

'What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.' John 2:1-11

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Fri 13 Dec Sport Assembly
2.15pm. Christmas Casual Day
Tues 17 Dec 9.00am End of
Year Mass
Tues 17 Dec Students finish for
2024 at 1.00pm

START OF 2025

Tues 28 Jan Staff Return
Wed 29 Jan Getting To Know
You & Your Child Day 1 Yrs 1-6,
Foundation at school 8.35-1.00
Thurs 30 Jan Getting To Know
You & Your Child Day 2 Yrs 1-6,
Foundation at school 8.35-1.00
Fri 31 Jan Classes start for all (F-
6)

2025 Professional Development Days for staff

Term 1
Tues 11th March - Religious
Education Focus
Term 2
Mon 19th May 2025 - PD Re-
view
Tues 20th May - PD Review
Term 3
Wed 13th August - Religious
Education Focus
Term 4
Mon the 3rd of November

1:00pm finish days at the end of
each term
Term 1 - Fri 4th April
Term 2 - Fri 4th July
Term 3 - Fri 19th September
Term 4 - Tues 16th December
(last day of the 2025 school year
for students).

Term 2 - Three Way Conversa-
tions (First Semester Reports)
Thursday 3rd July 10:00am -
6:00pm
Friday 4th July 8:00am -
12:40pm

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today I write my last newsletter for 2024 and I feel a great sense of pride in our school community and all that we have achieved together. Last week when we held our Art Show and Dinner in the Yard it was a great example of how wonderful this community is. I would like to thank all the Our Lady's School community; our Parish Priest Father Peter Damien and his Assistant Priests Father Peter Hoang and Father Peter Zin, the students, parents and staff for collaborating together and making 2024 a very successful year. I hope that parents can join us for our final mass on Tuesday the 17th of December at 9.00am. We will be having our final assembly at 12.30pm also on Tuesday. Please come and join us to celebrate the conclusion of 2024.

***A very special farewell to our wonderful Year 6 students and all the staff and students that are leaving Our Lady's school.
May God bless you all and may your future be bright and happy.***

The staff of Our Lady's school wish everyone in the Our Lady's School community a happy and holy Christmas.

***May your holidays be relaxing and full of fun family times.
Keep safe and we look forward to seeing every one in 2025.***



End of the School Year

Dear God, at the end of this school year we are so thankful for all the good things that have happened to us and our class this year.

We thank you for all we have learned over this year, for our teachers, parents, and all who have taught and guided us.

We thank you for our friends and all that we have shared together.

Please Lord look after all the Our Lady's community until we see each other again in 2025.



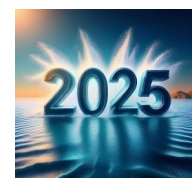
Dinner in the Yard and The Art Show

What a beautiful way for our school community to celebrate our children's artwork. Thank you to Ms Pina and her band of parent and student helpers for turning our hall into a spectacular art gallery.

It was heart warming to see so many families joining in for the Dinner in the Yard relaxing and enjoying DJ Con's Christmas carols. A big thank you to the Our Lady's Stars Choir for their delightful performance of many classical Christmas carols. On top of all that Santa came to visit us! It truly was a memorable evening. Thank you to everyone who attended.



Classroom Teachers 2025



FI Lillian Valencia	FJ Wendy Veldman
1K Menica Granata & Angelica Mendoza	1L Monique Bensemman
2M Beatrice Robles	2N Steph Huynh
3E Rochelle Kumar	3F Michelle Gurry
4G Christine Chu & Jo McManus	4H Karen Everson & Tanya Majczak
5C Huyen Nguyen	5D Rebecca Chiodo
6A Shai Backus	6B Belinda Whelan & Jen Howe

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING CANTEEN MANAGERS NUBIA AND CONNIE for providing delicious food for the students to enjoy throughout this year.

The canteen will be open on Tuesday but only for snacks during the first break. Not for lunch orders.

Please remember to pack lunch for your child on Tuesday as they will have lunch before school finishes at 1.00pm



A BIG THANK YOU to..... The Parents Advisory Board and the Parents and Friends Committee



Firstly I would like to acknowledge the important work of the Parent Advisory Board (Hang, Alanna, Cinnamon and Dan) who have provided the parent voice to all matters to do with the school. Thank you for giving up your precious time to attend the meetings. We have really appreciated your ideas, expertise and advice. I look forward to working together with you in 2025.

Thank you to a special group of people who have worked very hard this year: our Parents and Friends Committee members (Michelle, Christine and Elena). Thank you for all your hard work, time and energy. You have organised events such as the Colour Fun Run which have raised an amazing amount for Our Lady's School and also injected much fun into the school.

Thank you to all the parents who have supported Our Lady's fund raising activities in 2024, without your generosity we could not have been able to get the much needed equipment such as the shade sails for our playground.

A school cannot function without the generous support of its parents and I would like to sincerely thank all the parent helpers and volunteers who have helped throughout the year in so many different ways such as in the classrooms, on excursions, during the swimming program, in the canteen, and supporting the Parents and Friends events such as the Mother's Day, Father's Day stalls.

We appreciate all you've done and we look forward to further strengthening the school and parent partnership in 2025.

Warm regards,

Patrizia Bertani

Ms Patrizia Bertani

Principal

principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au





Professional Development Days for staff - No school for the children

Term 1

Tuesday 11th March 2025 - Religious Education Focus

Term 2

Monday 19th May 2025 - PD Review

Tuesday 20th May 2025 - PD Review

Term 3

Wednesday 13th August 2025 - Religious Education Focus

Time in Lieu Days

These are days which are designated to teachers to compensate for all the out of normal school hours events that teachers attend. These include but are not limited to such events as the Sacraments, Dinner in the Yard, Camps and Parent Information evenings.

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

Term 1 - Friday 4th April 2025

Term 2 - Friday 4th July 2025

Term 3 - Friday 19th September 2025

Term 4 - Tuesday 16th December 2025 (last day of the 2025 school year for students)

Staff last day will be on the 17th of December. The 18th and 19th of December are designated Time In Lieu days.

Professional Planning Day (PPT)

One day a year is allocated by the award for teachers to attend to planning, assessment, report writing and other aspects that are part of their teaching role. The day allocated is **Monday the 3rd of November**. Students will not be required to attend school.

Days where the school will be open by appointment

Term 1 - Getting to Know You Days

Wednesday 29th January 2025

Thursday 30th January 2025

Term 2 - Three Way Conversations (First Semester Reports)

Thursday 3rd July 2025 10:00am - 6:00pm

Friday 4th July 2025 8:00am - 12:40pm



Dinner in The Yard





Dinner in The Yard





A Day of Christmas Cheer





SOCKTOBER
for Mission Month



"I know the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy." Psalm 140:12

Thank you!

Catholic Mission

Gratefully acknowledges the generosity of

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Primary School

*for your donation of **\$1,637.00***

to help the children of the Don Bosco Centre in Mongolia.

socktober.org.au



Children's Christmas Eve Pageant 2024



Primary school age children are warmly invited to participate in our annual Children and Families Christmas Mass, to be held at 6.00pm Christmas Eve at Our Lady's Church. Children of the parish will perform a short Nativity liturgy before Mass begins.

Please email your name and contact details to the parish office before December 16 with your children's names and ages if they would like to participate (sunshine@cam.org.au) For more details contact Jacinta on 0408 314 428.

Dates of Rehearsals:

WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER: 3.00pm - 4.00pm.

MONDAY 23 DECEMBER: 3.00pm - 4.30pm.

***Parents must stay during the rehearsals**

PARENTS AND FRIENDS THANK YOU

In 2017 I took on the role of the president for the Our Lady's Parents and Friends Committee and it has been my absolute pleasure serving this school community.



Together with very small but mighty team we have ran many successful fundraisers including a School Fete, Bunnings BBQs, movie nights, discos, trivia nights, show days, Mother's Day & Father's Day stalls and our most recent fundraising event which was the fantastic Colour Run! Over the years we have managed to raise significant funds which has been spent on new Chromebooks, iPads, readers, new library books, interschool sports uniforms and most recently funds towards the new shade sail for the playground.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who have help along the way, from turning a sausage, buying a ticket to our events, manning a table at our Mothers and Father's Day stalls, popping popcorn, packing showbag orders or helping with the second hand uniform sales your help has not gone unnoticed and without it we would not be able to hold such successful events and raise money for our school.

To Jayne, Mary Anne and Catherine in the office thank you for all of the extra work you put in, from printing off the labels for the showbags, cutting up and organising the raffle tickets, loading everything onto QKR, organising floats, counting the money and all the flyers and notices you have typed up and put in the news letters I have appreciated every bit of your help.

To Pat and Christine thank you for trusting in me and allowing me to take our fundraising efforts to the next level by trying new things that have brought so much fun and joy to the students and school Community. All the times you stayed back for our meetings all the emails and phone calls back and forth organising all the events has never gone unnoticed.

To my two trusty sidekicks Elena and Christine, we were a small but mighty team! I have enjoyed getting to know you both and working along side you to bring all these fantastic events to life. I couldn't have achieved what we have without your help.

But most of all thank you to the beautiful children of Our Lady's seeing your smiles at all these events has made all the hard work put in worth it.

So as my time at Our Lady's Finishes after 17 years of my children being students here, I wish the Parents and Friends Committee of 2025 great success and I strongly urge any parents thinking of joining to do so, it is so worth it just to see the smiles on the children's faces.

Thank you,
Michelle Hayes



GET EXCITED FOR AN **EXTRAORDINARY** 2025 WITH EXTEND!



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SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAM | TERM 1 OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Save up to 90% with the Child Care Subsidy!
Learn more about your CCS entitlement at servicesaustralia.gov.au

**BOOK YOUR 2025 SESSIONS
ONLINE AT [EXTEND.COM.AU](https://extend.com.au)!**

The BEST Way to Spend the Holidays

Building Wellbeing at Home This Summer

The school holidays are a unique opportunity to cultivate deep family bonds, healthy habits, and a sense of freedom and self-expression in your family. And they're nearly here!

Instead of rushing through endless activities or striving for perfection, the following five principles will help you create a balanced and joyful summer holiday experience for your family.

5 Ideas to Help Your Family Make the Most of School Holidays

1. Prioritise Presence Over Perfection

The school holidays are a rare opportunity to spend uninterrupted time with your children. While it can be tempting to fill every day with perfect plans or carefully curated activities, the real benefit comes from your presence. Children don't remember the specific outings or events as much as they remember how their parents made them feel.

Set aside distractions (like phones, emails, or work) during your time together. Engage in open-ended conversations, delight in the simplicity of everyday moments with your child, and enjoy the shared experiences that only come when you're truly present.

2. Cultivate Slow, Mindful Days

In our fast-paced world, we often forget the value of slowing down. The school holidays provide the perfect opportunity to create a rhythm that's more relaxed. There's no rush to get from one scheduled event to the next. Encourage your family to embrace the unstructured moments—whether it's reading a book slowly, taking a walk, or simply doing nothing at all.

Mindful moments aren't just about relaxation; they promote emotional resilience. When children see their parents embrace stillness, they learn to value time with themselves and discover that joy doesn't always come from being busy.

3. Encourage Autonomy and Agency

Holidays are an ideal time for children to explore their independence. Instead of micromanaging every detail of the day, let your children take the lead on certain activities. Allow them to make decisions about what to do, what to eat, or where to go. This sense of autonomy fosters confidence and helps build important life skills.

Trust your children's judgement and allow them to make their own decisions—this builds self-esteem and resilience.

4. Build Routines That Foster Stability

While the holidays offer a break from the structure of school, children thrive on routine. Rather than having completely open-ended days, create a loose structure to your time. Regular meals, consistent bedtime routines, and predictable pockets of activity can help children feel safe, secure, and emotionally balanced. Routines don't have to be rigid, but the repetition of positive habits—whether it's morning walks, family time, or even quiet moments—helps ground everyone during a time of potential upheaval.

5. Foster Play and Creativity Over Achievement

The holidays should be a time to step back from the need to perform and instead embrace the freedom to play and create without any external pressure. Encourage your children to explore new forms of creative expression: drawing, building, writing, or just daydreaming. Let them roam freely in their imagination. This unstructured creative time not only boosts their emotional health, but it also develops their problem-solving abilities, enhances their adaptability, and helps them learn through trial and error in a low-stakes environment.

The Wellbeing Effect of Balanced Holidays

If you're the kind of family that pushes for progress, achievement, and success, this is particularly important for you.

Know that the best "holiday" is not based upon the number of activities you can fit in or the milestones you can tick off. It's about creating space for growth, connection, and rest. If you must do *something* academically oriented, keep it simple by encouraging your kids to read. It's the one activity that is good *for* academic achievement without feeling like it's focused *on* academic achievement.

These holidays, use your family time wisely—not by being everywhere and doing everything but by simply being together and giving everyone in the family the chance to pause, reflect, and enjoy the richness of life.



Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters and grandfather to 1 granddaughter. He is the parenting expert and co-host of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia's #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families Podcast. He has written 9 books about families and parenting. For further details visit happyfamilies.com.au.

What must we do?

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year C



Gospel

Lk 3:10-16, 18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.'

John the Baptist had great respect for Jesus. He told people, "Someone more powerful is going to come, and I am not good enough even to untie his sandals." Write down in the shell how you can show your respect for Jesus.



Water is used in the sacrament of Baptism as a symbol of life and purity. Below there are clues to six hidden words that are all symbols used in Baptism and Mass.



G	F	A	Y	I	H	I	Q	K
F	T	M	W	J	O	Q	G	W
D	G	P	V	Z	Z	U	F	I
Z	G	W	A	T	E	R	I	N
Z	G	X	P	K	F	T	R	E
Q	E	S	L	U	Q	H	E	N
Q	D	K	C	R	O	S	S	X
Q	A	Q	K	U	G	H	M	B
N	C	A	N	D	L	E	B	J
B	H	B	R	E	A	D	D	Q