



Christ beside me: Walking in the footsteps of St Patrick

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Fri 7 Aug 9.00am St Mary MacKillop Mass in the Church
Sat 8 Aug St Mary of the Cross McKillop Feast Day
Mon 10 & Tues 11 Aug *School Closure - Staff Faith Conference. No school for the children*
Wed 12 Aug F-2 Meerkat Production for Book Week
Fri 14 Aug 3-6 Author Visit (Tristan Bancks) Assembly at 8.40am today instead of 2.30pm
Sat 15 Aug Feast of the Assumption of Mary
Mon 17-Fri 21 Aug Bullying No Way Week
Mon 17 Aug Yr 5 Museum
Tues 18 Aug Foundation CERES
Mon 24-Tues 25 Aug NAIDOC Activities
Wed 26 Aug Yr 2 CERES
Fri 28 Aug Book Week Parade 8.45am
Thur 3 Sept Father's Day Stall
Mon 8 Sept Yr 6 Museum
Fri 18 Sept 1.00 End of Term

2026 Professional Development Days for Staff

TERM 3
Mon 10 & Tues 11 August - 2 Day Faith Conference for Staff
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 3 - Fri 18 September
Term 4 - Tues 15 December (last day of the 2026 school year for students).

Dear Parents and Families,

Congratulations to our Year 6 students who recently celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is a significant milestone in their faith journey, and we are incredibly proud of each of them as they were strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

This special celebration was made even more meaningful through the support of so many people. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our parents, families and caregivers for the love, encouragement and faith-filled example you provide each day. Your partnership in nurturing your children's faith is invaluable, and we are grateful to walk alongside you in this journey.

We were honoured to welcome Bishop Martin Ashe, whose presence is always a blessing to our school and parish community. Our sincere thanks also go to Fr Peter Damien, Fr Peter Zin, Fr Peter Hoang and Fr Hien Vu for their faithful ministry, guidance and ongoing support of our students and families.

A special thank you to our dedicated staff, particularly our Year 6 teachers, whose care, preparation and commitment helped our students deepen their understanding of the Sacrament and prepare so thoughtfully for this important occasion. To our Confirmation candidates, may the Holy Spirit continue to fill your hearts with wisdom, courage and joy as you live your faith each day. Know that you are loved, supported and held in the prayers of your school and parish community.



REMINDER

There is no school for the children next Monday 10 & Tuesday 11 August as the Staff participate in a 2 Day Faith Conference.



Prayer to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Dear St Mary,, you have a special place in Australian hearts.

Thank you for the Sisters of St Joseph, whom you gathered together, to teach in the schools that you opened in small country towns here in Australia, so that children could learn about their faith, as well as their other lessons.

Help us to remember what we learn about God, Mary, the saints and the angels, and all the other things about our faith.

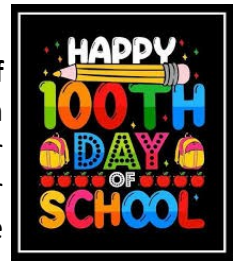
Help us to be true to our faith all our lives. Please pray for all the people in Australia.

Thank you St Mary.



100 Days of Foundation:

Our Foundation students recently celebrated a very exciting milestone **100 Days of Foundation**. It was wonderful to see our youngest learners proudly celebrating how much they have grown since beginning school. A sincere thank you to our Foundation teachers for the incredible planning, creativity and care that made this day so memorable for our students and their families. These celebrations may seem like small milestones, but they are significant moments that recognise the confidence, resilience and learning our children have developed in such a short time.



To our Foundation families, thank you for entrusting us with your children's education. Starting school is an important step for every child and family, and we are privileged to share in that journey. We look forward to continuing to nurture each child as they grow in faith, learning and confidence, becoming happy, capable and compassionate young people.

Thank you to all of our families for the partnership we share. Your support, encouragement and trust enable us to nurture your children academically, spiritually, socially and emotionally. Together, as a Catholic school community, we continue to guide our children to grow in faith, show compassion for others and become the very best version of themselves.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop whole school Mass:

What a wonderful way to finish the week with our whole school Mass celebrating the feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Gathering together in prayer was a beautiful reminder of the values that unite us as a Catholic school and of the rich Josephite heritage that continues to shape who we are.

Our school is deeply blessed to have such a strong history with the Sisters of St Joseph. We are grateful for the enduring legacy they have left within our community and for the faithful witness they continue to provide today. The Sisters who first established our school lived the mission and vision of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop with courage, humility and compassion. Their commitment to Catholic education and to serving others laid the foundations upon which our school continues to flourish.



Each day, our students are encouraged to live these same values by treating one another with kindness and respect, valuing the gift of learning, and giving thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. Through our words and actions, we strive to follow the example of Jesus and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, building a community where everyone feels welcomed, valued and supported.

School Closure – Monday 10 August and Tuesday 11 August

This is a reminder that the school will be closed on **Monday 10 August** and **Tuesday 11 August**. During these two days, our staff will be engaged in professional learning and development off-site.



We sincerely thank our families for their understanding and continued support.

These professional learning opportunities are invaluable, allowing our teachers to deepen their knowledge, strengthen their practice and continue providing the highest quality learning experiences for every student. Investing in our staff is an investment in our children and in the future of our school community.

Students will return to school on **Wednesday 12 August**, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another wonderful week of learning.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support of our school. We are truly blessed by the strong partnership we share with our families, and we are grateful for the trust you place in us each day.

May God bless you and your families, and may you all enjoy a safe, restful and happy weekend.

Warm regards,

Caroline Madigan

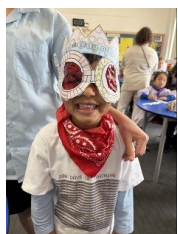
Mrs Caroline Madigan

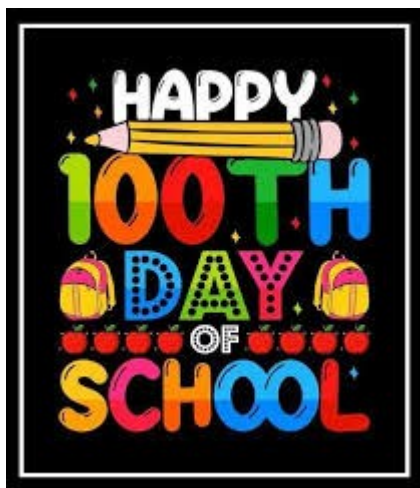
Principal

principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

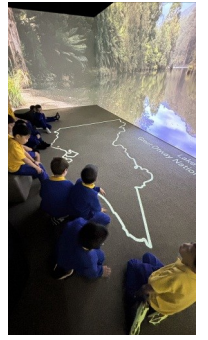
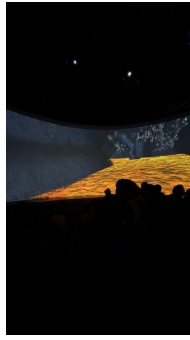




A colorful logo for the 100th Day of School. The text "100TH" is at the top in large, bold, multi-colored letters (orange, green, blue, pink). Below it is a light blue banner with the words "DAY OF" in white. At the bottom, the word "SCHOOL" is written in large, bold, multi-colored letters (pink, red, orange, yellow, green, blue).



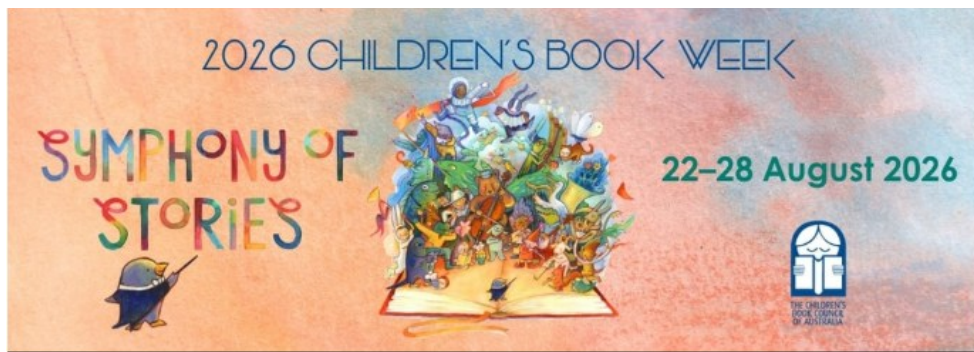
Year 3 at Melbourne Museum





Year 4 at Melbourne Zoo





BOOK WEEK 2026

NEXT WEEK:

We are so excited to begin celebrating Book Week.

Our students have spent this term exploring the nominated CBCA picture storybooks, learning songs, and researching our guest author.

Next week, our **F-2 students** will enjoy an incredible performance by Meerkat Productions on **Wednesday, 12th August at 9:00am**, while our **Grade 3-6 students** will be treated to a special visit from beloved children's author, **Tristan Bancks**, on **Friday 14th August at 2.00pm**.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to author visit, our Yrs 3-6 Assembly on Friday 14 August will be held at **8.40am instead of 2.30pm.**

REMINDER: Character Parade

Date: Friday, 28th August

Time: 8.45 am

Who: All parents, carers and family members are warmly welcome to join us.

Kind regards,

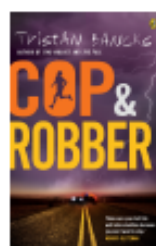
Lisa Piperno Literacy Leader

TRISTAN BANCCKS AUTHOR VISIT

at

Our Lady of Immaculate Conception

Friday 14th August



Booked Out have partnered with The Little Bookroom
to make your author visits extra special!

Families have the opportunity to purchase SIGNED books ahead of Tristan's visit
which will be delivered for free to the school and handed out to your child.

All you need to do is order the books you'd like at our online shop:
shop.littlebookroom.com.au

You can search for Tristan's books, or find them [HERE](#):



You MUST provide the following details in the 'notes' section of the checkout to
ensure we can deliver it to your child:

- your school and your child's name
- class (both year level and class)
- the name of the author/illustrator
- the date of the visit

ORDER CUT OFF FOR PERSONALISED SIGNED COPIES: **Tues 11th Aug**
at midnight

POST EVENT DELIVERY ORDER CUT OFF: Sat 15th August

For more detailed instructions, visit our website: littlebookroom.com.au/school-visits

Any questions? Email us at orders@littlebookroom.com.au



THE
LITTLE
BOOKROOM
The world's oldest children's bookshop



Woi-wurrung Country
8 Village Avenue, Brunswick East, VIC 3057
03 7048 4703 | littlebookroom.com.au

MOST REV STEPHEN WANG PARENT WORKSHOP

**WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2026
AT 7:00PM**



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Register your Interest
here

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/4TTOMZuyyB>



A Special Invitation for Parents

Parents across our MACS schools and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are invited to a unique opportunity to hear from Fr Stephen Wang, visiting all the way from Rome. Join us as he explores the inspiring topic:

**Accompaniment and Conversion:
Walking with Our Children Toward Christ.**

Come and be encouraged and inspired in your journey of faith and parenting.

Online Link to Join: <https://shorturl.at/02j66>

Meeting ID: 482 438 471 206 0

Passcode: bw6cm35P

Or Scan QR Code to Join

SYCAMORE



Balancing Life & Technology



SCREEN TIME

GAMING BATTLES

VIDEOS & SCROLLING

SLEEP & BEDTIME

TECH CONFLICT

FINDING BALANCE

LIVE PARENT WEBINAR

Move Beyond Minutes. Build Better Habits.

Technology is part of everyday life. This practical webinar helps parents understand what healthy screen use really looks like and provides realistic strategies to support children to develop safe and healthy screentime habits.

- ✓ **A fresh perspective** - Think beyond minutes, limits and guilt.
- ✓ **Recognise healthy habits** - Spot when screen use is positive, passive or unhelpful.
- ✓ **Practical strategies** - Simple ways to create greater balance at home.
- ✓ **Feel more confident** - Set boundaries and start conversations that actually work.

REGISTER

7.30PM AEST
MONDAY 10th AUGUST 2026
SUITABLE FOR
PRIMARY & SECONDARY PARENTS

SCAN TO REGISTER
or visit bit.ly/CSP10AUG



SUPPORTED BY



CNA
Catholic Network
Australia



Census and special circumstance applications privacy collection notice

About

The Australian Government Department of Education (the department) would like to advise all staff, parents, guardians and students (where applicable) that it will collect certain information about your school, its staff and student body as part of the non-government schools census collection (the census) and special circumstance applications.

How and what information is collected for the census?

Census information is provided to the department by your school's legal entity (the approved authority) via the Education Funding System (EFS).

The census provides information about your school and the number and characteristics of the school's staff and student body during a specific reference period. Information and characteristics collected through the census include:

- teaching and non-teaching staff
- students' year level and workload
- students' gender and age (as on 1 July 2026)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and students
- students with disability
- students receiving distance education
- day, boarding and overseas students.

The names of students and staff are not collected, apart from the name, position and contact details of the staff member nominated as the primary contact for the census.

Census special circumstance applications

A census special circumstance application is for a student who did not attend during the census reference period and/or did not have a pattern of regular attendance at a school during the year but otherwise meet the non-government schools census eligibility requirements. Schools can apply to have a student individually considered for inclusion in the census through a census special circumstance application. Any information provided to the department through this application should be de-identified by the school.

Purpose of the census collection

The information provided during the census is collected by the department in accordance with the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act) and the Australian Education Regulations 2023 (the Regulations). The Act and the Regulations require the legal entity responsible for the administration of the school (the approved authority) to provide this information to the department to:

- ensure the provision of Australian Government funding to schools is properly calculated and appropriately managed
- conduct research, statistical analysis and develop school education policy for the Australian Government
- meet national and international reporting obligations on school students in Australia
- publish and provide information about schools to the public.

Use and disclosure of personal information

Your personal information is protected by law under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (Privacy Act). Personal information is information or an opinion about an identified individual or an individual who is reasonably identifiable.

Any use or disclosure of your personal information must occur in accordance with the Privacy Act and the Act and Regulations and any other applicable laws.

Your personal information provided to the department through the census may be:

- Used or disclosed by the department for the purposes outlined above under the heading Purposes of the census collection.
- Disclosed to the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to publish on the [My School](#) website and include as high-level data for ACARA's National Report on Schooling in Australia.
- Disclosed to state and territory government departments and authorities in accordance with the Act and Regulations.
- Disclosed to Australian Government departments and authorities in accordance with the Act and Regulations.
- Disclosed to non-government school representative bodies in accordance with the Act and Regulations.



- Disclosed to a contracted auditor where the department decides to audit or verify the information provided by an approved authority about a school. The contracted auditor may use previously collected information or request access to individual student records for comparison purposes. The contractors may pass this information onto officers within the department, if there is a discrepancy in the data provided by the school and the school's records and further investigation is required. The contracted auditor must handle personal information in accordance with the Privacy Act.
- Disclosed to its service providers for the purposes of the provision of information and communications technology support services to the department.
- Used to validate data from other collections undertaken by the department.
- Used or disclosed where it is otherwise required or authorised by law including under the Act or Regulations, or otherwise permitted under the Privacy Act.

Other than in exceptional circumstances (for example, investigation of fraud relating to overseas students), the department does not disclose any of the personal information collected to overseas recipients.

You can find the department's privacy policy on the [Department of Education website](#) or request a copy from the department at privacy@education.gov.au. The privacy policy includes information about how to access or correct personal information held about you or your child, how to make a complaint about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles and how the department will deal with such a complaint.

What do you need to do?

You are not required to do anything. The approved authority of the school is responsible for providing the information to the department.

Contacts for further information

Your school can provide information about data provided for you or your child for the purposes of the census. To find out more about the census collection and reporting, [visit EducationHUB](#).





Parent/Carer Newsletter

7



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

**Working
together for
Child Safety**

Child Safe Standard 7

"Processes for complaints and concerns are child-focused."

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 includes ensuring that children, families and community members can raise complaints and concerns safely, are listened to respectfully, and understand how to access child-focused complaint processes that prioritise children's voices and wellbeing. Our Catholic communities uphold clear, accessible and child-centred policies and procedures for responding to complaints and concerns, supporting staff and volunteers to act promptly, lawfully and with integrity so that child safety and wellbeing are central to every response.

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 schools governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are doing to prioritise and achieve this.

Why is it important that complaints and concerns are child-focused?

Children are safest when they know that adults will **listen** to them, take their concerns **seriously**, and act in **their best interests**.

When schools have clear and child-focused processes for handling complaints and concerns, children and families are **more likely to speak up early**.

This helps schools respond quickly, provide **appropriate support**, and **prevent harm**.

Child-focused processes also **promote fairness, transparency, and trust**, ensuring that concerns are addressed respectfully and with care for everyone involved.



Child Safe Standard 7

Child Safe Standard 7 reminds us that children and young people have the right to be heard, listened to, and responded to with care and justice. As scripture tells us:

"Learn to do good; seek justice" (Isaiah 1:17)

This teaches us that safeguarding children is not only about protection, but about acting justly when concerns are raised. It calls us to listen attentively, respond wisely, and place the dignity and wellbeing of children at the center of our actions.

By ensuring that complaints and concerns are handled through clear, accessible, and child-focused processes, Child Safe Standard 7 supports a school culture where children feel safe to speak up, families feel confident to raise concerns, and issues are addressed promptly and fairly, strengthening trust across the whole school community.

Working together for Child Safety



What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Clear and accessible policies and processes:** We provide simple, child-friendly and family-friendly ways to raise concerns or make complaints, including clear information about who to contact and what to expect.
- **Listening and taking concerns seriously:** All concerns raised by children, parents, carers, staff, or community members are treated with respect and care.
- **Timely and thoughtful responses:** Concerns are responded to promptly and thoroughly, with appropriate action taken to support safety and wellbeing.
- **Appropriate reporting and cooperation:** Where required, concerns are reported to relevant authorities, and the school cooperates fully to ensure children are protected.



How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

Child Safe Standard 7 works best when schools and families partner together to support children's safety and wellbeing. Families can help by:

- **Encouraging children to speak up:** Let your child know they can talk to you or a trusted adult at school if something doesn't feel right.
- **Knowing how to raise concerns:** Get familiar with the school's complaints and concerns policy and processes and who to contact if needed.
- **Sharing concerns early:** If you notice changes in your child or have a worry, raising it early helps the school respond quickly and appropriately.
- **Working in partnership:** Engage openly and respectfully with the school, knowing that listening, fairness, and child wellbeing guide how concerns are managed.



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](#).

Check out these additional resources below to learn more:

The Australian Human Rights Commission offers practical guides, resources and information on how to develop, review and maintain Child Safe organisations: [AHRC: Child Safe Organisation Resources](#)

The Federal Government has a National Office for Child Safety; National Principle 6 Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused reflects Child Safe Standard 7.

Resources regarding National Principle 6 can be found here: [National Office for Child Safety](#)

Working together for Child Safety





LOCATION
**Barclay Reserve,
5 Talmage Street
Albion**



COME & TRY BASEBALL & TEE-BALL

No Experience Necessary!

**Sunday 30th August &
Sunday 13th September**

Juniors

ages 5-18

10am – 12pm

Womens

ages 15+

12:30pm – 2pm

For more info contact junior.coordinator@sunshinebaseball.com.au
or visit our website at sunshinebaseball.com.au

Your Kids Don't Trust You

By Dr Justin Coulson

The most important line in this article is this one:

Trust is the belief that the other person has your best interests at heart.

In parenting, nothing matters more than that your child trusts you. Your child must believe that you want the very best for them. No matter what. But... most of our children don't believe that.

Picture this: you walk into your child's bedroom and find them doing something that they're not supposed to be doing. A younger child might be drawing on the wall. Or tearing pages out of your favourite book. An older child might be on their device and looking at inappropriate content online. Or talking to a friend and using coarse language.

What's the typical response? We react. Large. Now they're in trouble. We're removing privileges or delivering a lecture. Perhaps we are asking them what in the world they are thinking, or imposing sanctions.

At no point as we stand in the doorway angrily scowling or threatening do our children ever look at us and say, "Gee Mum/Dad, I guess you're right. And I can see that you're telling me to clean up the mess because that's what is best for me". Or "Wow, taking my device away makes sense. It's certainly in my best interests."

Regardless of whether what we have said to our children is accurate, they're rarely, if ever hearing it as something that will make them trust us more. Instead, it's driving a wedge between us and harming trust.

Kids don't learn to trust us when things go right. They learn it when things go wrong. The moment you most want to explode is the exact moment your child is deciding whether you're safe.

So what do I recommend instead? Here's what I do.

First: name it. I let my child know I'm not happy with what's going on, and that we'll need to have a chat about it soon. Then I walk away and let things cool. (This matters. Nothing good gets said while everyone's temperature is up - mine included. High emotions equals low intelligence.)

When we do sit down, my opening question surprises them every time: "What does trust mean?"

My kids know the answer by heart now. "Trust means believing that the other person is going to act in your best interest."

Then I ask the question that sets the stage for whether we proceed or not: "Do you trust me? Do you believe that I'm going to act in your best interest?"

Only once they've said yes can the real conversation begin. Because now we're on the same side of the table. If they say no, that becomes a different conversation about why.

Some time ago I had an extremely difficult and serious conversation with one of my children. She'd done something that crossed our lines of acceptability by a long way. I followed the steps above - and then,

because the stakes were so high, I added one more. I asked her, "Do you know that there is no one on this planet of 8 billion people who loves you as much as your Mum and I do? No one who wants what's best for you more than we do?"

I told her she could trust me. And that we'd work through this thing together. That's when the walls came down.

Our children trust us when we step away from "sanctions" and "consequences", and focus on problem-solving. That's the very best "discipline". No child has ever been lectured into feeling loved. Your child's behaviour is a moment. Your child's trust is the relationship. Don't trade the relationship to win the moment.

Studies show that trust increases efficiency. We can get more done and much faster when trust is high. We can make a deal with a handshake. Without trust, we second-guess, draw up legal contracts, demand oversight and accountability. Supervision and monitoring becomes a requirement. A lack of trust is costly.

Where trust is high, people communicate more openly, accept feedback more readily, and cooperate with decisions even when they disagree. That last part is powerful for parents. A child who trusts you will accept a limit they don't like.

In the midst of my challenging conversation with my daughter, we agreed that YouTube was off-limits. Without trust in the relationship, this decision would have felt like a punishment - something she would need to work around when no one was watching. But because she understood the challenge we faced, knew I was acting in her best interest, and was part of the problem-solving process, *she was the one who suggested it!* When kids own the solution, they keep it.

But the [landmark finding](#) from parenting research is that parental "monitoring" doesn't actually keep kids safe; child *disclosure* does. And kids disclose to parents they trust and feel warmth from. Surveillance and sanctions reduce disclosure; trust increases it.

"Do you trust me?"

Our children will believe we have their best interests at heart when our response to their worst moments proves it.



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 11 books about families and parenting - with the latest about [raising boys](#) out now! For further details visit happyfamilies.com.au.



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Gospel Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

We can have faith that Jesus will always be there to help us in difficult times. Write a prayer asking God to help you when things get tough.

Dear Lord,

Amen.

Help Jesus find his way across the water and onto the boat.
Be sure to pick up St Peter along the way!

