

# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

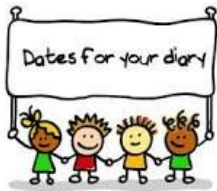


Term 1 Week 5

[www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au)

03 97917553

26 February 2021



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students who celebrated a birthday this week.

- Catherine V - 3/4S



## REMINDER

**School sports day  
next**

**Friday, 5 March.**

**Students to wear  
their sports uniform.  
Please ensure your  
child has returned  
their permission  
forms**

**PUBLIC HOLIDAY**  
Monday, 8 March  
**SCHOOL CLOSED**

## DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

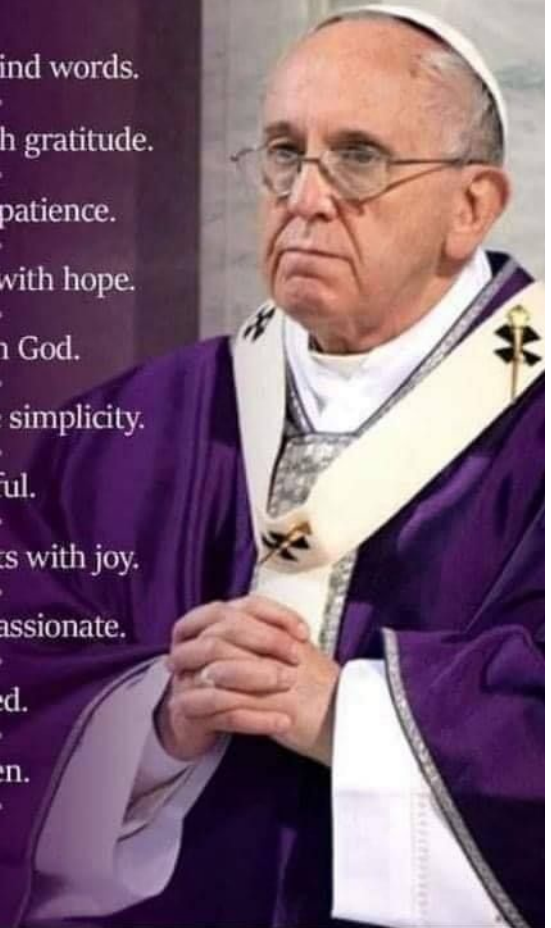
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

It has been wonderful to return to 'normal' after last week and also acknowledge that we are halfway through the term.

There have been several important communications this week which I would like to draw to your attention.

Next Friday 5 March we have our school **Athletics Carnival** which will be held at **Knox Athletics Track, Bunjil Way Knoxfield**. This is a wonderful opportunity for our whole school to come together, have fun and develop/display our sporting skills. Families are more than welcome to come and spectate but please be mindful of current health advice with regard to physical distancing.

Families would have received information about participating in an **Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) Survey**. The information gathered will assist us in better understanding how our Catholic identity is expressed in work and practice here at St Gerard's. **The survey needs to be completed by Friday 12 March** and I thank families in advance for completing it.

Information was also sent home regarding our **St Gerard's Auskick program** which will run for 4 weeks (starting next Wednesday 3 March) from **3.30pm - 4.30pm** on our oval and playground. This is open to all year levels regardless of their skill level. This program proved to be very popular last year and provided opportunities for the development of sporting and social skills. If your child would like to participate please email Mrs Wilson [twilson@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:twilson@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) **before Wednesday 3 March** with your child's name and class.

Due to the lockdown last week we were unable to have our **Subway lunch**. This will now occur **next Thursday 4 March**. I know this will come as welcome news to our students!

In this Sunday's Gospel for the Second Sunday of Lent we hear of the **Transfiguration** of Our Lord with Peter, James and John growing in their understanding of the mission and destiny of Jesus.

As mentioned last week, **School Fee Accounts** have been sent home. Our families have **chosen a Catholic education** for their children and in the current economic climate **we all need to support each other**. If your **family is experiencing challenges** please phone the School Office on 9791 7553 or email myself [principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) **so we can work through this together**.

Lastly, **Please note that our school gates are opened at 8.30am each morning. We are starting to see children dropped at school before this time which poses a safety threat as they are unsupervised and outside the school grounds**. I am therefore asking that families refrain from leaving their children unattended before 8.30am for their safety.

God bless.

Paul Cowan  
Principal

# 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.**

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

Confirmation: Thursday, 29th July at 7 pm

### **Reconciliation: (Grade 3 and 4)**

Reconciliation: Thursday, 8th March at 7 pm (TBC)

### **First Communion: (Grade 4 and 5)**

First Communion: Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th June at Parish Mass times (TBC)

## Level Mass Mass

Thursday, 4th March

Thursday, 11th March

Thursday, 18th March

Prep/5/6 Level Mass in Church 9:15, all welcome  
3/4 Level Mass at 9:15 in the Church, all welcome  
1/2 Level Mass in Church 9:15, all welcome

## Other Import Dates for Religion:

Wednesday, 17th March

Wednesday, 17th March

Monday, 22nd March - Thursday, 1st April

Monday, 29th March - Thursday, 1st April

Tuesday, 20th March

Thursday, 1st April

Friday, 2nd April

Saturday, 3rd April

Sunday, 4th April

St Patrick's Day, students wear full school uniform with a touch of green

Delegation of Yr 6 leaders attend St. Patrick's Day Mass at Cathedral

The Passion Prayer Spaces for student participation

Families and/or parishioners invited to The Passion Prayer Spaces (pending COVID-19 density restrictions)

Fr Shanthaiah's birthday

Holy Thursday

Good Friday Day of Fast and Abstinence

Holy Saturday

Easter Sunday

## The Passion Prayer Spaces

Students taking an active role in The Passion has long been a tradition at St Gerard's. Due to COVID related restrictions, this year, The Passion will be presented through Prayer Spaces. This will be an opportunity for our children to explore The Stations of the Cross and link these to life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. Taking a Catholic perspective as a starting point, The Passion Prayer Spaces will give our children an opportunity to develop skills of personal reflection and to explore prayer in an open, inclusive and safe environment.

The hall will be transformed for a week with a range of creative activities that encourage personal reflection on issues such as forgiveness, injustice, thankfulness, big questions, identity and stillness that relates to The Way. During week 9 and 10, teachers will bring their students for reflection in The Passion Prayer Space.

The opportunity for families and/or parishioners to be invited to The Passion Prayer Spaces, pending COVID-19 density restrictions will be confirmed at a later date.

## 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.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D



## First Week of Lent

We begin our annual Lenten Project Compassion journey by learning about the story of Jamila and her family. Jamila, 22, is a Rohingya woman, living in the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. A single mother, she fled armed conflict in Myanmar to save herself, her elderly mother and eight-month-old baby.



With the support of Caritas Australia, through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila was able to access emergency. She also received counselling, emotional support and learnt sewing skills, to help her earn an income. Jamila now feels less alone, with a sense of community around her. She is able to 'Be More' to her little family. 860,494 people remain in the densely populated camps, in desperate need of humanitarian assistance, especially due to COVID-19. (UNHCR)

Watch a short film about Jamila's story [here](#).

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." Please support Project Compassion: [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au)

## 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

Please note due to the recent snap lockdown Altar Boy training was postponed. It will resume on 11th March, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Please contact Mr Ron Maroun on 0412 212 287.

# WELLBEING NEWS

## 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.



This week 3/4C enjoyed their Garden lesson. The students harvested some zucchinis and tomatoes and learnt about harvesting seeds and the life cycle of a seed. The students were also introduced to our new chickens. We will be selling some of our parsley seeds, eggs and tomatoes during our next **Garden Market Stall** which will be held on **Monday 15th March at 3:15pm**. If you would like to purchase fresh eggs please email [Nicole Fernandez](#).

## Garden Dates- Term One 2021

Week	Class
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar @ 12:45-1:40	No Lesson
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar @ 12:45-1:40	3/4S
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar @ 12:45-1:40	1/2L
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar @ 12:45-1:40	Prep B





# WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D



On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February we will held our second **Garden Market Stall** for 2021.

The Environmental leaders sold fresh rosemary, bay leaves, zucchinis, tomatoes, parsley seeds and eggs straight from the garden. We also sold delicious homemade apricot and plum jam which was generously donated by one of our beautiful mums!



Mrs Allendes purchased zucchinis from our garden and made a scrumptious Chilean zucchini pudding!  
Email [Mrs. Fernandez](mailto:Mrs.Fernandez@stgerard.school.nz) for the recipe.

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 Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February the SRC reps of St Gerard's attended their first meeting. The students discussed their role as an SRC member and began discussing ways to make St Gerard's an even better place.



## The First SRC Meeting

Today I am telling you about the first SRC meeting. We heard the announcement and we ran out of class ready for the meeting. We ran everywhere trying to find the meeting place. We eventually found it and we settled in. I could tell that everyone was nervous but excited. We actually did well for the first meeting. Everyone had ideas, plans and things to add. Even the preps did well because they listened to what people were saying and they were patient. We came up with ideas such as: soccer goals, people teaching sports (thank you to the volunteers: Isabella, Joe, Christian Paul, Antonette, Elyana, Eva, Aswin, Catherine, Eann and Alessia) and lots of clubs. Thank you Mrs Fernandez for running it.

By Alessia (5/6VT)



Appreciation Strategy Humility  
Commitment Responsibility Listening  
**STUDENT COUNCIL**  
Integrity Honest Communication  
Values Purpose Determination  
Leadership Passion Principles



## OTHER SCHOOL NEWS



### Prep Teddy Bear Tea Party 🐻 🐰



# ITALIAN NEWS

Over the past week the grade 3/ 4s have been learning to write and say the days of the week, months of the year and the seasons. They have made a board game to help them learn these.

