



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Week 4

16 May 2025



Families Growing in Faith Together at the Sacrament Preparation Workshop.



Dear Lord,

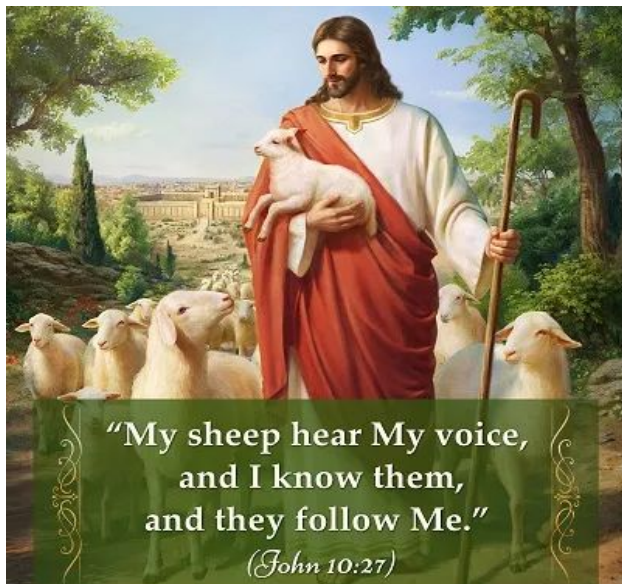
We thank You for the children at St Gerard's who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. As they get ready for these special moments, help them to know Your love in a deeper way and to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in their hearts.

Be with their families too. Give them patience, wisdom, and joy as they support their children on this journey of faith. May this be a time of grace for all of them, filled with meaningful conversations, quiet prayer, and growing trust in You.

Help all of us, friends, teachers, and the wider school community, to encourage and walk alongside them with kindness and prayer.

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son.

Amen.



"My sheep hear My voice,
and I know them,
and they follow Me."

(John 10:27)



@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,

Here we are at the end of the fourth week of the term where there was a wide range of activities and learning.

On Thursday our **Year 3/4 classes** travelled to **TwistED Science** in Moorabbin for an excursion where they were able to engage in a variety of scientific investigations. This will complement the work they are doing in class and from all reports from the children (and staff) it was a great experience.

Our **Sacramental Program** saw both our **First Communion** and **Confirmation Family Workshops taking place on Thursday evening**. Celebrating these Sacraments are milestone moments in the faith journey of a person and we are fortunate as a school community to be a part of it. Please keep these children and their families in your thoughts and prayers over the coming weeks.

Today (Friday) we had **18 children** from Years 3-6 compete in the **Dandenong District Cross Country** event. This involves running a 2 km (9/10 year olds) or 3 km course (11 and 12/13 year olds). It was wonderful to hear about the positive way in which they all participated and represented our school. We look forward to seeing the results as some children may progress to the next level. Our Year 3-6 children also had the first in a series of **Hockey clinics** which will be conducted over the coming weeks.

As I mentioned last week, **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 was on Tuesday** and we have 2 more in the coming weeks, next 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 to arrange a meeting and school tour with myself.

Finally, **today at Assembly we introduced a new aspect called 'High Flyers'**. This is to recognise our children that have achieved something outside of our school. It could be in the sporting or performing arts fields or involvement in a community based program or initiative. This week we acknowledged Dhanvin, Joram and Hudson for their achievements with the North Dandenong Junior Cricket Club. High Flyers will be a part of our Assembly each week so if you would like your child(ren) recognised, please email myself principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au or send a message through *Seesaw* by Thursday 5.00pm. Please provide a brief description which will be read out. I look forward to sharing with our school community the great things our children are doing.

God bless

Paul COWAN
PRINCIPAL

Religious News

Sacrament Dates. 2025

First Communion: (Grade 4)

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)

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 27th 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

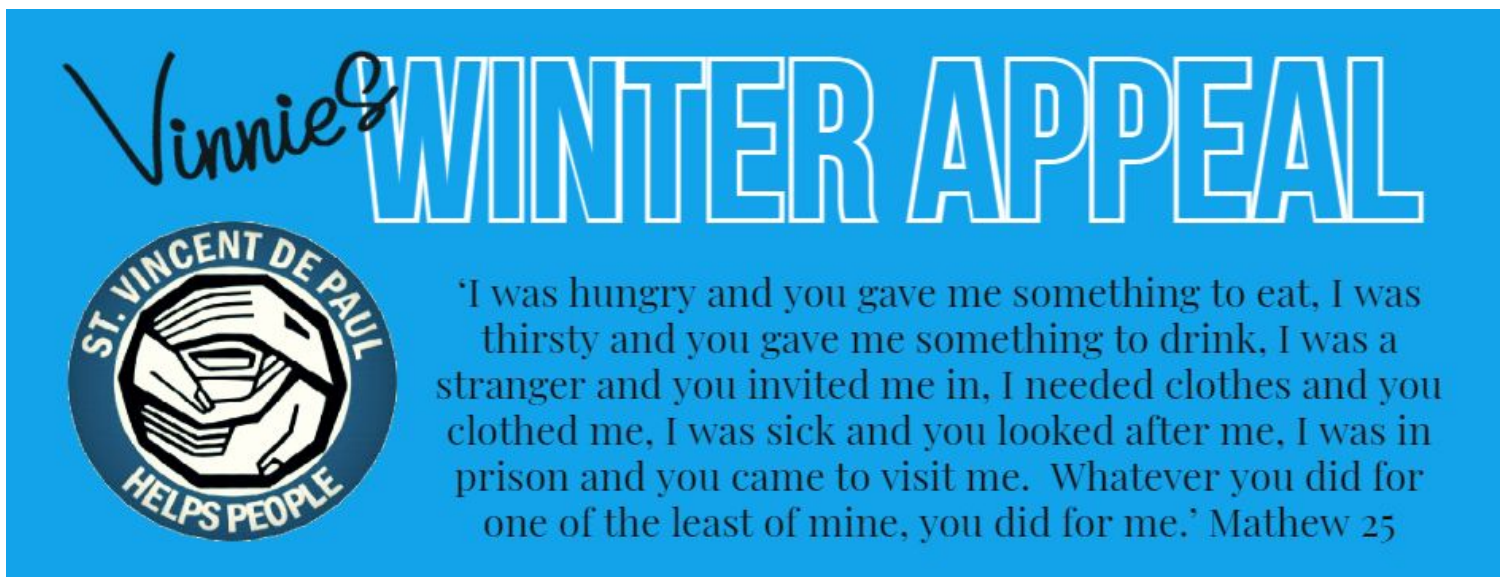
Families are welcome to take home the Our Lady statue for a week to support and enrich prayer time at home. It comes with a brochure on how to pray the rosary and some rosary beads. If families would like to take the statue home, please let Mrs Stack know.

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.



Reading Before School

ST GERARD'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL



READING BEFORE SCHOOL

EVERY

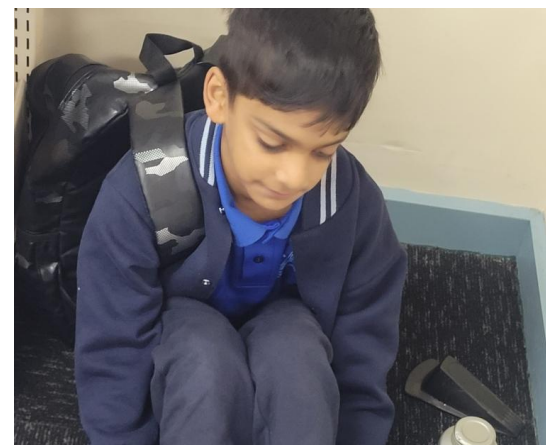
WEDNESDAY

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



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



Give Me 5 News

Next week, our school will dedicate time to reinforcing our "Give Me 5" value of being positive in the classroom. Students will be encouraged to demonstrate positivity by persevering through challenges and maintaining a positive attitude in their learning. Those who consistently exhibit this behavior will be rewarded with a raffle ticket, providing an opportunity to win exciting prizes. We look forward to celebrating the positive efforts of our students and fostering an environment of encouragement and resilience.

Healthy eating helps children and young people cope more effectively with stress, better manage their emotions and get a good sleep – all of which assist learning.

Most research about nutrition and mental health has focused on adults. We know that good nutrition is associated with better mental health outcomes, whereas a poor diet is associated with a greater risk of depression and anxiety. However, emerging research that focuses on children and young people has also found a relationship between unhealthy diets and poorer mental health outcomes.

Poor nutrition has been associated with:

- externalising behaviour (such as hyperactivity, aggression, disobedience)
- symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
- poor concentration and tiredness, which interfere with learning
- immune system function, which is also linked to mental health
- delayed brain development – high-fat, high-sugar diets can affect proteins in the body that are important for brain development
- iron deficiency, which has been linked to cognitive function impairments associated with learning and memory
- nutrient deficiencies, which have been associated with mental health conditions including depression and anxiety (we know that fruits and vegetables, grains, fish, lean red meats and olive oils are rich in important nutrients such as folate, magnesium, vitamins and zinc which all impact on body and brain functions, including mood regulation)



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 was drawn during today's whole school assembly on Friday, May 16, 2025. The winners will be announced in next week's newsletter. We encourage all students to continue demonstrating our core values and look forward to celebrating their achievements.

Wellbeing



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations

to 1/2FB for achieving the highest participation rate! As a reward, their class has won a **Free Dress Day!** Well done to all students for joining in and making this day special.

Remember, walking to school isn't just for today—it's a great habit to continue every day!

Thank you to everyone who participated, and let's keep walking safely to school!

Walk Safely to School Day – Friday, 16 May 2025

Today, our school proudly participated in National Walk Safely to School Day, joining primary schools across Australia in this annual event that promotes health, road safety, and active transport. This initiative encourages children to walk or bike to school, fostering positive habits that benefit both individuals and the environment.

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. [walk.com.au](https://www.walk.com.au)

A heartfelt thank you to all the families who participated in today's event. It was truly wonderful to see so many students walking with their parents, reinforcing the importance of safety and community. Let's continue to encourage these positive habits every day.

Important Dates / Info

May

- 21st 8:30 - 8:40 Reading before school in the library
- 21st Open Day
- 22nd SUBWAY Lunch
- 22nd Whole School Literacy Evening 6-7pm
- 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.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

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Mazenod advantage.

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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
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



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.

- Rutesh Foundation

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.