



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Term 2 Week 5

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

21 May 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students who celebrated their birthday this week.

- Ms Thoms
- Christianpaul - 5/6VT

It's a BOY!



Congratulations to the Deng family on the arrival of, Kor, a beautiful son and brother for Thichot and Denay.

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



On Sunday we come together to celebrate the feast of Pentecost, the day when Jesus fulfilled his promise to the apostles to send a helper and guide. That helper is the Holy Spirit sent to be our helper and our strength too.

We pray that our hearts are filled with the Holy Spirit so that we can look to the needs of others first and learn to serve those around us. May we be more loving, more peaceful, and more compassionate people.



Antonette and her mother and Pieta and her father discussing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit at our Confirmation Family Workshop

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

It seems hard to believe that we are halfway through Term 2.

I would like to start by thanking our students and their families for supporting **World Learning Support Officer (LSO) Day** through your acknowledgements of our wonderful LSO's. The contribution of **Mrs Munro (Anna), Mrs Jolly (Colleen), Mrs Cowled (Ann), Mrs Joseph (Allyson) and Mrs Zelic (Zorica)** to our school community is significant. Their genuine reactions, surprise and words of thanks was lovely to see at our Monday morning Meditation.

On Wednesday **Fr Shanthaiah** visited our **Year 1/2 classes** to talk about the Eucharist. It is great to have Father come into our school and work with our students. The fact that our younger children are gaining an understanding of important aspects of our faith such as the Eucharist well before they are able to make their First Communion is a sign that we are **living our faith and that it is indeed a journey**. These interactions between the school and parish strengthen us as the faith community of St Gerard's.

As we enter into the Winter months the likelihood of us needing to have a **wet day dismissal** increases. **When this is the case, the children will remain in their classrooms**. Parents can **either collect their children from their classroom or if using the pick up zone, staff will organise for the children to come to the Office area and enter their cars safely**. There have been a couple of occasions when this has happened already and it has worked efficiently. **Our first priority is the safety of our children** and I thank families in advance for your patience and cooperation.

This Sunday is **Pentecost Sunday** which is sometimes referred to as the *Birthday of the Church*. The Gospel tells us of the Holy Spirit coming to the disciples and giving them the courage to spread the Good News of Jesus. The gifts of the Spirit were used by the disciples to establish the Church and these same gifts are bestowed on us.

A reminder that each week we have **Meditation on Monday morning at 9.00am** and **Friday Assembly at 2.45pm in the PAC**. Currently we are able to have families attend these school events and there is a warm invitation extended to our families.

Finally, next Monday at 9.15 am we will be attending mass as a school to celebrate the **Feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians**. As well as being a significant event in Australia's Liturgical year, it has added significance as it is being used to **commemorate 200 years of Catholic Education in Australia**. Families are more than welcome to come and take part in this Mass with our parish.

God bless.

Paul Cowan
Principa

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Sacrament Dates, 2021

Planning for all Sacraments is underway. More information will be forthcoming once details are confirmed.

Please note that arrangements may change based on Federal and State Government health advice.

First Communion: (Grade 4 and 5)

First Communion Reflection Day:

Tuesday, 1st June

First Communion:

Saturday 5th at 5:30pm & Sunday 6th June at 10:30am
(Parish Mass Times)

First Communion Assembly:

Monday, 7th June, 2:50 pm, parents invited

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation Reflection Day:

Wednesday, 28th July

Confirmation:

Friday 30th July at 7pm (previously announced, Thursday 29th July)

Confirmation Assembly:

Friday 6th August, 2:40, parents invited

Confirmation News:

Fr Shanthaiah has recently been given delegation to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation by Fr Brendan Hayes, Episcopal Vicar of the Southern Region of the Archdiocese. This indicates that Fr Shanthaiah will be able to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation instead of Fr Hayes allowing us to celebrate Confirmation within the Mass, which would previously have not been the case.

Confirmation will now be celebrated on Friday 30th July 2021 at 7pm (instead of Thursday 29th July as previously announced).

Whole School Masses:

Monday 24th May

Friday 11th June

Our Lady Help of Christians at 9:15 am

Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15 (Adoration available throughout the day)

Level Masses:

Years 5/6:

Thursday 10th June (while on camp)

Other Important Dates:

National Sorry Day:

Wednesday, 26th May

National Sorry Day Assembly:

Friday, 28th May at 2:50 pm (lead by Social Justice Team)

Refugee Week:

Refugee Week 20th to 26th June 2020

Refugee Week Assembly:

Friday, 25th June at 2:30 pm (lead by Social Justice Team)

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

This Winter Vinnies Appeal will provide emergency relief to people at risk and experiencing homelessness. Your donation will help our Vinnies volunteers to rebuild lives. Once again we'll aim to have our food cart to be filled to the brim for the St Vincent De Paul Winter appeal. The social justice leaders collect food from week two and the collection will finish on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The class that brings in the most items will win a casual dress day. Please donate to this worthwhile appeal.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D

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 this term. If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to speak to your classroom teacher or to Mrs. Stack.

WELLBEING NEWS



On Monday 24th May we will hold our fifth **Garden Market Stall** for 2021. The Environmental leaders will be selling fresh rosemary, parsley seeds, plants and eggs straight from the garden. We will also be selling delicious homemade tomato chutney and passata (tomato puree) which has been generously donated by one of our beautiful mums and Rob! The market will open at 3:15pm.



This week 5/6O and 1/2L enjoyed their Gardening lesson. The students prepared a few of the garden beds for new seedlings. The students also shared their garden session with the chickens. We had to make sure that the chickens were not pulling out our newly planted seedlings.

Have a look at some of the fun we had in the garden.



GIVE ME FIVE

Students who display the expectations present on the school Matrix are rewarded with a raffle ticket from their classroom teacher. Once a month the raffle tickets from each class are collected and drawn during the Friday assembly.

The raffle tickets were drawn on the 14th of May and the following lucky winners will have a special picnic with Mr Cowan next week:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Azalea (1/2) | 4. Karen (3/4) |
| 2. Dhanya (1/2) | 5. Chris O (3/4) |
| 3. Ekene (Prep) | 6. Emmanuel (3/4) |



Look after yourself

Make time to look after yourself so you're in a better position to support those around you. Children and young people's emotions can be affected by how adults are feeling.

Try to maintain your routines, know your limits, debrief with trusted family or friends and try to do things you enjoy to manage your stress levels.

The Be You website provides information on [wellbeing tools](#) and how to practise [mindfulness](#), which can help with stress management.