



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST GERARD'S SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 1, Week 7

14 March 2025

Give Me Five Principle for the Week is Be Cooperative in the Playground.



The Foundation students set a wonderful example for the rest of the school by following the Give Me Five Principle for the week.

Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of cooperation in and through your life. You always worked with those around you. Help us listen to others to understand their perspective and do our part in group efforts. Teach us to accept help when we need it and see our needs relative to the greater community's needs. Guide us to look for ways to be a help to others. Please help us to act in all things in harmony with the will of the Father.

Amen



@st.gerards3175

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

Despite a shorter week we still provided a range of learning experiences and opportunities for our children.

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 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 last of our **Open Days for this term on Thursday.** 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 2026, we would appreciate you letting them know that **enrolments for 2026 are open.** Similarly, **if you have a child who will be starting school in 2026 please contact us so that we can ensure a place for them as existing families are our first category of our enrolments.**

On Thursday Fr Shanthaiah celebrated **Reconciliation with our Year 4 children** here at our school. This Sacrament of Healing is an important aspect of our faith and is particularly relevant during the Season of Lent. **We are fortunate as a school community to have the support of Fr Shanthaiah.**

The fourth of our 5 **AUSKICK sessions** occurred yesterday afternoon. A reminder that a flyer for one of the local AFL clubs North Dandenong MASALA is in this newsletter. If your child is interested in playing AFL it might be worth investigating what this club has to offer.

As I mentioned last week, it has been brought to my attention that **when turning RIGHT out of the Car Park** there have been several cars that have gone through a red light at the pedestrian crossing. I am asking all families to be mindful of this as it is a busy time of the day with plenty of cars and pedestrians making their way home. We all have a responsibility to look after each other and keep each other safe.

Lastly, a reminder that **families are more than welcome to come and be part of our Monday Morning Meditation which starts at 8.55am in the PAC and our Whole School Assembly on Friday afternoons at 2.50pm which is also in the PAC.**

Have a great weekend and God bless.

Paul Cowan
PRINCIPAL

Religious News

Key Dates

Class/Level Mass

3/4W: Thursday 20th March, Class Mass at 10:00am

Reconciliation

Years 5/6O & 5/6T: Thursday, 27th March at 10:15am

Other Important Dates for Religion

17th March:	Wear a Touch of Green with school uniform for St Patrick's Day
TBA:	Delegation of Yr 6 leaders attend St. Patrick's Day Mass at Cathedral
31st March onwards:	<i>The Passion Gallery Walk</i> for student and family participation
4th April:	Parishioners and Family invited to attend <i>The Passion Gallery Walk</i> after Mass
17th April:	Holy Thursday
18th April:	Good Friday Day of Fast and Abstinence
19th April:	Holy Saturday
20th April:	Easter Sunday

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



Project Compassion

Caritas Australia's yearly Lenten campaign unites countless Australians in the global fight against poverty, championing justice, and upholding dignity. On Ash Wednesday, Project Compassion Boxes will be handed out to every class, each assigned a specific fundraising target for the Lenten season.

The class that achieves the highest fundraising amount will enjoy a well-deserved free dress day as a reward! Stay informed about each class's progress in fundraising efforts through regular updates provided by the Social Justice Leadership Team during school assemblies.

First Week of Lent



Deuteronomy 26:4–10 | Ps 90:1–2. 10–15. R. v.15 | Romans 10:8–13 | Luke 4:–13

The desert plays a significant part in Scripture: it is a place of both discovery and of getting lost. You may recall that Moses encountered God in the wilderness when he hears a voice from the burning bush.

He discovered something vital to us all that day: God points us in a direction we may not choose for ourselves. Later, however, Moses and his people are lost in the desert for 40 years. We read the finale of that story in today's first reading.

First Australians have also had an intimate connection with the desert. Many Indigenous cultures danced in time with the desert for countless generations. When the so-called Pintupi Nine made 'first contact' after emerging from the Gibson Desert in 1984, they were in excellent health. The same desert could kill Europeans in thirty-six hours or less.

In today's Gospel, we learn that the Spirit led Jesus to a lonely place. Up to this point in Luke's Gospel, we have seen Jesus as a member of his family and community. We have met Mary and Joseph and Elizabeth and Simeon and Anna and John the Baptist. Now Jesus must stand on his own and decide what really matters in life. Is he going to rely on material things? Is he going to want power at any price? Is he going to put himself rather than God at the heart of his decision making? These are the temptations of the devil.

Lent presents us with the same choice. Are we going to find our direction or just be lost in the swirling confusion of choices with which life presents us? Project Compassion helps us to find direction by offering us the opportunity to *Unite Against Poverty*. Are we content for the world to become more and more fragmented. Or would we prefer to stand up against voices of opportunism and exploitation? Every year, Caritas Australia is overwhelmed and grateful that our Catholic communities are so clearly on the side of justice and life.



Prayer

We pray for greater respect for the environment. May we care deeply for Earth, the place that God has entrusted to our care. May we celebrate the Year of Jubilee year as pilgrims of hope, ready to find the direction towards peace and justice that God wants for us. May we *Unite Against Poverty* as we grow in respect for all life.

Amen

Photo: Samoan primary school students dance during their lunch break. Credit: Caritas Australia.

projectcompassion.org.au

Religious News

The season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday, which also marked the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal.

Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia to work with local communities around the world to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

It invites us to make the world a better place by working together now and finding long-term solutions to global issues. We encourage you to put your compassion into action this Lent through your prayer, fasting and almsgiving by supporting Project Compassion.

A compassion box is assigned to every class, and the class that collects the highest amount of money will be rewarded with a casual dress day.



Students are invited to wear a touch of green to celebrate St Patrick's Day on Monday the 17th of March.



Religious News

An Invitation to Bring Mary Home

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

We extend an invitation to families to bring the Our Lady statue into their homes for a week, enhancing their family prayer experience. A brochure containing instructions for engaging in rosary prayer, along with sets of rosary beads, will be provided. If you are interested in taking the Our Lady statue home, please let Mrs. O'Brien know.



This week the statue of Mother Mary is visiting the home of **Dekota Rezel** from 5/6O.

Please remember if you are interested to take Mother Mary home to fill in a form and hand it over to your classroom teacher.

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 Gallery Walk

We're excited to invite families to experience *The Passion Gallery Walk* starting March 31st. Each class will contribute two artworks inspired by their assigned Stations of the Cross, reflecting on The Passion.

Details:

When: From March 31st
Where: PAC - The Passion Gallery Walk

Join us for this reflective journey as we share this meaningful time together. Stay tuned for more details!

Easter Gallery Walk

Families are invited to follow up on *The Passion Gallery Walk* by viewing the Resurrection artwork, which will be displayed after Easter.

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 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's resilience?

Resilience refers to the ability to manage everyday stressors and challenges.

Resilience enables people to shift back along the mental health continuum towards good mental health. A child or young person's ability to be resilient can depend upon many things and can change depending upon their situation. Importantly, specific situations or events that one child or young person may find challenging, another may not. Learn more about how you can help [build resilience in children](#).

A child or young person who is resilient might:

- be optimistic
- use positive self-talk for encouragement
- have a positive sense of self
- identify and express their feelings and thoughts
- not hide away from strong feelings
- have helpful, age-appropriate strategies to manage their emotions when upset
- rearrange their plans to work around an unexpected situation
- have a sense of agency or responsibility
- keep on trying if something doesn't work out and use their judgment about when to stop
- hold a sense of purpose or hope for the future
- actively ask for help if they need it
- feel a sense of attachment to family, their learning community and to learning.



HARMONY DAY

#EVERYONEBELONGS

St Gerard's Celebrates Harmony Day

This year, St Gerard's will celebrate Harmony Day on **Friday, 28th March**, a special day to honor the diverse cultures within our school community.

The day will begin with a Paraliturgy and a Harmony Day Parade, followed by fun activities that help students learn about different cultures.

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.

Let's come together to celebrate unity and diversity at St Gerard's!

Wellbeing

Give Me 5 News

Next week our Give Me 5 whole school focus is to Be Cooperative in the playground. You can do this by following directions, moving safely, playing fairly and sharing and using equipment safely. Students who are being cooperative in the playground will be rewarded with a silver band.

Raffle tickets lucky winners from LAST WEEK:

1. Hailey
2. Leo
3. Sofiya
4. Harold
5. Rosana
6. Ameya



Wellbeing

Give Me 5 News

Next week our Give Me 5 whole school focus is to Be Cooperative in the playground. You can do this by following directions, moving safely, playing fairly and sharing and using equipment safely. Students who are being cooperative in the playground will be rewarded with a silver band.

St. Gerard's Give Me 5 Whole School Matrix



Principle	Learning Areas	Corridors	Toilets	Playground/Sandpit
Be Respectful	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property Take turns Whole body listening Greet people by name	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the area neat and tidy 	Speak appropriately and use manners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give other users their privacy Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep toilets tidy and flush Wash hands	Speak appropriately and use manners Care for property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place rubbish in the bin Keep sand in the sandpit and bark in the garden Include others Respect everyone's views and space
Be Co-operative	Follow Directions Move safely Stay on task Share with others and help each other	Follow Directions Move safely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk on the left hand side of the corridor to exit and the left hand side to enter 	Follow Directions Move safely Wait for your partner	Follow Directions Move safely Play fairly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept rules Take turns Share and use equipment safely
Be Your Best	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Ask for help	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Only enter the area with permission	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Report problems to a teacher	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Try to solve your problems
Be Positive	Never give up			Encourage others
Be Spirit filled	Treat others as you would like to be treated. Pray daily and during meditation	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Treat others as you would like to be treated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say sorry and forgive others Be kind

Ride2School

A graphic for National Ride2School Day. It features a light blue background with a black outline of a mountain range at the top. The text "NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY" is written in large, colorful, hand-drawn letters. The letters are in various colors: pink, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The word "NATIONAL" is on the top line, "RIDE2SCHOOL" is on the middle line, and "DAY" is on the bottom line.

NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY

St Gerard's P.S are excited to be celebrating National Ride2School Day on **Friday 21st March 2024**. National Ride2School Day is the perfect opportunity to kick-start new healthy habits and promote the many benefits of active travel. We encourage all students and their families to leave the car at home and give riding, walking, scooting or skating to school a go. It's sure to be a fantastic day and we look forward to seeing you there!

Why Ride2School?

- Bike riding is the easiest way to get healthy: It is recommended that children get 60 minutes of physical activity every day to maintain their health, and riding a bike to school is an easy and fun way to make sure they are hitting this target. It's also a great way for parents to spend quality time with their children.
- It improves physical activity rates: In the 1970's, 80% of all school children rode or walked to school but now more than two-thirds go by car. Thanks to Ride2School that trend is reversing – schools that participate in the Ride2School Program report an average active travel rate of 54%.
- It helps build confidence: Riding, walking, skating or scooting to school will make your students feel more self-sufficient, build resilience and helps them to develop an awareness of road safety and the environment around them.
- Students perform better in class: Being active on the school journey has a much greater impact on student concentration than having breakfast before school. A Danish study has shown that children who walk or ride to school display improved concentration for 4 hours longer than those who are driven.

Important Dates / Info

March

- 17th Year 3 Reconciliation Reflection Day
- 19th Reading before school in the library from 8:30am
- 19th Rosary in the Church at 11.05am
- 20th Year 3/4 W Class Mass
- 20th Year 3 Reconciliation Celebration 6.30pm
- 21st Reconciliation Assembly 2.50pm
- 20th AUSKICK (AFL) Week 5 (FINAL), 3:30pm - 4:30 pm
- 21st National Ride to School Day
- 26th Reading before school in the library from 8:30am
- 27th Year 5/6 Reconciliation
- 31st *The Passion Gallery Walk* starts

April

- 1st Reading before school in the library from 8:30am
- 2nd - 4th Year 5/6 Camp - CYC The Island
- 4th *The Passion Gallery Walk* finishes
- **4th End of Term 1, school finishes at 3.30pm**



NORTH DANDNENONG MASALA JFC

FRIDAY 14TH MARCH, 5:00PM - 6:00PM

LOIS TWOHIG RESERVE, DANDENONG NORTH

AUSKICK - UNDER 13S

BOYS & GIRLS

FREE

REGISTER NOW VIA QR CODE!



OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 22 MARCH 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

At St John's, we nurture students academically, spiritually, and empower them to lead with confidence, serve with compassion, and succeed in an ever-changing world.

- Faith-Based Curriculum
- Academic Excellence & Innovation
- Thriving Arts & Sports Programs
- Supportive Community

Explore our facilities, and discover how our students are empowered for life beyond school.



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.

St Gerard's YLVOSHC

Program Information

Service Phone Number: 0402 192 685



OPERATING TIMES

Before School Care

Hours:

6:45am - 8:45am

After School Care

Hours:

3:30pm - 6:30pm

Pupil Free Days:

7:00am - 6:00pm

Vacation Care:

7:00am - 6:00pm

Prices

Before School Care

(Permanent) \$15.00

(Casual) \$20.00

After Max CCS: \$2.89

After School Care

(Permanent) \$20.00

(Casual) \$25.00

After Max CCS: \$3.16

Pupil Free Day and Vacation Care

(Permanent) \$65.00

(Casual): \$72.50

After Max CCS: \$6.50



* MAX CCS REBATE FIGURES ARE PROVIDED AS APPROXIMATES AND MAY VARY

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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 School wear.

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

9354 8345 or email angie@agsprints.com.au



A reminder to families that arrive before 3.25pm to park in the carpark.

Joining the drop off/ pick up line, particularly near the pedestrian crossing, creates a backlog of cars and prevents families from parking in the car park, which causes issues. Another aspect of this is to be mindful of our procedures at the end of the school day. There are designated pick up areas for our students and pedestrian pathways. It can be busy at the end of the day, especially when it is cold and raining, however we need families walking home or to their cars to use the pedestrian pathways. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Notice Board

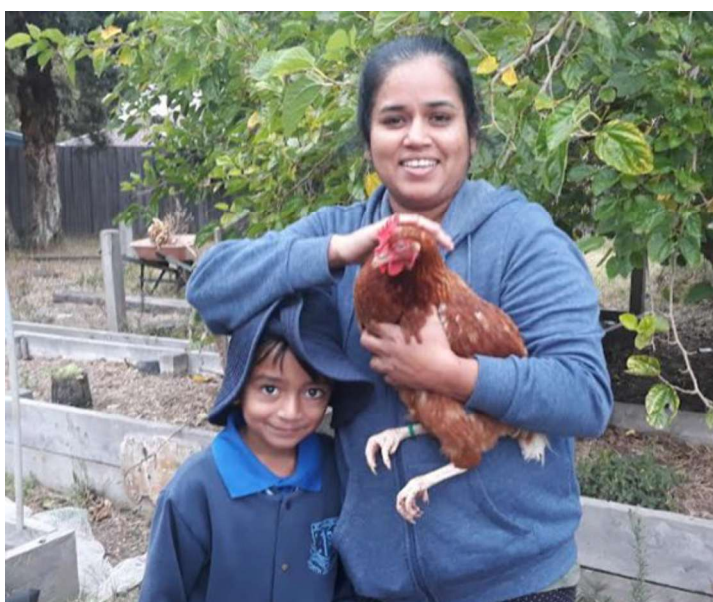


Happy Birthday to all who have celebrated and will celebrate their birthdays, this week including this weekend and January.

- Jayden Yr 3
- Sophia Yr 5
- Maya Yr 1
- Trinity Yr 1



- *Every Day Counts* - Primary School Attendance Information
- AFL Auskick - St Gerard's 5 Week Program
- Ukraine Support Fund
- Springvale Indoor Sports - Indoor Soccer
- North Dandenong MASALA Junior Football club (AFL)
- Mazenod College Open Day & School Tours Info
- St John's Regional 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.