



You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself. Luke 10:27

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Fri 5 Sept Father's Day Breakfast, Father's Day Raffle drawn at Assembly
Sun 7 Sept Father's Day
Mon 8-Thurs 11 Sept 2.10pm Performance Three Little Birds
Fri 12 Sept **Team Colours Day**
Second Hand Uniform Sale from 3.00pm, Yr 6 Werribee Zoo excursion
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
Thur 9 Oct 9.00am Yr 6 Graduation photo

PAB Meetings

Wed 19 Nov 7.00pm

P&F Meetings

Wed 5 Nov 7.00pm

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

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).

Dear Parents and Families,

A Heartfelt Thanks This Father's Day

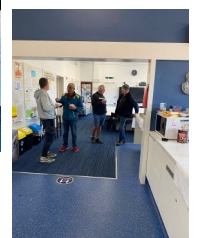
We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the parents, carers, and friends of Our Lady's who helped their children thoughtfully select the perfect gift for the incredible Dads, Grandads, Stepdads, Uncles, and father figures in their lives. It was so special to see students carefully browsing, thinking deeply about what would make *you* smile. There was so much excitement in the air as they proudly walked out with their chosen gifts, each one filled with meaning and love.

As **Father's Day approaches this Sunday**, we send our warmest wishes to all the father figures in our school community. To all of you who love, guide, and support our students like a father would, **thank you**. Your role in their lives is incredibly important, and we hope your day is filled with appreciation, warmth, and moments of connection. Whether you spend the day with family, receive a handmade card, or enjoy a quiet moment with your child, we hope you feel that you have been celebrated and valued.

Father's Day Breakfast – A Wonderful Morning Together

It was truly heart-warming to welcome so many Dads, Grandads, Stepdads, and Uncles into our school for the **Father's Day Breakfast** this Friday September 9. The staffroom was alive with conversation, laughter, and the joy of simply being together. It's not often we get to see our school community's father figures all in one space, what a gift it was to watch you connect with one another and share in such a relaxed and meaningful way.

A very big thank you to our **Events Committee**, who assisted with ensuring every guest had a warm drink, a tasty breakfast, and a welcoming space to enjoy. These moments are so important in strengthening the fabric of our school community, and your presence made it a memorable morning for everyone involved.



FATHER'S DAY

God our Father, you gave Jesus an earthly father, Joseph, who cared for him when he was a child.

We thank you for our fathers, grandfathers, Step Dads, Foster Dads, Uncles and those we love like Fathers who care for us.

We ask you to bless all fathers and all who take the place of fathers in caring for children on Father's Day and always.

We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who showed us how to call You 'Our Father in heaven'. Amen



School Production – *The Little Birds* Opens Next Week!

We're buzzing with excitement as the opening of our school production, *The Little Birds*, draws near! Our students have been working incredibly hard learning lines, rehearsing scenes, and polishing their performances. We are so proud of their commitment and creativity. A special thank you to **Miss Cam Tu** and the many staff members who have dedicated countless hours behind the scenes to bring this production to life.



If you're attending the show, please be reminded of the school's **sign-in procedures**. Everyone entering the school grounds including younger siblings, must be signed in as part of our **emergency evacuation and safety protocols**. Thank you for helping us ensure a safe and smooth experience for all attendees.

We can't wait to share this special event with you, prepare to be entertained and uplifted!

SIGNING IN FOR THREE LITTLE BIRDS

If you are attending a performance, the black gate near the office will be opened at 1.45pm on each performance day. In the hall, you will sign in, be given a VISITORS sticker and have the opportunity to use the hall toilets before the show. From 1.55pm the ushers will lead all attendees to their allocated seats. Please have your tickets ready (printed or on a phone). WE WILL BEGIN THE SHOW AT 2.10pm SHARP.

Any late attendees will lose their allocated seats and be placed on the side wings of the audience where there are seats available. To avoid this, please arrive in good time to find parking and to sign in before the show.

Looking Ahead: 2026 Class Planning Underway

As we move into Term 4, we begin the thoughtful process of planning for **staffing and class groupings for the 2026 school year**.



Our goal is to create balanced, supportive, and productive learning environments where every student can thrive. This process takes into account a number of important factors including academic needs, social dynamics, and teacher insights.

Each student will be asked to list **six peers** they believe they work well with in the classroom. We guarantee that every child will be placed with **at least one** of those nominated students. We encourage you to have a conversation at home about the difference between a good learning partner and a good playmate. These are important and empowering decisions for children to reflect on.

At this stage, we anticipate maintaining our current class structure of two straight year-level classes per grade from Foundation to Year 6. If your child has specific learning or social needs you feel should be considered, we ask that you put this in writing to the Principal Mrs Caroline Madigan by:

 **Friday, September 19, 2025**

 Email: principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

Please note that while we value parent input, decisions will ultimately be made based on what we believe is in the best interests of all students and the school community as a whole.

In addition, if your child (apart from Year 6 students) **will not be returning to Our Lady's in 2026**, a form will be sent home by the end of next week. Please complete and return it to the school office at your earliest convenience. Knowing this information early helps us plan accurately and effectively for next year.

Thank you once again for your continued support, partnership, and trust in our school. Whether we're celebrating milestones, sharing challenges, or preparing for the future, it's the strength of our community that carries us forward.

"A strong school community is built on connection, care and shared moments of joy."



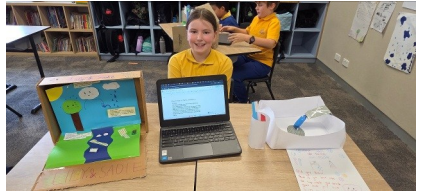
Warm regards,

Caroline Madigan

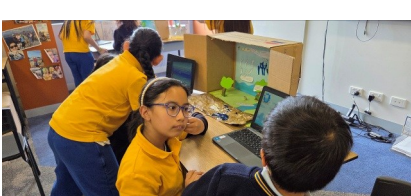
Mrs Caroline Madigan

Principal

principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au



Year 4 Water Action Expo





SOCTOBER 2025 LAUNCH



On the 3rd of September, Ms Shai, Olivia and Grace went on an excursion to Mount Saint Joseph's Girls high school in Altona for the first Socktober Liturgy Launch run by Catholic Mission. We went on the train to the school, spent a day doing activities and listening to speakers, and then went on the train back to school. We learnt about Mission Month, Socktober and the people of Zambia.

What even is Socktober and Catholic Mission?

Catholic Mission is an Australian organization that collaborates with communities to assist people in need of help. This includes healthcare, education, and spiritual care, thereby enabling them to thrive. All around the world in places like; Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, they are all served by the network of lay and religious missionaries. Mission Month (aka Socktober (in October)) is a special time in the Catholic Church when people learn about and support children and families who have hard and challenging lives all around the world. In this time, it is a chance for children to learn about different countries and cultures, practice kindness, pray for others, and raise money for important church-run programs that help people in need. You might remember last year's cause was to help the Don Bosco Caring Centre in Mongolia, which supports vulnerable children with education and essential care.



To do this, we had looked into the making of Sockballs; Sockballs are used by the children of disadvantaged families and are symbols of hope where children roam the streets playing with balls they've carefully crafted from recycled materials. It represents joy, resilience, and creativity in the face of hardship. This year, we are working towards helping the women and children of Zambia with maternal and child health through our growing partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Mpika, reflecting the ongoing commitment to build life-giving programs that respond to community needs and contribute to Zambia's national development goals. One of the big problems for families in Zambia is the shortage of food. Maize is the main source of food for Zambian people but currently, most people in Zambia are lacking a lot of nourishment. Farming families are the first and hardest hit by extreme weather, such as drought, and women are particularly affected because they are the ones who depend on farm work for the majority of their income, so when crops fail, they are left to try to stretch what little they have to feed their families while also dealing with the heartache that comes with not knowing what the future holds.



We started off by walking up to the train station and hopped on a train. The first ride took about 10 minutes but we got to the next station early so Ms Shai treated us to hot chocolate. The second train ride took about 20 minutes and when we got to the station we didn't have to walk too far to get to the school. Once we entered the school, we walked to their hall and had to sign in. We looked around for a while before we sat down. They started the day with an introduction and Acknowledgement of Country.



We then had a liturgy which was read by the students from some secondary schools and then a homily was read by Bishop Martin Ashe. After this, we learnt about the starving people (particularly the women and children) of Zambia who only have about 11 tablespoons of food per day and that food is maize or corn, which is equivalent to 2 slices of bread or 6 chicken nuggets. After these stories we had morning tea in which we had a choice of muffins/cupcakes and cookies.

The next thing we did was go on a pilgrimage walk around the school, they showed us places like their school library and science building and read reflections along the way. We came back and had some more time to look around so we looked at the badge and rosary bead station where you could make jewellery and badges. We had to sit down as we heard three people speak, someone who works for Catholic Mission and a priest who works in Bendigo.

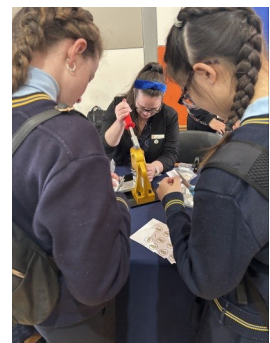
The first person gave an inspiration speech about the impact we can make, the person who works for Catholic Mission talked about why and how Catholic Mission was formed and the priest talked about his story of wanting to become a sports commentator but felt that God was calling him to become a priest, he talked about how he manages to do both. Then we had to sit on tables with other schools, and on the tables we had to introduce ourselves. Each table then had to split into two groups to talk about how we could raise awareness for Socktober and then we had 5 minutes to make sockballs.

After that, we ate some lunch which was party pies and sausage rolls. We had the choice to eat it there or take it and go, we ate our food and then we walked up to the train station. At the station, we made bracelets while we waited for our train. We hopped on the first train which was fairly empty, the second train however was very crowded. Once we got to the Sunshine station we walked back to school.



We were lucky enough to be chosen to go to the first Catholic Mission Socktober Launch with students and schools from all over the area. We had lots of fun and learned so much!

By Grace R (6A) and Olivia T (6B)





Team Colours Day



At Our Lady's school we love to celebrate the things we are passionate about. Sport is a very important part of our school curriculum and we have set aside a day where we can all come to school celebrating our favourite sporting teams by wearing their colours. This is a fun day for the children and the staff.

This year Team Colours Day will be held on **FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER**

The children of Our Lady's school will be able to come to school dressed in their favourite sporting team or House colours. It does not have to be a complete uniform; it might be a scarf, jumper or a beanie. *If your child is not wearing the colours from their favourite sporting team or House colours they will be required to wear their school sports uniform on the day.*

Ms Jo McManus our wonderful PE Leader has organised for the children to participate in an AFL Roadshow activity.

CHISHOLM
MacKILLOP
MAZENOD
WOODS

THE LIBRARY OF UNWRITTEN FUTURES – A Two-Day Holiday Adventure!

*Please note, this holiday program is for **students in Years 3–6***

A sign on the door says: **Library. Open 7pm-7am. All Are Welcome.** This might seem like a normal library at first glance. Old books on any topic you can imagine. Ancient paper and ink whisper at the edge of your senses, they seem to call you deeper and deeper into the shelves. You could walk around this library for hours and never learn all its secrets. At the wall furthest from the entrance is a door labelled “Futures” that no one seems to notice with a handle so dusty it’s hard to get a good grip. Who knows when it was last opened? Inside are more books, but they are all empty. Waiting to be written.



Over two days, young storytellers will explore the mysteries of this hidden library, imagine unwritten futures, and bring their discoveries to life through writing, drawing, and creative play.

What to Expect

- 📖 Wander through the mysterious library, uncovering hidden corners and secrets.
- ✍️ Write and illustrate your own stories in the *Room of Futures*.
- 💡 Dream up new worlds and possibilities, full of mystery and imagination.
- 🎨 Create visual maps, artworks, and story elements to bring your ideas to life.
- 🌟 Share your creations and contribute to a library of unwritten futures.

📅 **When:** 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM, Wednesday 24 & Thursday 25 September 2025

📍 **Where:** 100 Story Building, 206 Nicholson Street, Footscray

🍱 **Bring:** Your own lunch and drink bottle (all materials provided)

📅 **Bookings:** [TryBooking](https://www.100storybuilding.org.au/upcoming-events)

<https://www.100storybuilding.org.au/upcoming-events>

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

The Parents and Friends are looking for any donations of second hand uniform for their upcoming Sale on 12 September.

You can bring any outgrown or unwanted school uniform donations to the Office.

Please make sure all the items are our school uniform brought from the Uniform Shop, clean with no rips, faded logos or stains.

The Second Hand Uniform Sale will be held on Friday 12 September from 3.00pm near the St Joseph's Learning Centre



\$10.00

Jumpers
Track Pants
Bags

\$5.00

Sport Polos
Windcheaters
Shirts
Sport Shorts
Shorts
Dresses



LEARN TO RIDE HOLIDAY SESSIONS



FREE BEGINNER SESSIONS AVAILABLE

Thanks to Brimbank City Council's Community Grants Program

Week 1 Tuesday Sept 23 Thursday Sept 25
Week 2 Tuesday Sept 30 Thursday Oct 2



Book your kids [ages 5–12] into a fun and educational ride at Brimbank Traffic School

- Learn from experienced cycling coach
- BYO bike & helmet or hire on site
- 90 min session, 2 sessions per day
- Max 10 children per session
- Parents must stay for the duration
- Intermediate session available week 2

"She went from not riding at all, to ride, start, stop, read signs in 2 lessons. Thank you so much"

FREE
BEGINNER
SESSIONS



BOOK NOW

Located at Green Gully Reserve,
7 Clubhouse Pl, Keilor Downs

communitybikehub.com.au



OLS P+F PRESENTS

PERFORMANCE STALL

Come to our stall after the
show to purchase some treats!

**LOLLY
BAGS**

\$2 EA

**HOME
MADE
COOKIES**

\$3 EA

**BOOK
MARKS**

\$1 EA

MONDAY 8TH + TUESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 3PM
CASH ONLY

Sunshine YCW Junior Cricket – Season 2025

Junior training for **Under 11s and Under 15s** will commence on **Wednesday, 17th September** at Sunshine YCW Cricket Club. We are also asking for **Expressions of Interest for an Under 13s team**.

We will also be running a Woolworths Blaster program, scheduled to begin in late October.



Date: Wednesday, 17th September



Training: 5:00pm, **Parent Information Session:** 5:45pm

Parents are encouraged to attend the information session, where details will be shared about:

- Registration
- Club merchandise
- Junior scoring information

Meeting the coaches

We look forward to welcoming new and returning players for an exciting season ahead!

For more information, or to express interest in playing U13s this summer, please contact: Jakob O'Neill (0480151704) or email at oneill.jakob19@gmail.com.



JUNIOR

MEET THE COACHES

WEDNESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

5PM

SUNSHINE YCW CLUBROOMS

**WOOLWORTHS BLAST,
U11S, U13S & U15S**

**GET DOWN AND MEET THE COACHES, HAVE A
CHAT ABOUT THE SEASON AND GET ANY
QUESTIONS ANSWERED.**

COME DOWN AND REGISTER FOR THE SEASON

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Sharpen your footy skills at one of our School Holiday Programs in Regional Victoria
Suitable for kids aged 4-12.

**SKINNER RESERVE
BRAYBROOK**
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

**CROFTS RESERVE
ALTONA**
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

**MISSION WHITTEN OVAL
FOOTSCRAY**
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

BOOK HERE



AFL School Holiday Program – Western Bulldogs

Looking for something active and fun for the kids these school holidays? AFL Victoria and the Western Bulldogs are running footy clinics for kids aged 4–12!

Program Details:

Week 1:

Monday, September 22nd, 9am-3pm, Skinner Reserve, Braybrook

Week 2:

Tuesday, September 30th, 9am-3pm, Crofts Reserve, Altona North

Thursday, October 2nd, 9am-3pm, Whitten Oval, Footscray

Perfect for all skill levels – just bring your footy energy!

Register via the QR code on the flyer or visit the link: [Club Finder - Play AFL](#)

GRAND UNITED CRICKET CLUB

JR PARSONS RESERVE, SUNSHINE



NOW RECRUITING JUNIOR BOYS & GIRLS!



**Woolworths
Cricket Blast**

FREE FOR SEASON 2025/26
Ages 4 to 9 years old
Saturday 18th October @ 9:30am

**Under
10's**

**Under
11's**

**Under
13's**

**Under
15's**

**Under
17.5's**



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST VIA THE QR CODE

Junior Cricket Training EVERY Thursday Night
Starting Thursday 4th September 2025 @ 4.30pm



If you have any questions, please call:

Cameron Howitt



0412 642 526

Jack Hale



0421 526 500

Why dads matter



Father's Day can be a tricky occasion for some families, especially for those who don't have a father who is present in their life because of family breakdown, or a geographical distance which may not allow them to be close by. There are also those of us who have lost a father, or who are being raised by single mums who are both mum and dad to their kids. This too can impact how our kids view 'dad' and what he means to them. Other family structures exist where dad is not present either, and this can complicate Father's Day further.

The reality is that dads, when present and safe, take different shapes and forms. And research shows that kids thrive when dad is that positive, safe presence in their lives.

Over the past few decades, research has shown us that dads (and other male role models like teachers, coaches, church leaders, uncles, grandpas, and more) matter. Enormously. Their positive impact cannot be understated or waved away. And research also tells us that dads (and those other male role models) are stepping up and presenting that positive and active presence in their children's lives.

Why do dads matter?

Having involved fathers, however they might look to you and your family, has a lasting effect on their children's lives, for the better.

Firstly, dads engagement can help kids achieve better results at school, help increase their self-esteem and even reduce the risk of delinquency, substance abuse and other high-risk behaviours in kids. Known as the '**father effect**' – this umbrella term describes these and the many other benefits of a paternal presence, a presence who values and prioritises quality time.

Secondly, these dads matter because their influence, attention, nurturing, and affection help promote children's social and emotional development. They set up a healthy relationship with their children, allow for emotional growth and help develop positive health and wellbeing. And they provide a model of healthy masculinity for their kids; the kind of masculinity that helps those around them feel safer and stronger.

Third, there is a sense of acceptance and security that fathers can help provide which not only help our kids in the short term but continues as they move into adulthood as well. This protective presence can come from both parents but seems particularly present with actively and positively engaged fathers.

Fourth, engaged fathers matter because they can also help our kids develop important life skills including respect, problem solving, empathy and social skills. They teach them about limits, consent, and responsibility. Researchers aren't quite sure why or how, but these things seem to develop differently when dads are present versus when they're not.

What does an engaged dad look like?

In TV talk, an engaged dad looks like everyone's favourite blue heeler dad, Bandit from Bluey.

parenting*ideas

If you've watched the show, you'll have seen that Bandit isn't perfect. He can be dismissive now and then. He can say things that are challenging. But despite his imperfections (which we all have), Bandit listens to his children – their thoughts, their concerns, their dreams and their ideas. He encourages them, he challenges them, he shows an interest in them.

And Bandit talks to his children – he makes jokes, he reads books, he tells them about his day, he involves them in other parts of his life. He is verbally expressive with clear communication but without being controlling or belittling.

Bandit plays with his children – he kicks the footy in the backyard, or feeds the baby doll a bottle; he helps put together Lego or find the missing piece of a puzzle. He supports their interests, imagination, and growth. He helps set limits and boundaries and regulate emotions.

Bandit also supports his children – emotionally he helps navigate their problems or worries with them, he doesn't dismiss them. Rather he guides them to solve problems or cope with disappointment themselves. He supports them physically– he watches their sports matches, or dancing recitals; he is their biggest supporter.

Bandit is a positive role model – he demonstrates values that he wishes to instil within his own child/ren. He is honest and shows integrity. But he's not perfect. He makes mistakes – because he is human and when he does, he will own them and will say sorry.

He grows alongside his kids – as his children get older and mature, his relationship with them evolves with it. They learn about each other and grow and feel confident and secure in their relationship together. He values self-care – he has time for himself and ensures his own wellbeing and health is prioritised too because without this, he can't be his best self.

All dads are different but equally important

These qualities of an engaged dad aren't a checklist that dads need to tick off. Every dad will be different and that is okay. What's important is that dads are there for their kids and want to grow with them. That's what life is. Growth. That is what our kids will notice the most and how they will know you matter... because you do!

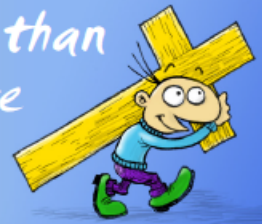


Shona Hendley

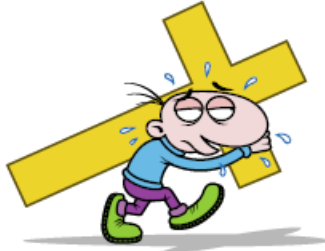
Shona Hendley is a freelance writer and a former secondary school teacher. Her work appears in Kidspot, ABC Everyday, The Guardian, Body + Soul, and News.com.au amongst others. Shona currently lives in regional Victoria with her family, including husband, two daughters, two cats, and three super cheeky goats. You can follow her on [Instagram](#).



Love God more than
your own life



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C



Jesus tells us that choosing his way is not always easy.
When might it be hard to do what Jesus asks us?

Gospel

Luke 14:25-27

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.'

What are some good choices
you can make this week?
Tick the good choices and
cross the bad ones.



HELP AROUND THE HOUSE
WITHOUT BEING ASKED TO

☐

DON'T WORRY ABOUT
SAYING MY EVENING
PRAYERS

☐

CONTRIBUTE TO THE
OFFERTORY PLATE

☐

MAKE FRIENDS WITH
SOMEONE NEW

☐

MAKE FUN OF THE
TEACHERS

☐

OWN UP TO MAKING
A BAD DECISION

☐

TURN OFF THE T.V.
AND READ A BOOK

☐

STOP DOING YOUR
HOMEWORK AND GO
OUTSIDE TO PLAY

☐

DO SOMETHING NICE
FOR YOUR PARENTS

☐