



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



OUR LADY'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

12 June 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

Fri 12 June 9.00am Sacred Heart Mass
Mon 15 June Yr 5 Jawbone Excursion
Wed 17 June Teeth on Wheels, Yr 6 Port Philip Eco Centre
Fri 19 June Reports published on nForma portal
Tues 23 June Teeth on Wheels, Yr 3 Kororoit Creek Excursion
Wed 24-Thur 25 June Three Way Learning Conversations (no classes for the students)
Fri 26 June Assembly 12.30pm, End of Term at 1.00pm
Mon 13 July Start of Term 3
Wed 15 July 6.30pm Confirmation Parent Meeting
Tues 28 July Yr 6 Confirmation Retreat Day
Fri 31 July 7.00pm Year 6 Confirmation

2026 Professional Development Days for Staff

Term 2
Fri 5 June - Report Writing (Semester 1)
TERM 3 NEW DATES
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 2 - Fri 26 June
Term 3 - Fri 18 September
Term 4 - Tues 15 December (last day of the 2026 school year for students).

Term 2 - Three Way Conversations (First Semester Reports)
Wed 24 and Thur 25 June

SACRAMENT DATES FOR 2026
Year 6 Confirmation
Friday 31 July at 7.00pm

Dear Parents and Carers,

Feast of the Sacred Heart – A Beautiful Celebration of Faith and Community

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all families, staff, parishioners and students who joined us in celebrating the Feast of the Sacred Heart at today's school Mass. It was a truly prayerful and uplifting celebration, centred on Christ's love and compassion for all.

A special thank you also goes to our school community for the overwhelming generosity shown through the donation of blankets for St Vincent de Paul. These will go directly to those in need through St Vinnies, and will bring warmth and comfort to many within our wider community. It is a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when we come together with open hearts and a spirit of care for others. We are deeply grateful for the thoughtfulness and kindness shown by so many.

As we reflect on this season, we also take a moment to pray for those in our community and beyond who are experiencing hardship. May we continue to be a parish and school that reaches out in compassion, always ready to support those in need through our prayers and actions.

A Special Honour for Our Community

We are very proud to acknowledge that Mr Shaun Crosbie has recently been awarded an OAM (Order of Australia Medal) for his outstanding service to the Sunshine community, including his long-standing contribution to Our Lady's School and Parish.

Shaun is an ex-student, ex-parent, and ex-grandparent of our school, and continues to be a tireless supporter of our community. His recognition is a wonderful reflection of the impact one person can have through years of faithful service, generosity, and commitment. We congratulate Shaun on this well-deserved honour and thank him for his ongoing connection to our school and parish.



Jesus, please help

Jesus, please, please come and help when there's not enough.
When people don't have what they need to stay warm, to drink and feed themselves and their family.
Jesus, help us all to see that you tells us we should share and give all we can to help us live together with all that we need so we all can have enough.

'I look to the hills! Where will I find help? It will come from the Lord, who created the heavens and the earth' Psalm 121:1-2

Visit from Bishop Martin Ashe

On Thursday 11 June, our Grade 6 students were blessed to spend time with Bishop Martin Ashe. It was a special opportunity for students to engage in meaningful conversation, ask thoughtful questions, and deepen their understanding of the Holy Spirit.

Bishop Martin shared valuable insights that will support our students as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation later this year. His visit was both inspiring and enriching, and we are grateful for the time he spent with our students.



A Grateful Community

Moments such as these remind us of the strength and faith of our school and parish community. Whether through liturgical celebration, acts of service, recognition of lifelong contribution, or opportunities for faith formation, we are continually blessed by the people who make Our Lady's such a vibrant and caring place.

Thank you once again to all who contribute to the life of our school. Your generosity, faith, and commitment ensure that our community continues to grow in love, service, and faith each day.

BUY A HEART FOR ST VINCENT DE PAUL

We have launched our FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART fundraiser on the QKR app where you can buy a heart to help those in our Sunshine community. All money raised will be given to St Vincent De Paul who will help those in need.

You can buy a SMALL individual heart for \$2 with your child's name or a BIG family heart for \$5 with your family name. All hearts will be made by our Year 6 Faith Leaders and will be displayed in the hall. We hope you will support this wonderful initiative. We look forward to seeing our hall filled with hearts and showing our love for one another!



Warm regards,

Caroline Madigan

**Mrs Caroline Madigan
Principal**

principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au



Parent Information Night

Caroline Chisholm Catholic College invites you to join our upcoming Parent Information Night. This evening is designed for families interested in joining our College community and wanting to learn more about us.

Hear from our Principal, Dr Napoleon Rodezno as well as members of our leadership team as they unpack who we are, what we offer and what our plans for the future are. Information about enrolments for Year 7, 2028 will also be available.

Wednesday 17 June 2026 | 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Gates open at 5.45pm

Quin Auditorium

Corner of Churchill Avenue and Darnley Street, Braybrook

Please RSVP by Wednesday 10 June 2026

Visit cccc.vic.edu.au or scan the QR code to let us know you can join.



For any questions regarding the event, please contact registrar@cccc.vic.edu.au or call us on **9296 5311**. We look forward to seeing you on the night!



Here Be Dragons

By Dr Justin Coulson

In ancient times, explorers would write "here be dragons" on maps. It was a signifier. Beyond this point: danger. Stay away.

A lot of parents do the same thing with their children.

Our kids run into dragons every day. A bully. A hard diagnosis. A friendship that falls apart. A challenge that feels way too big for them. These dragons are real and frightening, and when they appear, we reach for our sword.

It's instinctive. It's our natural reaction because we love our children and we want to protect them. Besides, we're bigger, stronger, more experienced. We've slain a few dragons ourselves. And watching your child face one is genuinely awful - it makes us anxious, so we charge in because we can, and because it feels like love; like good parenting. And while in some ways it is... in other ways, it's not.

You already know what I'm going to say next. It's your child who needs to do the dragon slaying.

Here's what the research actually shows. Psychologist Ann Masten - one of the world's leading resilience researchers - has spent decades studying children who overcome adversity. Her conclusion, supported by a substantial body of evidence, is that resilience isn't a personality trait some kids are born with. It's built. It develops through experience. Specifically, through the experience of facing hard things and coming out the other side. Reviews of the resilience research literature have consistently pointed to responsive and supportive parenting as the single most robust predictor of resilient adaptation - but responsive and supportive doesn't mean running in to fight the dragon. It means being there while your child fights it themselves.

How do we ensure we're responsive and supportive?

When our child is scared of a new dragon in their life, we listen. And then, together, we form a battle plan. We ask them to come up with potential ways forward. How can they slay the dragon? And when they're stuck, we offer suggestions.

The truth is that sometimes the kids are on board. They *want* to slay their dragons. But other times... not so much. They don't contribute to the conversation. They're not interested in finding solutions. They want protection.

At this point, we need to determine how important the dragon-slaying activity is. For little kids, staying at kindy or pre-school is a big deal. Or saying hi to a new classmate. For bigger kids, applying for the job, trying out for the theatre production, submitting the piece of art, playing in the Eisteddfod, asking someone out on a date. All of these things mean our child runs the risk of rejection and failure. They're likely to look incompetent. It could end up going pear-shaped.

Yet it's precisely that experience that builds resilience. I'd go further: resilience doesn't feel resilient when you're in it. But you don't know you're resilient until you try!

A 2021 systematic review and meta-analysis of resilience programmes for children and adolescents confirmed what Masten's work has long suggested: resilience involves *cognitive (thinking)* and behavioural aspects, and it can be built through experience.

The cognitive side includes things like how a child interprets a setback - whether they see it as permanent and catastrophic, or hard but manageable.

The behavioural side includes what they actually do when things get difficult: do they ask for help, try a different approach, keep going? Both of these develop through practice. But they have to be doing the hard work themselves.

You can't build the skill by eliminating the opportunity to practise it.

The practice, however, is almost always better when someone is standing there supporting you.

Lancelot wasn't born brave. Neither was Perceval. They had mentors who stood beside them, showed them how to hold the sword, walked them toward the dragon - and then stepped back and let them fight.

That's the job we have as parents. Polish the sword. Arm them with the shield. Teach the technique. Stay close. But let them feel the weight of it in their own hands.

Resilience feels hard and uncomfortable and uncertain. That's the point. That discomfort is where the growth is. Kids don't become brave by watching us slay dragons. They become brave by slaying a few themselves.

So the next time a dragon shows up in your child's life, resist the urge to charge in. Ask what they think they should do. Offer your perspective. Stay nearby. And then let them carry that sword and shield.

Let them discover for themselves how strong you feel when you slay your first dragon.



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.



Proclaim the Kingdom of God

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



Gospel

Matthew 9:36 - 10:8

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'



Jesus calls each of us to continue his mission as the Apostles did. What are some of the things that Jesus needs us to do?

There's a large crop in the field but not enough workers! Send these workers out to gather in the harvest

