

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 3 - WEEK 7

25th August, 2023

This coming Sunday 27/8 is Social Justice Sunday. The 2022-23 Social Justice Statement – Listen, Learn, Love – A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples was released by the Australian Catholic Bishops last week.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2023-24

Listen, Learn, Love

A New Engagement with Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Peoples



Australia's Catholic bishops have called on the nation to seek "a new engagement" with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in their annual Social Justice Statement for 2023-24.

Since the 1940s, the bishops have published annual statements that urge the Catholic community to reflect and act on social, economic and ecological issues. The statements are published as a focal point for Social Justice Sunday, which will be marked on August 27 this year.

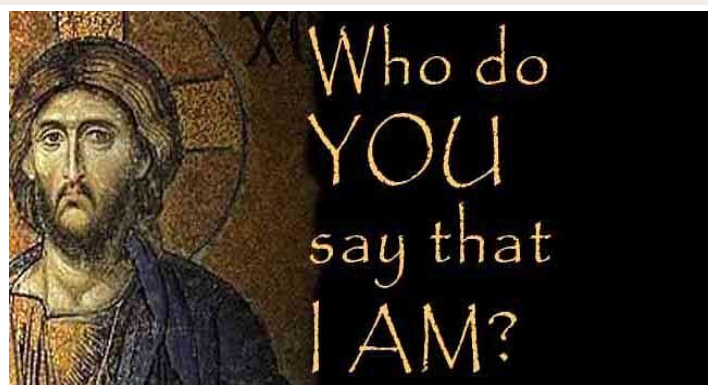
This year's statement, *Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, was launched in western Sydney on August 17 by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service.

"One of the objectives of this statement is that we want Catholics to understand that Catholic social teaching and Catholic social action are not simply theoretical and academic exercises," he said.

"We hear what God is saying to us about justice by being with our sisters and brothers on the peripheries of society."



Give Me 5 for Book-Week and Being Positive in the Learning Spaces - Our Focus This Week



Loving Creator,

As we celebrate Book Week, we ask for your blessings to ignite a love for literature in children's hearts. May the pages of books be doorways to adventure, knowledge, and empathy.

May their curiosity be kindled, and their imagination set free. Guide us to nurture this love, so it flourishes as a lifelong gift.

Amen



@st.gerards3175

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

This week has seen a stronger than usual focus on books and reading.

We celebrated **Book Week** with activities including **before school reading in the Library every morning from 8.15am** and **today** (Friday) being our **Dress up Day**. It was wonderful to see **families come to the PAC for our parade** and the school full of book characters. Reading certainly is not only for learning, but also a wonderful way to relax, be transformed to another time/place and create lifelong memories. I asked the children to find out what their families favourite childhood books were. You may even want to read them together. I would like to thank our school community for their contributions and acknowledge all the work **Mrs O'Brien** did to make this such a successful week.

Our focus on reading continues next week with our annual **Book Fair** occurring from **Tuesday - Friday in the Library**. Purchases can be made from **8.45am - 9.15am** and **3.15pm - 3.45pm**.

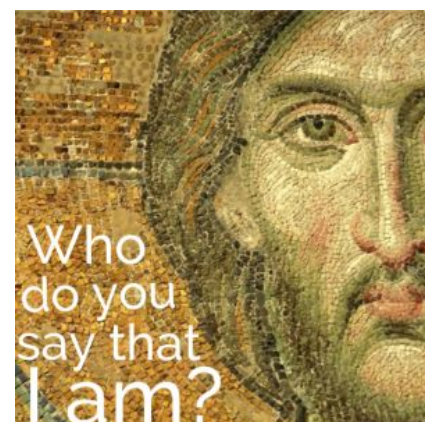
Our school is participating in **Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools - School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS)**. MACSSIS is an annual process whereby schools listen to the thoughts and feelings students, families and staff have about how their school is performing and where it can improve. These surveys also help inform the ongoing improvement of schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. **An email will be sent to all families next week with your family's code for the parent survey**. Students in Years 4 - 6 will complete their survey at school. I encourage all families to complete the survey and thank you in advance.

We have the **last of our Open Days** for this term **next Thursday 31 August**. If you know of families who are looking for a school for 2024 they are more than welcome to come at a time that suits them from 9.15am - 5.00pm or by contacting the Office or email: principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au to arrange a meeting and school tour with myself.

Lastly, a reminder that **next Friday 1 September** we will be having a **Father's Day/ Father Figures breakfast from 7.45am - 9.00am**. Please see the invitation contained in this newsletter and the information sent out via Seesaw. I look forward to seeing you there.

God bless.

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

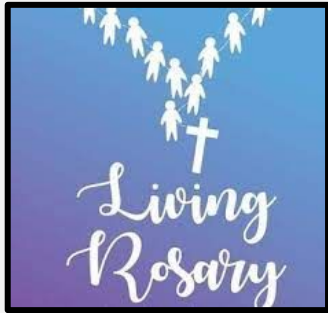
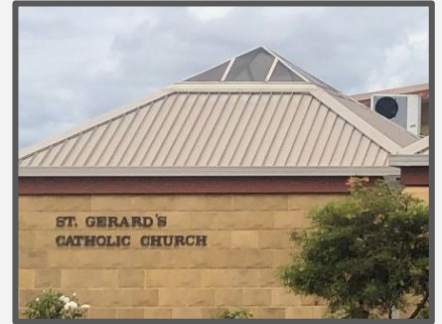


RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parish Mass

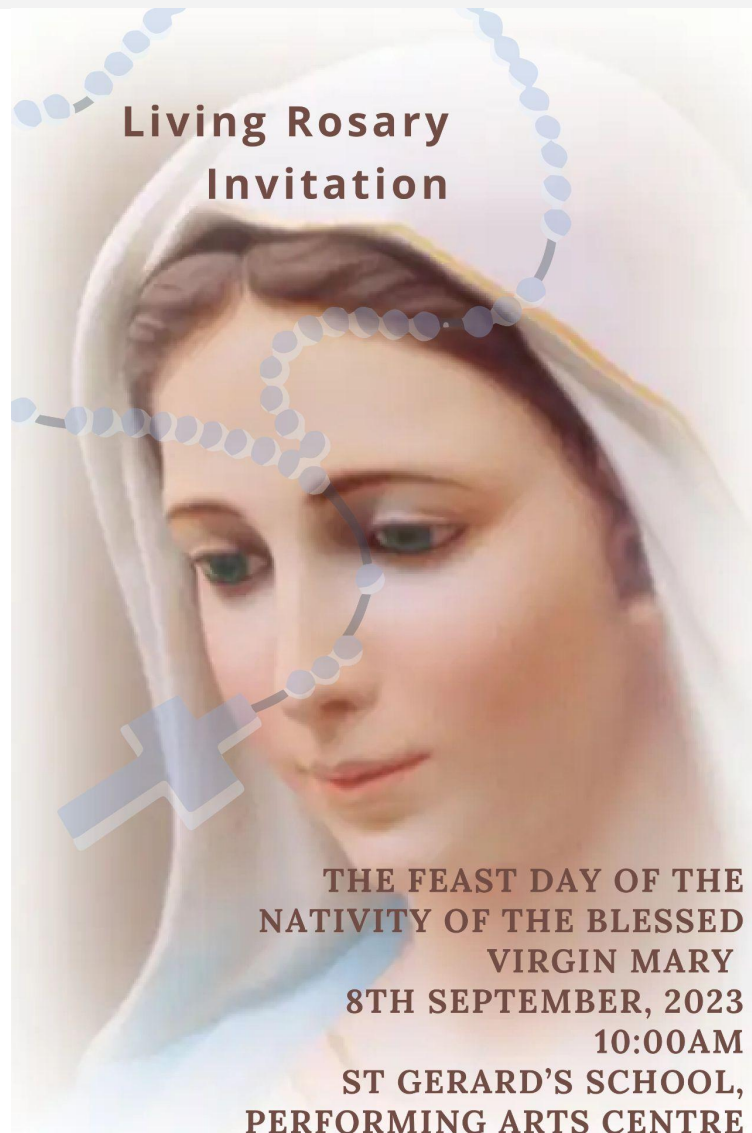
Year 5/6T & Prep:
Year 1/2 Level:

Thursday 7th September, 9:15am
Wednesday 13th September, 9:15am



Whole School Living Rosary

In celebration of the feast day of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the 8th September, the entire school will come together for the Living Rosary. This beautiful gathering will take place at 10am, and we extend an invitation to all families to join us in prayer.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St Gerard's Talent Quest Auditions

Early next term, as part of our celebrations for our Feast Day and raising awareness for Mission Month, we will be holding our annual Talent Quest. Children will need to audition for this event in the last week of term if they wish to participate.

PARISH NEWS



The Junior Legion of Mary Meetings are held every Monday at St Gerard's school term from 4:15pm – 5:15 pm in The Library Room (brown building in the car park of St. Gerard's Primary School).

Legion of Mary Contact: Kereena Lopez 0435 554 175 and Jacqueline Savanah on 0437 668 352.

Application forms are available to collect from the foyer of the Church.

Altar Servers

Altar Server training will resume for existing altar servers and any 'new recruits' wishing to help our parish celebrate Mass.

Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

For more information contact St Gerard's Parish Office 9792 4422 or Mrs Stack 9791 7553

PARISH NEWS

Junior Legion of Mary

Dear Parents,

The Legion of Mary runs a Junior Legion of Mary praesidium (branch) at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong once a week after school during school term. Meetings last for one hour per week. All possible care will be taken while your child is with us.

Children are taught to:

- Pray the Rosary
- Be helpful at home
- Do works of service such as a Book Barrow

They are trained to be good Catholics by reaching out to others. One way they do this is by visiting a local nursing home during the school holidays, where they interact with the residents. Children are also guided to take part in parish events such as the Public Square Rosary in October.



This group will enable your child to grow spiritually and also learn to be an active apostolic worker in the Parish. All activities will be supervised by adult legionaries who hold Working with Children permits.

If you would like your child/children to join this group, please complete the application form below and return it to Kereena or Cecilia. For more information please phone a contact below.

Meeting Day:	Every MONDAY of St Gerard's school term	
Time:	4:15 PM TO 5:15 PM STARTING JULY 10 TH	
Place:	LIBRARY ROOM of St. Gerard's	
Legion of Mary Contact:	Kereena Lopez	0435 554 175
Legion of Mary Contact:	Cecilia Donald	0402 716 101



✂

Parent or guardian to complete: (All information provided is confidential.)

Child's Name:		Grade:	
Address:			
Any health issues?		Date of Birth:	

I (Parent/guardian) give permission for my child
(name)
to attend the Junior Legion of Mary at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong (in the Church foyer).

Signature..... Date.....

Name of First Contact Person			
Address			
Phone No.			
Second Contact for child	Name:	Phone No:	

WELLBEING



Growing a mentally healthy generation



How does exercise affect mental health and wellbeing?

Physical activity promotes many aspects of child and adolescent development, including social and emotional skills, as well as physical development of motor skills.

It also supports mental wellbeing. We know that high levels of inactivity can lead to a greater risk of both physical and mental health problems.

How much exercise do children and young people need?

The [Australian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines](#) outline the following recommendations for children and young people:

- **Infants** (birth to one year): 30 minutes of supervised interactive floor-based play including tummy time, reaching and grasping, pushing and pulling and crawling.
- **Toddlers** (1-2 years): at least 180 minutes a day, including energetic play such as running and jumping.
- **Pre-schoolers** (3-5 years): at least 180 minutes a day of which 60 minutes is energetic play such as running, jumping and kicking and throwing.
- **Children** (5-12 years) and young people (13-17 years): at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity every day.

The percentage of children meeting current guidelines is:

- 61% of two to five-year-olds
- 26% of five to 12-year-olds
- 7.9% of 13 to 17-year-olds.



WELLBEING



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 Fridays assembly.

The raffle tickets will be drawn during next week's assembly (Friday 1st September) and the lucky winners will be announced in following week's newsletter.



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 24th August the Term 3/4 SRC reps of St Gerard's attended their first meeting.

A big congratulation to the following SRC Reps:

- ★ Foundation: Devanshi and Harold
- ★ 1/2L: Blessed and Malachi
- ★ 1/2FW: Kai and Enki
- ★ 3/4S: Katalina and Bhanuri
- ★ 3/4A: Antonia and Jacob
- ★ 5/6T: Lachlan and Ainsley
- ★ 5/6O: Neveah and Krystn

WELLBEING

Save
the date

ST GERARD'S

FATHER'S DAY
BREAKFAST

01 | 09 | 23

7:45AM - 9:00AM

INVITING ALL FATHERS
AND FATHER FIGURES



WELLBEING

Walk or Ride To School Thursday, 31st August 2023



Thursday, 31st August is a Ride to School Day. Students are encouraged to walk or ride to school from home or from a nearby drop off point. If your child doesn't normally walk to school, you could do this together.

Students who ride are given a sticker and the class who has the most students riding or walking get to keep our Ride to School trophy in their classroom for that month.

Students can ride bikes, skateboards or scooters.

They must wear a helmet at all times.

Upon arrival at school, students must hop off their bike or scooter and lock up their bike or scooter in our bike parking area (in front of the Performing Arts Centre).

BOOK WEEK



BOOK WEEK



BOOK WEEK



BOOK WEEK



IMPORTANT DATES



St John's

REGIONAL COLLEGE



**DISCOVER YOUR
CHILD'S PATHWAY**

OPEN MORNING
Saturday 2 September 2023 10am

Come along and discover the opportunities and pathways to unlock your child's potential. Join us for a College tour. Discover what St John's has to offer and find out about the new 2025 Academic Scholarship Program.

Register today at
www.sjrc.vic.edu.au
or scan the QR Code



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

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

- Diamond Dancers - Recreation and Competitive Dancing
- Springvale Indoor Sports - School Holiday Program
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Noble Park Community Centre Art Show and Art Competition
- Dandenong Saints Basketball Club - **new players wanted**

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 \$6 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.

