



**ST MARK'S
COLLEGE**

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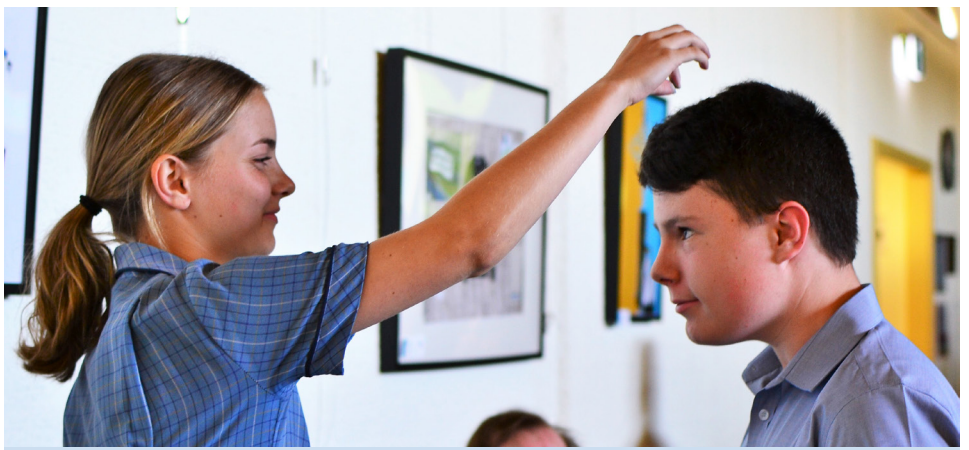
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Alana sprinkles ashes on Henri during the Ash Wednesday liturgy

There is a sprinkle of ashes and a chance to 'be more'. Our student leaders are impressive. The farm production amazes. The Little Lions begin their quiet roar and we are excited as marketing begins.

Ash Wednesday

A great saint of our modern Church is St Oscar Romero. He was a voice for the oppressed people in San Salvador and was martyred because of his courage. He spoke about integrity and justice and he said that we should "aspire not to have more, but to be more". This aspiration underpins so much of our community. We are always conscious of building character, of becoming and growing and being conscious of the privileges that we should share. It was certainly the message heard when we gathered in a number of groups and ash was sprinkled last Wednesday.

The College gathered for Ash Wednesday services. The Year 12s went to the Cathedral for Mass. The Benedict students gathered for a liturgy in Good Samaritan Hall. The Bosco students assembled in House groups. What was important was that we gathered conscious of the millions of Catholics around the world who somewhere join with us to receive the Ashes. In the world these millions are saying that we can become something more, something greater, and that it can start with an Ash Wednesday reflection. This was the message that came from Project Compassion during the Ash Wednesday service that said "Be more".

This year we did not have the faithful smudges of ash on our foreheads. The Covid version was a simple sprinkle of blessed ash into hair. It was hardly noticeable – especially on an aging principal's hair! We were inviting students through an ashen moment to growth, to becoming more. We were saying that we will be people who are a bit kinder, a bit more upright, maybe a little more generous for Project Compassion. Lent is about deepening our understanding about ourselves and making a determination to grow in sacredness. Certainly, the teachers will ask our students to listen to their hearts and see their best selves. The dust will flicker off our hair but the spirit of Lenten renewal will remain. We will become more, just as Archbishop, St Oscar Romero, invited us to.

Student Leaders' Sleepover

Our Year 12 Captains took some time together last week to dream a little about their goals for the year. They gathered on Sunday morning with their parents and we enjoyed a barbecue breakfast of bacon and eggs. We then left for the Cathedral for Mass. They spent the day together in fun and activity and stayed the night at Mary Knoll in the Beetaloo Valley. The aim of the sleepover was to grow in an understanding of leadership and make some determinations around how they want student leadership to function. There is something very inspiring about the aspirations of young leaders. I loved listening to them. They bring a freshness of perspective and an optimistic determination. The House Leaders organised and supervised. The boys cooked a barbecue tea and we survived. In fact the dinner was delicious. There were activities created to help define leadership and to help find the unique contribution each student will give. They all told stories of leadership and looked within to discover what they had to offer. They built trust in each other and made quiet promises to be the best leaders ever. There is much potential here.

The Grapes are ready

Farm Manager, Joel Head has been watching the grapes on McNally Farm for the last couple of weeks. That sunshine and the irrigation plumps them up. A small bunch was tasted. Sweetness was measured. Decisions were made. Grapes had to have a perfect level of sugariness. Harvest had to happen. The Year 11s, 10s and 9s got the order on a Tuesday morning and they swooped onto the grapes. In the heat they toiled. They cut and carried. They tried mostly unsuccessfully to keep clean and they focussed with sequiturs and a sense of purpose. The harvest had to be very quick. They worked hard for three days and filled containers with grapes. They used the machinery to squeeze and collect the juice. They worked and worked even through lunch. The mess was amazing. Their hands were stained with a Shiraz purple. The job is completed with a couple of table spoons of yeast. I can already smell the fermentation.



Thumbs up from our new Little Lions

Little Lions

Our Little Lions began this week. They seemed so excited and teacher Teresa Gadaleta had everything organised for their welcome. They are just four years old and have had little kindergarten experience but have now enrolled into the College for a transition course. They will spend three hours a week with us. They will learn about the school and its richness and its opportunity. They will understand that they will be safe and that rich learning awaits and that we do things in a special way here: the Benedict way. The Reception teachers speak about the success of Little Lions. They speak about the confidence and readiness of the students. We welcome our newest, youngest young ones. They are in good hands with Teresa Gadaleta, together with Michaela Porta in support.

Board Meeting

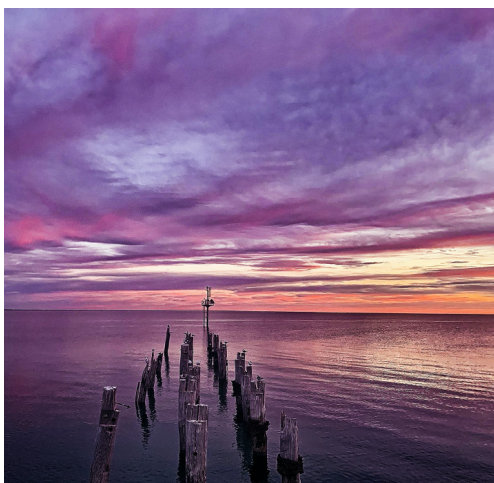
The College Board gathered for its last meeting in the eight meeting cycle over a year. We have now finished our time as a Board and a new group has to be established at our AGM. I feel very grateful for the generosity of Alan Zubrinich as Chairman and the Board members themselves for their time and wisdom. Alan will conclude his time and I will write later of his outstanding contribution. Our Board has been charged with the responsibility of overseeing the good management of the College. They attended meetings, read documents, argued a

case, make decisions and care about this place. They were part of a series of subcommittees. They responded to questions about learning and the business, policy and the vision, the Strategic Plan and safety and 'carparks and uniform'. The new Board now has to be formed at the AGM. I ask parents to consider becoming a candidate for Board membership. The future of the place is very much held in trust in your hands as representatives. It is vital in the life of St Mark's. The AGM of the Board is Tuesday 16 March. Please make it a priority.

Marketing

We have begun our marketing campaign for 2022. We are keen to see more families benefit from the St Mark's experience. You may see Liam or Eliza or Anthony on the telly. They have been generous and patient in filming a little of their perspective of the College. Their mums and dads supported us as well and Joby Connor and Catherine Caspers created a really intuitive and beautiful insight filmed over that recognisable piano riff. There will be tours and radio ads, postcards sent and more of those extraordinary Facebook images. What remains our best advertising will be the recommendation of parents. What will you say about our place?

Mr Greg Hay, Principal



We would like to congratulate Ethan Watson from the Class of 2020 whose photography has been chosen to be exhibited in the upcoming SACE Art Show!

Key Dates and Campus Information



Week 5: 22/2 - 26/2		Week 6: 1/3 - 5/3		Year 7 Camp
Mon	Learning Assistance Partnership Program Meeting 2.40pm, Rocket Room or meet at Benedict Office	Mon	Bosco Campus Tour 9.30am or 5.00pm	
	Rite Journey Parent BBQ Evening 6.00pm, Polding Lawns		Parents and Friends AGM 7.00pm, Bosco Conference Room	
Tues		Tues	Benedict Campus Tour 9.30am or 5.00pm	
Wed	T1 Reception Rest Day 4	Wed		
Thu	Reception Reading Night 5.00 - 5.30pm, Good Sam Hall	Thu	Semester 1 SRC Liturgy and Badge Presentation 2.30pm, Good Samaritan Hall	
Fri	Bosco Athletics Day	Fri	Little Lions Session 4	
	Little Lions Session 3			

The above schedule is subject to change with COVID-19 restrictions.

Benedict Campus:

- With the beginning of Lent, the students have responded well to the call of Be More ... by completing tasks in class where they can discern age appropriate actions. A special thank you to the Year 3 and Year 6 students who led the Prayer Services along with Mrs Pia Keain, Mrs Katie Pole and Fr Jimmy who always put so much thought and meaning into our liturgical celebrations. We are truly blessed to have this trio!
- The last fortnight has seen the Year 6 Leadership Program in full swing! Next week it will come to its official conclusion with the nominating and electing of students for the Benedict School Captains and House Captains positions. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Year 3 - 6 Coordinator, Mrs Pia Keain for overseeing the program with the assistance of the Year 6 teachers; Mr Todd Arbon, Miss Charlotte Kerin and Mrs Belinda Rafanelli. I know the students elected to these positions will give their very best and I know they will be very well supported by their fellow Year 6s who may not have a badge to wear but are definitely all leaders in the eyes of the Benedict community.
- The R - 5 classes are also learning about leadership and will soon elect their Semester 1 SRCs. Preparation is underway for a COVID safe SRC Prayer Service and Badge Presentation on Thursday 4 March at 2.30pm. Details regarding parent / caregiver attendance to follow.
- The 2021 Semester 1 Little Lions are settling in to their Transition Program with the reassuring assistance of Ms Teresa Gadaleta and Mrs Micaela Porta. Many new experiences await them as they prepare to join the Reception classes in Term 3!
- Although the 2021 school year has begun smoothly, a number of concerns regarding student safety in the carpark have been reported. Please remember that nearly 400 school children are leaving the campus and that means a significant amount of foot traffic and moving cars. The speed limit in the car park is 10 kilometres and then 25 kilometres as you leave. Please be mindful of these limits as you are in a school zone. Children by their very young nature may not be fully attentive, therefore, it is paramount that the adults amongst us are most concerned for the safety of all students. Another dangerous occurrence is the number of adults asking students to move between moving vehicles. Please, either drive through the pick-up zone and collect your child from there or park and walk in to collect your child. These are the only two options currently available from a safety perspective.

Ms Melissa Gadaleta, **Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus**

Bosco Campus:

- Last week, our Year 12 leaders travelled to Mary Knoll for a two-day formation retreat. They gathered with great dedication and excitement for the year ahead. To begin, our leader's gathered for breakfast with their parents and House Leaders and participated in Mass at the Cathedral, supporting Fr Jimmy. During their time at Mary Knoll, they explored their leadership, set goals and strengthened their unity as a team ready to lead our school. The Year 12 leaders are energetic, ambitious and ready to take on the year.
- This year we have introduced an online platform for our students to select their events for Bosco Athletics Day. Selections have been made and the students are getting ready for the challenge of winning the cup. Log in at home and find out what events your child is representing their House in this year.
- A reminder that it is important to notify the College if your child is going to be absent. This can be done by calling the Bosco Office on 8633 8801 or texting 0428 475 539. For families planning an absence greater than one school week, legislation requires Principal approval. This is obtained through the Bosco Student Office prior to the absence.

Mr Marc Forster, **Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus**

Religious Education



From the APRIM

Lent Begins

During the Season of Lent we have forty days of prayer and reflection. A happy season of renewal of relationships. A time to reflect on how I relate to God. Do I pray, do I take God for granted? Is my relationship with God growing?

A time to reflect on how I treat myself. Am I conscious that I am the beloved son or daughter of God? Have any unhealthy habits crept in, which I need to let go of?

A time to reflect on how I treat others, such as my family, my friends, my work mates.

Am I respectful in my interactions with others?

Is there some relationship that needs mending, healing?

How do I treat God's creation? Am I a good steward of creation? Do I look after the environment?

Do I have a contemplative attitude to the mystery of creation? Do I take time to smell the flowers and listen to the birds?

The liturgical colour of Lent is purple, a sombre, thoughtful colour.

During Lent we anticipate the glorious feast of Easter an amazing celebration of life and incredible love.

Shrove Tuesday

On Shrove Tuesday Benedict Campus gathered after Recess to have an Ashes Liturgy. Pledges were burnt to form our Ash Wednesday Ashes. Here students placed for burning their actions they "have identified will help them to "Be More" for the 40 days. These along with some palms were burnt in readiness for Ash Wednesday. Many classes in the College also partook in Pancakes to mark the day.

I extend my thanks to the House Leaders and Year 10 Representatives who prepared and sold pancakes at Bosco Campus for Project Compassion.

Ash Wednesday

Our College marked the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Our Year 12 students attended the Parish Morning Mass at the Cathedral celebrated by Fr Jimmy. They were



Pancakes were a hit for our Year 7s, Liam, Ryder, Archie, Bailey and Mitchell

commissioned to bring back the Ashes to their House communities to be distributed to all members. The House Leaders and Student Leaders led a ceremony marking the commitment and self-discipline of Lent and our commitment to take up the call to "Be More" over the 40 days.

At Benedict we were blessed with Fr Jimmy's presence who supported the Campus Ash Wednesday Liturgy Mass in the Good Samaritan Hall. This is one of our most ecumenical celebrations in our traditions where all members of our school can participate in the placing of the Ashes on their foreheads.

Project Compassion

During Lent classes across the school will reflect on and discuss the stories of Project Compassion and support this program through Fundraising. Various initiatives will run across the College through the remainder of the term. Details will be communicated by class teachers and student organising groups. If you would like to follow the stories at home [click here](#).



Pledges were brought forward to create the ashes

Sacramental Meeting

Parents and caregivers are reminded that a meeting is coming up on Tuesday 9 March, 7:30pm in the Good Samaritan Hall Benedict Campus. This is for those children who will be celebrating the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation during the year. Please make it a priority in your diary so that you can be informed and begin the partnership of Faith Formation with the Parish.

Rite Journey

Our Year 9s will have their Calling and Departure ceremony next Monday. This is a pivotal beginning of the journey they will undertake throughout the year in their class groups. We look forward to joining with families that evening for the completion of that ceremony.

Mrs Katie Pole, APRIM

SOUTHERN CROSS:

[Click here for the latest edition.](#)



Miss Komljenovic sprinkles ashes on Elijah

BENEDICT CAMPUS

Welcome Little Lions

We have welcomed our newest Little Lions who will be ready to start school mid-year.



WELCOME > Aisha, Michael, Stella and Isaac



WELCOME > Bryson, Charlie and Elijah



WELCOME > Beyleigh, Harper and Avery



WELCOME > Caleb, Tilly, Jensen and Lani



WELCOME > Asher, Bentley, Kaison and Nathaniel



WELCOME > Eva, Spencer, Elsie and Henry



WELCOME > Adelyn, Rylan and Finn



WELCOME > Bentley and Will

Around Benedict Campus



NEW > An exciting new range of decodable readers will be available for all students in all Reception – Year 2 classrooms from Week 5, with thanks to the funding from our generous Parents and Friends Committee.

“We are thankful to the P+F and our College families for their generous support, it’s been a lifesaver for students who find reading a challenge in the past,” Louise Richards, Inclusive Education Coordinator.



Congratulations

Star Salesian Students

6B	Emily Court
6R	Dane Crosnier
6G	Oscar Mayger
5B	Elise Yarrow
5R	Sahana Sivalingham
4B	William Bishop
4R	Eva Griese
3B	Marcus Di Geronimo
3R	Connor Whelan
2B	Macy Clothier
2R	Luke Martlew
1B	Nash Swearse
1R	Fraser Mieglich
RB	Cheston Freer
RR	Marcus Caldarola
RGr	Colton Paulauskas
RGo	Mia Gray



NUMERACY > Evie-Rose sorting objects by shape



NUMERACY > Baylen making patterns with a range of objects

Star Samaritan Students

6B	Ryan Pole
6R	Chanaye Dare
6G	Tobi Phillipps
5B	Bailey Ferme
5R	Lilly Simounds
4B	Macy Lavis
4R	Hannah Cadd
3B	Xavier Freeman-Keeley
3R	Junwoo Kim
2B	Astrid Connor
2R	Millie Hancock
1B	Lana Petagna
1R	Ivy Adams
RB	Delaney Irving
RGr	Layla Farrugia
RGo	Ethan Owens



Reception Green enjoying pancakes on Shrove Tuesday

Faith in Action

Finlay Saracino
Logan Young

Bosco Student Leaders Commissioned



Our Year 12 student leaders: Joseph, Eli, Patrick, Max, Eve, Lia, Alana, Jordan, Quinn, Meg, Aislynn, Meg, Flynn and Sam

After a week of preparation in a range of leadership and team skills, we gathered in the St Mark's Sport Centre to celebrate our Student Leadership Team for 2021. St Mark's College values student leadership and seeks to develop leadership skills through service to the school community and wider community outreach. The following Year 7 - 12 students have been successful in their application to serve their House, the arts, sport and the wider College community in the spirit of their House Patron and St John Bosco. I extend my congratulations to them all and look forward to seeing them flourish in their roles. *Mr Marc Forster, Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus*

College Captains:

Quinn Lane and Flynn Hayes

Bosco House

House Captains:

Meg Kelly and Patrick Cumming

7 Taylah Cameron and Angus Wilton

8 Arquene Westdorp and Ethan Cricchiola

9 Ruby Wilton and Zachary Longmire

10 Jessie Backshall and Jackson Whittaker

11 Logan Crouwkamp and Adam Black

Gallagher House

House Captains:

Alana Reid and Max Fitzgerald

7 Ariel Tee and Bailey Yarrow

8 Zoe Reid and Jayden Hawkins

9 Meg Hall and Morrie Coates

10 Harper Bridley and Alan Fennell

11 Tyla McNamara and Thomas Hunter

McNally House

House Captains:

Lia Albanese and Eli Moss

7 Finley Roberts and Jack Rafanelli

8 Davyn Freer and Charlie Dickeson

9 Addison Roberts and Blake Nicolson

10 Sophie Tattoli and Darcy Grieg

11 Ella Dunbar and Archer Bessen

Polding House

House Captains:

Jordan Ganley and Joseph McNamara

7 Cleo Farrugia and Jackson Raftery

8 Alyssa Ganley and Harry Promnitz

9 Amahli Farinola and Adam Wegner

10 Grace Arbon and Hamish Scott

11 Eliza Mezzino and Beau Allen

Sports Captains

Eve Clark and Sam Burgess

Our Creative Arts Captains

Aislynn Everett

Salesian House Captain

Meg Malycha



Mc Nally House Reps discuss leadership qualities at the Student Leaders' Day



Learning team skills through problem solving at the Student Leaders' Day

Around Bosco Campus



FOOD TECH > Year 11s Harrison and Caitlin with the dishes they created using high-risk foods



PHYSICS > Maarten de Vries from Nyrstar spoke to the Year 11 and Year 12 Physics students. The presentation included electrical safety training, along with pathways to apprenticeships and university.



YEAR 7 > Archie, Jonathan, Angus and Kale testing the strength of a bubble as part of the Bubbology practical. This experiment introduced the Year 7s to some scientific principles of what scientist do when conducting experiments.



YEAR 7 > Lili and Shyla boiling water as part of a science practical, helping them gain confidence with using a bunsen burner



YEAR 7 > Students learnt about the Year of the Ox during their Chinese lessons. Traditionally, at Lunar New Year, younger people are given 'Hongbao' or Red Envelopes with money inside to ensure a prosperous year ahead.

Year 10 English: A collection of short love poems (Haikus) for Valentine's Day...

*You are filled with doubt
Of the magic inside you,
But it's all I see.
I long to sit here
And watch the minutes tick by
Just thinking of you*

.....

*I've loved you for so long
You have become the
Lyrics to my favourite song
Like the sun rises
Each morning and sets each night
Family is love*

.....

Deceit

*The truth was concealed
You're a beautiful liar
Grief was love to me*

I'll love you forever

*"Forever" you said
Seems like forever to you
Lasts barely four months*

Goodbye

*I would give my life
To see you truly happy
Even without me*

Crow's feet from heaven

*Angels bear bright wings
But my angel bears a smile
That makes God jealous*

McNally Farm and Trade Skills



It's been a busy and successful start to Term 1 for our Agriculture and Trades students.



GRAPE HARVEST > Jessie enjoyed being part of the harvest team



GRAPE HARVEST > Year 10 students crushing grapes as part of the preparation of our 2021 Shiraz wine vintage.



PLANT TRIALS > Montana and Tilly planting vegetables for the Year 12s plant trials



GRAPE HARVEST > Hamish pressing out the grapes



HONEY > Matilda and Charlotte with honey from the bee hive at McNally Farm



HONEY > Year 11s collecting honey, fresh from the hive



GRAPE HARVEST > Jackson pouring the grapes into the crusher



TRADE SKILLS > Cameron and Jack fixing an automotive engine at the Trade Skills Centre

College Notices



Student Free Days at Benedict after Easter

The College is beginning a building program which will be a Year 3 and 4 classroom precinct. It is a major development and will require the movement of seven transportable classrooms.

These transportable classrooms will be moved on the 6-9 April.

Therefore, between 6-9 April the Benedict students will have student free days.

There would be support for essential workers and a program for their children if required.

More communication will follow direct to Benedict families via Operoo.

Wellbeing Initiative - Classroom Pulse 'Check In'

This term every student will participate in a simple online Classroom Pulse Check In. This Check In has been developed to ascertain how students are currently feeling about their experience in school. It is a whole of Catholic Education initiative and is tailored to allow teachers to oversee and provide immediate feedback and support. The Check In will be carried out during the school day.

As you can see below, there are a range of simple questions about your child's life at school, their identity as a person and a learner, their sense of belonging, safety, and friendships.

	Rec - Year 3	Year 4 - 12
Identity	My teacher cares for me. I enjoy school.	I currently feel I matter to my teacher. I currently feel that I am thriving at this school.
Learning	I am learning at school. I can have a say in my learning.	I am actively involved in co-constructing my learning. I feel that my learning needs are being met.
Relationships	I have friends at school. My teacher helps me when I have problems.	Currently, I feel I have positive relationships at this school. When asked, my teacher supports me in managing friendship issue.
Belonging	I feel safe at school. I feel I belong in this school.	I am feeling safe at this school. I feel that I belong in this school community.

For each statement, students will select whether they feel it applies to them "most of the time," "sometimes" or "not very often." Students in Reception - Year 3 will have emojis alongside the options to help them identify their feelings.

[Click to view a sample of the Check In.](#) If there are any significant concerns discovered we would contact our families immediately.

We are looking for LAPP Volunteers in 2021!

Would you like to volunteer your time? The LAPP Program will be commencing in Week 6. At St Mark's we value our volunteers' support! We welcome all those who are interested in supporting our students to attend an information meeting:

Monday 22 February at 2:40pm, in the Rocket Room or meet at the Benedict Office.

The LAPP Program will continue to focus on homework support and targeted tutoring (extension and support). Volunteers can assist with: reading, writing, mathematics, spelling, sight words, comprehension of texts, fine motor skills, JP Phonics/Sounds, long projects and times tables.

The program is designed for those children who require extra 1:1 support in the area of homework, basic literacy and numeracy skills and confidence boosting. Please note: teachers will not set additional work other than the homework expectations of the week.

Louise Richards, Inclusive Education Teacher

Parents and Friends Updates

P+F AGM

The P+F Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 1 March at 7pm in the Bosco Conference Room (behind the Main Administration and to the right). **All welcome- the P+F are always looking for new members!**

Bosco Sports Day

The P+F will be providing a sausage sizzle along with cakes, chips, soft drinks and Powerade for sale at the Bosco Sports Day. Get along and support their stall!

Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser

Support our P+F by purchasing hot cross buns through our fundraiser! Hot Cross Buns (from Bakers Delight) are available for pre-order. Forms have been distributed to all Benedict students and Bosco students can collect from the Student Office.

Kate McBride, P+F President

Port Football and Community Sporting Club

Open daily from 9.00am



Online Canteen Orders for Benedict and Bosco:

www.flexischools.com.au



CAMPUS TOURS

AT ST MARK'S COLLEGE, PORT PIRIE

Bosco Campus | Year 7 - 12

Monday 1 March 2021,
9.30 - 10.30am OR 5.00 - 6.00pm

Benedict Campus | Reception - Year 6

Tuesday 2 March 2021,
9.30 - 10.30am OR 5.00 - 6.00pm

If our tour dates don't suit you, please contact the College on 8633 8800 to arrange an individual tour.

