



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



OUR LADY'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

28 February 2025

olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter-Damien McKinley
Principal: Ms. Patrizia Bertani
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



Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen on you.
Isaiah 60:1

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 3 Mar Foundation start at school full time
Wed 5 Mar Ash Wednesday.
9.00am Mass for Yrs 3-6
Mon 10 Mar Labour Day Public Holiday
Tues 11 Mar Professional Learning for Staff (RE)
Wed 12 Feb Foundation Family Picnic
Mon 17-Fri 21 Mar Catholic Education Week
Wed 19-Fri 21 Mar Year 6 Camp
Tues 25 Mar 6.30 Reconciliation Parent Meeting
Tues 1 Apr 9.00am Farewell Mass for Ms Bertani
Fri 4 Apr 12.15 Final Assembly for Term 1. School finishes at 1.00pm

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

Term 1

Tues 11th March - Religious Education Focus

Term 2

Mon 19th May - PD Review
Tues 20th May - PD Review

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 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 Conversations (First Semester Reports)

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

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

Sacraments

Wed 30 Apr 6.00pm Reconciliation for Yr 3

Sun 25 May 10.30am Eucharist for Yr 4

Fri 8 Aug 7.00pm Confirmation for Yr 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have had a good week. As you all have heard Pope Francis has had a setback in his recovery from pneumonia and reports have said that he is in a critical condition. I ask you all to pray for Pope Francis to make a full recovery. He is a strong advocate for peace and social justice. He has consistently given a voice to those that are voiceless and powerless and he is a living embodiment of the Gospel values. As leader of the Catholic Church we need him, our world needs him to speak on behalf of all that is good and just.

Welcome to Country-Smoking Ceremony

A big thank you to all the parents who came to join Our Lady's students and staff on Monday morning to participate in the Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, led by Wurundjeri man Thane Garvey. Being able to participate in a ceremony that has been practised on this land for thousands of years was a real privilege for us all. It was a great way to begin a new week.



Lately, we have had many ongoing issues in regards to student behaviour when using the school toilets. Most students do the right thing and leave the toilets clean and tidy. However we have had students not using the toilets correctly, leaving them in an unhygienic state and also throwing the toilet paper around. This is very unfair for other students who need to go to the toilet after them. It is also very unfair to our cleaners Nubia and Salvador who have to clean up the mess on a daily basis.

I am asking for parents to help us turn this situation around by discussing and reinforcing appropriate behaviour and hygiene habits when using the toilets. The staff will continue to do so but I believe that we need you, our parents to help us improve this situation. Your collaboration will be very much appreciated.

*We need
YOUR
Support*

Prayer for Pope Francis

Lord, please be with Pope Francis, in his time of need. You are the Source of all healing, and we ask You to surround him with Your loving presence, granting him strength and recovery.

May he be comforted by the love of the Church and the prayers of all the faithful. We ask, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that his recovery be swift, and his spirit be strengthened in Your peace.

We offer this prayer in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit.



Exciting News

Last Friday I met with the architects from Clarke Hopkins Clarke and the head of the Capital Works Project Team (MACS). He has invited me to put in an application on behalf of our school for a Commonwealth grant to do the following capital works:

- Demolition of the old Junior Block Building (that is no longer in use) and the 'Mary MacKillop Village'
- Build a large open synthetic field and senior play area including playing equipment, site stores, seating and landscaping
- New carpark to the north-east of the site
- Site infrastructure upgrades (stormwater).

The upgrading of the storm water system in that area of the school is particularly important and will resolve the issue of water flooding that area every time it rains heavily. I have always dreamed that we can redevelop that part of the school into a wonderful open play area for our students. It now looks like we have a big chance at achieving this, fingers crossed!

Preliminary drawing of what the proposed redevelopment will look like



Parent Advisory Board Annual General Meeting

Thank you to the parents who attended the meeting. I thank Hang Truong (Jacob T 6A, Nathan T 3F) who has volunteered to continue in the role of Chairperson and Alanna Smith (Archie 6A, Violet 2N) who has volunteered to be the Secretary. Thank you also to Karla De Ocampo (Mia 3E) who attended and has decided to participate in the PAB meetings this year.



It is not too late to join the PAB at the next meeting which will be on Wednesday May the 28th. You will gain a deeper insight into the school curriculum, financial matters and capital works as well as bringing the parent voice to the meetings.

Foundation Parent Information Evening

On Wednesday we held the Foundation Parent information Night meeting and we were delighted by the number of parents who came. I thank Wendy Veldman (FJ), Lillian Valencia (FI), Tania Cuni (RE/Learning and Teaching Leader) and Lisa Piperno (Literacy Leader) for organising and facilitating the evening. We hope that we were able to answer your questions and give you a better insight into the type of learning that your child experiences each day at school.

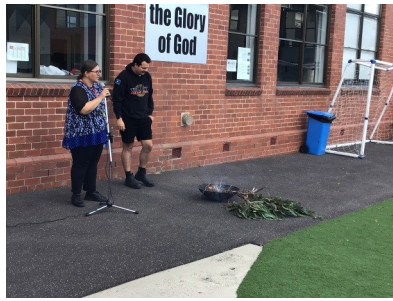


Warm regards,

Patrizia Bertani

Ms Patrizia Bertani
Principal

principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au



Welcome
to Country
and
Smoking
Ceremony

F O U N D A T I O N 2 0 2 5

**PICNIC WITH
ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE
CHILDREN**



Our Lady's School invites all the families of our 2025 Foundation students to a Picnic.

A chance for all to meet other Foundation families and Staff.

Wednesday 12 March 2025

5.00pm-6.30pm

Picnic outside the Foundation classrooms including entertainment for the children

Bring Your Own Dinner & Picnic Rug

Enter via double gates on Victoria Street



The Extend Squad Ancient Adventures School Holiday Program!

ENTERTAINING
INCURSIONS!



EXPLORATION
ACTIVITIES!



FASCINATING
EXCURSIONS!



BOOK TODAY AT **EXTEND.COM.AU!**

Book 14 days in advance to secure the Early Bird Rate!





Choosing a Secondary School: *Finding the right fit.*

Caroline Chisholm Catholic College invites families with students in Grade 4 or 5 to join our information session.

Choosing a secondary school for your child can be overwhelming. This session aims to assist families exploring secondary school options about what to consider when selecting a secondary school.

Thursday, 27 March 2025 | 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Quin Auditorium, Caroline Chisholm Catholic College

Enter via Gate 3 on the corner of Churchill Avenue and Darnley Street, Braybrook

Secure your seats by scanning the QR code.

For any questions, please email registrar@cccc.vic.edu.au or call 03 9296 5311.





Collection notice for parents/guardians

2025 Student residential address and other information

The Australian Government Department of Education (the department) would like to notify you that we have requested for your child's school to provide residential address and other information.

Under the Australian Education Regulations 2023, the school is required to provide the department with the following information about each student at the school:

- names and residential addresses of the student's parent(s) and/or guardian(s)
- student residential address (**excluding student names**)
- whether the student is a primary or secondary student (education level)
- whether the student is boarding or a day student (boarding status).

The school collects the above information by generating a **unique and unidentifiable** student reference number (SRN) for each student record. The school only uses the SRN for this collection. **The SRN cannot be used for any other purpose.** The number only indicates to the department that each record provided is for one student.

Purpose of the collection

The Student residential address and other information collection (address collection) informs Australian Government school education policy and helps ensure funding for non-government schools is based on need.

The information collected is used to inform school funding calculations. It is combined with Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data to calculate a non-government school community's anticipated capacity to contribute to schooling costs, known as the capacity to contribute (CTC) score. More information is available on the [CTC page](#).

Use and disclosure of personal information

Your personal information is protected by law under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (the Privacy Act). Personal information is information or an opinion about an identifiable individual. Personal information includes an individual's name and contact details.

Any use or disclosure of your personal information must occur in accordance with the Privacy Act, the *Australian Education Act 2013* and Australian Education Regulations 2023.

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

- disclosed to the ABS for the purposes of the ABS linking names and address(es) with their personal income taxation data using the capacity to contribute calculations and analysis as a part of the Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA – previously known as MADIP). Find more information about PLIDA on the ABS website [PLIDA page](#)
- disclosed to an authorised person (for example, contracted auditor or identified departmental official) where the department may audit a school's collection submission. The authorised person compares the school's submission with the student enrolment information. The authorised person will not use the information for any other purpose
- disclosed to our service providers for the purpose of providing the department with information and communications technology support
- used or disclosed where it is otherwise required or authorised by law.

The department does not intend to disclose your personal information to any overseas recipients.

Aggregated information will be provided to your school in the form of school level median income for the last 3 years, rounded to the nearest \$5,000. This information is provided to help your school understand their level of government funding. Your personal income information **will not** be provided to your school.

Find the department's privacy policy on the [Department of Education](#) website. This includes information on:

- how individuals can access and modify personal information held by the department
- how complaints about potential breaches or breaches of the Privacy Act can be made
- how the department will deal with these complaints.

In association with this, the department commissioned an independent Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA). The PIA assessed the flows of information under the address collection, compliance with the Privacy Act and measures in place to safeguard the personal information being collected. The current version is available on the [Department of Education web site](#).

What do you need to do?

You are not required to do anything. Your school is responsible for providing the department with the requested details; however, you can contact the school to update your family's details.

Contacts for further information

Your school can provide additional information about the address collection process.

Alternatively, please visit the [SchoolsHUB address collection help and support page](#).

Navigating the Bullying Maze

A Guide for Parents

Bullying. It's a word that sends shivers down the spine of any parent. We want our children to feel safe, happy, and accepted, and the thought of them being targeted by hurtful words or actions is deeply upsetting. But the reality is, bullying is a pervasive issue. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, a staggering 70% of Australian children aged 12-13 have experienced bullying, with one in five facing it on a weekly basis.

These statistics are alarming, and they underscore the urgent need for parents to understand the dynamics of bullying and equip their children with the tools to navigate these challenging situations.

What is Bullying, Exactly?

Bullying isn't just a playground squabble or a one-off disagreement. It's a pattern of repeated, intentional aggression, where there's an imbalance of power. It can take many forms:

Physical: Hitting, kicking, shoving, or damaging property.

Verbal: Name-calling, teasing, insults, or threats.

Social: Spreading rumours, excluding someone from a group, or manipulating relationships.

Cyberbullying: Using technology to harass, intimidate, or humiliate someone. This can include sending hurtful messages, posting embarrassing photos or videos online, or spreading rumours through social media.

The Impact of Bullying:

Bullying can have devastating consequences for children's well-being. Victims of bullying are more likely to experience:

Emotional distress: Anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and feelings of isolation.

Academic difficulties: Poor concentration, decreased motivation, and lower academic achievement.

Physical health problems: Headaches, stomachaches, sleep disturbances, and even self-harm.

Social withdrawal: Difficulty forming and maintaining friendships and a reluctance to participate in social activities.

What to Do if Your Child is Being Bullied:

Listen and validate: Create a safe space for your child to share their experiences without judgement. Let them know you believe them and that you're there to support them.

Empower, don't rescue: Resist the urge to immediately intervene and solve the problem for them. Instead, help your child develop strategies for coping with the situation and advocating for themselves. This might involve role-playing different scenarios, brainstorming solutions, or practicing assertive communication.

Document the bullying: Keep a record of the incidents, including dates, times, locations, and any witnesses. This information can be helpful if you need to involve the school or other authorities.

Partner with the school: Work with your child's teachers and school administrators to address the bullying. Many schools have anti-bullying policies and programs in place.

Build coping skills: Studies show that if a child can avoid overwhelm, process effectively, and maintain a positive mindset (recognising that bullying is bad, but is more about the bully than themselves), they cope better. Trauma is not a result of the events that happen to you. It's a result of how you process those events.

Seek professional support: If the bullying is severe or your child is struggling to cope, consider seeking professional help from a therapist or counsellor.

What to Do if Your Child is the Bully:

It can be difficult to accept that your child might be the one causing harm to others. But it's crucial to address this behaviour promptly and effectively.

Acknowledge the problem: Don't dismiss or minimise your child's behaviour, and don't make excuses for your child. Take their actions seriously and let them know that bullying is unacceptable.

Understand the motivation: Try to understand why your child is engaging in bullying behaviour. Are they seeking attention? Trying to fit in? Coping with their own insecurities?

Teach empathy: Help your child develop empathy by encouraging them to consider the perspective of the person they're bullying. Ask questions like, "How do you think your words made them feel?"

Set clear consequences: Establish clear consequences for bullying behaviour. This might involve loss of privileges or other appropriate disciplinary measures. It should *absolutely* involve finding a way to improve relationships with other students, meaningful apologies, and restitution.

Model positive behaviour: Be a role model for kindness, respect, and empathy in your own interactions with others.

Bullying is a complex issue, and there's no one-size-fits-all solution. But by staying informed, communicating openly with our children, and partnering with the school, we can create a safer and more supportive environment for all children. Helping children process challenges safely helps them develop an intrinsic capacity to cope—allowing us to then focus on the identification and re-education of those who bully.

Let's empower our kids to be upstanders, not bystanders, and create a culture of kindness and respect in our schools and communities.



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.

Each tree is known by its own fruit



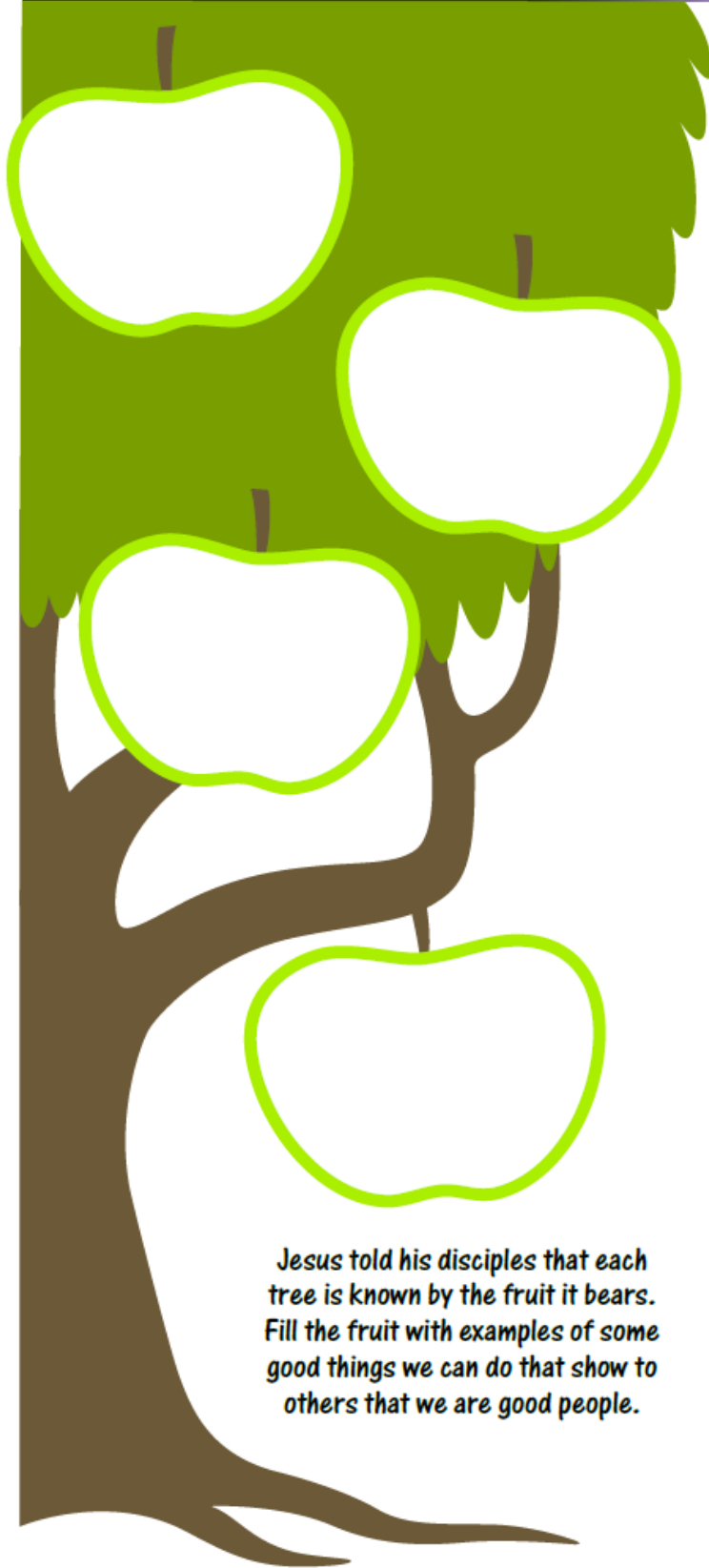
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Gospel

Lk 6:39-45

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.'

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'



Jesus told his disciples that each tree is known by the fruit it bears. Fill the fruit with examples of some good things we can do that show to others that we are good people.



HYPOCRITE

How many words can you make from the letters in the word HYPOCRITE?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____