



# St Gerard's Primary School

# NEWSLETTER



Term 2 Week 6

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

03 97917553

28 May 2021

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students who celebrated their birthday this week.

- Anastasia - 1/2F♀



### 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



Last Monday, at our whole school Mass, we celebrated 200 years of Catholic education in Australia which holds significant meaning, particularly on the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians – the Patroness of Australia.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

It has been a week when we have been reminded that COVID is still part of our lives and that the processes and procedures we are asked to follow are vital in keeping us all safe.

I would like to acknowledge and **thank our students, staff and families for the way we were able to again quickly transition to Remote Learning.** Staff have spent today (Friday) finalising plans to ensure that our children can continue with their learning. Arrangements for next week will be sent out to families today. While there may be feelings of uncertainty, please be assured that as advice comes to the school it will be communicated to families as soon as possible **via email and Seesaw.** **Please remember that we are here to support our students and families and we are only ever an email, phone call or Seesaw message away.**

This week started with the whole school attending Mass on Monday morning 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.** As part of this celebration we had an image of Mary blessed and this will be displayed prominently in our school. All children also received a holy card with a special prayer to recognise this event. I would like to **thank Mrs Stack** for her organisation of this Mass and for **the children who were involved** to make it such a special occasion.

We have had to have a few **wet day dismissals** recently. **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.** This system has worked efficiently with **our first priority being the safety of our children** and I thank families for your patience and cooperation.

This Sunday is the feast of **The Most Holy Trinity.** We are reminded of this important aspect of our faith each time we make the sign of the cross and say **'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'**

Finally, please stay safe, look after each other and we hope to see everyone back at school next Friday.

God bless.

Paul Cowan  
Principal

## 200 YEARS - FAITH IN THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA

Almighty and all-loving God,  
with gratitude for the endeavours of Catholic education in the past,  
with confidence in our Catholic pre-schools, schools and universities today,  
and with faith in their continuing contribution in the future,  
we celebrate 200 years of Catholic education in this Great South Land.

As our Heavenly Father,  
we thank you for your providential care for your children in this land  
in inspiring priests, religious and lay people  
to found and staff our schools in ages past.  
Through them the Good News of your Son was brought to the young  
even in colonial times – and ever since.

As Christ the Teacher,  
you grace the staff and leaders of Catholic education today.  
As they build on the achievements of their predecessors  
direct them in their present efforts  
to ensure that every young Australian has the opportunity  
for an excellent education and formation in faith.

As our Inspiring Spirit,  
you lead us into the future.  
In the century ahead grant those teaching and  
learning in our schools,  
those planning and leading,  
and the families and community that entrust  
their young people to us,  
a love of learning and a willingness to be the  
face of Christ  
in the world of tomorrow.

Pour out your abundant blessings upon all involved in  
the ministry of Catholic education. Amen.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross – pray for us.  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Patron of Catholic  
Education in Australia – pray for us.

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Catholic Education  
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS  
*Faith in the future*

# 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:

Monday, 9th August

First Communion:

Saturday 14th August at 5:30pm &

Sunday 15th August at 10:30am

(Parish Mass Times)

First Communion Assembly:

Friday, 20th August at 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

## First Communion Mass Postponed

Today a letter was sent out to the Years 3-6 families to announce the postponement of this year's First Communion due to the uncertainty caused by the announcement on Thursday 27 May 2021, by the Victorian Government to help reduce community movement and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The tentative rescheduled date for First Communion is the weekend of, 14th and 15th August, The Feast of the Assumption. Mass times that were originally allocated to First Communicants will be transferred to the 14th and 15th August.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Mrs Stack.

## Whole School Masses:

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June

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 Assembly:

Friday, 4th June 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.



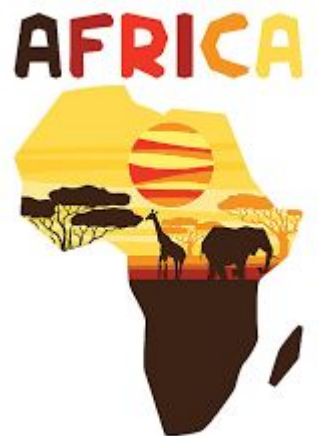
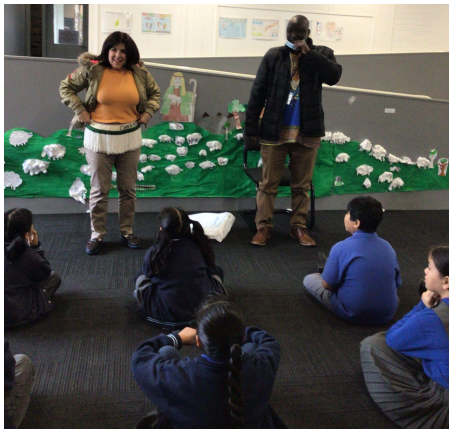
# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D

## 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.

## OTHER SCHOOL NEWS



The 3/4 classes are learning about Africa and invited Chris' father to speak to them about the country. They were all very interested and engaging asking lots of questions. Thank you to Mr Oker for taking the time to come along and chat to the students.

# District Cross Country

Some of our students recently competed in the SSV Dandenong District Cross Country. All students tried their best and gave it their all. Congratulations to all those who competed.

