Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

OUR LADY'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

6 November 2026

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

Our Lady's is a Child Safe School



Christ beside me: Walking in the footsteps of St Patrick

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 9 Nov School nurse with Foundation Students, Yr 6 Bluearth Transition Excursion
Wed 11 Nov Remembrance Day
Fri 13 Nov *Moves On A Mission Day.* Casual day with donation. 2.15pm Assembly with dance performance
Mon 16-Fri 20 Nov Swimming Program. No Assembly on Friday
Mon 23-Thur 26 Nov Swimming Program
Fri 27 Nov Planning Day for Staff
Fri 4 Dec Reports published
Tues 8 Dec Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mass at 9.00am, 5.00pm Dinner in the Yard & Art Show
Thur 10 Dec 6.00pm Yr 6 Graduation Mass
Tues 15 Dec 9.00am End of Year Mass. 1.00pm School finishes for students at 1.00pm

2026 Professional Development Days for Staff
Term 4
Friday 27 November - 2027 Planning

1:00pm finish days at the end of each term
Term 4 - Tues 15 December (last day of the 2026 school year for students).



DATES FOR 2027

Wed 27 Jan Staff return to school
Thurs 28 Jan Getting To Know You including Literacy Testing Day 1 for Yrs 1-6, Foundation at School 8.35am-1.00pm
Fri 29 Jan Getting To Know You including Literacy Testing Day 2 for Yrs 1-6, Foundation at School 8.35am-1.00pm
Mon 1 Feb Classes start for F-6 8.35am-3.05pm

Dear Parents and Families,

We hope you had a wonderful long weekend and were able to enjoy some special time together as a family. These moments of connection and togetherness are so important, and we are grateful for the opportunity to pause, recharge and appreciate the blessings of family life.
As we look ahead, we have a number of exciting and meaningful events taking place next week.

A little reflection on family



"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15
Family is one of God's greatest gifts. It is within our families that we first learn to love, care, forgive and support one another. May we continue to cherish the special bonds we share and give thanks for those who walk alongside us each day.



Important Events and Reminders

Year 6 Transition Day



Our Year 6 students will soon have the opportunity to participate in their transition day as they begin preparing for the exciting next chapter of their educational journey. We wish them every success as they take this important step towards secondary school.

Remembrance Day – Wednesday 11 November



Our Year 5 and Year 6 students will visit the local RSL to commemorate Remembrance Day. This is an important opportunity for our students to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who have served our country and to honour all those who have fought for peace and freedom.

Light of the World Prayer



Jesus is the light of the world. We should follow him.

Dear Jesus,
You are the light of the world. Your light shines before all people.
Help us to live in your light in all that we do and in all that we say.
May we bring your light to others by the way we live our lives. Amen

School Nurse Visit – Monday 9 November

Our school nurse will be visiting on Monday to conduct reviews for Foundation students whose parents have returned the required permission forms. We thank families for their cooperation and support.

Invitation: Whole School Assembly Friday November 13 – Dance Performance

We warmly invite all families to join us for our upcoming whole school assembly!
Next week, all students will have the wonderful opportunity to work alongside a professional dance company Kaboom, learning new skills, building confidence and expressing themselves through movement.
At the conclusion of the day, students will showcase what they have learnt in a special dance performance during our whole school assembly. Families are warmly invited to come along and enjoy this wonderful celebration of creativity, collaboration and student achievement.
We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Farewell and Blessings to Fr Peter will happen at our Whole School assembly:



It is with heavy hearts, but also great excitement for his next chapter, that we announce that Fr Peter Damien McKinley will be moving from our Parish to take up leadership at St Mary of the Assumption Parish in Keilor.
Fr Peter, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your wonderful service to our school community, your dedication to Our Lady's Parish Sunshine and your endless support, prayers and many years of faithful service (January 2016 - November 2026).
Thank you for the countless Masses, celebrations, blessings, guidance and moments of prayer that you have shared with our students, staff and families. Your presence has been a great gift to our community, and your kindness, generosity and commitment to nurturing the faith of our children will be fondly remembered.
While we are sad to see you leave, we are grateful for all that you have given us. We pray that you feel welcomed and embraced by your new Parish community and the schools you will come to serve.

A Blessing for Fr Peter



May the Lord bless you and keep you, Fr Peter, as you begin this new journey.
May He guide your footsteps, strengthen you in your ministry and fill your heart with joy and peace. May the people you meet welcome you with open hearts, and may you continue to be a source of faith, hope and inspiration to all those you serve.
May Our Lady watch over you, protect you and walk beside you in all that lies ahead.
"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you." Numbers 6:24–25

You will always hold a special place in the hearts of our 'Our Lady's' community. Thank you, Fr Peter, and God bless you.

Wishing everyone a wonderful week ahead. May we continue to work together in faith, kindness and love as we nurture and support our children on their learning journey.

God bless,

Warm regards,
Caroline Madigan

Caroline Madigan
Principal
cmadigan@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

Moves On A Mission - Friday 13 November



Next **Friday, 13th November** students in Foundation - Year 6 will participate in a "Moves on a Mission" dance incursion run by Kaboom.

Families are invited to join us for assembly in the hall at 2:15pm to view the dance performances.

Students are invited to wear ***casual clothes on the day for a donation*** to support Catholic Mission. We ask students to wear clothes that are comfortable for dancing.



We are looking forward to having lots of fun!

PARISH NEWS - Fr Brendan Lane



We at Our Lady's Parish have so many reasons to be thankful to Fr Brendan Lane, who yesterday has returned to God, Our Heavenly Father, who Fr Brendan served faithfully.
A priest of God's people in Sunshine 1985 - 1996.
Ordained to the Priesthood: 25th August 1973, St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. Entered Eternal Life 5th November 2026.

The legacy Fr Brendan leaves in our parish is enormous - his vision changed our school forever. Outside the Staff room we have a plaque with Fr Brendan's photo and an explanation of how important he was to improve our school. We honour the wonderful pastoral and practical vision he had and the determination to closing a LANE, that went between Parsons St and Monash St and used to divide our school in half. Out on Monash St, the footpath still has the curbing for a driveway into the Lane. Now that lane turns a corner at our south fenceline and goes east, behind the MacKillop Village, and exits out onto Ryder Place / Victoria St. There are former students from that era, who remember having to lookout for cars before crossing the lane from one part to the school to the other!

Fr Brendan Lane was a kind humble and practical and a man with profound authentic faith that was visible in all he did. He used to say that he loved his life as a priest, and he believed totally that it was true what he was saying and teaching, - that Jesus was real, Jesus' invitation was real and the faith is really a great help to everyday ordinary people. Fr Brendan was an inspiration to a lot of priests, and so many, many of whom are much younger than myself, admired him immensely and found his advice incredibly good and helpful. The smile and cheerful chuckle on any manner of things was just priceless.

Heaven's gain is our deep loss.

As our Parish enters our 100th year in 2027, we have a good friend praying for us from Heaven.

Fr. Peter Damien McKinley
Parish Priest, Sunshine, 2016 - 2026

ST MARY MacKILLOP AWARD

Congratulations to the recipients of our

St Mary MacKillop Award for November 2026.

Congratulations to:

Noso T 3F

Davin J FJ

Mila M 6A

Justice ***Peace*** ***Respect***

Service ***Courage*** ***Compassion***





SUNSHINE FNC – KICKSTART GIRLS FREE COME & TRY!

Calling all girls aged 5–7 in 2026! Sunshine Football Netball Club invites you to come along and give footy a go at our FREE All Girls Come & Try sessions!

It's a great opportunity to learn new skills, make friends and enjoy footy in a fun, welcoming environment. No experience is needed. Just bring your runners, comfortable clothing and a water bottle!

Location: Kindersmith Reserve, 39 Lily Street, Braybrook

Session dates:

Saturday 14 November – 9:00am–10:00am

Friday 11 December – 5:00pm–6:00pm

FREE to attend!

Register now via PlayHQ:

https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/0e8b24

We can't wait to see plenty of girls getting involved and giving footy a go!



Not Everything Has to Be Perfect

We push our kids to do better because we love them. But what if they hear something else entirely.

I recently had an uncomfortable argument with my mum. I had done something - and I'd done it quite well. Perhaps even brilliantly. Despite that, Mum decided to nitpick, pointing out where I could have done better.

I'm in my fifties. I have a PhD in psychology. I've written eleven books about raising children. And that gentle suggestion from my mother was enough to make me feel like I'd failed a test I didn't know I was sitting. Her motives were good. She wanted me to do it the best I could. But that's not what I felt. Instead, I reverted to a sulky 12-year old and I fired back:

"Not everything has to be perfect you know? Not everything has to be optimal."

Here's the most baffling part of all of this: I don't even remember what it was that Mum was trying to offer her insights about. But it got me thinking about our kids.

Optimisation, maximisation, and fulfilling potential - a "that could be better" mindset - is the water our children swim in.

- The bed is made, but not neatly.
- The drawing is lovely, and have you thought about the sky?
- The report card has five A's, and what happened in maths?
- You played great, but we've got to work on your defence.

Every one of those corrections comes from love. And every one of them teaches the same lesson: what you did wasn't quite enough.

Barry Schwartz and his colleagues studied the difference between people who always chase the best possible option (whom he called 'maximisers') and people who settle happily for good enough (named 'satisficers'). The maximisers did worse. In spite of their best efforts, they felt more regret, experienced more second-guessing, and enjoyed lower satisfaction with their choices and outcomes. Chasing the best is expensive, and children are paying that bill earlier than we think.

There's value in settling - and it's not about accepting mediocrity. It's about knowing what "done" looks like, meeting it, and then stopping. Satisficers aren't lazy. They have a standard, and when they reach it they go and do something else with their evening. And they know that not everything has to be perfectly optimised. (They can, however, still optimise the things they genuinely care about.)

Here's how to let good enough be good enough.

1 Ask whether it will matter in a week

Most of what we correct is invisible within days (or even minutes). The lopsided bed, the uneven lawn edge, the sandwich cut the wrong way. If it won't matter next Tuesday, say nothing.

2 Let done be done

When your child finishes a job to an acceptable standard, the job is finished. Adding "one little thing" turns their completion into your correction. They'll notice, and they'll stop volunteering. They'll feel a little less competent - and in turn, a little less motivated to keep trying.

3 Ask before you offer feedback

Try: "I have a couple of ideas. Are you open to hearing them or are you fine with how things are?" Sometimes they want coaching. Often they want to be allowed to live their lives their way. So long as it's not offending your values, gain consent before launching into an eight-minute lecture on how to do things better.

4 Invite *their* reflection

Rather than telling your children what you're seeing that they can improve, ask them how they felt about the game, the score, the marks, or the tidy-up. Their input will help you see what they're seeing, and can guide your next moves.

5 Model mediocrity cheerfully

This one is the hardest for me. I inherited the optimising gene from a woman who has nitpicked my work all my life (including editing one of my books after it was published and telling me to rewrite it!), and my kids have watched me redo jobs that were already finished. So I've started narrating the opposite out loud. "That'll do." "It's not perfect and I'm leaving it." My daughters find it funny. But they get the message.

My mum wanted it done better because she has always wanted the best for me. That's great, but it's also the trap. Every time I was told how it could be better, I internalised that "it's not enough", which led to "you're not enough" in my mind.

Some things need to be excellent. But we need to separate the standard we hold for the work from the worth we see in the child doing it. One can be high. The other should be never in question.



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.



Be prepared !

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Help Jesus tell the story of the girls with oil lamps. Add words and pictures to the story.

Ten girls went to a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ and waited for the groom.

Five were foolish. They took their lamps but no extra _ _ _.

Five were _ _ _ _. They took extra oil for their lamps.

The _ _ _ _ _ was late. The foolish girls asked for some oil, but the wise girls did not have enough to share.

While the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ girls were buying more oil, the groom arrived. Everyone went inside and closed the doors.

The foolish girls returned. They shouted, "Open the _ _ _ _ _!", but they were not allowed inside.

Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

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