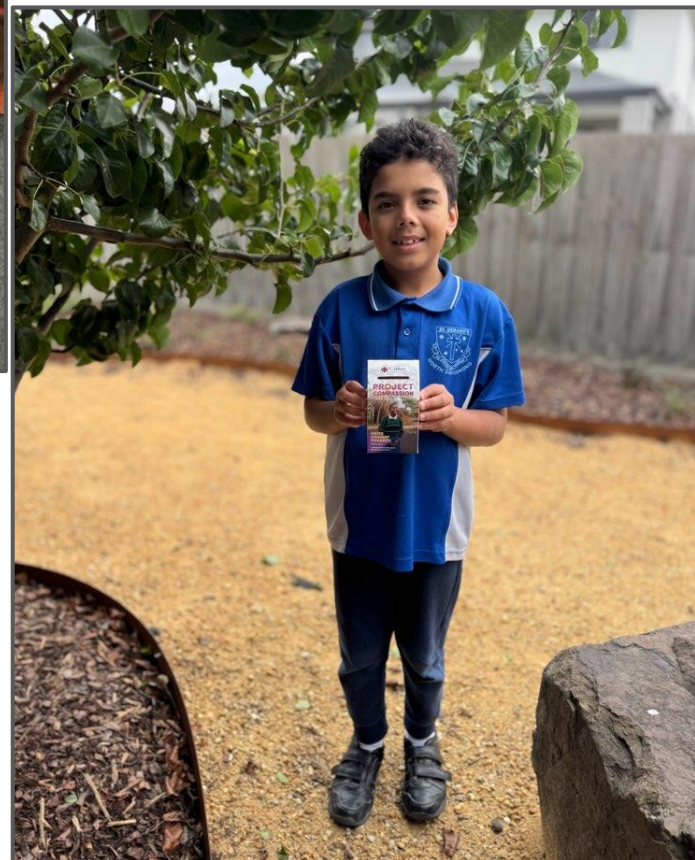




Living our faith through Project Compassion.

PROJECT COMPASSION

GO FURTHER TOGETHER



Dear God,

During this season of Lent, help us to remember those who are in need.

Thank you for all the blessings in our lives and guide us to be kind, generous, and caring.

May our giving, big or small, bring hope and joy to others.

Bless our hearts as we share with love through Project Compassion.

Amen.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

While it may have been a short week we still managed to fit plenty of opportunities and events into three days.

Our **Year 3 and 5 children participated in the annual NAPLAN assessments** from Wednesday to Friday. I would like to **congratulate our children on their efforts and thank their teachers and LSO's for the support, encouragement and safe learning environment they provided to allow each of our children to perform to the best of their abilities.** We view these assessment tasks as an opportunity to gather further information about the continual development of our children in conjunction with our other ongoing assessments. The results of these assessments also help us as a school see where we are performing well and areas where we may need to improve.

We had the second of our **Open Days for this term on Wednesday.** These days are an opportunity for prospective families to see all that we offer here at St Gerard's. If you know families who will be looking for a school in 2027, we would appreciate you letting them know that **enrolments for 2027 are open.** Similarly, **if you have a child who will be starting school in 2027 please contact us so that we can ensure a place for them as existing families are our first category for enrolments.** Our final OPEN Day for the term is planned for next Tuesday 17 March.

The third of our 4 **AUSKICK and SUPERKICK sessions** occurred on Wednesday afternoon and today (Friday) also saw our Year 3 - 6 classes involved in Cricket Clinics. Hopefully these sessions have given our children a 'taste' of what these 2 sports have to offer and that they may want to pursue them further.

As mentioned last week, activities that families are more than welcome to come and be a part of include:

- Monday morning Meditation in the PAC at 8.50am
- Before School Reading on Wednesday morning in the Library from 8.30am
- Before School Skipping in the Courtyard from 8.30am
- Assembly on Friday in the PAC at 2.50pm.

Lastly, please keep in your thoughts and prayers our **Year 3 children that will be celebrating their First Reconciliation** next Thursday evening. As a school we will congratulate them at next Friday's Assembly.

God bless.

Paul Cowan
PRINCIPAL

Religious

Key Dates

Sacraments 2026

First Reconciliation:

- Thursday, 19th March, 2026 First Reconciliation at 6.30pm
- Friday, 20th March, 2026, 2:50 pm First Reconciliation Assembly

First Communion:

- Sunday, 14th June, 2026, First Communion, 10:30am

Confirmation:

- Saturday, 16th May, 2026 Confirmation, 5:30pm

Level Mass

Yrs 1/2FB & 1/2S

Thursday 19th March, 9:15am

Other Important Dates for Religion

17th March:

TBA:

31st March

Wear a **Touch of Green** with school uniform for St Patrick's Day

Delegation of Yr 6 leaders attend St. Patrick's Day Mass at Cathedral

The Passion

Religious News



Your support helps people like
Monoranjon learn new skills to
support their families



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT
COMPASSION

Third Week of Lent (week beginning 9 March)

Every dollar raised by our school community in support of Caritas Australia's Project Compassion this Lent will help empower people across the world to build stronger, more resilient futures for themselves and their families. People just like **Monoranjon**.

Monoranjon lives in a coastal village in southwest Bangladesh, one of the regions most affected by climate change. He and his family face extreme heat, cyclones and water scarcities, which often destroy his crops and threaten his livelihood.

Things began to change when Monoranjon joined the Community Managed Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience Program run by Caritas Bangladesh, with the support of Caritas Australia. Through the program, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques including organic vegetable cultivation and livestock vaccination, meaning he is now able to grow salt-tolerant vegetables and raise livestock.

Today, Monoranjon's income has improved, allowing him to send his children to school and protect their futures from poverty. He also now teaches others in his village, inspiring further change and opportunity across the community.

Watch Monoranjon's story [HERE](#) to learn more about how our school is changing lives around the world - ensuring that people have the tools they need to face poverty, climate change and disaster.

Religious News

Will you join us and walk alongside people like Monoranjon this Lent?



You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: projectcompassion.org.au

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

The Passion – Costume Ideas

For Children: Year Prep – 4

Year 5/6: Wear All Black

To help reflect on the events of Holy Week, we will be holding a special school event on **Tuesday, 31st March at 2:00pm**. All children will be involved, either as part of the crowd, re-enacting the events of Holy Week, or singing.

We ask that:

- **Children in Foundation – Year 4** come to school dressed in clothing from the **time of Jesus**.
- **Year 5/6 students** wear **all black**.

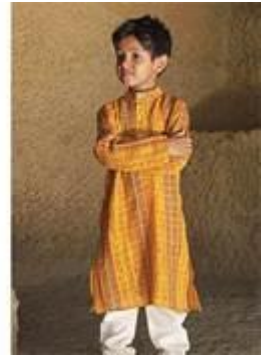
We also ask that all children bring a gold coin donation on this day to support Project Compassion.

Religious News

Costume Ideas:

- Traditional Indian, Sri Lankan, or Arabic clothing that could resemble attire from the time of Jesus.
- Tea towels on the head, secured with a headband or scarf.
- Old sheets tied with a rope or belt around the waist.
- Scarves wrapped around the head.

Thank you for helping your child participate in this meaningful event!



Altar Servers

Altar Server practice resumed on Wednesday 29 January and will continue every Thursday evening at 5:30 pm at St Gerard's Church. To be eligible to serve, children must have received their First Communion.

This is a wonderful opportunity for young members of our parish to take part in the liturgy and learn the responsibilities of altar service.

For further information about practice times or eligibility, please contact the parish office on **9792 4422**.



Religious News

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home

We invite families to take the Our Lady statue into their home for a week as a special way to deepen family prayer time. Each family will receive a brochure with simple instructions for praying the Rosary, as well as a set of rosary beads. If you would like to take the Our Lady statue home, please let Mrs Stack know.



Lunchtime Rosary

The Legion of Mary Group is teaming up with the school to lead Rosary prayer sessions during lunch breaks. These will take place during the first lunch on Tuesdays in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term.

The Passion

We warmly invite you to join us for one of the most significant events in our school year, The Passion. This special Holy Week presentation is a much-loved tradition at our school, where every child participates in retelling the story of Jesus' final days.

Through *The Passion*, we journey with Jesus to the cross and reflect on the emotions of Holy Week, from joy to sorrow, as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

Please join us on Tuesday 31st March at 2:00pm in the school hall. We understand this may require time away from work, and we truly appreciate your support in being part of this important community event.

We look forward to sharing this meaningful experience with you.

Wellbeing

How does exercise affect mental health and wellbeing?

Physical activity promotes many aspects of child and adolescent development, including social and emotional skills, as well as physical development of motor skills.



It also supports mental wellbeing. We know that high levels of inactivity can lead to a greater risk of both physical and mental health problems.

Physical activity:

- can increase levels of serotonin and endorphins; the neurotransmitters
- involved in regulating and improving mood
- promotes sleep – which also helps regulate moods, increase energy levels
- and improve memory and learning
- increases the connections between the brain neurons, which improves
- memory and learning capacity
- pumps blood to the brain to boost mood, concentration and alertness
- promotes relaxation by reducing skeletal muscle tension
- provides children and young people with an outlet for excess energy and frustration, which relieves tension
- provides an opportunity for children and young to socialise and meet new people, reducing loneliness and isolation
- improves motor and cognitive skills, which boosts self-esteem
- distracts children and young people from negative thoughts.

These benefits also serve to improve classroom behaviour and promote a more positive learning environment.

Harmony Day Friday 20th March

Next Friday 20th March we will be celebrating Harmony Day at St Gerard's. Harmony Day is a special day celebrated across Australia that recognises and celebrates our country's cultural diversity. It is a time to promote inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

The message of Harmony Day is "Everyone Belongs." It reminds us that Australia is made up of people from many different cultures, backgrounds and traditions, and that our differences make our community stronger.

All students are encouraged to dress in cultural clothing or wear orange, the official colour of Harmony Day, which represents social communication, meaningful conversations and mutual respect. Students are also invited to fill their lunch boxes with food from their culture and share in the celebration of the many cultures that make up our school community.

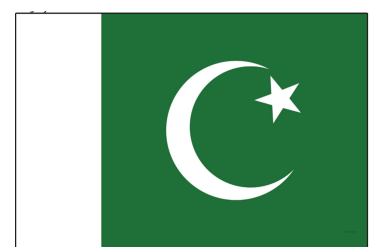
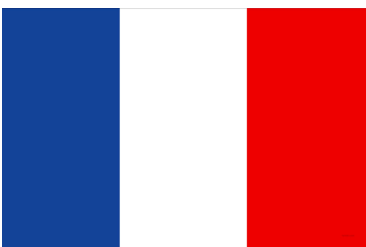
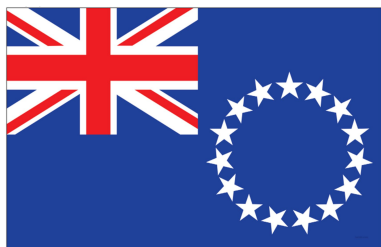
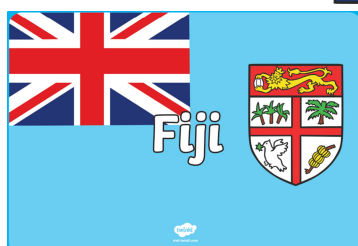
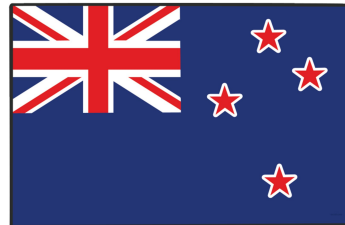
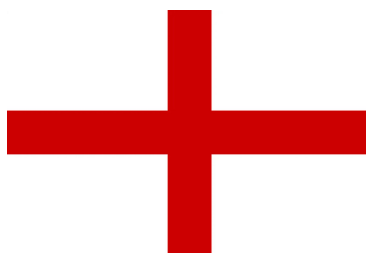
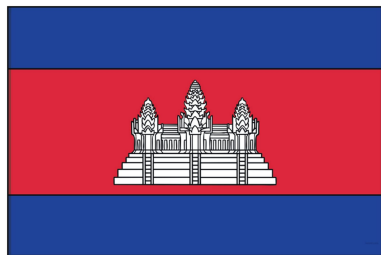
We will begin the morning with a paraliturgy and parade, followed by a day of exciting learning where students will explore and learn about the different cultures represented within our school.

We invite parents and family members to get involved! If you'd like to share your culture and assist with activities, please speak to Mrs. Fernandez.

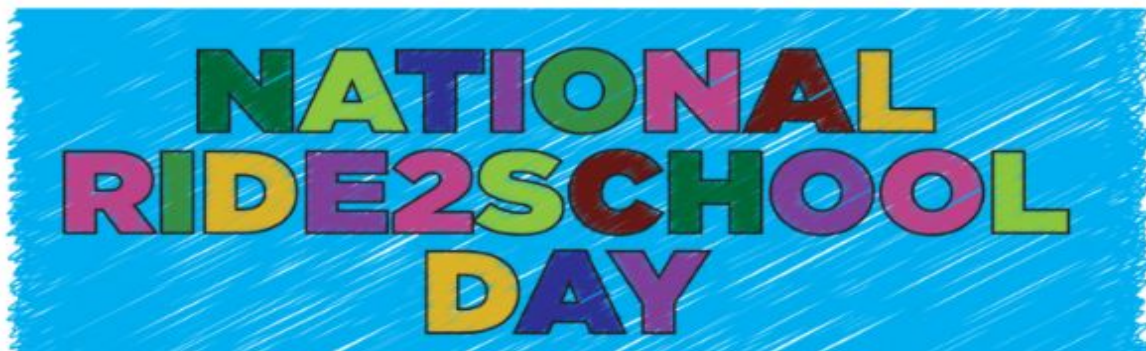
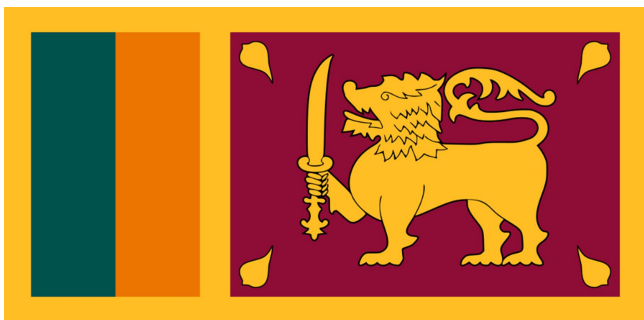
We look forward to celebrating the rich diversity of our St Gerard's community together.



Wellbeing



Wellbeing



Next Thursday 19th March St Gerard's will be participating in National Ride to School Day, celebrating active travel to and from school across Australia.

Schools across the country are hopping on board for this year's event to help students build confidence, independence and healthy habits through bike riding and other forms of active Travel.

National Ride to School Day is Australia's biggest celebration of active travel, with more than 350,000 students expected to ride, walk, scoot or skate to school. It is a fantastic day full of fun and colour where students, teachers and parents can discover the joy of riding and encourage children to build active habits for the future.

All students are encouraged to ride, scoot or walk to school on the day. The class with the highest percentage of students walking, riding or scooting to school will win a **Free Dress Day**.

If you live too far away to walk the whole distance, please consider parking at Woolworths and walking the rest of the way to school. It is a great way to start the day with some fresh air and movement.

We look forward to seeing lots of bikes, scooters and smiling faces next Thursday.

2026 DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 1, 2026 Dates

- 16th Whole School Meditation in PAC at 8.45am
- 17th Art Club at Lunchtime
- 18th Before School Reading in the library from 8:30am
- 18th Library Club at Lunchtime
- 18th AUSKICK & SUPERKICK Session 4 at 3.30pm
- 19th Before School Skipping in the Courtyard from 8:30am
- 19th Rosary with the Parish Legion of Mary
- 19th Garden Club at Lunchtime
- 19th First Reconciliation at 6.30pm
- 20th Harmony Day
- 20th Whole School Assembly in PAC at 2.40pm
- 23rd Whole School Meditation in PAC at 8.45am
- 25th Before School Reading in the library from 8:30am
- 26th Before School Skipping in the Courtyard from 8:30am
- 27th Whole School Assembly in PAC at 2.40pm
- 30th Whole School Meditation in PAC at 8.45am

April

- 1st End of Term 1 at 3.30pm

Important Notes

Medical Plans And Asthma Plans

This is a friendly reminder to provide the school with updated medical and asthma plans for 2024. If your child has asthma or requires other medications, please ensure that Ventolin, a spacer, and any necessary medications are supplied on the first day back to the school office.

All medications will be stored in individually labeled bags in the school office for safekeeping.

Any families who hold a current Health Care Card are asked to please provide a copy to the school office.

This will ensure you receive the MACS Concession on your school fees.

Please note, this must be a valid Centrelink Health Care Card. Private health insurance cards or Medicare cards are not eligible.



ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

SERVICE CONTACT:
0402 192 685 (Marina) | area1@ylv.com.au

SERVICE HOURS

COST

Before School Care
6:45AM – 8:45AM

\$30/\$35
PERMANENT/CASUAL

After School Care
3:30PM – 6:30PM

\$35/\$40
PERMANENT/CASUAL

Pupil-Free Day
7:00AM – 6:00PM

\$83

fees effective 02 Mar 2026

ylv.com.au

Important Information



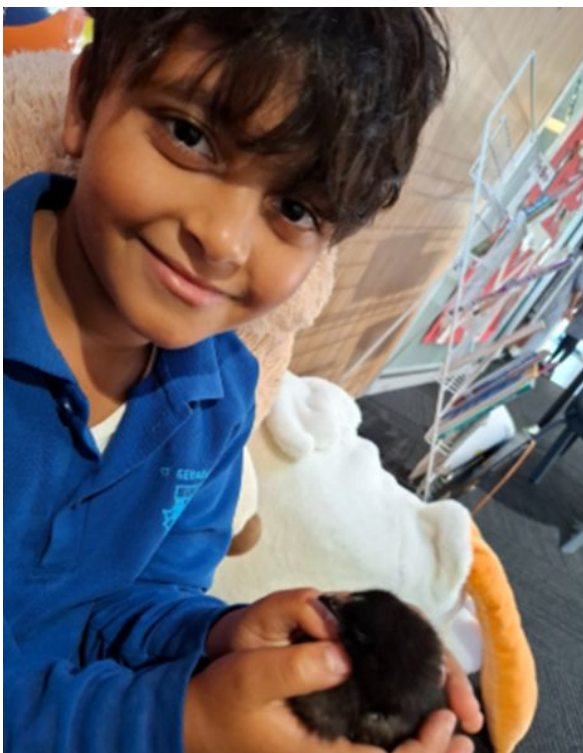
Happy Birthday to all who have celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays, this week including this weekend.

- SOPHIA Yr 6
- TRINITY Yr 2



COMMUNITY NOTICE

- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer
- Mazenod College - Open Day Information



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 **\$8** 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.