

'What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.' John 2:1-11

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 25 - Fri 29 Nov Swimming
Wed 4 Dec 6.00pm—8.30pm Yr 6 Graduation Mass & Disco
Fri 6 Dec Second Hand Uniform Sale
Sun 8 Dec Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Mon 9 Dec 9.00am Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass
Mon 9 Dec 12.00-1.30pm 2025 Yrs 1-6 Orientation
Mon 9 Dec 6.00-7.30pm Dinner in the Yard / Art Show / Carols
Tues 17 Dec 9.00am End of Year Mass

END OF YEAR 2024

Tues 17 Dec Students finish for 2024 at 1.00pm

START OF 2025

Tues 28 Jan Staff Return
Wed 29 Jan Getting To Know You & Your Child Day 1 Yrs 1-6, Foundation at school 8.35-1.00
Thurs 30 Jan Getting To Know You & Your Child Day 2 Yrs 1-6, Foundation at school 8.35-1.00
Fri 31 Jan Classes start for all (F-6)

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week I would like to update you with some staffing news. The staff that you see below will be leaving Our Lady's school at the end of this year. We are grateful for their unique and valuable contribution during their time at Our Lady's school.



Tim Wickham - Tim has worked in service of Our Lady's school since 2007. Throughout this time he has worked mainly in the senior school as well as the middle school as a dedicated classroom teacher. He is passionate about his work and particularly so about empowering students to develop leadership skills and student voice. You make every student in your class feel welcome, valued and respected. Your enthusiasm for teaching and for learning rubs off onto your students. Tim, you have never lost your passion for teaching and have been an exemplary educator who has touched the hearts and minds of the many, many students who have been in your care. Tim has also been a member of the Leadership team and has held the role of Child Safety and Occupational Health and Safety Leader. He has contributed to making Our Lady's school a safe and happy environment where all students can grow and flourish.

Tim you are leaving behind an incredible legacy. We have been blessed to have you at our school and wish you every happiness as you begin a well earned retirement.



Anna Kalc Smyth - Anna first began working at Our Lady's school in 1986. She has had breaks away from our school from when she first started but she has always returned back to Our Lady's. Anna has a deep commitment and love for our school community and we have been blessed to have such an expert educator at Our Lady's for so many years.

Over the years Anna has taken on many different roles such as classroom teacher, PE teacher, intervention teacher, ICT leader and her most recent role as Numeracy Leader and a member of both Curriculum and the Leadership teams. Throughout her time at our school Anna has performed each role with great passion, dedication and to a very high standard. She has made a positive difference to many, many students and staff. Anna is resigning from her position as Numeracy Leader. I thank

ADVENT

This is a traditional Advent prayer that Christians pray when they are waiting for Jesus to come at Christmas. The word 'Maranatha' is an Aramaic word (the language Jesus spoke) and means 'O Lord, come'.



Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus, come!
Loving God, Christmas will be here soon. Please help us to be patient just like Mary was when she waited for Jesus to be born.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

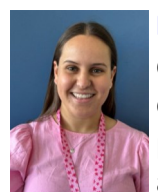
Anna for her immense contribution to our school community. You are leaving an incredible legacy and have been a joy to have had on our staff. We wish you every success in all your future endeavours.



Kirsty Ross - Kirsty has worked at Our Lady's school for 3 years as Learning Diversity Leader. During this time she has been a member of the Leadership and Curriculum teams. Kirsty has always approached her work with much passion and expertise. As part of her role she has worked very closely with families and teachers who have students with diverse and additional needs. Kirsty is very passionate about her work in this area and during her time at Our Lady's has coordinated a team of 10 Education Support officers, our school counsellor and speech pathologist. We wish you every success and happiness for all your future endeavours. Thank you Kirsty for all your work and for making a positive difference to our students and their families in particular.



Scarlett Sexton Bennett - Scarlett has worked at Our Lady's school in 2024. This is her first year of teaching and Scarlett has shown to be competent beyond her years. She has created a very welcoming, well organised, caring and engaging learning environment for all her students, who have flourished under her care. I thank Scarlett for her contribution this year. She has made a positive difference to all aspects of school life and it has been a joy to have her on our staff. Scarlett will be travelling overseas throughout 2025 and we wish her safe and happy travels.



Michala Meilak - We have been very fortunate to have Michala working at our school as an Education Support Officer throughout this year. Michala is in the process of completing her Bachelor of Education and has been able to bring this knowledge to her role and the students she has supported. Thank you Michala for making a positive difference to those students who have diverse and additional needs and for being such an excellent support to the teachers that you have worked with. We wish you all the very best in all your future endeavours.

Beginning our Advent Journey

This Sunday will be the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time where Christians all around the world prepare themselves for the birth of Jesus. The Advent 2024 themes (**hope, peace, joy, and love**) unfold over the four weeks, guiding our hearts to reflect on the profound impact of Jesus' birth. Each Advent theme invites us to pause, refocus, and embrace God's promises. The first candle that we light this Sunday represents HOPE. Advent is a time to think about the true meaning of Christmas with our children and discuss what we can do to prepare to welcome baby Jesus on Christmas day.



Upcoming Events

Next week we have many important events coming up. On Tuesday the 3rd of December we have the first of our Foundation 2025 Transition afternoons between 2.00pm and 3.00pm.



Next Wednesday we will be having the Year 6 Graduation and Disco. We look forward to welcoming the students and their families for this joyful occasion. This is a significant milestone in the lives of our Year 6 students and the staff and myself are looking forward to celebrating this special time with our Year 6 students and their families.



Dates for 2025

On the next page I have listed some important dates that have already been confirmed for 2025.

We hope having these dates early will help to make it easier for families to make suitable child care arrangements.

Important Dates and INFORMATION

Professional Development Days for staff - No school for the children

Term 1

Tuesday 11th March 2025 - Religious Education Focus

Term 2

Monday 19th May 2025 - PD Review

Tuesday 20th May 2025 - PD Review

Term 3

Wednesday 13th August 2025 - Religious Education Focus

Time in Lieu Days

These are days which are designated to teachers to compensate for all the out of normal school hours events that teachers attend. These include but are not limited to such events as the Sacraments, Dinner in the Yard, Camps and Parent Information evenings.

1:00pm finish days at the end of each term

Term 1 - Friday 4th April 2025

Term 2 - Friday 4th July 2025

Term 3 - Friday 19th September 2025

Term 4 - Tuesday 16th December 2025 (last day of the 2025 school year for students)

Staff last day will be on the 17th of December. The 18th and 19th of December are designated Time In Lieu days.

Professional Planning Day (PPT)

One day a year is allocated by the award for teachers to attend to planning, assessment, report writing and other aspects that are part of their teaching role. The day allocated is **Monday the 3rd of November**. Students will not be required to attend school.

Days where the school will be open by appointment

Term 1 - Getting to Know You Days

Wednesday 29th January 2025

Thursday 30th January 2025

Term 2 - Three Way Conversations (First Semester Reports)

Thursday 3rd July 2025 10:00am - 6:00pm

Friday 4th July 2025 8:00am - 12:40pm

Warm regards,

Patrizia Bertani

Ms Patrizia Bertani

Principal

principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group

Dear Families,

Some of our students have been to the Jawbone Marine Sanctuary in Williamstown for learning with scientists and other educators.

If you or children are interested in the local foreshore in Williamstown, come along to a community day organised by the Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group (JMSCG).

This is not a school managed event but a general community event.

Details:

Sunday 1st December 2024 - Community day with Earth Wisdom and Parks Victoria

When: 10.00am-2.00pm

Join us for a rock ramble with Parks Victoria Ranger, touch tank with JMSCG educators and indigenous games & food with Earth Wisdom. The activities are free and open to all.

Note: If planning to swim please bring all your own recreational supplies. All attendees are responsible for looking after themselves and/or their children.

Where: at the Jawbone Marine Sanctuary - Meeting point at Jawbone - Parking: on Crofton Drive or at the end of Rifle Range Drive - then look for our banner

Registration: <https://www.givenow.com.au/event/91> (for catering)



SUNSHINE PLAZA DRAWING COMPETITION WINNERS

From Sunshine Plaza...

Thank you for participating in the Sunshine Plaza Drawing competition. We were blown away by the entries. Such thoughtful drawings from incredible artists. Well done to all the students who participated.

It was a very difficult task to choose 3 winners as they were all so good but we have chosen the following as the 3 winners of the Sunshine Plaza Drawing Competition:

Grace 5C

Maya 5C

Vivienne 5C



All the artwork is now on display at Sunshine Plaza inside the entrance near Aldi. We hope all the students will come and visit their artwork and show their friends and family. The artwork will remain up until the end of February.

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Primary School



SUNSHINE PLAZA



FREE CHRISTMAS CRAFT

**Create your own
Christmas stocking**

Saturday | **10 am -**
7 December | **1 pm**

**Held inside Sunshine Plaza
near Hampshire Road entrance.**



FREE LUNAR NEW YEAR

Lantern Painting & Lion Dancing

Tuesday
21 January

Lantern Painting
10am-1pm

Lion Dancing
Exhibition
1pm-1:30pm

**Held inside Sunshine Plaza
near Hampshire Road entrance.**

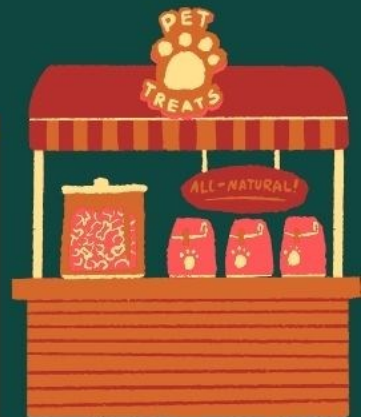


CHRISTMAS MARKET

Dec 08

2 -6PM

64 Glengala Rd Sunshine West



30 Stalls Offering

Ornaments

Art Prints

Home Decor

Crafts

Jewelry

Candles & Soap

Face Painting

Christmas Gifts

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PREPARATIONS FOR 2025

As we are beginning our preparations for 2025 we ask that parents let us know as soon as possible if their child/ren are not returning to Our Lady's next year. We have had many inquiries about places for 2025 and we need to let these parents know if there are places for their children. We currently have a waiting list for Prep and we have had several enrolment enquiries coming in for the other year levels.

If your child is not returning in 2025 (NOT OUR CURRENT YR 6 STUDENTS) please complete the form below and return it to the office. It is vital that you return this form as soon as possible. *Thank you.*

Children NOT returning to Our Lady's School in 2025

Family Name: _____

Child/children's names

1. _____ 2024 Grade: _____

2. _____ 2024 Grade: _____

3. _____ 2024 Grade: _____

Name of our new school: _____

And / Or

Our new address: _____

Signed: _____ **(Parent)**

Please return this form to the office as soon as possible

How to *Really* Play With Your Kids

(And Actually Enjoy it as Much as Them)

Playing with your kids. It's supposed to be fun—an enriching and bonding experience. Yet, for many of us—the overworked, the stressed, the ones who've traded sleep for a few more hours of productivity—the idea of one more demand on our time and energy can feel... daunting. Let's be honest, sometimes Netflix and chill sound a hell of a lot better than another round of hide-and-seek.

But here's the reality: engaging with your kids, truly engaging, is not just good for them. It's an investment in your relationship, your sanity, and quite possibly, your future. Studies show it makes them happier, and it makes us happier. Those moments of genuine connection? They're the dividends of the time and energy investment parents make in play. Forget the Pinterest-perfect crafts and the expensive toys. The best games are organic, spontaneous, a little ridiculous, and tailored to your kids' unique quirks and interests. And remember, their primary interest is time with you.

A Note on Play With Older Kids

Remember that play can evolve. Think about activities that spark their interests—video games can turn into a bonding experience when you join them in co-op mode, or a friendly competition in a family trivia night can unleash a whole new level of engagement. Encourage your teens to show you their world. Challenge them to teach you their favourite game. Join them in their latest obsession, whether that's cooking a new recipe together or diving into their favourite shows for a critique. You'll not only bridge the gap between generations but also remind them that you're still in their corner, willing to connect.

Remember, it's about creating shared experiences—messy, spontaneous, and sometimes ridiculous—that deepen your bond and show them that playing together doesn't stop just because they've outgrown the toys.

Simple, Fun Games You'll Actually Enjoy

Ditch the guilt, put down the phone, and get into it. It might be messy, it might be loud, and it is all-but-certain to be tiring, but I promise you, it'll be worth it. And who knows, you might even have some fun along the way.

Here's a bunch of ideas that have worked in our family home over the years that I reckon your kids will love.

Hide and Seek: It's an endless delight how much mileage this old-school game still gets in our home. Kids hiding in kitchen or bathroom cabinets; me hiding in places my body doesn't really want to clamber into anymore; and hours of fun. We tend to play at night time with no lighting other than what comes into the windows from the street. The game has a slightly scary tinge to it that the kids thrive on.

Push Dad Off the Bed: This is perfect for the tired parent. Lie on the bed. Put all your weight into staying put. Then challenge the kids to push you off. For the first minute or two, you'll be too tired to move. And then, their laughter becomes infectious. Their efforts (needling you in the ribs) force you to move. And energy creates energy. The kids win—and the game is over—when they push you off the bed. (If your kids are really small, you can make it easy for them... or have them call in reinforcements in the form of another parent—if available—to help them out.)

Build a Fort: Blankets, pillows, the dining table or lounge—use anything you can. Make it extra fun by having dinner in the fort. Perhaps you can make it big enough for a sleep-out?

Run Away People: We created this as Part II of “Push Dad off the Bed”. Once the parent is on the floor, recovering from the beating they've just taken, all the kids jump onto the bed. The parent's job is simple: get all of the kids off the bed so that none of them are touching the bed in any way. Then the parent is allowed to get back on the bed and “be tired” all over again. With six kids who, from eldest to youngest, are fifteen years apart, this was a big challenge in our home. It required strategy, stacks of energy, and a soft touch. More fun than you can imagine.

Pull Dad's Socks Off: When “Push Dad off the Bed” wasn't working because the kids were too weak and big sisters were away, the kids discovered that pulling my socks off annoyed me. I'd try to keep my socks on. Then I'd be off-balance. And the kids could push me off the bed! Soon enough, “Pull Dad's Socks Off” became a stinky, kind of gross, stand-alone game.

Security: This one is really for kids under about seven years of age. A parent is on “patrol”. They must only walk in one direction (e.g., down the hall) until they hit the wall. Then they can turn and go in another direction. The goal is for the kids to be outside the house and try to “break in” and get to a designated point (like the fridge where the treats are) without security turning around and catching them. If they are behind “security”, the parent can't turn around and catch them unless they come to a wall, which requires a shift in direction.

Tickle-Monster Chase: This one's simple. You (the parent) are the tickle-monster. You make lots of “roar” sounds and chase your kids around the house. When you catch them, you tickle them. When they say **stop**, you let them go and chase them again.

Making Memories Through Play

Screens are addictive, attention spans are shrinking, and our kids are growing up in a world that's more chaotic than ever. But know this: roughhousing on the bed, building a pillow fort, or chasing your kids around the house like a maniac? That's the antidote. It's not just about being a 'good parent'. It's about joy. It's about resilience. It's about time. That's how kids spell L-O-V-E; they spell it T-I-M-E.

So despite all that we have to deal with each day, let it go and be in the moment. Go make some memories. Your kids will thank you, and frankly, so will your future self.



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.

We are preparing for Jesus

1st Sunday of Advent, Year C



During Advent we can prepare for the arrival of Jesus by helping others. Write down some of the ways you can help family, friends and people in need during Advent.

Gospel

Lk 21, 25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

I can help my family by

I can help my friends by

I can help those in need by

Find the opposite of each word, then rearrange the circled letters to complete the sentence below.



MAN	()	—	—	—	—	—
UNDER	—	—	—	()	—	—
OPEN	—	—	()	—	—	—
SAD	—	—	—	()	—	—
ALWAYS	—	()	—	—	—	—

“the Son of Man will be seen, coming in a cloud with great — — — — and glory.”