

St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

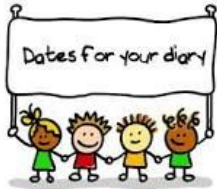


Term 1 Week 9

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

26 March 2021



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students who celebrated a birthday this week.

- Christian - 1/2L
- Maleah - Prep B

TERM 1 FINISHES

Thursday, 1 April

3:30 pm

TERM 2 COMMENCES

Monday, 19 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

Preps display their Palm Sunday Prayer Space



Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified.

Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will often receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the reenactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect.

Palm branches are a widely recognized symbol of peace and victory, hence their preferred use on Palm Sunday.

The use of a donkey instead of a horse is highly symbolic, it represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, as opposed to arriving on a steed in war.

A week later, Christ would rise from the dead on the first Easter.

Lord Jesus Christ!

We praise you, we give you thanks!

We glorify you!

Hosanna in the Highest!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

The term is very quickly coming to an end with this being our last full week of Term 1.

This week we have seen the emergence of our **Holy Week Prayer Spaces** in the PAC. Each class has prepared an aspect of Holy Week which will provide visitors with the opportunity to spend time reflecting, responding and praying. Classes will visit the PAC throughout next week and **St Gerard's parishioners** have been invited to come and experience these spaces after the **9.15am Mass on Tuesday and Wednesday. Families** are also welcome to **visit with their children from 3.30pm - 4.15pm on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons**. This is a wonderful way to share our faith at this significant time in the Church Year and I encourage our school community to visit. Our Prayer Spaces will complement this Sunday's Gospel as we celebrate Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.

Enrolments for Prep in 2022 are open. If you have a child who will be starting school next year please contact the School Office. **Existing families are our first category for enrolments**, however we are **getting enquiries from new families** so it is important that we enrol our existing families as soon as possible.

A reminder to families at after school pick up to **use the pedestrian crossing and designated walking areas** when walking home or to your cars. This is a busy time and our children's safety is our number 1 priority. To assist with this the **Pedestrian Crossing needs to be kept free of cars**. I thank you in advance for your understanding, patience and cooperation.

Lastly, **school finishes next Thursday (Holy Thursday) 1 April at 3.30pm**. I would like to thank our community for a wonderful term and their continued support. I hope everyone has a safe holiday and a happy and holy Easter Season.

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.**

First Communion: (Grade 4 and 5)

First Communion:

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

Other Import Dates for Religion:

Monday, 22nd March - Thursday, 1st April
Tuesday, 30th March - Wednesday, 31st April

Tuesday, 30th March
Thursday, 1st April
Friday, 2nd April
Saturday, 3rd April
Sunday, 4th April

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

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.



Congratulations Alakai on your Baptism

It's great news to hear that Alakai has been Baptised into the Catholic family of faith.

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 recommenced. If your son would like to train as an altar boy please contact Ron Maroun on 0412 212 287.



Halima is raising her two children in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, while caring for her mother who has a disability. Widowed at 21, Halima fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, arriving at the camp with nothing.

Caritas Australia, through Caritas Bangladesh, helped Halima with shelter, cooking equipment, hygiene and sanitation training. She took on the role of community trainer herself, organising the cleaning of washrooms, wells and toilets.

Halima aspired to "Be More" and is proud that she is able to earn a small income, while maintaining the health of her family and the cleanliness of the camp community.

- In the Cox's Bazar district, women and children make up 78% of the total refugee population where 52% of children are aged 0-17. ([UNHCR](#))

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



"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." Please support Project Compassion: lent.caritas.org.au

WELLBEING NEWS CONT'D



On Monday 29th March we will hold our last **Garden Market Stall** for term 1..

The Environmental leaders will be selling eggs, pasata, olives, figs and homemade chutney. Thank you to all of the families who support our market stall!!

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

If you would like to know more about the following community events, please see our noticeboard inside the school gates.

- Dandenong Education Program (conducted by St Vincent de Paul)
- North Dandenong F.C Auskick (AFL)
- North Dandenong Neighbourhood House
- Rowville Hawks (AFL)
- Key Z Park (Calisthenics)
- Endeavour Hills Eagles (AFL)
- St Mary's D's (Netball)
- Rowville Hawks (AFL)
- Little and Trivial Events (Entertainment)
- Noble Park Bulls (AFL)

OSHC NEWS



YLV
Youth Leadership Victoria Inc.
OSHC

Please be advised that the school holiday program for the upcoming school holidays, will be run by St Mary's and St Elizabeth schools. To register your child please go to the YLV website: <https://ylv.com.au/vacation-care/>