyone!



- Fr. Tony Feeney

## Parish Profile : Father Daryl Lisa Mammola

In this edition, we'd like to introduce Father Daryl.

As many of you will already know early this year, Father Minh left St. Monica's to become a Parish Priest. Whilst he will be missed, his new adventure makes way for another Priest to join us in assisting Father Tony here at the St Monica's Parish. Enter Father Daryl; a beautiful man, with a warm smile and gentle spirit.

Though born in the Philippines, Father Daryl, his brother and his sister grew up in Australia. With an upbringing much like that of many of us; he attended local schools, played cricket and football with his friends, went to Mass and enjoyed Sunday lunch with his family. His desire to become priest did not blossom until he was much older.

As a child, there was a very different force calling. Father Daryl had his sights firmly set on becoming, wait for it...Superman! (I know, how wonderful!)

Despite his passion and enthusiasm, a young Daryl realised that this was never going to be physically possible. Instead of being deflated, he revised his vision and identified his true drive; to help those in need. He just had to find the vehicle.

During high school, the idea of becoming a priest began to propagate but he trained to be a nurse, with his mind set on becoming a paramedic. Far less praised but certainly no less heroic! He practiced as a nurse for a little while before realising he hadn't quite got it right. He felt called to become a priest and so joined the seminary in 2009.

Whilst he remains passionate about Superman, the Essendon Football Club and all things cricket, Fr Daryl has a genuine desire to immerse himself in our parish and our community. He wants to be a great priest, a great student and a great teacher.

So, if you have not already had the opportunity to meet Father Daryl, look out for him. He would love to meet you. If you're particularly lucky, he might offer you a great cup of coffee in his favourite Superman cup. (Dreams of Superman gone, but not forgotten!) Thank you Father Daryl. It was a pleasure to meet you.





Catholic Education Week most serendipitously aligned this year with the national Year of Youth for Australian Catholics. The theme: Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy was inspired by Pope Francis' speech at World Youth Day in 2016 when he urged young people that 'A better world can be built...as a result of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity'.

The week celebrated Catholic identity and the role Catholic schools play in their local communities. In Victoria, more children are educated in the Catholic system (one in four) than in any other state in Australia. That means over 210,000 students were focussed on how to be better people and to make a difference, significantly during the holy time of Lent.

Highlights of the week included:

Mass for Schools at St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday March 16, celebrated by Archbishop Denis Hart, at which representatives from all 331 Catholic Primary and Secondary schools in Victoria were invited to attend, including student leaders from St Monica's Primary School, and Principal Peter Moore.

The Young Speakers Colloquium – at the Catholic Leadership Centre: a forum for students in years 9 and 10 to be inspired by an accomplished young guest speaker.

Special Food Day at St Monica's - students enjoyed a delicious doughnut organised by parent coordinators who heeded Pope Francis' message of 'Spreading Joy' to all.

Public events included a concert in Treasury Gardens following the Schools Mass at St Patrick's featuring Catholic school bands and a visual arts exhibition culminating in an arts prize at the Catholic Leadership Centre.





NCEA©

**Catholic Schools**  
**Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.**

## Getting to know your church : Flower Arrangers Lisa Mammola

St Monica’s Church is beautiful, both inside and out. There are a team of individuals, largely volunteers, who work along side Fr Tony on a regular basis to keep it looking as wonderful as it does.

Today we’d like to recognise the contribution of one of our flower arrangers. Odette is a florist and parishioner who provides beautiful flower arrangements that adorn the sanctuary of St. Monica’s, many weeks throughout the year.

Odette and her family have operated the local florist “Village Blooms” for 19 years. Odette’s willingness and generosity to give, and her enthusiasm for flowers and her work, is evident within moments of speaking to her.

She is also passionate about her work here at St Monica’s with Fr Tony. Together they ensure the arrangements reflect the seasons, introducing a burst of colour when possible. Odette’s flowers enhance the sanctuary, adding beauty, warmth, life and contrast.

Maria Giardana (a parishioner from the Italian Community, featured in Edition 2, 2017) is a constant and welcoming presence at St Monica’s. Amongst the many labours of love she performs within the parish, Maria tends to these flower arrangements throughout the week, to ensure they continue to look fresh and wonderful.

Another Parishioner, Ms Yen Nguyen, also a florist, contributes magnificent bouquets for the sanctuary on a monthly basis, affirming the old adage that ‘many hands make light work’ or perhaps in this instance ‘beautiful flowers’!

Odette is very modest about her contribution, but it’s all the little offerings that make a big difference! It is the generosity of parishioners like Odette, Maria and Yen that make St Monica’s the wonderful community and Church that it is. So, thank you ladies for your passion, commitment and of course, your gorgeous floral arrangements.



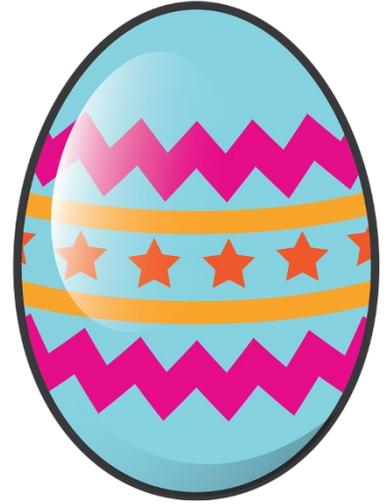
Sing to the Lord with grateful praise;  
make music to our God on the harp.

He covers the sky with clouds;  
he supplies the earth with rain  
and makes grass grow on the hills.

...the Lord delights in those who fear him,  
who put their hope in his unfailing love.

~ Psalm 147:7-8, 11

## Easter - Andrea Medic



### The Christian Easter

For Christians, Easter focuses on the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his resurrection (*coming back to life*) three days later. Jesus was arrested by the Romans and put to death by crucifixion, after being betrayed by his friend Judas, who told the Romans where to find him. After his death, on what we now call Good Friday, Jesus' body was placed in a tomb that was covered by a large stone. Three days later, on Easter Sunday, the tomb was found empty and news spread that Jesus had risen from the dead.

### Easter Symbolism

There are many symbols that have come to be associated with Easter:

**A Cross** – Jesus was crucified on a wooden cross and these have come to symbolise his death and his resurrection three days later on Easter Sunday.

**Eggs** – to symbolise new life and rebirth.

**Rabbits** – to symbolise fertility and new life.

**Lambs** – to represent spring and new life. Lambs also have links to Jesus who was called the 'Good Shepherd' and was referred to as a "sacrificial lamb".

**Palm fronds** – symbolise peace and have links to the Bible which tells of Jesus being greeted with palm fronds when he arrived in Jerusalem just days before he was arrested.

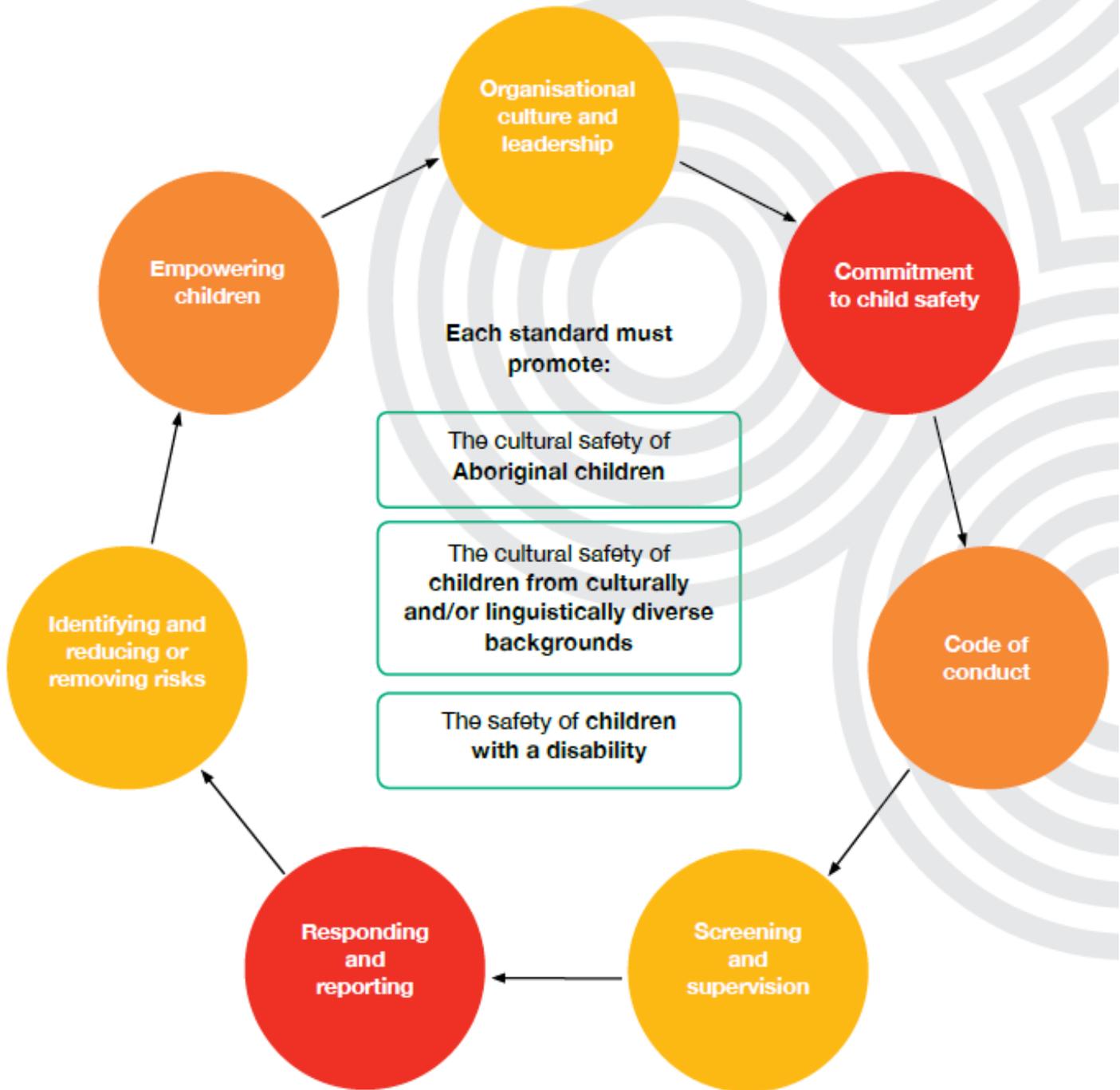
**Purple** – the colour of royalty and a sign of mourning. Churches often use the colour purple throughout Easter to mourn Jesus' death.

Many countries around the world celebrate Easter according to their own traditions and religious beliefs. In Australia, we celebrate Easter over a four day long weekend. The weekend begins on Good Friday and ends with Easter Monday. Many Christians go to church on Good Friday or Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday is usually celebrated with the giving of chocolate Easter eggs and with chocolate bilbies instead of the traditional chocolate rabbit.



# Victoria's Child Safe Standards

All organisations that work with children and young people are required to meet Child Safe Standards



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

For more information about the Child Safe Standards and how to meet them, go to our website or connect with us.

[www.ccp.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccp.vic.gov.au)

(03) 8601 5281



ccypvictoria

## St Monica's Pastoral Council— Eleanor Colonico

It is easy to imagine the large number of important decisions that need to be made at a Parish such as St Monica's on a monthly, weekly or even daily basis. To guide these decisions, St Monica's has a Pastoral Council comprising a number of parishioners from various backgrounds.

The Council's role is to promote the mission of the Church to the community and to share responsibility for the development of the Parish. Parish Councillors listen and gather information about what is happening in the Parish and draw on this to help inform future actions and decisions, they also support the work of existing groups. Final decision-making power rests with Fr Tony who considers and is guided by the recommendations of the Council.

The Council currently comprises 12 members from a range of professional backgrounds including education, finance, medical and the building industry. With a tenure of two years, the Council supports the Parish Priest and Assistant Priest in planning to ensure St Monica's continues to be a vibrant, authentic and welcoming community of faith.

Current Member Therese Wilson explains the role of the Council, which meets every second Tuesday of the month for the year.

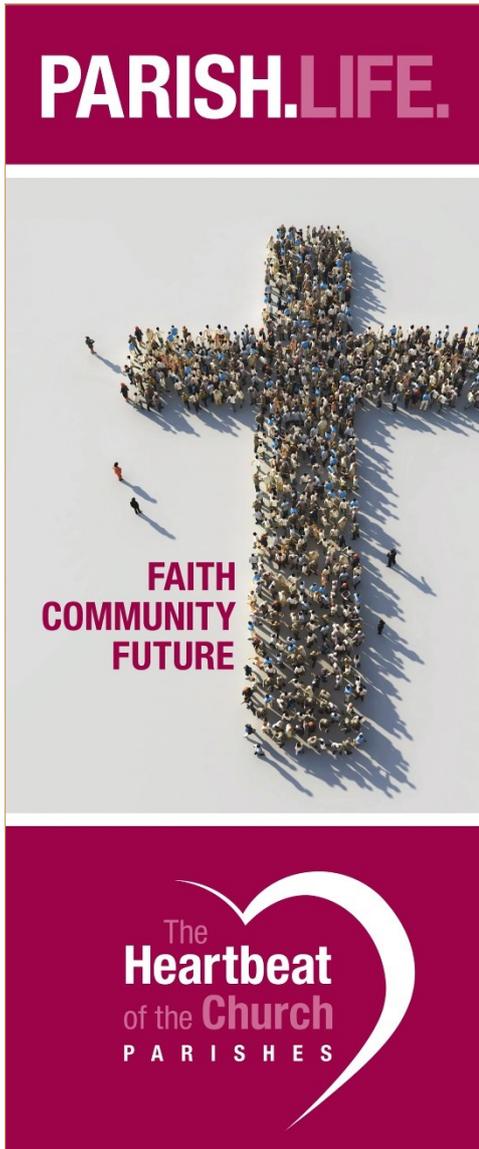
"The types of issues the Council considers are planning for consultation with Parishioners, promoting the involvement of youth in the Parish, linking to communities beyond the Parish and encouraging active participation in Church activities such as the Parish Stewardship Program".

"In 2017 the Council spent a fair bit of time consulting and supporting the implementation of the Child Safe regulations."

In 2018, the Pastoral Council will be rolling out a new Parish Renewal Program in conjunction with the Archdiocese, more information about this initiative can be found in this issue.



## PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2018



St Monica's Parish will be conducting a Parish Stewardship Program during May & June.

The Program is a comprehensive parish renewal which recognises that "Parishes are the Heartbeat of the Church."

It has been designed to provide a wonderful opportunity to reflect and discuss what it means to be part of our parish - through engagement in parish life and commitment to financial support.

The Program will challenge our parish to reflect on the core themes of:

### FAITH

- Gathering to celebrate the Eucharist
- Commit to learning and growing in faith

### COMMUNITY

- Help to grow our sense of community
- Get involved in a Parish Group or Ministry

### FUTURE

- Support our parish generously
- Make a meaningful financial pledge to the Stewardship Program to ensure a viable future

*Join us as we pray for the success of our Parish Stewardship Program*

### Stewardship Program Prayer

Lord, we thank you for calling us to be your Church.

Through our Baptism we are called to service and to witness.

In the Eucharist we sustain and strengthen that call.

By serving others we follow your example and proclaim our beliefs.

By our Christian generosity we demonstrate our love and care.

Lord, help us always to worship you as you deserve,  
to grow in faith and service and to give without counting the cost.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2018

Throughout the Program there will be banners in the church, newsletter notices and speakers at Mass to highlight the importance of our involvement in our parish family. If you will not be at Mass during the Program you can follow us on:

**Website:** [www.stmonicasparish.com.au](http://www.stmonicasparish.com.au)

**Facebook:** follow us on Facebook

### PARISH FUTURE FORUM

There will also be 'Parish Forum' where parishioners are invited to hear information about our recent achievements, future plans and have the opportunity to ask questions and share a cuppa together.

All school families and parishioners are invited to attend one of the Parish Forums.

The details are as follows:

#### OUR PARISH FUTURE FORUM

**Tuesday 22 May at 7.30pm**

OR

**Wednesday 23 May at 10.00am**

***In the Symons Centre***

*Please mark these important dates in your diary.*

*More information will be made available closer to the date.*

*"We cannot be Christians part time.*

*If Christ is at the centre of our lives,*

*He is present in all that we do"*

**Pope Francis**



## International Women's Day- A lovely article from The Age

### FAITH GEMMA DIBARI

"Love begins by taking care of the closest ones - the ones at home."

**Mother Teresa**

Who comes to mind when you think of great women? These three names came into my head as I reflected - Trudi, Pam and Joan.

My mum has reached the wonderful age of 80. Her world is peppered with women whose praises she sings, who feed her soul and spirit and help her with the practical and necessary things of daily living. They make Mum's days easier and more rewarding.

Without realising it, these women help create stability and peace for my mum and many others. Trudi is Mum's doctor. She is always kind and positive and allays Mum's fears about any medical issues. Questions are answered slowly and calmly and there is never a rush to get Mum out.

What Mum appreciates most is that she feels she is being listened to. In a world where her influence is shrinking, Mum's visits to Trudi give her the opportunity to express some of her thoughts, knowing she will not be judged.

With age, Mum's steps have become more tentative, her days of brisk walking have slowed to a more gentle pace. Pam is her podiatrist and helps alleviate some of the aches and pains that Mum experiences

Watching Pam, I am reminded of Jesus as he washed the feet of the disciples, because her act of service is done with humility and the knowledge that her deft and skilled hands work alchemy on my mother's feet.

St Augustine said: "What does love look like? It has the hands to help others."

Joan is my mother's personal trainer and she calls Mum "a champion". Each Tuesday Mum has a session with Joan, who puts her through her paces of light weights and cardio.

Mum tells me all about her sessions. They consist of delightful conversations, her ability to knock out a 13th rep and the knowledge that she is still vigorous and capable. I think that Joan has done more for Mum than just help keep her body moving; she has helped Mum believe that she is still a strong and vital woman. Eighty is definitely the new 70.

As an octogenarian, my mother is valued for her life experience and these women provide Mum with something that is truly important: they foster a relationship that is vital for her happiness and wellbeing.

In a recent speech, Oprah referred to women whose great works have gone unnoticed: "These are the names we will never know."

So I thank Trudi, Pam and Joan and those women whose names I will never know.

Gemma DiBari is a Melbourne writer.



## St Monica's Parish—a quick history - Joanne Barrett

### DID YOU KNOW?

Embedded under the foundation stone laid at the commencement of construction of St Monica's Essendon was a bottle containing a script which read:

'This foundation stone of St Monica's School Essendon, was blessed on May 10 1891, during the Pontificate of Leo XIII, by his Grace the Most Rev Thomas Joseph Carr, D.D, Archbishop of Melbourne, the Rev Denis Bernard Nelan being Missionary Director'.

The bottle also contained a handful of coins and current copies of the Essendon Gazette, West Bourke Times and the Melbourne Advocate.

One can only imagine the topics of the day concerning citizens of the newly established St Monica's Parish. Coin collectors would also be most interested in the contents of the humble little bottle buried beneath the school's foundations.

Archbishop Carr returned to St Monica's on Sunday 11 October 1891 to officially open and bless the new school, which according to local newspaper The Advocate had 'recently been erected at a cost of over 1,500 pounds'.

No doubt a princely sum by today's calculations!

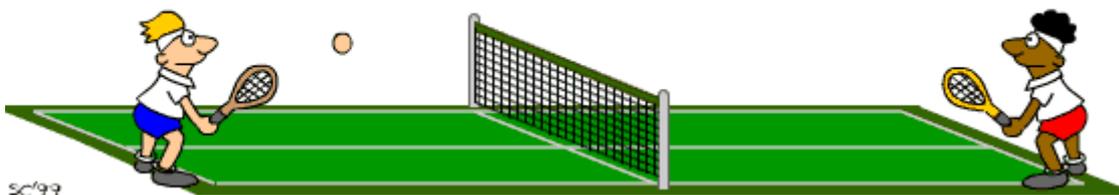


## St Monica's Tennis Club — Margaret Mogg

On a brilliant sunny morning on Monday, 26th February, St Monica's Tennis Club hosted the Essendon Tennis Club Senior Men's Social Group. It was a morning of relaxing tennis. This group usually meets at the ETC on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings but on this occasion their courts were being used by another group. St. Monica's came to their rescue and a most enjoyable morning was held. About 14 men played while a few others looked on and all expressed their appreciation of the Club's generosity.



With the benefit of government funding from the Sporting Schools program, the Year 1 and 2 children from St Monica's have recently been involved in a four week Tennis coaching program under the guidance of resident head coach Steve Riley and his team of instructors. The children have had an enjoyable experience, learning a variety of shots including the forehand, backhand and the volley in a combination of drills and game-based activities. A hugely successful program for everyone involved.



# St Monica's Tennis Club — Margaret Mogg

Three of St.Monica's Juniors were fortunate enough to be selected as Ball Boys at the recent Australian Open in Melbourne Left to Right. Jack Hulls, Luca Cessarini, Patrick Sicila.

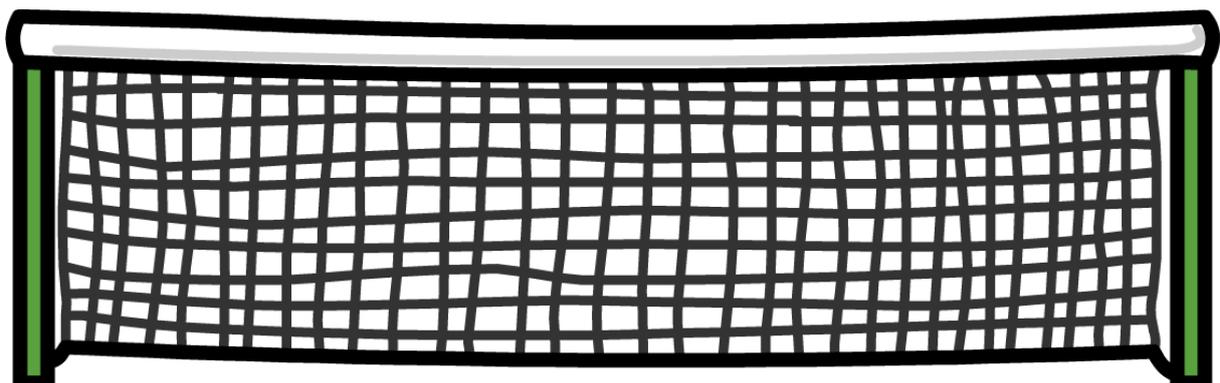
Patrick was featured in MasterCard Moments with a fantastic ball catch.

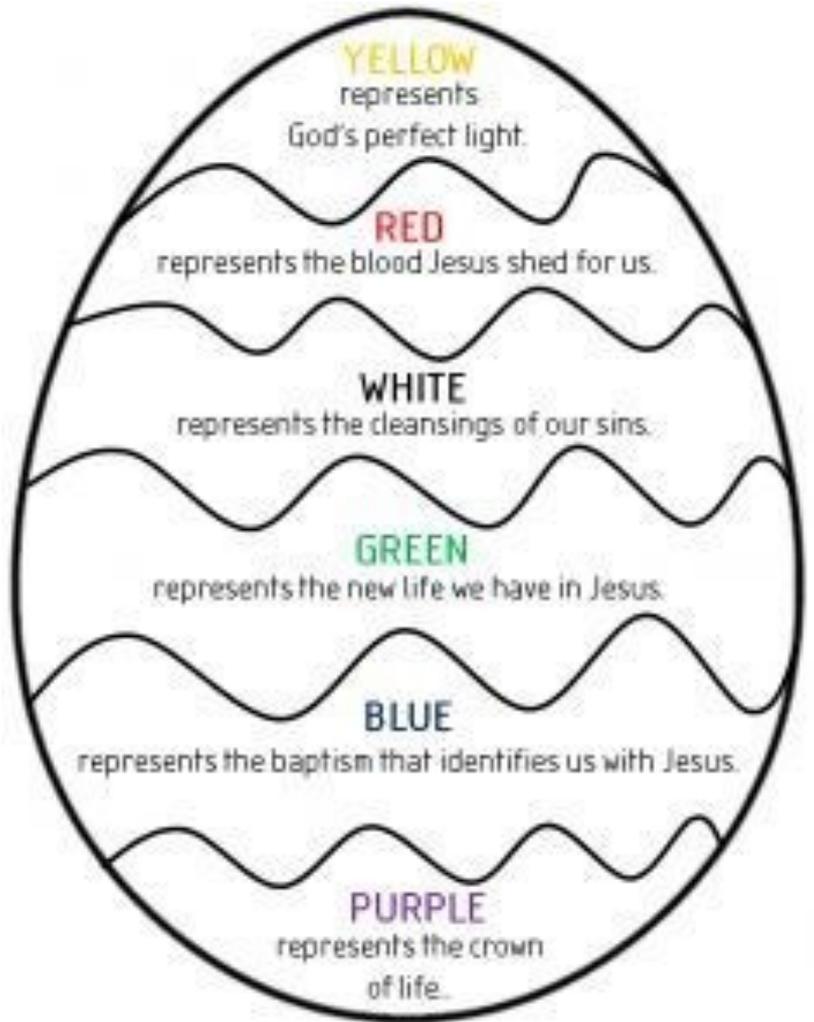
Well done Boys.



The Junior team Managed by Cathy McNeill had a good Season, they were Runners Up in the Grand Final.

Left to Right. Luca Cessarini, Stephanie Clark, Laila Mariani, Connor Joyce, Luke McNeill, Olivia Bourke, Serina Mariani, Alanna Hayes Lachlan Mason





## The 5 Finger Prayer

**Thumb:** Those closest to you, your family.

**Pointer:** Those that point you in the right direction (teachers, doctors, priests) ask for wisdom & support.

**Index:** (tallest) Those that lead us, (Government) ask for guidance & wisdom.

**Ring:** (weakest) Those that are weak, in trouble, or in pain. We cannot pray too much for them.

**Pinkie:** (smallest) Our prayers for ourselves & our own needs.

