



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



## OUR LADY'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

8 May 2026

[olsunshine.catholic.edu.au](http://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](http://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

**Fri 8 May** Yr 2 Sound Sensation Incursion  
**Sun 10 May** Mother's Day  
**Tues 12 May** Whole School Athletics Day (Moonee Valley Athletics Track)  
**Wed 20 May** Foundation Toy Science Incursion  
**Fri 22 May** Yr 3 Heat and Energy Incursion  
**Mon 25 May** Yr 4 Forces in Action Incursion  
**Fri 5 June** No school for the children - Report Writing for Staff  
**Mon 8 June** King's Birthday Public Holiday  
**Fri 12 June** 9.00am Sacred Heart Mass

#### **2026 Professional Development Days for Staff**

**Term 2**  
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 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 4 Eucharist  
Sunday 17 May at 10.30am  
Year 6 Confirmation  
Friday 31 July at 7.00pm

Dear Families,

We have had a wonderful week at school filled with celebration, learning and community spirit. It has also been a joy to welcome a number of new families visiting our school as they explored all that Our Lady's has to offer. Thank you to our students and staff who have warmly welcomed visitors and proudly shared their learning spaces and experiences. Your hospitality and pride in our school community truly shines through.

#### **2027 Enrolments**

Enrolments for 2027 are now open, and we were delighted with the wonderful turnout at our first Open Day. Thank you to the students and teachers who welcomed new families as they toured our school and experienced the vibrant learning community we are so proud of.

This is a gentle reminder to current families who have younger siblings due to begin at Our Lady's in 2027. Places are filling quickly, and Foundation interviews have already commenced. To assist us with planning, please contact the school office as soon as possible to inform us of your child's potential enrolment.



#### **Winter Uniform**

Students have until the end of next week, Friday 15 May, to be wearing the full winter uniform.

As the weather becomes colder, a number of students have spent several days this week feeling quite cold. We remind families that the winter wet weather jacket is not a replacement for the school jumper.

Students will be asked to remove wet weather jackets during class time, as heaters will be operating in classrooms throughout the day. Jackets may then be worn again during outdoor play times.

We thank you in advance for your support in ensuring your child attends school in the correct school uniform and is warmly dressed for the colder months ahead.



#### **Athletics Day Reminder**

A reminder that the whole school will be attending the Moonee Valley Athletics Track next Tuesday for our Athletics Day.



### **Mother's Day**



Loving God, we thank you for all mothers, and those we love like mothers, for all that they share with us, and do for us.

We thank you especially for our mothers' love, which is always there for us. Jesus cared for and loved his own mother, Mary; we ask you to help us always to appreciate and love our mothers.

There are still a number of families who have not completed the nForma permission form for their child to attend. Please ensure all permission forms are completed by Monday. Individual reminders will be sent to families who have not yet provided permission.

*Please note that there will be no teacher supervision available for students who do not have permission to attend. Parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child from school.*

Students should come dressed appropriately for the day, and it is strongly advised that all clothing items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Please also ensure that students bring:

- a school hat
- plenty of water
- a healthy snack
- lunch for the day

We look forward to a fun and active day for all students.

### **Mother's Day**

This Sunday, families across our community will take time to celebrate Mother's Day. This is a special opportunity to recognise the selfless care, love, guidance and nurturing that mothers and mother figures provide each and every day.

Mother's Day is also a celebration of all those who lovingly take on the role of a mother in the lives of our children and families. We give thanks for the many ways they support, encourage and care for others.

As a school community, we keep in our prayers all mothers and mother figures who are with us today and those who have gone before us. May they continue to receive the love, gratitude and appreciation they so richly deserve.

We also extend our sincere thanks to our Parents and Friends Group for their amazing efforts in organising and purchasing the wonderful Mother's Day gifts for students to purchase. The care taken to ensure the gifts were thoughtful, appropriate and reflected the love of a child was truly evident. Thank you to the group for the time, effort and consideration that went into selecting such meaningful gifts for our families.



### **A Prayer for in Gratitude for Our Mothers**

*Good and Gentle God,*

*We pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women of theory who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings.*

*Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly.*

*Give them the faithful support of husband, family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children.*

*Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood. Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most.*

*Amen*

We encourage all students to take the opportunity to say "thank you" and help make the day special for the important mother figures in their lives.

Wishing all our families a blessed and happy Mother's Day.

Warm regards,

*Caroline Madigan*

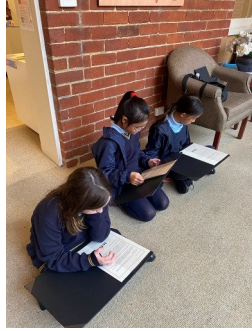
**Mrs Caroline Madigan**

**Principal**

[principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au)

# Eucharist Preparation Evening





# Eucharist Reflection Day







Mother's Day  
BREAKFAST



# Mother's Day Breakfast





## Child Safe Standard 3

**‘Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.’**

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven and legal responsibility to uphold and actively promote the wellbeing and safety of every student entrusted in our care. Our commitment to the protection of students is enabled in nurturing, respectful and safe communities where the uniqueness and sacred dignity of every young person are celebrated, and they can flourish in their learning and development.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they are designed to help keep children and young people safe and what school governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are doing to prioritise and achieve this.

### Overview of Child Safe Standard 3:

To be aligned, schools must support the following:

- Children are informed about all their rights, including safety, information and participation
- The importance of friendship is recognized and support from peers is encouraged
- Where relevant to setting or context, young people are offered access to sexual abuse prevention programs in an age-appropriate way
- Staff are attuned to signs of harm and facilitate child friendly ways for children to express their views, participate in decision making and raise their concerns
- Organisations have strategies to develop a culture that facilitates participation and are responsive to input from children and young people.

### The Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards are a set of guidelines that help organisations create safe environments for children and young people.

They make sure that children are protected from harm, listened to, and respected. These standards require organisations to have strong leadership, clear policies, and a culture that puts children first.

As a parent or carer, you can expect organisations to involve families, empower children, train staff properly, and respond to concerns quickly and respectfully.

This standard focuses on empowering children and young people by ensuring they are informed, respected, and actively involved in decisions that affect them. This participation helps build a school culture that is safe for them and values their voice.

### What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Creating Opportunities for Student Voice:** We create formal structures such as student councils and leadership programs, but we also include fewer formal opportunities so all students, especially the most vulnerable, can have their voice heard.
- **Acting on Student Feedback:** We listen deeply to what students are telling us and we respond to concerns, suggestions and ideas. This includes making sure students are aware when we have acted on their feedback.
- **Building Staff Capacity:** Our staff receive professional learning, so they understand the importance and benefits of listening to and responding to, student voice. This also includes training for staff regarding how to incorporate student voice, agency and empowerment in their daily interactions and decision making.

### How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

- **Listen and talk often:** Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings. Let them know it's always ok to speak up.
- **Talk about rights and safety:** Help your child understand that everyone deserves to feel safe and respected.
- **Be a role model:** Show kindness, respect, and inclusion in everyday life, children learn from what they see.
- **Stay connected with the school:** Take part in conversations or surveys about student wellbeing and safety.
- **Support student voice:** Encourage your child to get involved in school activities where their ideas can make a difference.

### Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we're supporting child safety, please get in touch.

More information on the Child Safe Standards can be found via the [Commission for Children and Young People \(CCYP\) website](https://www.ccyp.govt.nz/).



# Whole School Athletics Day - Tuesday 12 May 2026

Moonee Valley Athletics Track, Corio Street Moonee

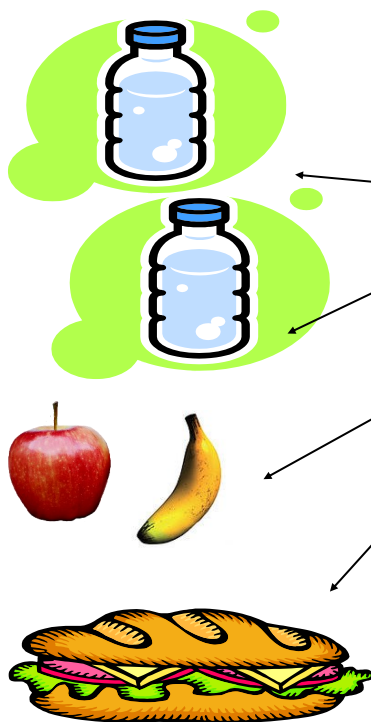
Ponds 9.15am - 2.00pm

**ALL WELCOME!!!**



## REMINDERS

- \* ALL children need to be wearing their sport uniform.
- \* T-shirts or ribbons in their house colours are allowed (red, blue, green or yellow)
- \* No child will be permitted to go home from the Athletics track
- \* Children need to bring all food and drink in a bag. No glass or cans are permitted
- \* Parents and Helpers need to make their own way to the Athletics Track. There will not be any room on the bus.



### Children need:

Several drinks

Snack

Lunch

Coat / Beanie

House Colours

Sports Uniform

Asthma pump  
(if Asthmatic)





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JOIN THE CYBER SAFETY PROJECT FOR EXPERT ADVICE

# Navigating the Digital Playground

CYBERBULLYING

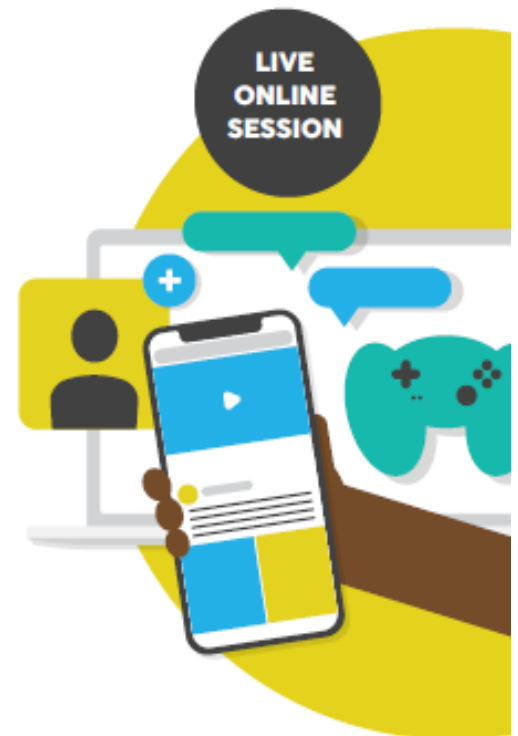
SCREEN TIME

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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](https://cybersafetyproject.com)



## Choose Action

*By Dr Justin Coulson*

After a talk to a Year 12 group about life after high school, a young woman stopped me with a question I wasn't expecting.

"What matters more," she asked, "having your direction dialled in, or taking action? Am I supposed to know where I'm going and then start walking? Or am I supposed to just start walking, even if it's the wrong way?"

I've been thinking about that question ever since — because it's not just a question for eighteen-year-olds standing at the edge of adulthood. It's the question parents face almost every day.

We feel stuck. Raising kids stretches us, binds us, frustrates us. Whether it's a little one who won't eat or sleep, an older child glued to a screen, or a teenager who's stopped talking to you — we find ourselves frozen, unsure which direction to take, which approach is right, or simply how to get through today.

Here's my answer to her, and to you: start walking.

Not blindly. Not recklessly. But movement — even imperfect movement — beats paralysis every time. You can't steer a parked car.

When we say we're stuck, what we usually mean is: \*I don't know the right answer, but I know that staying here isn't working.\* That's actually enough information to begin. The rest reveals itself through action.

Take something as raw and common as losing your temper. You raise your voice. Your child complies. That's data — but so is everything else that follows. The sick feeling afterward. The chill in the room. The child who fights back or shuts down. You moved, and the movement told you something important: that particular road leads somewhere you don't want to go.

So now you take a different action. You go to your child.

"I just yelled. That felt horrible for both of us, and I'm sorry. Will you forgive me?"

As you repair the rupture, something shifts. The new action feels better, so you keep going.

"Can we figure this out together — so we don't end up here again?"

If they say yes, you explore what's underneath the conflict. You explain what matters to you. Together, you find a way forward that neither of you could have mapped out in advance — because it required the first move to make it visible.

This is what action gives you that planning alone never can: real information, from real moments, with real people. The direction doesn't come before the walking. It comes *from* the walking — provided you stay curious, stay honest with yourself, and stay willing to adjust.

The student who asked me that question was hoping, I think, for permission to move before she felt ready. So here it is, for her and for you: you don't need to know the destination. You need to take a step, pay attention to what it tells you, and take the next one.

As long as it's moving, a car pointed slightly the wrong way is still a car you can steer.



Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters and grandfather to 1 granddaughter. Justin travels all around the country, speaking at schools to students, educators and parents about wellbeing and relationships. He is also 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. Justin has written 10 books about families and parenting - with the latest about raising boys out this year! For further details visit [happyfamilies.com.au](http://happyfamilies.com.au).



# The Holy Spirit will help you and always be with you

6th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Jesus loves us and asks us to keep his commandments. Name some of the commandments.



## Gospel

Jn 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'



## The Spirit will show you what is true

Answer the following questions True or False

Jesus only loves those who do good deeds. \_\_\_\_\_

The Holy Spirit is always with us. \_\_\_\_\_

God sent the Holy Spirit to help the disciples. \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said "You should not love your enemies". \_\_\_\_\_

The disciples received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. \_\_\_\_\_