



Laudato Si
 "All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents." N14 Pope Francis

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 11-Thur 14 Aug Book Fair starts, Rehearsal for Three Little Birds
Tues 12 Aug Yr 4 Traffic School excursion, 7.00pm P&F Meeting
Wed 13th Aug - Professional Development Day for Staff (no school for children) RE Focus
Fri 15 Aug Feast of the Assumption. Mass for Yrs 3-6 at 11.00am. All welcome
Wed 20 Aug 7.00pm PAB Meeting
Mon 25 Aug Book Week Parade
Tues 26 Aug Yr 3 Traffic School excursion
Thur 4 Sept Father's Day Stall
Fri 5 Sept Father's Day Breakfast
Sun 7 Sept Father's Day
Mon 8-Thurs 11 Sept 2.10pm Performance Three Little Birds
Mon 15-Thurs 18 Sept 2.10pm Performance Three Little Birds
Fri 19 Sept End of Term 3 at 1.00pm
Mon 6 Oct Start of Term 4

PAB Meetings

Wed 20 Aug 7.00pm
 Wed 19 Nov 7.00pm

P&F Meetings

Tues 12 Aug 7.00pm
 Wed 5 Nov 7.00pm

2025 Professional Development
Days for staff - No school for the children

Term 3

Wed 13th August - Religious Education Focus

Term 4

Mon 3rd of November

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

Term 3 - Fri 19th September
 Term 4 - Tues 16th December (last day of the 2025 school year for students).

Sacraments

Fri 8 Aug 7.00pm Confirmation for Yr 6

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe we are already in **Week 3**. The term is moving quickly and has already brought with it many exciting and enriching learning opportunities for our students.

School Production: *Three Little Birds*

There is so much excitement around the school as rehearsals are in full swing for our 2025 production, *Three Little Birds*. Students have been tirelessly practicing their roles, singing, dancing, and preparing with joy and commitment.

A huge thank you to Miss Cam Tu, who has put an enormous amount of effort into coordinating this whole-school event. With so many moving parts, Miss Cam Tu has carefully planned every detail to ensure a professional and uplifting performance.



Production Dates:

Monday, September 8 to Thursday, September 11

Monday, September 15 to Thursday, September 18

Tickets are now on sale via TryBooking.

Please scroll down to Page 6 of this newsletter to find the direct link to book your tickets. We encourage all families to come along and support the incredible efforts of our students and staff. Your presence will help create a special atmosphere and celebrate the arts, courage, and talent within our school.



Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

This week, we gathered as a school community to celebrate the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. As Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop dedicated her life to bringing education to children in need,



REMINDER

Next Wednesday 13 August there is no school for the children as the staff participate in a Professional Learning Day focussing on Religious Education



Confirmation Prayer

In Confirmation we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We are strengthened for our faith journey.



Dear God, we come before you with our prayer. Tonight we will be confirmed in our faith in you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, help us to walk your way of love and serve others in your name. may we live always as people of prayer who make good choices in our lives. As we prepare for the sacrament of confirmation, we ask your blessing on all of us. Lord, we ask you to hear our prayers and petitions and those prayers we hold in our hearts. Amen

especially in rural and disadvantaged communities.

A special thank you to our Year One students and teachers, who led a reverent and beautifully prepared whole-school Mass in celebration of Mary MacKillop's Feast Day. It was heart-warming to see parents and members of the parish community joining us. Your presence made the occasion even more special and reflective of our shared faith.

Her guiding words, ***"Never see a need without doing something about it,"*** continue to inspire our work here at Our Lady's.

In 1928, the Sisters of St Joseph arrived at our school and were instrumental in building a strong, faith-filled educational environment that still thrives today. Their mission, inspired by St Mary MacKillop, lives on in our school's commitment to seeing and supporting every child, nurturing both heart and mind.

A Prayer to St Mary of the Cross

Loving God,

*We thank you for the life and example of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.
May her trust in Your providence and her courage in service inspire us every day.
Keep our school community safe and well.
May we follow her example and do all things for the Glory of God.
Amen.*

Year 6 Confirmation

This week we keep our Year 6 students in our thoughts and prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Friday evening August 8.

This is a sacred moment in their faith journey, where they will be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit of wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, and wonder and awe in God's presence.

We warmly welcome Bishop Martin Ashe to our parish and thank Fr Peter Damien, Fr Peter Zin and Fr Peter Hoang who generously support the sacramental life of our school.

Thank You & Blessings

We are so grateful for the ongoing support from our families and the energy that fills our school each day. Let's continue to walk together in faith, guided by the examples of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph, always striving to live our school motto:

"All for the Glory of God."

Have a safe and wonderful weekend.

Warm regards,

Caroline Madigan

Mrs Caroline Madigan

Principal

principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

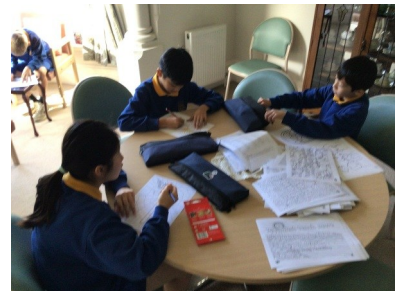




Year 6

Confirmation Retreat

St Joseph's By The Sea



ST MARY MacKILLOP AWARD

Congratulations to the recipients of our St Mary MacKillop Award for August 2025.

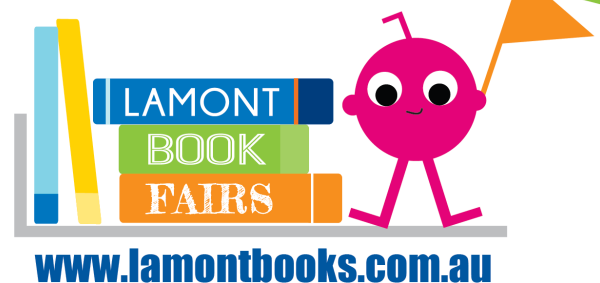
Congratulations to:



Penny M 3E



Ben M 6B



Lamont Book Fair 11th-15th August 2025

Our Lady's School has not had a book fair for a long time. We're excited to be hosting the Lamont Book Fair next week and have made arrangements for the students and parents to have a short time to view and make selections of titles to purchase.

Students will view the books throughout the day on a rostered basis on Tuesday and the parents will be able to view the books from 3.00pm to 3.30pm on Tuesday 12 August as well.

We are happy to have the book fair at the school as a percentage of the overall purchases you make will be used to buy books for the library. So your support of the Book fair will not only mean that you have new books for reading together at home, but the students benefit with new titles in the library!

Making purchases of selected or wished for books:

Please go to the Lamont Website and select Bookfair.

Then click on the link to make a payment through the **online payment portal for families**.

You will have to fill out the details on the form and detail the items that you wish to purchase. Your child will have brought these details home with them after their viewing of the books.

There is a drop down box that will bring up the list of schools hosting a Book Fair that week. Find Our Lady's, Sunshine and click on the name and then you will be able to proceed.

Only books that are in the trolleys at the school are available for purchase during the book fair and the prices will be on the items at the school.

- Payments made through this online portal are for items to be purchased at the Book Fair at school. During the week the school is accepting Lamont online payments for the Book Fair.
- Once you have made your payment you will receive a confirmation and a copy of your payment receipt by email.
- If you are able, your child should bring a copy of the payment receipt to school, to **receive their items through the classroom tubs, similar to how Bookclub works**. The school also receives confirmation so don't worry if you cannot print the receipt.
- **Pricing and title selection** – Our Lady's Book Fair is different from other schools so not all products are available at all Book Fairs. Please refer to your child's wish list or to the Book Fair list at your school for item titles and pricing. A list of prices and titles is not available online. Please do not include titles/prices found on other Lamont websites as they will not be part of the school's Book Fair.
- **\$5 Sale Items** – Please note if you are ordering items from the \$5 trolley that these are sale items. There is limited stock of these titles, and if an item runs out it may be replaced with a similar \$5 sale item.

If Our Lady's Sunshine name does not appear in the list – The online portal is only open for payments during the week of the Book Fair. If you cannot find Our Lady's name on the list that means the Book Fair has closed for online payments. The portal closes around lunchtime Thursday 14th August.

I'm looking forward to seeing all the great books on your wish lists and making their way home.

Mrs Toni Balbata
Library Technician





BOOK WEEK IS COMING!!



BOOK PARADE

MONDAY 25 AUGUST 8.45am in the Hall

Are you ready to dress up as your favourite book character?

If you could choose to be anybody from a book, who would it be?

You could be a superhero, a princess or a cat.

Who will you choose? Will it be a mask, a wig, a hat? Crazy socks look great as well!

Who will you be? What will you wear?
We can't wait to see!!



OUR LADY'S SCHOOL PRESENTS



THREE LITTLE BIRDS

TICKETS ON SALE VIA TRY BOOKING

MONDAY 21 JULY 9.00am

Tickets \$10.00 per person

No ticket needed for performers

SESSION TIMES

Monday 8 September 2.00pm Group 1

Tuesday 9 September 2.00pm Group 2

Wednesday 10 September 2.00pm Group 1

Thursday 11 September 2.00pm Group 2

Monday 15 September 2.00pm Group 2

Tuesday 16 September 2.00pm Group 1

Wednesday 17 September 2.00pm Group 2

Thursday 18 September 2.00pm Group 1



<https://www.trybooking.com/DCMJ1>

**ALL SESSIONS IN THE FR JOHN MAHER AUDITORIUM AT
OUR LADY'S SCHOOL**

The performance is repeated for each session.

GROUP 1 - FI, 1K, 2M, 3E, 4G, 5C & 6A

GROUP 2 - FJ, 1L, 2N, 3F, 4H, 5D & 6B

Time Is Love: Why Being Present Matters More Than Ever

In the whirlwind of school runs, work meetings, laundry piles, and life's endless to-do lists, it's easy for family time to fall to the bottom of our priorities. We're "there" with our children, but are we truly *with* them?

One powerful truth from our family's journey—and from years of research and real-world parenting—is this: **To our kids, love is spelled T-I-M-E.**

The Surprising Thing Our Kids Told Us

In our home, we've developed a simple but powerful tradition we call **PPIs—Personal Parenting Interviews**. It began with a parenting checklist that challenged us to see ourselves through our children's eyes. Questions like:

- *Do my parents listen to me with genuine interest?*
- *Do they spend time with me just because they want to?*
- *Do I feel like they care about what's important to me?*

Wanting honest answers, my wife, Kylie, nervously sat down with our kids and asked them directly what we were doing well as parents, what wasn't working, and how we could improve. It was raw and real. Sometimes confronting. But it brought deep connection—and clarity.

Their answers? What mattered most wasn't perfection. It wasn't expensive holidays, big birthday parties, or how much we earned.

What they cherished most was simple: *time*.

Time to talk. Time to play. Time to cry, laugh, or walk together. Time where they felt seen and heard—not rushed or "fit in" between everything else.

The Challenge for All of Us

It can feel overwhelming to add "spending more time with the kids" to an already overloaded schedule. But this isn't about adding more pressure. It's about recognising what actually makes the biggest difference.

Your children want your presence. They want you. YOU. Because you're that big and important in their lives!.

Even teenagers—those fiercely independent, eye-rolling, door-slamming teens—still crave connection. One of our older daughters recently asked for a walk along the beach after a long day. I was exhausted. I almost said no. But I got up and went. Five kilometres and one heart-to-heart later, she was all smiles—and so was I.

What Can You Do Right Now?

Here are a few simple ways you can start prioritising time and connection in your family, even in small, meaningful doses:

1. Create Moments, Not Events

You don't need hours—sometimes just 10–15 minutes of undivided attention means the world. A bedtime chat. A shared joke. A walk around the block. A spontaneous milkshake run. A choice to ignore your phone, the red notifications, the emails, and the addictive algorithm for five minutes so you can spend it with your child.

2. Ask These 3 Questions

Start your own version of the “PPI” with your kids:

- What's going well?
- What's not?
- How can we do better?

You might be surprised by what they say—and how seen they feel just by being asked.

3. Be Interruptible

Sometimes connection comes at inconvenient times—like when you're falling into bed or reading a book. If they're reaching out, consider pausing the task and tuning in. These moments matter. (Note - they are often unlikely to interrupt you on a device. And you are unlikely to budge when you're on one. Be careful with how screens make you appear to your child.)

4. Make Time Their Way

Each child connects differently. One might want to chat. Another prefers side-by-side activities like cooking or gaming. Follow their lead.

5. Remember: It's Not Forever

The days can feel long, but the years are short. Before we know it, they'll be grown. And what they'll remember most isn't how clean the house was, but whether we *were there*—really there.

Just like dollars are the currency of our economy, connection (feeling seen, heard, and valued) is the currency of our relationships.

Parenting isn't about being perfect. It's about being present. In a world full of distractions and pressures, choosing to give our children our time is one of the most powerful ways we say “I love you.”

So tonight, even if you're tired, pause for a moment. Ask a question. Play that card game. Sit on the edge of their bed and just listen.

Because in your child's eyes, love is spelled T-I-M-E—and that's what they'll remember.



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.



Always be ready and keep
your lamps burning

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Gospel

Luke 12:35-40

Jesus said to his disciples: 'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second

watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Below are some things we can do that will help us to always be ready for Jesus.

PRAY

What are some things we can pray for?



Write a prayer about
one of them.

Dear God,

. Amen.

CARE FOR OTHERS

Draw a picture of yourself caring
for someone you know