



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

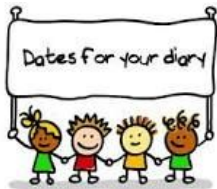


Term 1, Week 8

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

20 March 2020



Thursday, 26 March

- 'Two Bay' Faith Based inquiry EXPO - parents to view on Seesaw.

Friday, 27 March

- Last Day of Term - 3:30 finish
- Farewell Assembly to Fr Denton - 2:45 pm

Thursday, 9 April

Holy Thursday

Friday, 10 April

Good Friday of Fast and Abstinence

Saturday, 11 April

Holy Saturday

Sunday, 12 April

Easter Sunday

Last Day of Term 1
Friday, 27 March
- 3:30 pm

First Day of Term 2
Tuesday, 14 April

School Prayer

God, our Father, as members of the Parish Community of St Gerard's we praise you for your love.

May we grow stronger in faith and hope, and may our love for each other, become deeper in our daily lives.

Grant this through your Son, and our brother, Jesus Christ,

AMEN



During the 40 days of lent, while making our preparations for Easter, we can do something to better ourselves and the world around us.

During this season of lent, Colleen Jolly, staff member at St Gerard's Primary School used produce grown in our kitchen garden to cook up a storm for the Soup Van. Colleen volunteers with our wonderful St Vincent de Paul team who later distributes the soup to the disadvantaged in the Dandenong region.

Way to go Colleen and our friends at St Gerard's St Vincent de Paul!

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan
Parish Priest - Father Dean Mathieson
principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well at this challenging time.

Uncertainty can be unsettling and responses to the coronavirus are fast. **Please be assured** that we are **receiving and taking advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers through Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV)** and **that our first priority is the health and wellbeing of our students, staff and school community.**

A letter went out to all families on Tuesday with the precautions we have put in place here at St Gerard's. They are as follows:

- **AFL/ Cricket clinics on Tuesday after school and Fridays** during school time are **cancelled for the remainder of Term 1**
- **St Gerard's Playgroup** has been **cancelled for the remainder of Term 1**
- **Kitchen to Garden** programs for Term 1 will involve gardening **but not cooking**
- **Monday Meditation and Friday Assemblies** will be **conducted over the PA system** with students in their classroom **for the remainder of Term 1**
- The **'Two Bay' Faith Based Expo** presented by our Year 5/6 students will be visited by one class at a time and Year 5/6 families will be able to access the Expo **via SeeSaw**
- **The Passion** performance **will not be presented live** but shared with families via an online platform
- **All excursions until 24 April have been postponed** including Gala Day and District Cross Country

I am asking that **all families ensure they have access to SeeSaw** as this platform has proven to be an effective mode of communication between our classrooms and families. **If you require assistance in accessing this platform please contact the School Office** as this can be arranged quickly.

Families have also been **contacted via email** to ensure the school has a **current email address so that information can be sent out quickly to all families at the same time.**

I ask that you continue to work closely with the school and to **contact myself through the School Office should you have any concerns.**

Rehearsals are continuing for **The Passion** and it is wonderful to see our students so engaged. **While this will not be presented 'live' we are looking at ways to have it presented to our community in a digital format.** The journey through Holy Week is a foundational pillar of our faith and provides us with a sense of hope. When the events of The Last Supper and Good Friday were unfolding for Jesus and the apostles there would have been many questions and a lot of uncertainty. They then had the experience of Easter Sunday. Something for us to keep in mind.

A letter from the Catholic Bishops of Victoria is attached to this newsletter. This may be helpful when speaking to your children about the changes currently in place. It may also help to reflect on Matthew 18:20, **'For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.'**

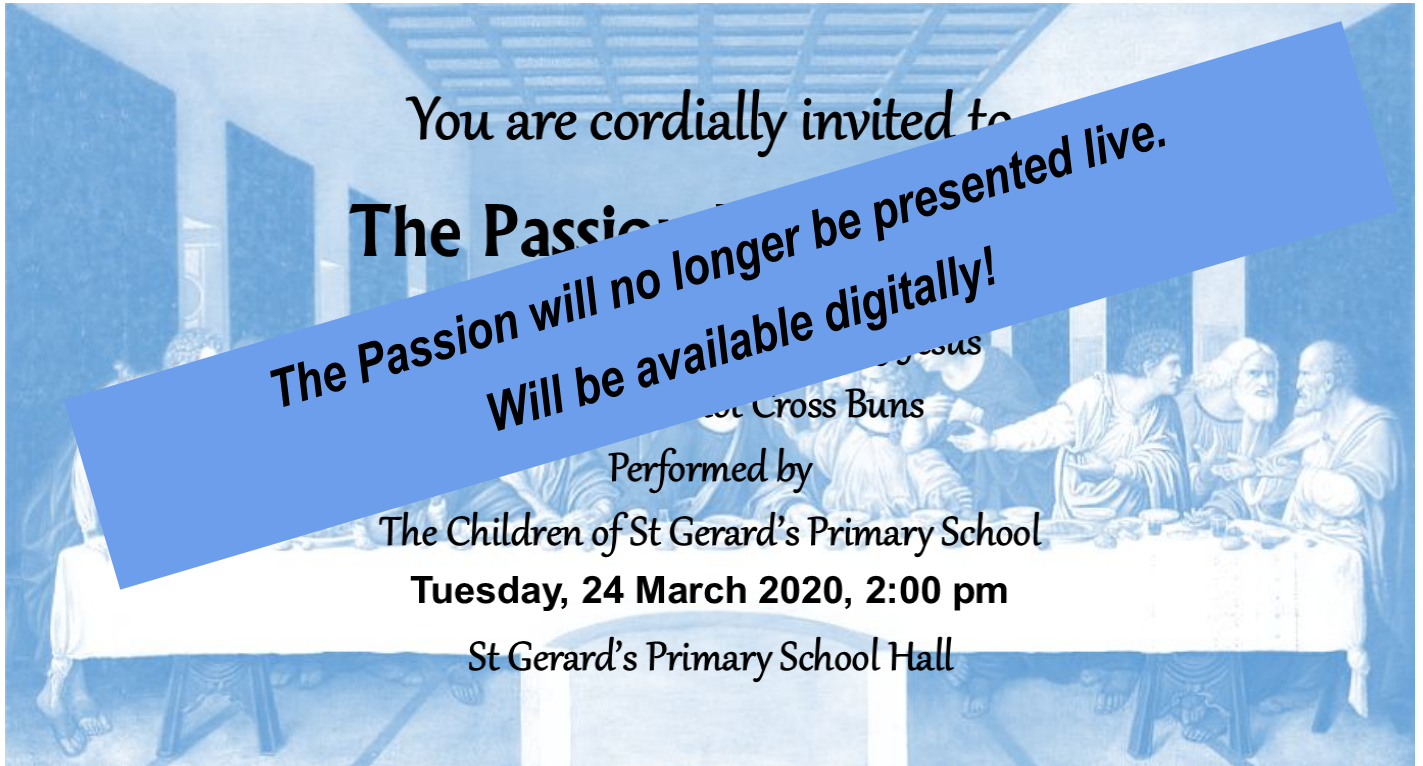
Let us keep in our prayers those people leading and making important decisions at this time. Also people in health services and those in our community that are most vulnerable.

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless.

Paul Cowan - Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



Seasons - A Program for Grief and Loss

Seasons is a peer support program for children and young people who are experiencing grief and loss in their lives. This loss may be the result of a death, separation or divorce.

This valuable program will become available in term 2. If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to speak to your classroom teacher or to Mrs. Stack.

Project Compassion

Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Project Compassion Boxes will be distributed to each class during Ash Wednesday Mass. Each class will have a target amount that they would like to raise during lent. Regular updates, by the Social Justice Leadership Team, with the amount raised so far will be announced at the school assembly.

Rosary

Each Tuesday we have a group that comes together to pray the rosary in the Church at first lunch, led by the Legion of Mary from the Parish. Children are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring their own Rosary beads if they have them, otherwise, Rosary beads will be provided.

Meditation

Thank you to everyone that has remembered that we begin each day with meditation. If you arrive late to school and the meditation bell has already gone, you need to wait in the office area until meditation time has finished.

Altar boy training

Altar boy training has been cancelled until further notice.

WELLBEING NEWS



Whole School Classroom Reward System

Students who display the expectations present on the school Matrix will be rewarded with a raffle ticket from their classroom teacher. Every month the raffle tickets from each classroom will be collected and drawn during the Friday assembly. The raffle tickets were drawn during assembly today and the results will be published in next week's newsletter.



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 Friday 20th March the SRC reps of St Gerard's attended their first meeting.

A big congratulations to the following students who were voted in by their class members to be the SRC reps for semester 1 2020.

Grade	Student 1	Student 2
Prep C	Katalina	Malakai
1/2B	Indiana	Edwin
1/2FP	Luke	Antonia
3/4L	Ella J	Duane
3/4S	Ryan	Anton
5/6VT	Isabella	Joe
5/6O	Abigail	Pieta



Resilience refers to the ability to manage everyday stressors and challenges.

Resilience enables people to shift back along the mental health continuum towards good mental health. A child or young person's ability to be resilient can depend upon many things and can change depending upon their situation. Importantly, specific situations or events that one child or young person may find challenging, another may not. Learn more about how you can help [build resilience in children](#).

A child or young person who is resilient might:

- be optimistic
- use positive self-talk for encouragement
- have a positive sense of self
- identify and express their feelings and thoughts
- not hide away from strong feelings
- have helpful, age-appropriate strategies to manage their emotions when upset
- rearrange their plans to work around an unexpected situation
- have a sense of agency or responsibility
- keep on trying if something doesn't work out and use their judgment about when to stop
- hold a sense of purpose or hope for the future
- actively ask for help if they need it
- feel a sense of attachment to family, their learning community and to learning.

Kitchen Garden

Week	Class
Friday 28 th Mar @ 11:45- 1:40	1/2FP

We will only be having garden lessons at the moment. Kitchen lessons will be postponed until further notice.

St Gerard's Garden Stall

This week we held our third Garden Market stall for 2020. The Environmental Leaders sold fresh rosemary, zucchini and eggs straight from the garden. Parents who got in early snapped up a bargain!!

OTHER NEWS



A LETTER FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF VICTORIA

18 March 2020

Prayerful greetings to the people of God across Victoria,

This morning, the Prime Minister announced that non-essential indoor gatherings will be limited to 100 people, and outdoor events of more than 500 people will be disallowed, effective today. Given the seriousness of COVID-19, we support this measure as being responsible and sensible, and we encourage everyone to follow public safety guidelines respectfully.

The Bishops of the Province of Victoria have given this prayerful and considered reflection, and have determined the following actions:

- Immediate suspension of public liturgies, celebrations of the Mass, until further notice.
- All other gatherings are suspended. For clarification of any concerns, please contact your local diocesan authority.

We are very aware that this restriction will be particularly difficult for families who are planning liturgies such as funerals, weddings and baptisms. At this time, so long as appropriate precautions are able to be put in place (such as distancing between participants), it may be possible for these liturgies to proceed with a carefully limited congregation. Deferring these liturgies may also be an option that is offered to families.

In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). We encourage you to continue active participation in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

We encourage our priests to continue to celebrate Mass for the spiritual good of God's people, the intentions of the faithful and the alleviation of the present crisis. We assure our people that the Mass is being offered for you in our parishes and that while you are not physically present, you still participate spiritually and that you are close to the hearts of your pastors in the Eucharist.

We urge the clergy to make themselves available to visit individuals, especially those who are unwell and vulnerable. This includes viaticum and all the opportunities for healing through the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation.

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Again, we encourage you to regularly consult your local websites for further details of local arrangements.

Tomorrow further pastoral guidelines will be shared in the Dioceses of Melbourne, Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst. Clergy and religious should consult with their Ordinary if any questions remain uncertain.

All of this is happening during the Season of Lent, a time of preparation for the Easter mysteries. While we are invited to be self-sacrificial at this time, we must remember the words of Jesus upon appearing before his disciples after his resurrection: Again and again he said 'peace be with you.' (Jn 20:19) Let us not panic, nor be anxious, nor reduce ourselves to caring only for ourselves. This is a time to be sensible, practical, prayerful, and to share Christ's peace with those who are struggling to feel calm and safe.

Thank you for all your patience, prayers and resilience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter A Comensoli".

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Bernard Bird".

Most Rev Paul Bernard Bird CSsR MA, DD
BISHOP OF BALLARAT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane Mackinlay".

Most Rev Shane Mackinlay
BISHOP OF SANDHURST

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Michael O'Regan".

Most Rev Patrick Michael O'Regan
BISHOP OF SALE

College Tours



Year 7 – 2022 (Grade 5 in 2020)
Applications Close – Friday 21st August 2020

**Tuesday 19th
May 2020**

**Tuesday 21st
July 2020**

**Tuesday 20th
October 2020**

Tours depart:
9.30am, 10.00am
and 10.30am.

No booking
required.



**MAZENOD
COLLEGE**

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