



St Gerard's Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Term 2 Week 2

www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

03 97917553

29 April 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following students who celebrated their birthday this week.

- Matej - 1/2L
- Prophet - Prep B
- Mrs Fernandez

**Mothers Day Afternoon
Tea**

**Friday, 7 May
2:15 Pm - 3:20 Pm**

**School Photos
Wednesday, 12 May
Full winter uniform to be
worn**

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**



Some First Communicants preparing a prayer space for our Family Workshop

Jesus the Vine, the Father, the Vine Grower Bearing fruit

This Sunday's Gospel is the classic story of the Vine and the Branches. The vinedresser of this passage cuts away the dead branches and prunes back those that are not bearing fruit. In what way do we bear fruit? When we strive to reach our fullest potential in whatever we do, we bear fruit. When we act out of motivation for the other person rather than ourselves, we bear fruit. When we strive to bring about the reign of God in our small part of the world, we bear fruit. Sometimes we too need to have some of our thoughts and actions pruned so that we might better bear the fruit that we are truly capable of producing.

God, you have made us living branches of Christ the true vine. May we glorify you by our words and deeds. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

We are certainly back into the rhythm and routines of school and I would like to commend our students on the way they are engaging in their learning.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our **Year 4 and 5 children** that are preparing for their **First Communion**. Our Year 5 children and their families have been waiting longer than usual to receive this special sacrament due to the challenges of last year. First Communion celebrations will be conducted at the parish masses on Saturday 5 June and Sunday 6 June.

An invitation was sent out via Seesaw inviting all mothers and significant females in our students' lives to a **Mother's Day afternoon tea and assembly next Friday 7 May from 2.15 - 3.20pm in the PAC**. This assembly will feature all classes presenting something to recognise these very special people in their lives. Regardless of your age, mothers hold a very unique place in all our hearts and I hope and pray that all mothers are made to feel special on Sunday (and every other day!).

Enrolments for Prep in 2022 are now 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.

Our school gates are opened at 8.30am each morning. We are starting to see children dropped off or arriving 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.

Lastly, a reminder that **tomorrow Friday 30 April is a school closure day**. Our staff will be working on aspects of our School Review which occurs every 4 years.

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 Family Workshop:	Thursday, 29th April, 7pm
First Communion Reflection Day:	Tuesday, 1st June
First Communion:	Saturday 5th at 5:30pm & Sunday 6th June at 10:30am (Parish Mass Times)
First Communion Assembly:	Monday, 7th June, 2:50 pm, parents invited

Confirmation: (Grade 6)

Confirmation Family Workshop:	Thursday, 13th May, 7pm
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

Confirmation News:

Fr Shanthaiah has recently been given delegation to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation by Fr Brendan Hayes, Episcopal Vicar of the Southern Region of the Archdiocese. This indicates that Fr Shanthaiah will be able to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation instead of Fr Hayes allowing us to celebrate Confirmation within the Mass, which would previously have not been the case.

Confirmation will now be celebrated on Friday 30th July 2021 at 7pm (instead of Thursday 29th July as previously announced).

Whole School Masses:

Monday 24 th May	Our Lady Help of Christians at 9:15 am
Friday 11 th June	Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15 (Adoration available throughout the day)

Level Masses:

Years 1/2:	Thursday 29th April
Years P/3/4:	Thursday 6th May
Years 5/6:	Thursday 10th June (while on camp)

Other Important Dates:

Mother's Day afternoon tea and assembly:	Friday, 7th May
National Sorry Day:	Wednesday, 26th May
National Sorry Day Assembly:	Friday, 28th May 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)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS CONT'D

Project Compassion Thank You

Thank you for your generous donations to Project Compassion allowing Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

The winning class that raised the most money for Project Compassion is 5/6O who will be able to wear casual dress on a date TBA.

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.

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.

WELLBEING NEWS



On Monday 26th April we will held our fourth Garden Market Stall for 2021.

The Environmental leaders sold fresh zucchinis, feijoas, parsley seeds, olives and eggs straight from the garden. We sold delicious homemade plum jam as well as tomato chutney and tomato passata which was generously donated by one of our beautiful mums and staff members! Thank you to all of the parents who supported our market stall!!! The money that we raise through the market garden assists with purchasing food for our chickens and items we require for our St Gerard's garden. The next stall will be held on Monday 10th May at 3:15pm.



KITCHEN GARDEN DATES TERM 2

Week	Class
Friday 7 th May @ 12:45- 1:45	1/2FP
Friday 14 th May @ 12:45- 1:45	5/6O
Friday 21 st May @ 12:45- 1:45	1/2L
Friday 28 th May @ 12:45- 1:45	5/6VT
Friday 4 th June @ 12:45- 1:45	3/4S
Friday 11 th June @ 12:45- 1:45	3/4C



SCHOOL PHOTOS

WEDNESDAY, 12 MAY

Please ensure your child is dressed in full winter uniform. Black school shoes no runners.

Envelopes have been sent home with your child. These are limited so please make sure you check your child's school bag as each child has been given one.

Please read the instructions for ordering your photos carefully.

Sibling photos will also be available on the day. An order form is only available from the front office so if you would like your children to have a photo together please collect an envelope from Rachel or Helen.

