



# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

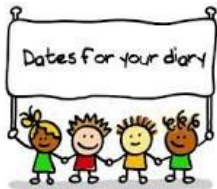


**Term 1, Week 9**

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

**03 97917553**

**27 March 2020**



## **IMPORTANT**

**School will resume for students on WEDNESDAY, 15 APRIL unless advised otherwise.**

**Updates will be made via email and Seesaw so please check regularly.**

**Look after each other and take care!**



## *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**

Our new way of living due to the Coronavirus comes at a high point in the Church calendar – Easter. This will be especially difficult for our faith-filled community at St Gerard's. Mass on Demand is available online. Our parish at St Gerard's are **streaming our own Mass online** as well. For live streaming, log into our website at SaintGerardParish.com. You can also subscribe to St Gerard's Parish email list to keep connected.

We need to make sure that we do all we can to help others through these periods of isolation – contacting people by phone, using technology to connect online, and finding ways to support people in need.



God of love and hope,  
you made the world and care for all creation,  
but the world feels strange right now.  
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.  
Some people are worried that they might get ill.  
Others are anxious for their family and friends.  
Be with them and help them to find peace.  
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,  
and all who are working to discover the right medicines  
to help those who are ill.  
Thank you that even in these anxious times,  
you are with us.  
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.  
Amen.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

Despite school finishing on Monday of this week I wanted to send out a newsletter for the end of term.

While we are all being challenged in many ways at the moment, when I reflect back on Term 1 there is a lot to be grateful for and smile about.

We **welcomed** to our school community our **2020 Preps** who continually bring joy and happiness with their enthusiasm for every aspect of school life. We also met **Fr Dean**, our new Parish Priest who has celebrated whole school Masses with us.

Our first two weeks of the year had a focus on our **Give Me 5** principles which we use as the foundation for all we do at St Gerard's. Our **Give Me 5 Night** was wonderful with so many of our families taking part in our 'My Classroom Rules' event. Our **3 Way Conversations** gave us the chance to investigate the best ways to assist the learning of our children.

The after school **AFL/ Cricket clinics** were really well supported and provided our children with activities to build up their skills in these two very popular sports. The **Saltwater Project** that our Year 6 children were involved in saw them take a tour of our bay on *The Pelican*.

I saw our school spirit on display at our **Athletics Day** with our children cheering each other on and recognising the efforts of others. It was inspiring to see the persistence of everyone. The pride in our cultures demonstrated during **Harmony Day** confirmed to me just how special our school is.

From Tuesday this week our **staff have been preparing for the learning of our children to continue if different schooling arrangements are needed**. The **Learning Packs** that were prepared and sent home was a precautionary step. Please keep these packs handy but **there is no need to use them at this stage. Be assured that I will communicate with families if there are any decisions made**.

Currently with Mass not being said publicly, **our parish is providing Mass online**. This is a way to feel connected and may be a source of comfort and normality. For more details please visit the new parish website <https://www.saintgerardparish.com>

**Importantly**, our families have **chosen a Catholic education** for their children. In the current economic climate, we all need to support each other. If your **family is experiencing challenges** with regard to **school fees** please contact the School Office or myself [pcowan@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pcowan@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) **so we can work through this together**. A reminder that if you have a **current Health Care Card you are entitled to a reduction**.

Have a safe, healthy and happy holiday. I hope the Easter Season provides a sense of hope and optimism.

God bless.

Paul Cowan - Principal



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Sacrament Dates, 2020

Due to the current climate, all Sacraments including First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation have been **postponed** until further notice which includes the preparation for these Sacraments.

## 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.

## Altar boy training

Altar boy training has been cancelled until further notice.

# OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We would like to send out big Happy Birthday wishes to the following students who have celebrated their birthdays this week:

- Christian - 1/2B
- Jovanna - 3/4L



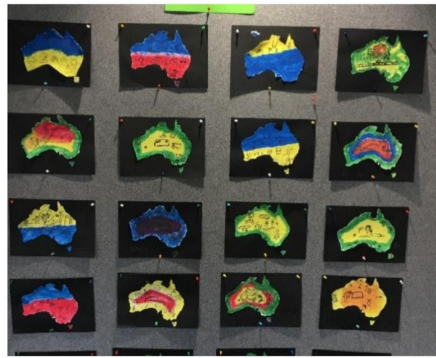
# School Athletics Carnival







# Student Artwork



## ART WORK

