

APRIL 2026

ST MARYS HALSWELL FAMILIES UPDATE

Term 1 went by in a rush of activities, many associated with Easter Camp preparations and already winter seems to be just around the corner, if the snow on the mountains is any indication. We ended the term with a great Palm Sunday celebration led by Sarah and which involved many of the young people.

This term should be more settled with few public holidays and the celebration of Pentecost in the middle of the term. The Kids Church Team met in the holidays to look at topics for the term which will focus mainly on the new testament. Chris will lead the intermediate group a couple of sundays a month with the other weeks shared.

SMASH (After School Programme)

Last term we trialled an after school programme - SMASH (St Marys After School Hangout). It was aimed at reaching more families in the community and encouraging them into our space. Numbers were sadly small, but all who came were very enthusiastic and parents supportive. We have decided not to run SMASH this term .

Once Vestry have completed their strategic plan we will revisit the discussion and look at other options of engaging the community and families.

If anyone has any ideas, suggestions or feedback, do chat to Marco or Jenny as we are always looking at ways to get God's message out into the community and engage with families.



Riding on Faith

This sing a long service will be held at St Marys on Sunday 3 May at 5.00pm.



Easter Camp Team 2026

Social Fellowship

Let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony and growth of our fellowship together . Romans 14:19

Mid Year Pot Luck Dinner Saturday 25 July

Make a note of the date now and plan to come along for a fun social evening with the whole parish. There will be an activity after dinner which all ages can participate in - not a Barn Dance but just as much fun for everyone!



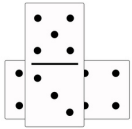
Kids Church Team think about God's World.

Looking Ahead.....

Sat 17 October - Parish Fair

This will be our major fundraiser for the year and John will start the planning for this soon. We do need one or two extra people to be part of the planning team, so if you have ideas and are interested, please talk to Rev John.





Last term the younger KFC and JAM children spent time looking at God's creation. We explored it using our senses, found some 'fascinating facts' about God's world, and explored how each of us is different and special to him.

This term we will look at 'growing our faith' and see what Jesus taught us in some of the parables he told, as well as celebrate the coming of the spirit at Pentecost in the middle of the term. Year 7 & 8 group will be led mainly by Chris looking at similar themes.



- Sunday morning groups:
- Pre school
 - 5 - 7 years - JAM
 - 8 - 11 years: KFC
 - Year 7 up - DOMINOS

DOMINOS High Schoolers on Sunday. Marco will be at St Marys on the second and fourth Sundays and together with Lucy, will be leading discussions for high schoolers. The 4th Sunday will be 'Living Church' when they will be encouraged to participate in the various roles in the service.

DOMINOS Youth

Every Friday, at St Marys Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm, and every Sunday at 10.30am. Year 7 upwards, friends are welcome.

The Leaders will meet with the young people on the first week back in Term 2 for their ideas of activities for the term. Once this is completed the plan for the term will be on the church website.

AMPED, 3rd Sunday at 5pm



AMPED has now become a regular part of the St Marys worship schedule. Thank you to Marco and the music team for providing this opportunity for worship, and the young people who take a turn in leading and other roles to make it happen.

Families have been taking turns to prepare the food after the service, if you can offer to do this one month, let Marco know which month works for you.

Marco will continue to email out details to families and send reminders on Instagram.

Email: youth@stmarys@gmail.com

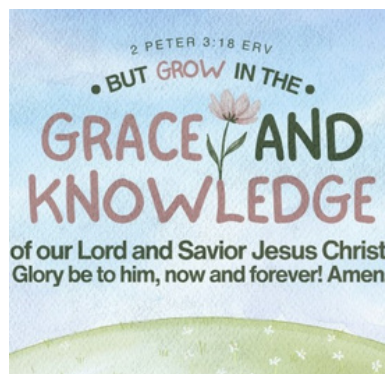
The church website has also had a make over so you can always check there to see what is on and dates.

Litt'le Boppers

Our pre school music and movement sessions are held on Fridays at 9.45am in the St Marys Hall (term time). Start up for Term 2 is 8 May. Activities for the young ones and a cuppa for caregivers. A great fellowship opportunity led by Sarah Mosely with great support from the kitchen crew.

Dates for Term 3

- Fri 24 April: DOMINOS is back for Term 2
- Sun 26 April: Kids Church is back for Term 2
- Sun 3 May: Riding on Faith, St Marys, 5pm
- Sun 17 May: 5.00pm, AMPED Worship
- Sun 24 May: Pentecost
- Sun 21 June: 5pm, AMPED Worship
- Sun 28 June: Last Kids Church for Term 2
- Fri 3 July: Diocese Youth Games Night
- Sat 25 July: Parish Pot Luck Dinner



Watch out for...

Diocesan Activity Night, Friday 3 July



Easter Camp

Well done to all those involved in the fundraising for Easter Camp. Together with donations from parishioners and the Vicars fund, we were able to cover part of the fee for all the young people and leaders - and we have a small reserve to start the fundraising for 2027 to help those who were not able to go this year.

A huge thank you to leaders Marco and Lucy, and camp parents, Sarah and Paul, for the planning organising and just being there for the team at Easter Camp. Roll on 2027!

Contact us

To find out more about our programmes and activities you can contact the church office or check the website for details.

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