



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



OUR LADY'S SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
2 April 2026
olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter-Damien McKinley
Principal: Mrs Caroline Madigan
Parish Mass Times:
English: Saturday 9.00am, 5.30pm, Sunday 9:00am, 10.30am & 5:30pm
Vietnamese: Saturday 7.00pm, Sunday 12.30pm, Friday 7.30pm
Chin Hakha/Burmese: 2.30pm
Tongan: Every 1st Sunday 3.00pm
School Phone: 9312 2230
School website: www.olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady's is a Child Safe School



Christ beside me: Walking in the footsteps of St Patrick

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thur 2 Apr End of Term 1 at 1.00pm
Mon 20 Apr *Closure Day - Professional Development for Staff (Literacy). No School for the children*
Tues 21 Apr Start of Term 2
Wed 22 Apr 7.00pm Student Well-being Parent Info Session
Wed 29 Apr 6.00 Reconciliation for Year 3
Wed 6 May 6.30 Eucharist Parent Night
Thur 7 May Yr 4 Eucharist Reflection Day Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
Tues 12 May Whole School Athletics Day (Moonee Valley Athletics Track)

2026 Professional Development Days for staff

Term 2
Mon 20 April - Literacy Focus
Fri 5 June - Report Writing (Semester 1)
Term 4
Mon 2 November - Report Writing Semester 2
Friday 27 November - 2027 Planning

1:00pm finish days at the end of each term

Term 1 - Thur 2 April
Term 2 - Fri 26 June
Term 3 - Fri 18 September
Term 4 - Tues 15 December (last day of the 2026 school year for students).

Term 2 - Three Way Conversations (First Semester Reports)
Wed 24 and Thur 25 June

SACRAMENT DATES FOR 2026

Year 3 Reconciliation
Wednesday 29 April at 6.00pm
Year 4 Eucharist
Sunday 17 May at 10.30am
Year 6 Confirmation
Friday 31 July at 7.00pm

Dear Parents and Families,

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding school term, I would like to take a moment to thank all of our students and families for the wonderful way you have contributed to our school community. It has been a term filled with growth, achievement, and perseverance. Our students have worked incredibly hard to strive towards their goals, and it has been a joy to witness their progress both academically and personally.

As we move into the Easter season, we are reminded, through our Catholic tradition, of the deep joy and hope that Easter brings. It is a time that celebrates renewal, new life, and the promise of hope. The message of Easter encourages us to reflect on kindness, compassion, and the importance of caring for one another—values we continue to nurture within our school community.

School advisory Council (SAC)

The current Parent Advisory Board will be updated to align with the mandated School Advisory Council (SAC) structure. Please find included some information outlining the reasons for this change.

I warmly invite both existing members and new members of our community to consider joining the newly formed SAC team. This is a valuable opportunity to contribute to the ongoing growth and direction of our school.

All applications will be reviewed by Fr Peter Damien and myself. Selected nominees will be invited to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM), where members will be formally voted into their roles.

The AGM will be held in the second week of Term 2. Further details will be shared in the coming weeks. Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Time to have a break:

While many students and families may feel eager to continue their learning over the break, it is equally important to take time to rest and recharge. Resting the body, mind, and soul is just as vital as active learning. The holidays provide a valuable opportunity for students to explore new experiences, spend time with loved ones, and engage in fun and enriching activities that foster learning in different and meaningful ways.

Thank you once again for a fantastic term. I wish all of our families a safe, happy, and blessed Easter.

Warm regards,

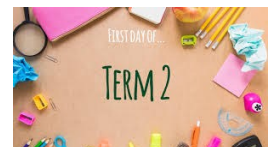
Caroline Madigan

Mrs Caroline Madigan

Principal

principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 21 April. Enjoy your break.



Prayer for Holy Week

The week before Easter is known as Holy Week. It is when we remember all that Jesus did for us.

God, our Father, as we enter this holiest of weeks, help us realise how vast is your love.

You sent Jesus to be born, live, die and rise among us.

As we journey with Jesus this week may we become one with him.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Redeemer, and through the Holy Spirit.

Amen



Easter Triduum 2026

OUR LADY'S Monash St., Sunshine

HOLY THURSDAY - 2 APRIL 2026 - Mass of the Lord's Supper

6.30pm English & Chin

9.00pm Vietnamese

GOOD FRIDAY - 3 APRIL 2026

Stations of the Cross

10.00am English - (outdoors)

11.00am Vietnamese

Liturgy of the Passion & Veneration of the Cross & Holy Communion

12.00pm Chin

3.00pm English

7.00pm Vietnamese

HOLY SATURDAY - 4 APRIL 2026

9.30am - 10.30am Confessions

Easter Vigil

7.00pm English & Chin

9.30pm Vietnamese

EASTER SUNDAY - 5 APRIL 2026 - Mass of the Resurrection

9.00am English **10.30am** English

12.30pm Vietnamese

2.00pm Chin



TERM 2 CANTEEN NEWS



The following items will be available at the Canteen as over the counter purchases during second break:

Veggie Straws



Jumpys



Pringles



Potato Stix



Jelly Straws



Frugurt



Fruity Rolls



Big Roll



Vanilla Ice Cream Cones



Zooper Doopers



Yogurt Mini Stix



Twin Poles



Western Bulldogs School Holiday Program – Registrations Open!

Looking for a fun and active way to keep the kids moving these school holidays? The Western Bulldogs School Holiday Program is packed with exciting games, footy skill sessions, and teamwork activities designed to help kids build confidence, make new friends, and enjoy the game.

Open to boys and girls aged 4–12, the program welcomes all abilities and experience levels—whether your child is new to footy or already loves the game.



Location: Mission Whitten Oval, Footscray



Dates: Friday 10 & 17 April, 9am–3pm

Give your child a memorable school holiday experience with the Bulldogs!



Register here:

https://play.afl/club-finder-map?formats=holiday_programs&orgId=0ca3ed80-4d11-40bf-b4c4-4b9b740f8a14

THANK YOU

This Lent, our school community was a part of something truly extraordinary.

As part of Caritas Australia's Project Compassion, we united with schools and parishes across the country in solidarity with vulnerable communities all over the world, paving the way to a brighter, more just future for all.

Our whole school community stepped up and answered the call, and we are truly grateful to all of you for your incredible support. We harnessed the collective kindness and generosity of our students, parents, teachers and wider community and turned it into real, lasting change for those who need it most. Together, we became a powerful force for good, achieving so much more together than we ever could alone.

THANK YOU for standing with us and choosing to *Unite Against Poverty this Lent!*



It's not too late to donate! If you still have your Project Compassion donation boxes at home, please remember to bring them back in next week. Alternatively, scan the QR code to make a donation online or call 1800 02 413 to donate over the phone.

EASTER RAFFLE

Congratulations to our Easter Raffle winners:

Archer H FJ
Jaycee D 1L
Gabriel L 3F
Olympia O FJ
Louisa D 4G
Vincent A 6B
Chi N 3E
Harvey A 1L
Alex H 4H

Many thanks to all the families that donated prizes and brought Raffle Tickets.

We sold an amazing 1027 tickets!! Thanks to our P&F for all their organisation and presentation of the prizes.





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JOIN THE CYBER SAFETY PROJECT FOR EXPERT ADVICE

Navigating the Digital Playground

CYBERBULLYING

SCREEN TIME

PRIVACY SETTINGS

AI & MISINFORMATION

SOCIAL MEDIA

GAMING



WHY ATTEND?

You Are Your Child's First Line of Defence Online.

In today's connected world, parents play a powerful role in shaping safe and healthy digital habits. This practical session is designed especially for busy parents who want to:

- ✓ **Feel confident** navigating their child's online world
- ✓ **Create a safer, more balanced** digital environment at home
- ✓ **Support digital wellbeing** and encourage responsible tech use
- ✓ **Know what to do** (and where to turn) when things go wrong online

WHEN & WHERE

LIVE ONLINE

Date: Monday 25th May 2026 7-8pm

SCAN TO REGISTER
or visit

[Registration Link](#)



PRESENTED BY

CYBER SAFETY PROJECT

Cyber Safety Project, Australia's premier online safety education provider.

cybersafetyproject.com





Student Wellbeing Parent Information evening

Focus: Zones of Regulation; Self-regulation; Ways you can help at home.

Aimed mainly at new families to our school, especially parents of children in years F-1 and for families who did not attend a similar evening in 2024.

**When: Wednesday
22nd April at 7:00pm**



INSIGHTS

Encourage kids to occupy themselves



A child's ability to fill in their own time and cope with moments of boredom are important independence skills to develop. Children have less practise at keeping themselves occupied than those of past generations. You have many jobs as a parent, but constantly entertaining your child, should not be one of them. These ideas will help:

Invite them to keep themselves busy

When your child tells you that he or she is bored they are bringing you a problem to solve. Boredom is your child's problem, not yours. If this happens, encourage your child to keep themselves busy by asking questions such as "How can you keep yourself amused?"

Make a list

If your child is stuck for ideas make a list of activities that they can refer to when they're bored. Include a variety of activities such as creative tasks, performance tasks, crafts, sports, indoor and outdoor games, music activities, reading and helping. Place the list in a convenient place with easy access and visibility.

Make a boredom buster jar

Cut up a list of boredom busting activities and place them in a jar. When your child is stuck for an idea to keep him or herself amused invite them to select an activity from the boredom buster jar. Ask your child to add enjoyable activities to the jar over time.

Encourage plenty of green-time

Today's children spend more time in front of screens, and less time outdoors than those of previous generations. Not only is time spent in natural environments refreshing, relaxing and rejuvenating, but it's also a wonderful way for kids to relieve boredom. Encourage your child to spend some of their free time outside in natural environments to promote good mental health and develop their confidence.

Help find their interests

If your child struggles to keep him or herself occupied, consider helping them identify a hobby or interest that they enjoy. Often finding that one activity a child loves or excels in makes a huge difference to their self-esteem and wellbeing, and can become the driver for future career choice.

parenting * ideas

Build in downtime

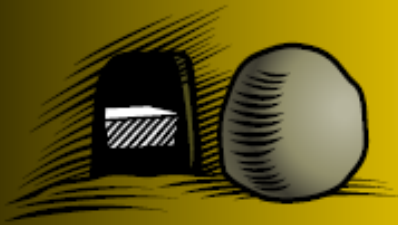
A trait common among healthy families is the propensity for everyone to enjoy spending downtime or unstructured time together. It's during downtime that parents and children share activities together, which promotes better relationships and helps children's informal learning.

Most children when given unstructured time will rise to the occasion (even after some complaining) and will find interesting things to do. By encouraging them to find something "to do", other than filling their time with screen-based activities, you are promoting a fabulous life-skill in your kids.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.

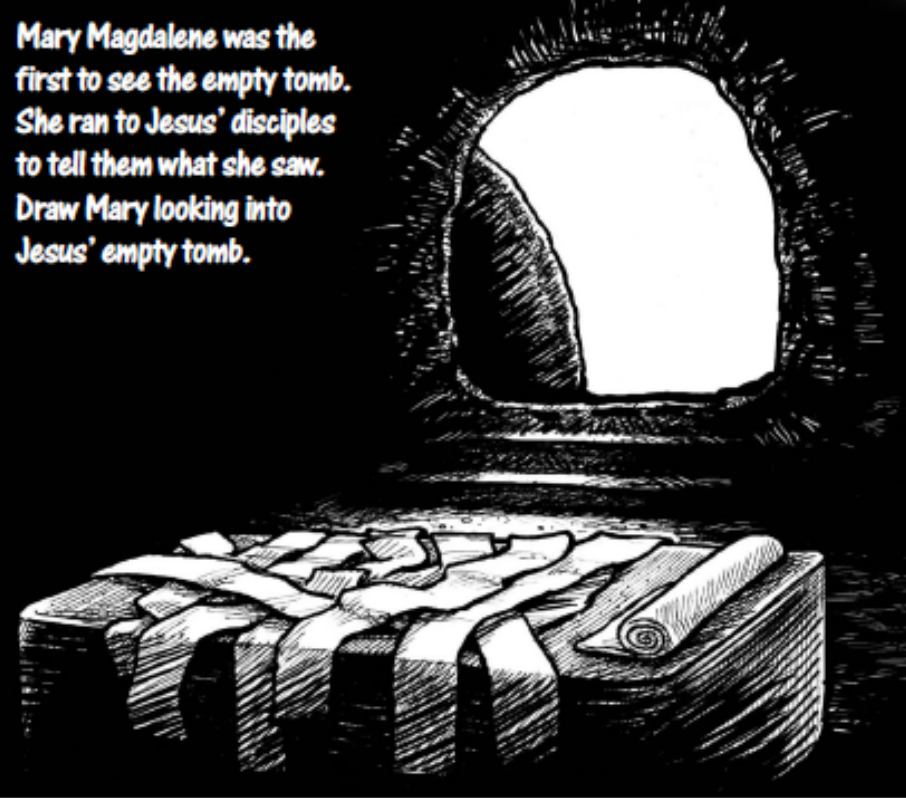


He is risen! Alleluia!



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Mary Magdalene was the first to see the empty tomb. She ran to Jesus' disciples to tell them what she saw. Draw Mary looking into Jesus' empty tomb.



Gospel John 20:1-9

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice!



What can you do to make people glad today?

Fill in the missing words below to find out what the letters in the boxes spell.

Mary M _____ went to the tomb.

"They have taken the _____ from the tomb", she said.

Peter was a d _____ _____ of Jesus.

The other disciple ran f _____ _____ than Peter.

He saw the strips of _____ cloth lying inside the tomb.

B _____ he did not go in.

When he saw _____ he believed.

The Scriptures s _____ _____ Jesus would rise to life.

The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1988 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.