

# ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



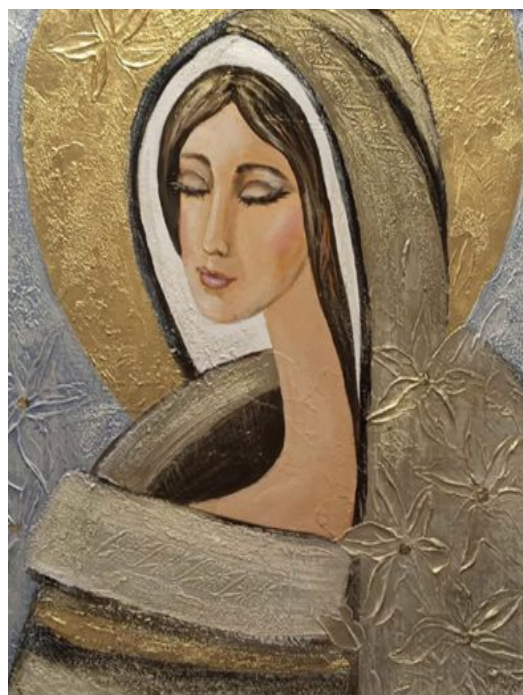
TERM 3 - WEEK 9

8th September, 2023



## The Feast of the Nativity of Mary An Invitation to Bring Mary Home: A Week of Family Spiritual Connection

St Gerard's school has been gifted with a beautiful statue of Our Lady, a generous gift from the Legion of Mary group. The statue comes with a handcrafted carrier bag, designed for its respectful storage when not in use. Families are invited to bring the statue home for a week to use it to enhance family prayer. **If you would like to go on the roster to take the state of Our Lady home for a week, please reply to this Seesaw message.** A brochure offering guidance on how to engage in rosary prayer will be included, accompanied by some sets of rosary beads.



Heavenly Father,

On this special day, we gathered as a school community to celebrate the Nativity of Mary. We came together in unity with a living rosary to honour her.

We thank you for Mary, our Mother and guide, and ask for her intercession. May her example of faith, humility, and love inspire us in our daily lives.

Bless our school community, students, teachers, parents, and staff. May our devotion to Mary guide us towards love, compassion, and grace.

As we celebrate Mary's birthday, may her presence in our hearts lead us on the path of righteousness and love.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.



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<https://www.facebook.com/stgerardsp>

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

Here we are at the end of the second last week of the term where we have had some glimpses of Spring as we head towards the school holidays.

Our annual **Book Fair** concluded on Tuesday morning and I would like to thank those families that purchased books for their children. **A love of reading is a wonderful thing that can transform you to different places and times.** It is always heartwarming to see the joy and excitement on a child's face when they find a book that captures their imagination. I would like to **thank Mrs Jolly** for coordinating this event.

**Today (Friday)** we gathered as a school and with members of the Parish Community in the PAC to celebrate the **Feast of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary** by participating in a **Living Rosary**. This was a wonderful experience as we prayed together this very significant prayer sequence of our faith. I would like to congratulate our children from **Years 3 - 6 who lead us in this special event** and **Mrs Stack** for her organisation.

A reminder that our school is participating in **Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS)**. MACSSIS is an annual process whereby schools listen to the thoughts and feelings that students, families and staff have about how their school is performing and where it can improve. These surveys also help inform the ongoing improvement of schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. **An email was sent to all families last week with your family's code for the parent survey.** All students in Years 4 - 6 will complete their survey at school by early next week. **I encourage all families to complete the survey and thank you in advance.**

**Families were recently emailed information regarding an online platform called Operoo (formerly CareMonkey).** This is an online service to send permission notes to families which will stop the need for paper notes to be sent home and returned to school. If you require any assistance please contact our School Office as **I encourage all families to take up this service.** We have begun using Operoo with our Year 5/6 Gala Day note for the start of Term 4 uploaded.

We have **4 children** competing at the **Greater Dandenong Divisional Athletics next Monday**. It is a great effort to qualify for this event and I am sure these 4 athletes will give a good account of themselves both on and off the track. We wish them all the best and look forward to hearing about the day.

**Next Thursday** we will have our annual **Footy Day** where we encourage everyone to wear their footy colours to school. We will have a **parade at 9.00am in the PAC** followed by a longest kick competition. Families are more than welcome to come along and be part of this occasion.

Finally, a reminder that **Term 3 finishes next Thursday 14 September at 3.30pm.**

Take care and God bless.

Paul COWAN  
PRINCIPAL



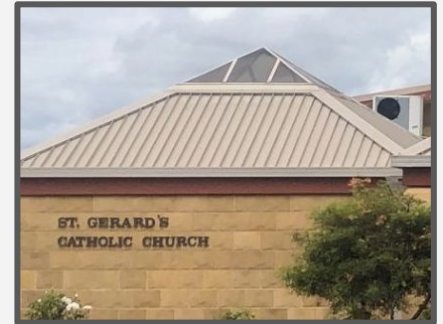
# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## St Gerard's Talent Quest Auditions

Early next term, as part of our celebrations for our Feast Day and raising awareness for Mission Month, we will be holding our annual Talent Quest. Children will need to audition for this event in the last week of term if they wish to participate.

## Parish Mass

Year 1/2 Level: Wednesday 13th September, 9:15am



## PARISH NEWS



***The Junior Legion of Mary Meetings are held every Monday at St Gerard's school term from 4:15pm – 5:15 pm in The Library Room (brown building in the car park of St. Gerard's Primary School).***

*Legion of Mary Contact: Kereena Lopez 0435 554 175 and Jacqueline Savanah on 0437 668 352.*

*Application forms are available to collect from the foyer of the Church.*

## Altar Servers

Altar Server training will resume for existing altar servers and any 'new recruits' wishing to help our parish celebrate Mass.

Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

For more information contact St Gerard's Parish Office 9792 4422 or Mrs Stack 9791 7553



# PARISH NEWS

## Junior Legion of Mary

Dear Parents,

The Legion of Mary runs a Junior Legion of Mary praesidium (branch) at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong once a week after school during school term. Meetings last for one hour per week. All possible care will be taken while your child is with us.

Children are taught to:

- Pray the Rosary
- Be helpful at home
- Do works of service such as a Book Barrow

They are trained to be good Catholics by reaching out to others. One way they do this is by visiting a local nursing home during the school holidays, where they interact with the residents. Children are also guided to take part in parish events such as the Public Square Rosary in October.



This group will enable your child to grow spiritually and also learn to be an active apostolic worker in the Parish. All activities will be supervised by adult legionaries who hold Working with Children permits.

If you would like your child/children to join this group, please complete the application form below and return it to Kereena or Cecilia. For more information please phone a contact below.

<b>Meeting Day:</b>	Every MONDAY of St Gerard's school term	
<b>Time:</b>	4:15 PM TO 5:15 PM STARTING JULY 10 <sup>TH</sup>	
<b>Place:</b>	LIBRARY ROOM of St. Gerard's	
<b>Legion of Mary Contact:</b>	Kereena Lopez	0435 554 175
<b>Legion of Mary Contact:</b>	Cecilia Donald	0402 716 101



✂

Parent or guardian to complete: (All information provided is confidential.)

<b>Child's Name:</b>		<b>Grade:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>			
<b>Any health issues?</b>		<b>Date of Birth:</b>	

I ..... (Parent/guardian) give permission for my child  
(name) .....  
to attend the Junior Legion of Mary at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, North Dandenong (in the Church foyer).

Signature..... Date.....

Name of First Contact Person			
Address			
Phone No.			
Second Contact for child	Name:	Phone No:	

# WELLBEING



Growing a mentally  
healthy generation



## • What is help-seeking?

**Help-seeking is a positive coping strategy.**

Help-seeking could mean children and families asking for assistance with daily activities or learning experiences, such as a baby learning to eat solid food, a toddler learning to climb or a preschooler wanting to join a game with their peers.

It could also mean seeking help for developmental queries or general health matters. For example, speech and language delays, sleep issues or changes in behaviour, or supporting children in School Age Care manage their social interactions.

Help may come in many shapes and forms. It could come from within the early learning service or from external agencies, resources and organisations.

It may occur through daily interactions and conversations between educators, children and families. Other good sources of information and support are brochures, fact sheets, reputable websites, family, friends and health professionals.

Support may be focused on children, their families or the early learning community, or a combination of these. The goal in providing support is to find the best possible pathway to maintain or improve the wellbeing of children and their families.





# WELLBEING



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 Thursday 7th September the SRC reps of St Gerard's attended their second last meeting for Term 3. They discussed upcoming events and began brainstorming ideas for lunch time activities.





# YEAR 5/6T HARVEST





# Reading before School





Please note the following changes in relation to uniform purchases for St Gerard's Primary School:

Uniforms can now be purchased in the following ways:

**Option 1 - Online Order**

**Access to our Online Ordering System**

1. [www.aplusschoolwear.com.au](http://www.aplusschoolwear.com.au)
2. Go to **SHOP ONLINE NOW** (red box)
3. Select your school
4. Uniform listing with images will appear.

Select items you are wishing to purchase:

Style  
Size  
Colour  
Quantity  
Add items to bag

5. Once all items are added to bag, proceed to checkout.
6. Select delivery options
  - a. Pick up from school (free) in comments section please enter your child's name and class
  - b. Pick up from A Plus Schoolwear (free)
  - c. Postal address (delivery charges will apply)
7. Either checkout as guest, returning customer or create a new account.

**Orders placed by Sunday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday**

**Option 2 - Fill out the order form and leave it at the school office.**

**Orders received by Friday will be delivered to the school the following Thursday**

**RETURNS**

Can be given to the school office and will be either exchanged or refunded by A Plus School wear.

Should you have any queries regarding the above, please contact A Plus Schoolwear

9354 8345 or email [angie@agsprints.com.au](mailto:angie@agsprints.com.au)

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

- Diamond Dancers - Recreation and Competitive Dancing
- Springvale Indoor Sports - School Holiday Program
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Noble Park Community Centre Art Show and Art Competition
- Dandenong Saints Basketball Club - **new players wanted**

## Chicken Eggs For Sale

- St Gerard's would like to offer families the opportunity to purchase delicious organic eggs laid by our resident flock of chickens.
- You can purchase these eggs from the school office at a cost of \$6 per dozen.
- All proceeds from the sale of the eggs will go towards purchasing food for our feathered friends.
- Please message [Nicole Fernandez](#) via Seesaw if you would like to purchase some eggs.

