



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools

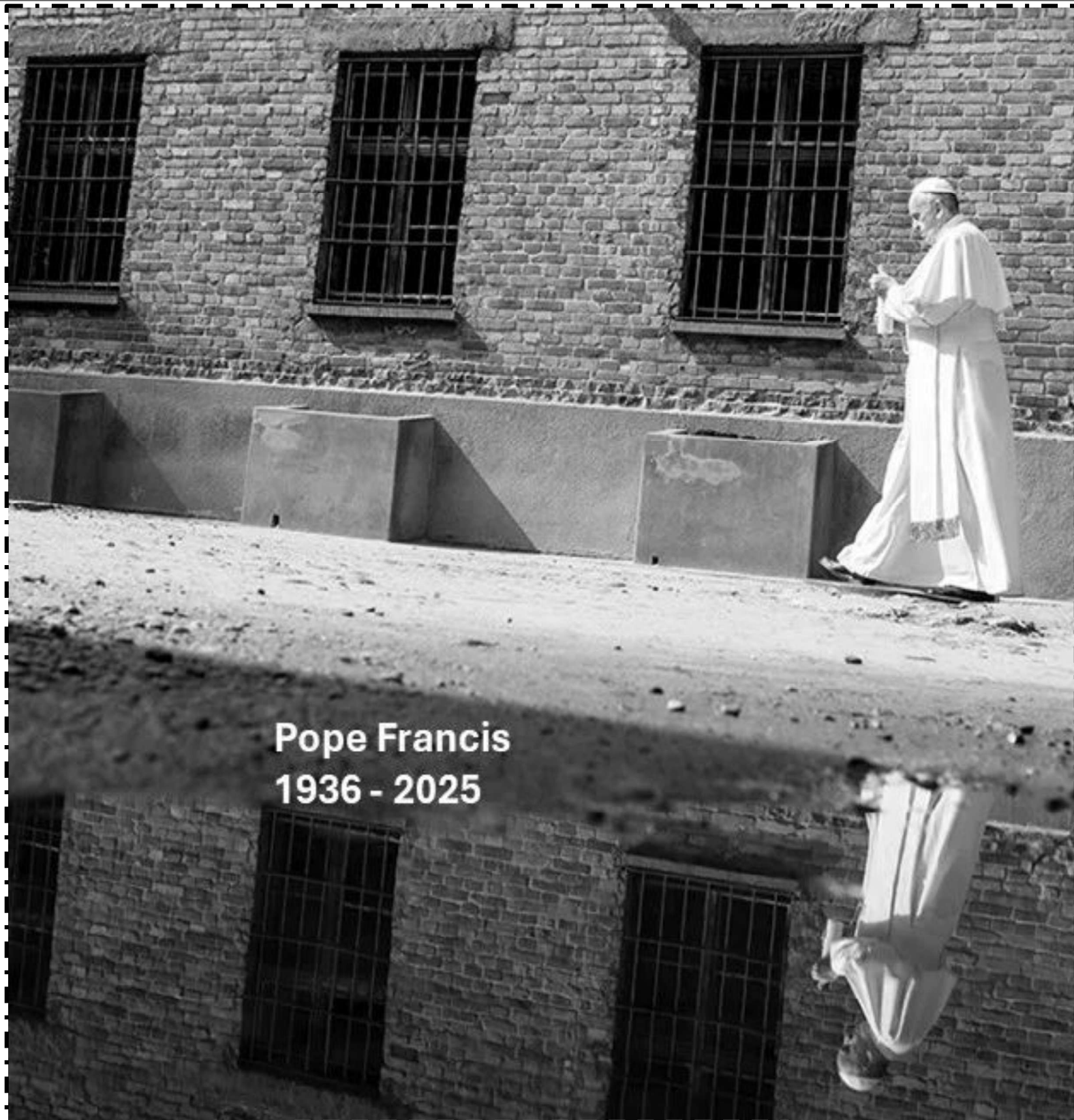


ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Week 1

24 April 2025



Pope Francis  
1936 - 2025



@st.gerards3175

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan  
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71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



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

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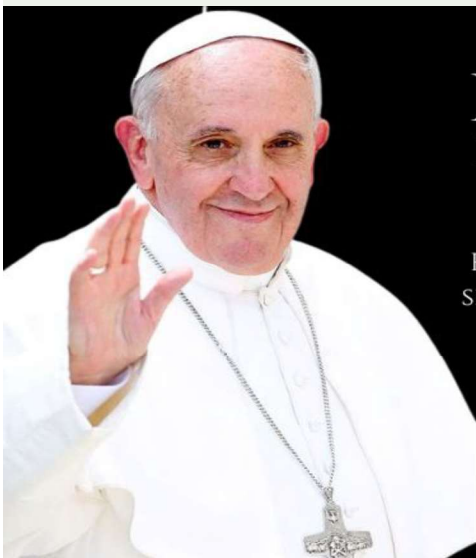
*Lest we forget.  
ANZAC Day artwork  
by S/6T*

*God of peace and wisdom,*

*We thank You for the brave men and women who have given so much in service of others. May their courage and sacrifice never be forgotten, and may we always remember them with deep gratitude and love.*

*We also give thanks for Pope Francis, whom You chose to lead Your Church with humility, love, and wisdom. Thank You for his faithful service as priest, bishop, and pope, a true servant of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Having served Your Church throughout his life, we pray that he may now share fully in the Easter mystery, the resurrection of Christ and the joy of eternal life in heaven.*

*Help us to be people of peace, walking in the footsteps of Jesus, who brings hope and healing to the world. May we live with courage, compassion, and a deep sense of gratitude for those who have gone before us.*



## POPE FRANCIS

1936-2025

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO HIM, O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HIM. MAY HIS SOUL AND ALL THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN



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# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

Welcome to Term 2!

I hope that you all had a Happy and Holy Easter and a restful holiday.

It was great to be able to welcome everyone back for the start of what promises to be a **term full of positive learning opportunities for all our students.**

Despite this being a short week, there has been a definite theme of **'serving others'**. With the Resurrection of our Lord being celebrated last Sunday, the passing of Pope Francis on Monday and ANZAC Day tomorrow we have been presented with 3 very fine examples.

This year we find ourselves in the unusual situation of returning to school just after Easter Sunday, when usually it has been at the start or middle of the holidays. It does provide us with the opportunity to celebrate this foundational aspect of our faith more as a school community. Our children visited the **Resurrection section of our Passion Gallery Walk** throughout the week and I would once again like to acknowledge and thank our children for their involvement and contribution to this special way of engaging with the events of Holy Week.

Pope Francis spent his life in the service of others and in welcoming the often forgotten and marginalised in our world. The quote from Cardinal Kevin Farrell when announcing the passing of Pope Francis linked beautifully with the message of Easter, **'... the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the home of the Father.'** His impact not only on Our Church but on the world is obvious with the global outpouring of emotion and recognition.

Today (Thursday) we had an **ANZAC Day ceremony to remember, acknowledge and thank** all those people who have experienced war and those that made the ultimate sacrifice. The actions of so many people allow us to enjoy the life we have here in Australia. **'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for another'** John 15:13. **Lest we forget.**

**Our school will be represented by 2 of our Student Leaders who will attend the Dandenong ANZAC Day ceremony tomorrow (Friday).** I would like to thank these 2 leaders in advance for giving up their time and laying a wreath on behalf of our school community. Families are more than welcome to come and join us at 10.45 am at the Pillars of Freedom (Clow Street, Dandenong, opposite the Dandenong Market).

Lastly, **a reminder that we have a School Closure Day next Monday 28 April.**

We will therefore see everyone back at school next Tuesday.

God bless.

Paul COWAN

PRINCIPAL

# Religious News

## Sacrament Dates. 2025

### **First Communion: (Grade 4)**

Thursday, 15th May First Communion Family Workshop **6:30pm**

Thursday, 19th June First Communion Reflection Day

Sunday, 22nd June First Communion, 10:30am 2025

Friday, 27th June First Communion Assembly in the PAC

### **Confirmation: (Grade 6)**

Thursday, 15th May Confirmation Family Workshop **7:30pm**

Tuesday, 24th June Confirmation Reflection Day (Yr 6 wear casual)

Thursday 26 June Bishop Tony Ireland visiting Year 6 students for Confirmation at 10.00am (confirmed)  
11:50 practice in the Church with Catechetics and School Candidates

Saturday, 28th June Confirmation 5:30pm (Vigil)

Friday, 4th July 1:15pm Confirmation and end of Term Assembly in the PAC

### Whole School Masses:

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June                      The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15

### Level Mass:

1/2 Level:                              29th May, 9:15am

Prep/5/6 Level:                      5th June, 9:15am

3/4 Level:                              12th June, 9:15am

### Reconciliation:

Years 5 & 6:                              Wednesday 25th June, 10:00am

Years 3 & 4:                              Thursday 19th June, 10:00am

### Other Important Dates:

24th April, 2:45pm	Pope Francis & ANZAC Day Commemoration:
Week One	The Easter Gallery Walk
9th May, 2pm	Mother's Day Activities
26th May, 2:50pm	Sorry Day Assembly
6th June	Mary Glowrey Faith Formation Day for Staff, School Closure
15th to 21st June	Refugee Week
16th June, 2:50	Refugee Week Assembly

### **Altar Servers**

Altar service practice will resume on Thursday, February 13th, and 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.





# Religious News



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

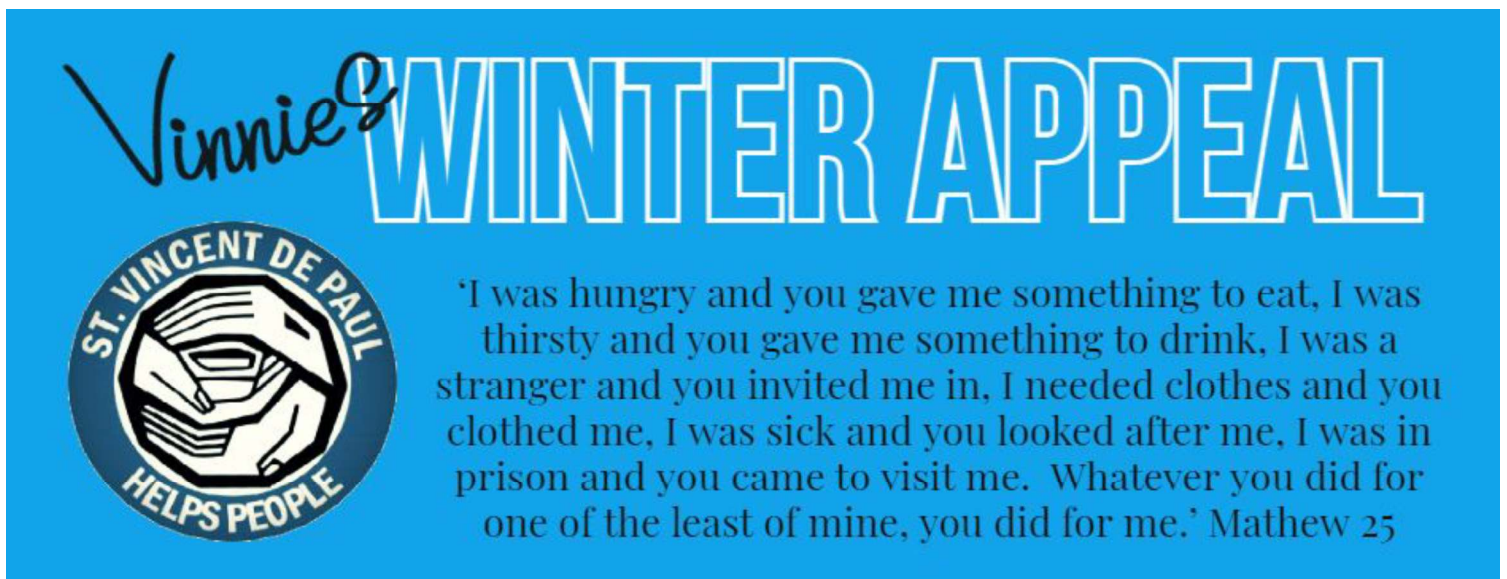
Families are welcome to take home the Our Lady statue for a week to support and enrich prayer time at home. It comes with a brochure on how to pray the rosary and some rosary beads. If families would like to take the statue home, please let Mrs Stack know.

## **Lunchtime Rosary**

The Legion of Mary Group is working with the school to lead the Rosary during lunch breaks. These Rosary sessions will take place during the first lunch break on Tuesdays in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term.

## **St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal:**

We're aiming to fill our food cart to the brim once again for the St. Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal! Starting in Week Two, our Social Justice and Spirituality Leaders will be collecting food donations right up until the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The class that brings in the most items will be rewarded with a casual dress day.



**Vinnie's WINTER APPEAL**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HELPS PEOPLE**

**'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Whatever you did for one of the least of mine, you did for me.' Mathew 25**

# Reading Before School

ST GERARD'S  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



## READING BEFORE SCHOOL

## EVERY WEDNESDAY 8:30 AM

Join Mrs O'Brien in the  
library for some quiet  
reading time with a good  
book and receive a  
Reading Before School  
raffle ticket.





# Reading Before School





# Reading Before School





# Literacy



## SAVE THE DATE

### LITERACY WORKSHOP - 2025


Where: St Gerard's Primary School, Dandenong nth

When: 22nd May. 2025

Time: From 6.00pm to 7.15pm

**The class with the highest  
attendance wins a Free Dress  
Day!!!**

Come listen to the children in  
action, explain their learning!



# EARTH DAY



Earth Day | 22 April 2025

Our Foundation and Year 1/2 students celebrated Earth Day by making special bracelets to show their commitment to protecting our planet. Each bead represents something important in nature, like water, air, sunshine, and animals!

Afterwards, we put our Earth-friendly actions into practice by heading outside to pick up rubbish and help keep our environment clean. Great job, eco-heroes! ♡♻️





# Important Dates / Info

## April

- **25th ANZAC Day public holiday**
- **28th School Closure Day - Time in Lieu acquittal**
- 30th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library

## May

- 2nd Year 5/6 Gala Day
- 7th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 9th Mother's Day Activities
- 13th Open Day
- 14th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 15th Ride to School Day
- 15th Rosary with The Legion of Mary
- 15th First Communion Family Workshop 6:30pm
- 15th Confirmation Family Workshop 7:30pm
- Whole School Literacy Evening 6-7pm
- 21st 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 21st Open Day
- 22nd SUBWAY Lunch
- 26th National Sorry Day
- 28th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 29th Open Day
- 30th Italian Day

## June

- 4th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- **6th School Closure Day - Staff Professional Learning - Religious Education**
- 8th Pentecost Sunday
- **9th King's Birthday Public Holiday**
- 11th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 12th Rosary with The Legion of Mary
- 12th Ride to School Day
- 18th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 19th First Communion Reflection Day
- 22nd First Communion at 10:30am (Feast of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ)
- 24th Confirmation Reflection Day
- 25th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 26th Bishop Tony Ireland visiting Year 6 students for Confirmation
- 28th Sacrament of Confirmation 5:30pm

## July

- 2nd 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 3rd Subway Lunch
- **4th End of Term 2 - School finishes at 3.30pm**

# Important Notes

## Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

This is a friendly reminder to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications, please ensure that Ventolin, a spacer, and any necessary medications are supplied on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labeled bags in the school office for safekeeping.

## 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.



## NORTH DANDNENONG MASALA JFC

FRIDAY 14TH MARCH, 5:00PM - 6:00PM  
LOIS TWOHIG RESERVE, DANDENONG NORTH  
AUSKICK - UNDER 13S

BOYS & GIRLS  
FREE  
REGISTER NOW VIA  
QR CODE!



Experience the  
*Mazenod* advantage.

[mazenod.vic.edu.au](https://mazenod.vic.edu.au)



Bookings essential

2025 Open Day: Wednesday 5th March  
2025 Tours: 1st May / 24th Jul / 5th Aug / 16th Oct

Year 7/2027 Applications Close Friday 15th August 2025



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](http://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.**

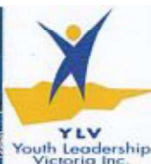
**Orders received by Friday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday**

**RETURNS**

Can be given to the school office **AFTER** contacting AGS 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

0354 9345 or email [info@agsprints.com.au](mailto:info@agsprints.com.au)



## OSHC IMPORTANT UPDATE

### 📢 Important Fee Update – Effective March 24, 2025 📢

Dear Parents & Guardians,  
To continue providing high-quality care and professional staff, Youth Leadership Victoria will be adjusting OSHC fees.

#### New Fees:

- ✅ Before School Care: Casual \$25 | Permanent \$20
- ✅ After School Care: Casual \$30 | Permanent \$25
- ✅ Vacation Care/Pupil Free Day: \$72.50

We appreciate your support and understanding.

For any questions, please contact **Rita Strachan** 0412 958 601.

Thank you for being part of our OSHC community! 🎉



# Notice Board



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

- Anjanna Yr 6
- Dhanvin Yr 4
- Ethan S Yr 6
- Nina Foundation
- Leo Yr 3
- Anjali Yr 5
- Thomas Yr 3
- Matej Yr 5
- Sofiya Yr 6
- Ransh Foundation



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Ukraine Support Fund
- North Dandenong MASALA Junior Football club (AFL)
- Mazenod College Open Day & School Tours Info
- Goodstart Early Learning - Princes Highway



## 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 **\$8** 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.