



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

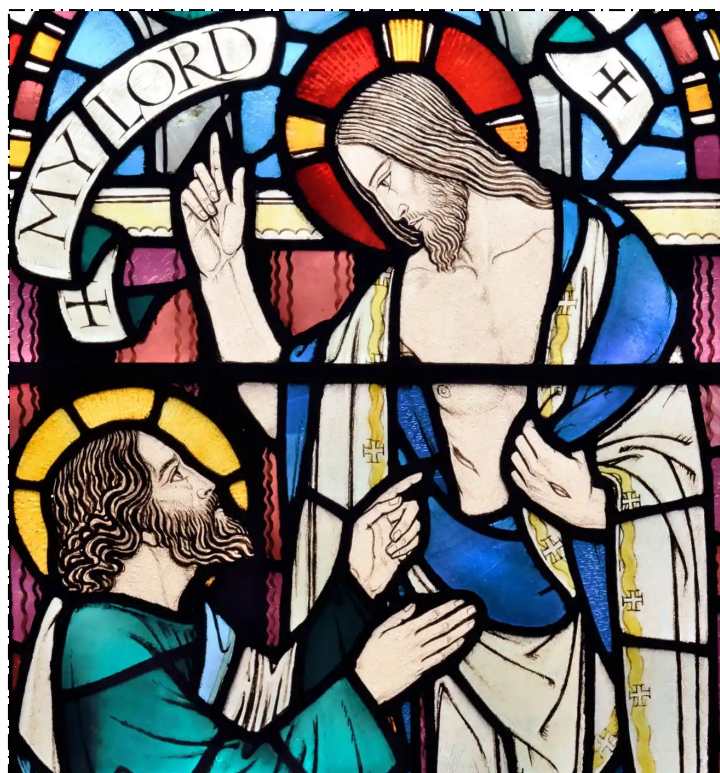
NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Week 2

02 May 2025



Respectful hearts, believing in one another and growing together in peace
This week's 'Give Me 5' focus is: Be Respectful in the Learning Spaces



Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!

Jesus,

You didn't shame Thomas for his doubt,
You met him with peace and understanding.

Teach us to be respectful like You,
especially when others think or feel differently.

Help us to listen, to speak kindly,
and to create a classroom where everyone feels safe
to ask questions.

May our respect lead others closer to You.

Amen.



@st.gerards3175

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan
principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

As we come to the end of the second week of this term it is always inspiring how quickly our children settle back into the routine of school and the enthusiasm that they bring to their learning and our school in general.

With the recent passing of **Pope Francis**, classes had the opportunity to spend time in a dedicated space in the PAC for **prayer and reflection on the impact he made** not only to our Church but the wider world. With the **Papal Conclave due to start next Wednesday**, we pray for inspiration, discernment and service as they elect our new Pope.

Our **Before School Reading** continues to be a popular way to start the day. The Library is open from **8.30am every Wednesday** and is a warm and cosy place as the weather starts to get colder. Families are always welcome to come and join us.

Today (**Friday**) our **Year 5/6 children** participated in their first **Gala Day** of the year which saw them compete in **Basketball** and **Netball** events against local schools. It was wonderful to see our children so engaged and enthusiastic and as always they represented our school positively. I would like to thank Mrs Te, Mrs Munro, Ms Boyle, Miss Ryan and Mrs Zelica for encouraging and supporting our children at these events.

Information was sent out this week to all our **Mother's and those women who play a mother role** in the lives of our children to attend our Mother's Day celebration next Friday **9 May from 2.00pm - 3.15pm in the PAC**. **This included an invitation to email a photo of our mothers to Mrs Stack** dstack@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

This promises to be a wonderful celebration which I hope to see you at.

Lastly, a reminder to those families who have children with a **Medical Management Plan** that if there are changes to any aspect of the plan you need to **contact the School Office**. **It is vital that the information we have here at school is current and accurate and that the plan is not out of date.**

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 27th 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 3 & 4: Thursday 19th June, 10:00am

Years 5 & 6: Wednesday 25th 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



'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



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!



Reading Challenge

Victorian Premiers Reading Challenge

Students have been sent home with their login and passwords for the Victorian Premiers Reading Challenge.

Please follow the steps below:

1. Visit <https://vprc.eduweb.vic.gov.au/home>
2. Select student
3. Then select VPRC login see below

4. Finally type in the username and passcode.

Please record the names of the books your child/ren are reading.

Happy Reading Children!!!



School coordinator or student

Sign In

Home based readers and early childhood participants

Register For the Challenge

Challenge Booklist

Search Booklist

Wellbeing



What is resilience?

Resilience enables people to shift back along the [mental health continuum](#) towards good mental health. It's not static but is something that can change over time due to experiences and circumstance.

Resilience is particularly important for children and young people

A child or young person's ability to be resilient can depend upon many things, particularly their relative balance of risk and protective factors. Depending upon their situation, a child or young person's resilience may vary. Importantly, specific situations or events that one child or young person may find challenging, another may not.

The transition from being a child to an adolescent to a young adult occurs over a relatively short period of time. Rapid changes in physical, psychological and social development can present numerous challenges. Children and young people who are more resilient are better able to stay on track with the biological, psychological and social demands of growing up and moving through early childhood into adolescence and beyond.

Being resilient is associated with better academic performance and school behaviour and, over the longer term, fewer mental health issues and greater life opportunities (including employment and relationships). Individual resilience (as well as family and community resilience) is something that can be fostered and developed over time.

From the Be You website



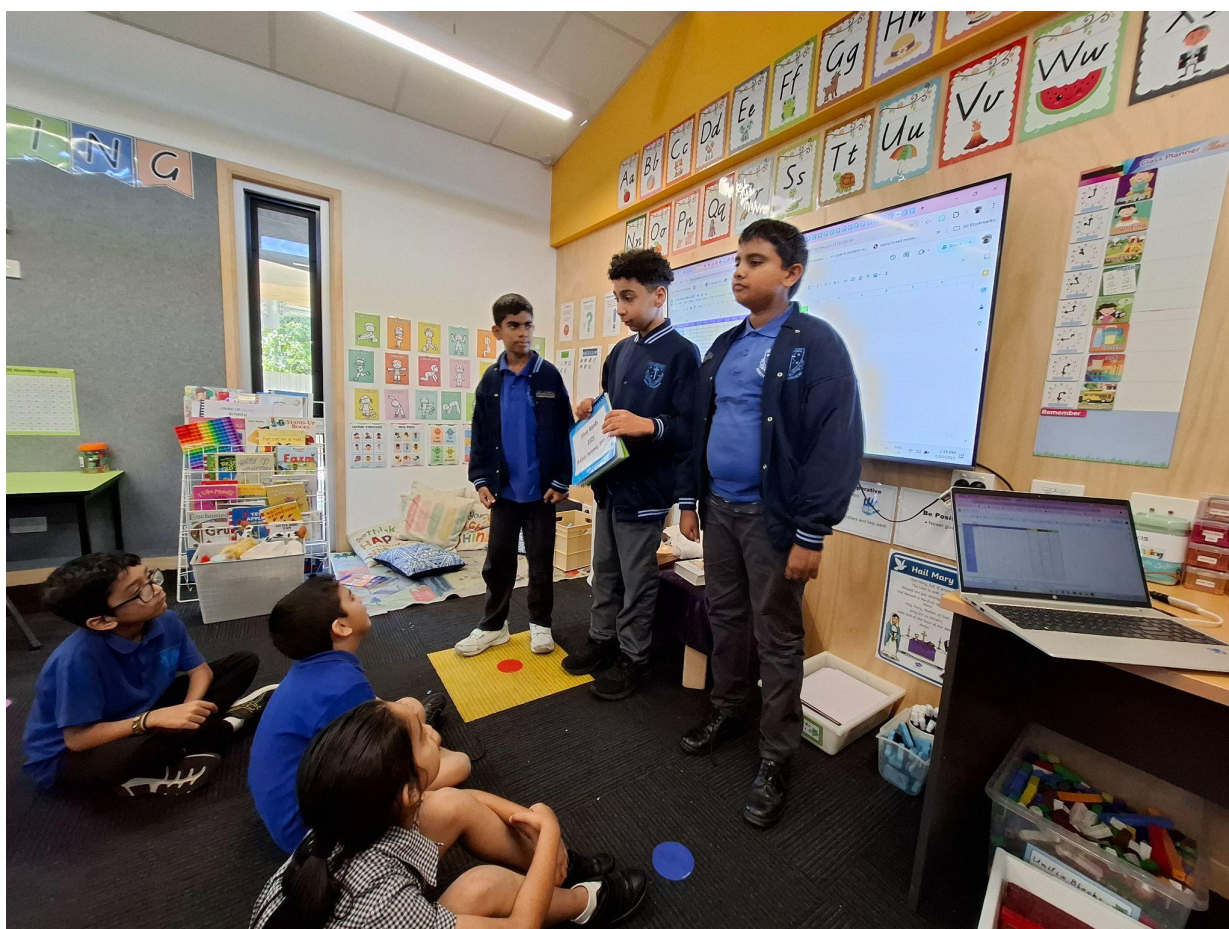
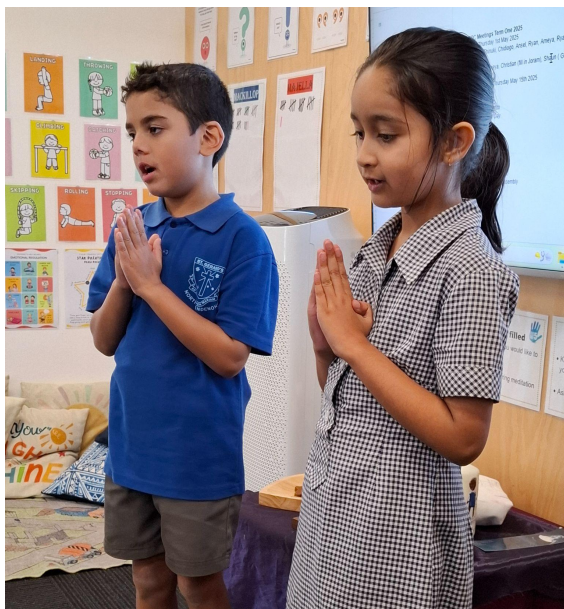
Give Me 5 Focus

Next week, our *Give Me 5* focus will be on *being cooperative in the playground*. Students will learn and practice important behaviours such as following directions, moving safely, playing fairly, accepting rules, taking turns, and sharing and using equipment responsibly. When students are seen demonstrating these positive behaviours, they will be rewarded with a silver band in recognition of their efforts. Let's work together to make our playground a safe, fun, and respectful space for everyone!

Wellbeing

SRC Meeting Update – Term Two

This week, we held our first SRC meeting for Term Two. Our SRC leaders came together to discuss exciting upcoming events at St Gerard's. A special thank you to our Wellbeing Leaders—Elijah, Julian, and Jerome—who explained the Silver Band system to all SRC members. They shared how students can earn silver bands by showing positive behaviours in the playground and outlined the rewards students can work towards as they collect them. SRC leaders will now take this information back to their classes and gather student voice on the types of rewards they would like to see. Thank you to all our SRC and Wellbeing Leaders for their efforts in strengthening student voice and helping make St Gerard's an even better place to learn and grow!





This term, **we are focusing on DIET.**

With so many cultures in the school, we would like to share recipes from different cultures that feature **a vegetable**, **fruit**, or **legume / lentil**.

The focus is on fruit and vegetables because many children don't eat enough fruit and vegetables.



You will need to write how the fruit / vegetable / legume is said in your language and in English AND provide a recipe.

Please send the name of the food in English and your cultural language as well as the recipe to me, Mary-Jane Lewis:

mlewis@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

E.g

In Italian, beans are called **fagioli**

Here is an Italian recipe using **fagioli**.

In _____, _____ is / are called _____.

Here is a _____ recipe using _____

Pasta e fagioli from: Healthy Chef



INGREDIENTS

3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil + extra to serve
1 onion, diced
1 carrot, finely diced
1 stick celery, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, sliced
1 potato, peeled and diced
500 ml hot water from the kettle
250 ml tomato passata
2 generous tablespoons tomato paste
2 x 400 g tin cannellini beans, drained
120 g gluten free short pasta
sea salt and white pepper, to taste

GARNISHES

grated Parmesan, olive oil, chopped parsley

METHOD

FRY the onion, carrot, celery and garlic with the olive oil for 5 minutes until softened.
ADD the water, passata, tomato paste, potato and beans then bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer.
SIMMER for 20 minutes until the potato is tender, adding a touch more water if needed.
COOK the pasta until al dente in plenty of salted boiling water, drain then fold into your soup. It should be thick and glorious.
SEASON your pasta e fagioli with sea salt, white pepper and fresh parsley.
SERVE the soup in bowls, drizzled with olive oil and a sprinkle of Parmesan cheese.

Important Dates / Info

May

- 7th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 9th Mother's Day Celebration 2:00pm - 3:15pm
- 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

Book a tour →



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
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 Schoolwear.

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

0354 8345 or email 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.

- Prophet Yr 4
- Enric Foundation
- Evolet Yr 4
- Rex Yr 3

SUBWAY®
22 May 2025



- *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.