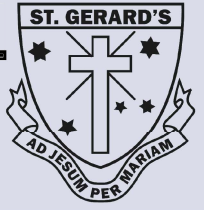


ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 1 - WEEK 6

08 March, 2024



This week's Gospel encourages us to follow Jesus' example: taking action when we witness wrongdoing instead of staying silent.

Our 'Give Me 5' focus reminds us to Be Respectful in the Playground.

Heavenly Father,

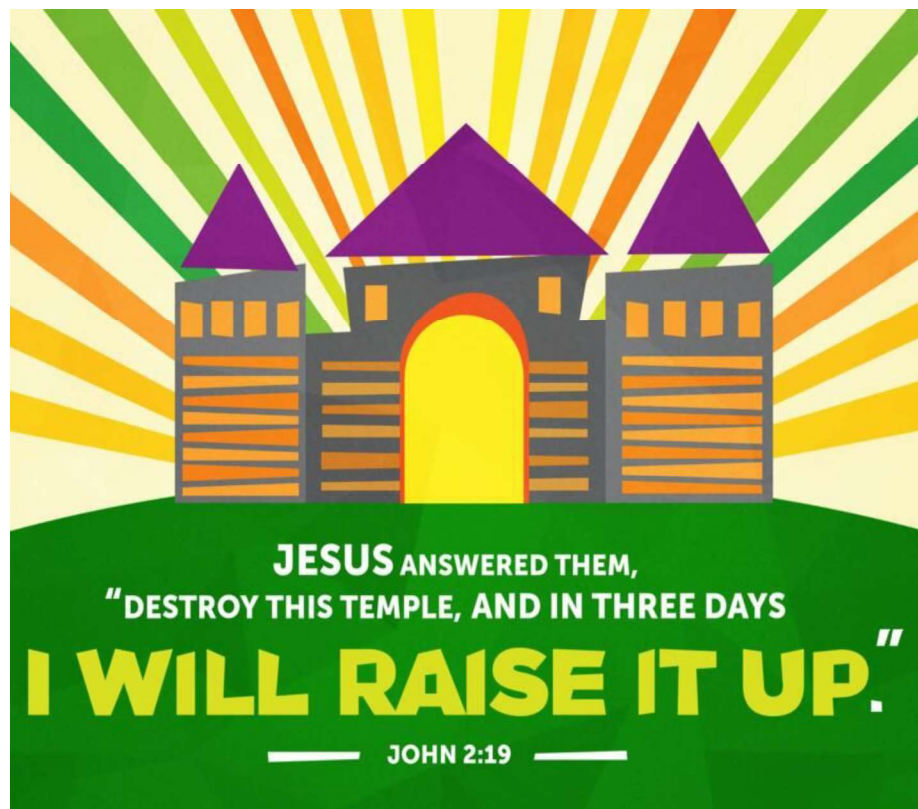
As we reflect on last Sunday's Gospel of John (2:13-22), where Jesus cleanses the temple, we seek your guidance in promoting respect within our St Gerard's community.

Grant us the wisdom to exemplify the "Give Me 5" value of respect, especially in the playground. May our interactions be marked by kindness, attentiveness, and a celebration of our diverse community.

Bless our students, teachers, and staff with the grace to uphold respect in all they do, creating a playground filled with understanding, joy, and unity.

In your name, we pray.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

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principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



<https://www.facebook.com/stgerardsps>

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

It is amazing to think that we have come to the end of Week 6 of the Term. There have certainly been a lot of events and learnings in the first 6 weeks and there is still more to come in the next 3!

We had the second of our Open Days for Term 1 on Wednesday which saw a large number of prospective families see all that we offer here at St Gerard's. We have our last Term 1 Open Day planned for next Thursday 14 March. If you know families who will be looking for a school in 2025, we would appreciate you letting them know.

Our after school AUSKICK program started this week on Wednesday. It was wonderful to see our children so enthusiastic and engaged in the activities and will hopefully lead to our children continuing with AUSKICK at a local football club. It was also great to see families come along and support the program.

On Thursday our Foundation and Year 5/6 classes attended the 9.15am parish mass which is an important aspect of their faith development as they see themselves as part of and get to celebrate with the parish community.

Also on Thursday, our Year 3 children had their First Reconciliation Reflection Day. This is part of the final stages of their preparation and I would like to thank Ms Sonno and Mrs Govic for leading and conducting the day. The children will celebrate their First Reconciliation on Thursday 14 March. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they embark on this significant step in their faith journey.

Today (Friday) our Year 3 - 6 classes were involved in the third session of a 4 week cricket program. We have seen our children develop their skills and knowledge of this wonderful team game which may see them continue to play in the future.

We are always looking for ways to have families involved in the learning opportunities we provide for our children. If there are any adults that would like to help us either in the classroom, for specific events (such as excursions or cooking) or whole school activities, you are always most welcome. Please note that as part of our Child Safety Policies and Procedures all helpers require a Working With Children Check and need to have come to a Volunteer Induction Session. Please contact me via principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au, Seesaw or in person so we can arrange a time.

A further reminder to families that arrive before 3.25pm to park in the carpark. Joining the drop off/ pick up line, particularly near the pedestrian crossing, creates a backlog of cars and prevents families from parking in the car park, which causes issues. Another aspect of this is to be mindful of our procedures at the end of the school day. There are designated pick up areas for our students and pedestrian pathways. It can be busy at the end of the day, especially when it is cold and raining, however we need families walking home or to their cars to use the pedestrian pathways. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Finally, enjoy the long weekend as Monday is the Labour Day Public Holiday, so we will see you all on Tuesday.

Thank you for your continued support and God bless.

Paul Cowan
PRINCIPAL

Religious Education

Level Mass:

3/4 Level:

14th March, 9:15am

Reconciliation:

Year 5/6O:

Thursday, 14th March at 10:15

Year 4:

Thursday, 21st March at 10:15

Sacrament Dates, 2024

First Reconciliation: (Grade 3)

First Reconciliation:

Thursday 14th March, 6:30

First Communion: (Grade 4)

First Communion Family Workshop:

Thursday 18th April, 6:30pm

First Communion:

Sunday 2nd June, 10:30am

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation Family Workshop Night:

Thursday 18th April, 7:30pm

Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland Visits Yr 6:

Friday 31st May, 9:30am

Confirmation:

Saturday 1st June, 5:30pm

Other Important Dates for Religion:

15th March:

Delegation of Yr 6 leaders attend St. Patrick's Day Mass at Cathedral

25th March onwards:

The Passion Prayer Spaces for student participation

28th March:

Holy Thursday

29th March:

Good Friday Day of Fast and Abstinence

30th March:

Holy Saturday

31st March:

Easter Sunday

St Patrick's Day

Next week, we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, our patron saint of Melbourne. On Friday 15th March, a delegation of Year 6 leaders will represent our school at a Special Mass dedicated to St. Patrick's Day.

The Mass will be held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in East Melbourne. Following Mass, our students will be treated to a concert, where they'll have the opportunity to enjoy performances by talented students from schools across the Melbourne Diocese.



Religious Education

Project Compassion

Caritas Australia's annual Lenten campaign started on Ash Wednesday. A Project Compassion Box was handed out to every class, each assigned a specific fundraising target for the Lenten season.

The class that raises the most will enjoy a well-deserved free dress day as a reward! Stay informed about each class's progress in fundraising efforts through regular updates provided by the Social Justice Leadership Team during school assemblies.

Altar Servers

Altar service practice will take place every Thursday evening at 5:30 pm in St. Gerard's Church. To be eligible for service, individuals must have completed their First Communion. This provides a wonderful opportunity for young members of the Church to participate in the liturgy and take on the responsibilities associated with altar service. For any inquiries regarding altar service practice or eligibility, please feel free to contact the parish office at 97924422.

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home: A Week of Family Spiritual Connection

We extend an invitation to families to bring the Our Lady statue into their homes for a week, enhancing their family prayer experience. A brochure containing instructions for engaging in rosary prayer, along with sets of rosary beads, will be provided. If you are interested in taking the Our Lady statue home, please let Mrs. Stack know.



Religious Education

Lunchtime Rosary

The Legion of Mary Group is collaborating with the school to lead the praying of the Rosary during lunch breaks. These sessions will be available during the first lunch on a Wednesday in weeks 4 and 8 in each term.

The Passion Prayer Spaces

We're pleased to invite families to our Prayer Spaces starting March 25th. Each class will create a unique prayerful experience reflecting on The Passion through assigned Stations of the Cross.

Details:

- When: March 25th onwards
- Where: PAC Prayer Spaces

Come join us for a reflective journey and we look forward to sharing this meaningful time with you! More details to follow.

Easter Prayer Spaces

Stay tuned for more information on the specific date and location of our Easter Prayer Spaces.



Third Week of Lent

(Week beginning Monday 4 March)



Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Leaia lives with her five children, husband, brother and sister-in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water caused Leaia a lot of worry.

Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they had to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges. When their water ran out, Leaia had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street.

With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at Leaia's home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.

"We are very thankful and grateful for the water tank. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier," Leaia said.

Watch [Leaia's Story](#)

Please donate to Project Compassion.

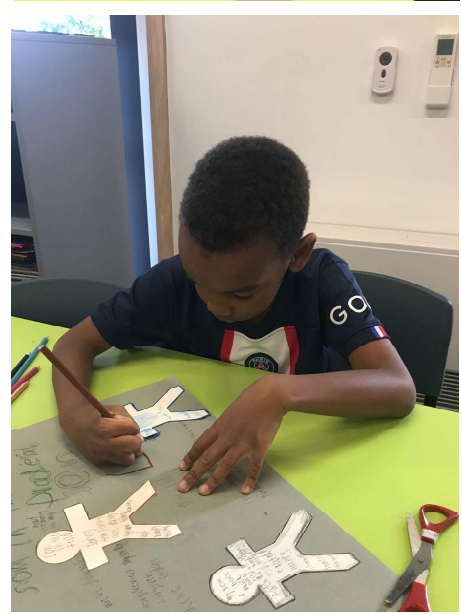
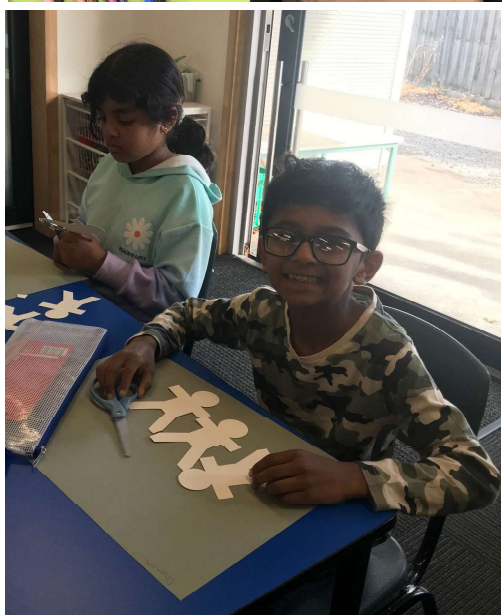
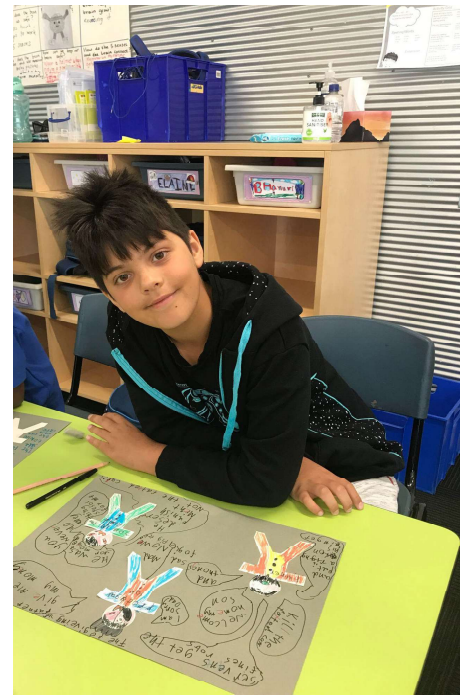
Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *for all future generations*.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes, online by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Laura Womersley/Caritas Australia



Reconciliation Reflection 2024



WELLBEING



DID YOU KNOW?

Facts from the Be You website

How do decision-making skills develop?

Children and young people's decision-making is strongly influenced by the expectations and values they learn from those around them.

- This occurs when they:
 - · observe others (particularly those close to them)
 - · hear about and discuss values
 - · have opportunities to make choices and experience their consequences.

Young children regularly choose how they'll behave, which toys or games they'd like to play with, which books they would like to read, or which television shows they want to watch. As they get older, children make bigger decisions that often involve their family, friends and schoolwork. The kinds of choices children and young people make affect their wellbeing, relationships and success.

Young children have some skills for making decisions, but they don't yet have the experience to understand complex adult situations. As their brain grows, a child is more able to hold things in their mind and remember what they've learned. They also improve the way they manage their thinking and feelings, control impulsive behaviour, think about time and plan ahead, and evaluate long-term versus short-term goals. All these skills help children become better at taking action and keeping things on track.

WELLBEING



Student Representative Council

SRC

The Student Representative Council (SRC) is made up of a group of students who want to help other students by presenting ideas which are of benefit to all students. The SRC also informs its peers of any important information which affects the student body.

On Thursday 7th March the SRC reps of St Gerard's had the opportunity to voice their opinions on what Harmony Day could look like.

A big thank you to all of the SRC Reps for your hard work and commitment!



On **Friday 22nd March**, St Gerard's will be celebrating **Harmony Day**. This is the day we celebrate all the cultural diversity in our school. Students are encouraged to **pack a lunch and wear clothing related to their cultural background or orange clothing**.

If you have any ideas or would like to be involved in Harmony Day please discuss this with your class teacher or Mrs Fernandez.

Please note the following changes in relation to uniform purchases for St Gerard's Primary School:

Uniforms can now be purchased in the following ways:

Option 1 - Online Order

Access to our Online Ordering System

1. www.aplusschoolwear.com.au
2. Go to **SHOP ONLINE NOW** (red box)
3. Select your school
4. Uniform listing with images will appear.

Select items you are wishing to purchase:

Style
Size
Colour
Quantity
Add items to bag

5. Once all items are added to bag, proceed to checkout.
6. Select delivery options
 - a. Pick up from school (free) in comments section please enter your child's name and class
 - b. Pick up from A Plus Schoolwear (free)
 - c. Postal address (delivery charges will apply)
7. Either checkout as guest, returning customer or create a new account.

Orders placed by Sunday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday

Option 2 - Fill out the order form and leave it at the school office.

Orders received by Friday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday

RETURNS

Can be given to the school office and will be either exchanged or refunded by A Plus School wear.

Should you have any queries regarding the above, please contact A Plus Schoolwear

9354 8345 or email angie@agsprints.com.au

IMPORTANT DATES / NOTES

March

- 11th Labour Day Public Holiday - No School
- 13th - 25th NAPLAN Testing (Years 3 and 5)
- 13th Reading before school in the library from 8:30am
- 13th AUSKICK (AFL) Week 3, 3:30pm - 4:30 pm
- 14th Year 3/4 Level Mass in the Church at 9.15am
- 14th Year 5/6O Reconciliation at school
- 14th Sacrament of First Reconciliation at 6.30pm
- 19th Rosary in the Church at 11.05am
- 20th Reading before school in the library from 8:30am
- 20th AUSKICK (AFL) Week 4, 3:30pm - 4:30 pm
- 22nd National Ride to School Day
- 25th Holy Week/Easter Presentations start
- 27th Reading before school in the library from 8:30am
- SUBWAY
- 28th Holy Week/Easter Presentations conclude
- 28th End of Term 1 school finishes at 3.30pm

SAVE

the

DATE

2024

LITERACY WORKSHOP

WHEN:

16TH MAY

FROM 6.00 PM TO 7.00 PM



Reading before School

Every Wednesday from 8:30am



IMPORTANT DATES / NOTES

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

Just a reminder to parents to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications please supply ventolin, spacer and medications on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labelled bags in the school office.

Pick-up From After-School

Parents are asked to please be prompt when picking up your child/ren after-school. If a ride is not here when school concludes, the student may be sent to aftercare instead of the office. Please remember school aftercare does have a cost involved and time will begin accruing at the end of the school day. If a student's ride has run into an unexpected delay, **please call the main office to let them know.**

St Gerard's YLVOSHC

Program Information

Service Phone Number: 0402 192 685



OPERATING TIMES

Before School Care
Hours:
6:45am - 8:45am

After School Care
Hours:
3:30pm - 6:30pm

Pupil Free Days:
7:00am - 6:00pm

Vacation Care:
7:00am - 6:00pm


Prices

Before School Care
(Permanent) \$15.00
(Casual) \$20.00
After Max CCS: \$2.89

After School Care
(Permanent) \$20.00
(Casual) \$25.00
After Max CCS: \$3.16

Pupil Free Day and Vacation Care
(Permanent) \$65.00
(Casual): \$72.50
After Max CCS: \$6.50

* MAX CCS REBATE FIGURES ARE PROVIDED AS APPROXIMATES AND MAY VARY



YLV.COM.AU

Important Information



Happy Birthday to all who have celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays, this week.

- HAILEY Yr 4
- TIANNA Yr 1



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Keysborough's Big Picnic-Greater Dandenong event
- Noble Park Community Fun Day
- Noble Park Junior Football Club (AFL)
- Ukraine Support Fund
- AFL Auskick
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer



Chicken Eggs For Sale

- St Gerard's would like to offer families the opportunity to purchase delicious organic eggs laid by our resident flock of chickens.
- You can purchase these eggs from the school office at a cost of **\$7** per dozen.
- All proceeds from the sale of the eggs will go towards purchasing food for our feathered friends.
- Please message [Nicole Fernandez](#) via Seesaw if you would like to purchase some eggs.