



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Week 3

09 May 2025



## ***A Mother's Day Prayer***

*Loving God,*

*We thank You for the gift of mothers—*

*for their love, their care, their patience, and their strength.*

*Bless all mothers in our St Gerard's community and around the world.*

*Give them joy in their hearts, peace in their homes, and strength in the challenges they face each day.*

*For mothers who are no longer with us, we ask that You hold them gently in Your eternal embrace. For those who long to be mothers or who have lost children, we pray for comfort and hope.*

*May we always show our gratitude and love, and honour the special role mothers play in our lives.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord,*

*Amen.*



@st.gerards3175

Principal - Mr Paul Cowan  
principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au  
71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North 3175



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

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

As we come to the end of our third week of the term we started with a sporting event and finished on a great high by celebrating our Mother's and mother figures in our school community.

On **Monday** we had two Year 5/6 teams participate in the **Paul Wade Cup** which is an annual **soccer tournament conducted by St John's Secondary College**. This once again proved to be a fantastic day and wonderful experience for our children who competed well, had some wins and represented St Gerard's with distinction. I would like to thank Ms Boyle, Mrs Smith, Mrs Munro and Mrs Zelic for supporting our children throughout the day. I also wish to thank St John's for their invitation for us to compete.

**Enrolments for 2026 are open** and new families are invited to come and see all the things we offer here at St Gerard's. Our **first Open Day for Term 2 is next Tuesday 13 May**, followed by 2 more in the coming weeks on Wednesday 21 May and Thursday 29 May. If you know families who are looking for a school in 2026 they are more than welcome to come on one of those days from 9.30am - 5.00pm at a time that suits them or they can contact the School Office on 9791 7553 or email: [principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) to arrange a meeting and school tour with myself.

Our **Sacramental Program** continues with both our **First Communion and Confirmation Family Workshops taking place next Thursday evening**. Our Year 4 children preparing for their **First Communion** are invited to attend their workshop with their families at **6.30pm in the Library** and our **Year 6 Confirmation Candidates and families are asked to come at 7.30pm**.

A further reminder to those families who have children with a **Medical Management Plan** that if there are changes to any aspect of the plan you need to **contact the School Office**. **It is vital that the information we have here at school is current and accurate and that the plan is not out of date.**

It was wonderful to wake up this morning to the news that we have a new Pope!

**Pope Leo XIV was elected overnight to be the Leader of Our Church**. We pray that the Lord will watch over and guide him as he leads us into the future.

Last but not least, **Today (Friday)** we had our **Mother's Day celebration in the PAC**. It was wonderful to see so many of our Mother's and Mother figures of our children. Our guests were provided with afternoon tea and our school then gathered to recognise, thank and celebrate these very significant people. **Regardless of your age, mothers and significant females hold a very unique place in all our hearts**. I hope and pray that all mothers and significant females are made to feel very special on Sunday (and every other day!).

God bless and Happy Mother's Day for Sunday!

Paul COWAN  
PRINCIPAL

# Religious News

## Sacrament Dates. 2025

### **First Communion: (Grade 4)**

Thursday, 15th May First Communion Family Workshop **6:30pm**

Thursday, 19th June First Communion Reflection Day

Sunday, 22nd June First Communion, 10:30am 2025

Friday, 27th June First Communion Assembly in the PAC

### **Confirmation: (Grade 6)**

Thursday, 15th May Confirmation Family Workshop **7:30pm**

Tuesday, 24th June Confirmation Reflection Day (Yr 6 wear casual)

Thursday 26 June Bishop Tony Ireland visiting Year 6 students for Confirmation at 10.00am (confirmed)  
11:50 practice in the Church with Catechetics and School Candidates

Saturday, 28th June Confirmation 5:30pm (Vigil)

Friday, 4th July 1:15pm Confirmation and end of Term Assembly in the PAC

### Whole School Masses:

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June                      The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:15

### Level Mass:

1/2 Level:                              29th May, 9:15am

Prep/5/6 Level:                      5th June, 9:15am

3/4 Level:                              12th June, 9:15am

### Reconciliation:

Years 3 & 4:                              Thursday 19th June, 10:00am

Years 5 & 6:                              Wednesday 25th June, 10:00am

### Other Important Dates:

26th May, 2:50pm                      Sorry Day Assembly

6th June                                      Mary Glowrey Faith Formation Day for Staff, School Closure

15th to 21st June                      Refugee Week

16th June, 2:50                              Refugee Week Assembly

## **Altar Servers**

Altar service practice will resume on Thursday, February 13th, and will take place every Thursday evening at 5:30 pm in St. Gerard's Church. To be eligible for service, individuals must have completed their First Communion. This provides a wonderful opportunity for young members of the Church to participate in the liturgy and take on the responsibilities associated with altar service. For any inquiries regarding altar service practice or eligibility, please feel free to contact the parish office at 97924422.





# Religious News



## **An Invitation to Bring Mary Home: A Week of Family Spiritual Connection**

Families are welcome to take home the Our Lady statue for a week to support and enrich prayer time at home. It comes with a brochure on how to pray the rosary and some rosary beads. If families would like to take the statue home, please let Mrs Stack know.

## **Lunchtime Rosary**

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

## **St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal:**

We're aiming to fill our food cart to the brim once again for the St. Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal! Starting in Week Two, our Social Justice and Spirituality Leaders will be collecting food donations right up until the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The class that brings in the most items will be rewarded with a casual dress day.

## *Vinnie's* **WINTER APPEAL**



*'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Whatever you did for one of the least of mine, you did for me.'* Mathew 25



# Happy Mother's Day



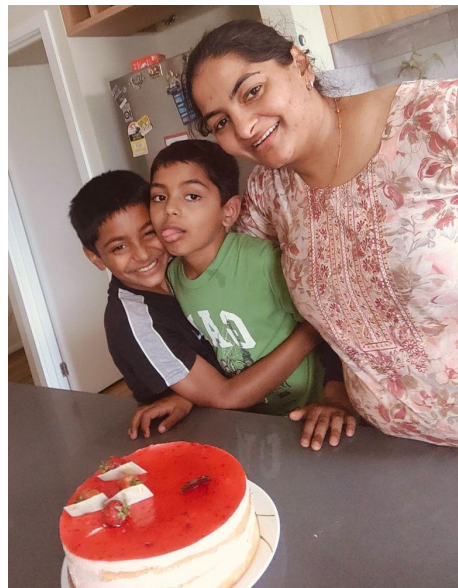
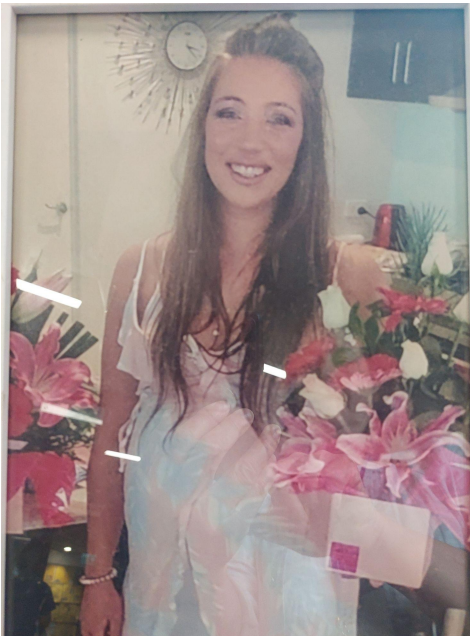
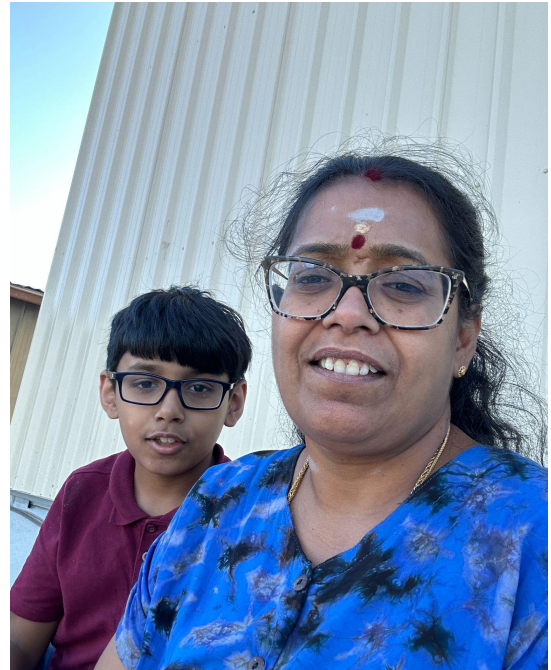


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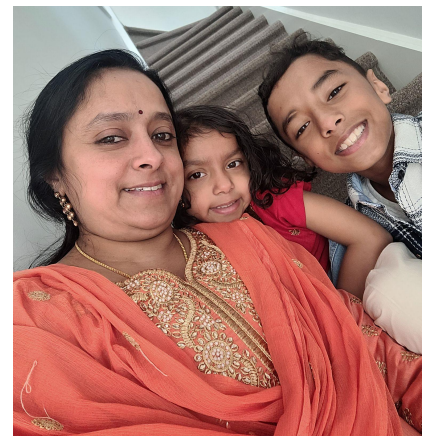
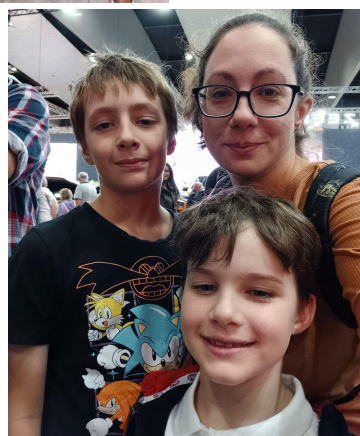
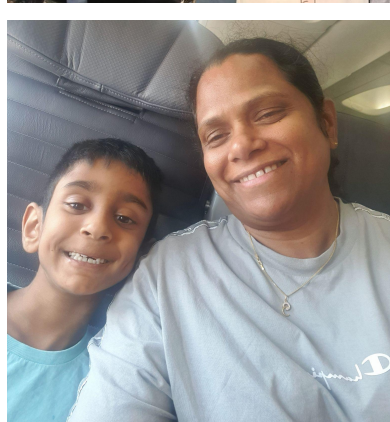
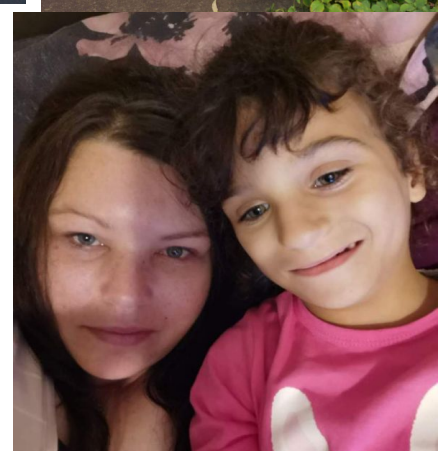
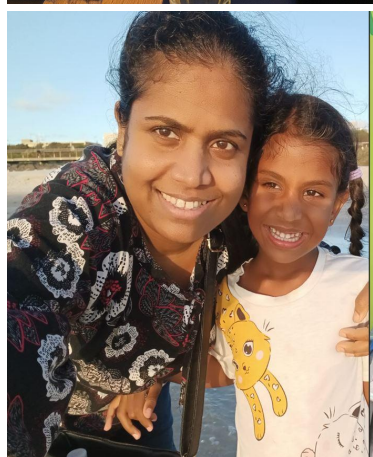
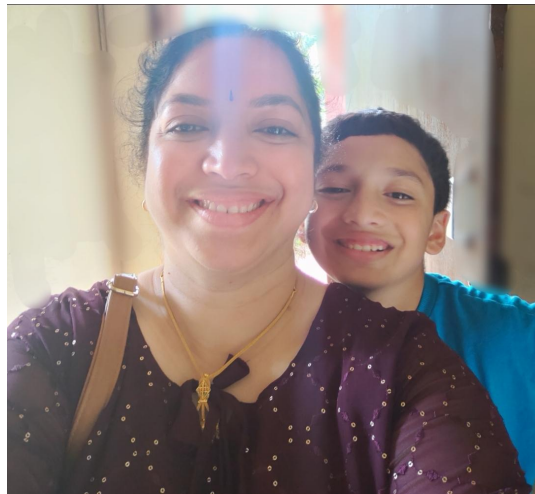


# Happy Mother's Day





# Happy Mother's Day





# Happy Mother's Day





# Reading Before School

ST GERARD'S  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



## READING BEFORE SCHOOL

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

## 8:30 AM

Join Mrs O'Brien in the  
library for some quiet  
reading time with a good  
book and receive a  
Reading Before School  
raffle ticket.





# Reading Before School





# Reading Before School





# Literacy



## SAVE THE DATE

### LITERACY WORKSHOP – 2025


Where: St Gerard's Primary School, Dandenong nth

When: 22nd May. 2025

Time: From 6.00pm to 7.15pm

**The class with the highest  
attendance wins a Free Dress  
Day!!!**

Come listen to the children in  
action, explain their learning!



# Reading Challenge

## Victorian Premiers Reading Challenge

Students have been sent home with their login and passwords for the Victorian Premiers Reading Challenge.

Please follow the steps below:

1. Visit <https://vprc.eduweb.vic.gov.au/home>
2. Select student
3. Then select VPRC login see below

4. Finally type in the username and passcode.

Please record the names of the books your child/ren are reading.

Happy Reading Children!!!



School coordinator or student

Sign In

Home based readers and early childhood participants

Register For the Challenge

Challenge Booklist

Search Booklist

# Wellbeing



## What do we mean by digital mental health?

**Digital mental health refers to services delivered via digital platforms online, mobile or via the phone.**

It also encompasses the use of social media and online support communities, which allows people to connect with others who are going through similar experiences or who share their interests.

Digital mental health services can be accessed in a confidential way – allowing children and young people to reach out for support when they may not be able to access support in the learning environment or broader community.

Online support services have been shown to support children and young people's learning, development, social networks, mental health and wellbeing. It can also provide access to opportunities to connect with others, and gain support, through the development of new skill sets to complement and build on their existing social and emotional competencies.

There are a range of online sites, services and supports available specifically for young people. The Be You [Wellbeing Tools for Students](#) is your essential guide to the online tools and other resources that will best support children and young people in taking care of their own mental health.



# Wellbeing



## Walk Safely to School Day – Friday, 16 May 2025

On **Friday, 16 May 2025**, our school will participate in **National Walk Safely to School Day**, an annual event encouraging primary school children across Australia to walk or bike to school. This initiative promotes health, road safety, and active transport, aiming to develop exercise routines for children, promote increased intake of nutrient-dense diets, and cause positive environmental action by decreasing carbon emissions from driving to school.

This year marks the **26th anniversary** of National Walk Safely to School Day, championed by the Pedestrian Council of Australia. The event aims to raise awareness of the health, road safety, transport, and environmental benefits that regular walking, or alternative active transport, can provide for the long-term well-being of our children—not just on 16 May, but every day.

### Why Participate?

- **Health Benefits:** Walking to school promotes physical activity, which is essential for children's health and well-being.
- **Road Safety Awareness:** This day provides an opportunity to teach children about safe pedestrian behavior and the importance of road safety.
- **Environmental Impact:** By walking or biking to school, we can reduce traffic congestion and lower our carbon footprint.
- **Community Engagement:** Walking together fosters a sense of community and allows families to spend quality time together.

### Important Reminder:

Children under 10 years old should always hold an adult's hand when crossing the road. This is a key safety guideline to ensure their protection.

We look forward to seeing many families participate in this important event. Let's make this Walk Safely to School Day a memorable and impactful experience for our students.

### Celebrating Positive Behaviour with Raffle Tickets

At our school, we are committed to fostering a positive and respectful learning environment. To encourage and celebrate the demonstration of our core values—*Be Co-operative, Be Spirit-Filled, Be Respectful, Be Best, and Be Positive*—students are awarded raffle tickets when they exemplify these behaviours.

These raffle tickets serve as a tangible acknowledgment of students' efforts to uphold our school's expectations. By consistently displaying these values, students not only contribute to a harmonious school culture but also have the opportunity to participate in our monthly raffle draw.

The raffle will be drawn during the whole school assembly next Friday, and the winners will be announced in the following newsletter. We encourage all students to continue demonstrating our core values and look forward to celebrating their achievements.

# Important Dates / Info

## May

- 13th Open Day
- 14th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 15th Ride to School Day
- 15th Rosary with The Legion of Mary
- 15th First Communion Family Workshop 6:30pm
- 15th Confirmation Family Workshop 7:30pm
- Whole School Literacy Evening 6-7pm
- 21st 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 21st Open Day
- 22nd SUBWAY Lunch
- 26th National Sorry Day
- 28th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 29th Open Day
- 30th Italian Day

## June

- 4th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- **6th School Closure Day - Staff Professional Learning - Religious Education**
- 8th Pentecost Sunday
- **9th King's Birthday Public Holiday**
- 11th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 12th Rosary with The Legion of Mary
- 12th Ride to School Day
- 18th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 19th First Communion Reflection Day
- 22nd First Communion at 10:30am (Feast of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ)
- 24th Confirmation Reflection Day
- 25th 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 26th Bishop Tony Ireland visiting Year 6 students for Confirmation
- 28th Sacrament of Confirmation 5:30pm

## July

- 2nd 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 3rd Subway Lunch
- **4th End of Term 2 - School finishes 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.

## Pick-up From After-School

Parents are asked to please be prompt when picking up your child/ren after-school. If a ride is not here when school concludes, the student may be sent to aftercare instead of the office. Please remember school aftercare does have a cost involved and time will begin accruing at the end of the school day. If a student's ride has run into an unexpected delay, please call the main office to let them know.



### Important Notice:

## School Fee Payments

### Updating Payment Details

Parents are reminded to contact the school office if there are any changes to your payment details. This includes expired credit cards or updated bank account information. Keeping these details current helps ensure your payments are processed smoothly.

### Outstanding School Fees

If you have not yet made any payments toward school fees, we kindly ask that you begin doing so as soon as possible to avoid falling behind.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please don't hesitate to contact the school office to arrange an appointment with Principal Paul Cowan. We are here to support you and work together on a solution.

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Book a tour →

Bookings essential

2025 Open Day: Wednesday 5th March  
2025 Tours: 1st May / 24th Jul / 5th Aug / 16th Oct  
Year 7/2027 Applications Close Friday 15th August 2025



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 **AFTER** contacting AGS and will be either exchanged or refunded by A Plus Schoolwear.

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

0354 8345 or email [info@agsprints.com.au](mailto:info@agsprints.com.au)



## OSHC IMPORTANT UPDATE

### 📢 Important Fee Update – Effective March 24, 2025 📢

Dear Parents & Guardians,  
To continue providing high-quality care and professional staff, Youth Leadership Victoria will be adjusting OSHC fees.

#### New Fees:

- ✅ Before School Care: Casual \$25 | Permanent \$20
- ✅ After School Care: Casual \$30 | Permanent \$25
- ✅ Vacation Care/Pupil Free Day: \$72.50

We appreciate your support and understanding.  
For any questions, please contact **Rita Strachan** 0412 958 601.

Thank you for being part of our OSHC community! 🎉

# Notice Board



Happy Birthday to all who have celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays.

**SUBWAY**  
22 May 2025



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- Ukraine Support Fund
- North Dandenong MASALA Junior Football club (AFL)
- Mazenod College Open Day & School Tours Info
- Goodstart Early Learning - Princes Highway



## 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.