



Friday, 3rd May 2024
Term 2 Week 3 of 11

This Week's Newsletter Items:

- Feast Day of Saint Catherine of Siena
- Celebrating Mother's Day (Wednesday)
- Improving School Security
- Which Gate Do I Enter & Exit From?
- Catherine's Story
- This Weekend Gospel & Reflection
- Dates For The Diary
- Photos of Our Feast Day
- Calendar For The Fridge
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Feast Day Of Saint Catherine of Siena

What a fantastic day we had last Monday to recognise and celebrate our patron, Saint Catherine of Siena.

We commenced the day with Kaboom Sports followed by a hot chip lunch and a gelati cup.

The day concluded with the whole school gathering in the Church to celebrate a Liturgy of The Word.

A special thanks to the many mums, dad's and elderly parishioners who joined us to conclude our day with prayer and a blessing.



celebrating Mother's Day

Thank you to all our parents who have already responded via Operoo to attending next Wednesday's Mother's Day Mass & Morning Tea.

So far, we have had over 100 mums confirm their attendance. The Operoo Form closes this Sunday and allows us to know how many people are attending along with how many we will be catering for.

Mass will commence at 9.15am with mums and special visitors invited to a delicious morning tea to be hosted in the school hall following Mass.

Improving School Security

A huge thank you to the School Advisory Committee for endorsing the proposal put forward at last Tuesday evening's meeting regarding school security.

The purpose for this improvement as outlined in the proposal is to achieve the following outcomes:

- To ensure that the school is able to provide a safe environment for both students & staff whilst in attendance.
- Minimise opportunity for an intruder/s to move from one campus to another in the event of a critical incident.
- Ensure that both schools can implement a lockdown process successfully if required.
- Ensure that the implementation of security measures does not impede or diminish the feeling of openness within school and church grounds.
- Enhance school & church security during weekends.



Marked in red is the proposed gating system to separate access between both school facilities. In addition to this, all boundary gates for St Catherine of Siena will be automated to ensure that gates open and close at the correct times and that if required, the school can be locked down with the press of a button. The PAL gate system will be installed during the Term 2 holidays.

External classroom and entry doors throughout the school currently work on a physical key system. To guarantee that in the need to undertake a lockdown procedure at any time, we are moving to fob system that guarantees that all external doors are locked at all times.

Which Gate Do I Enter & Exit The School From?

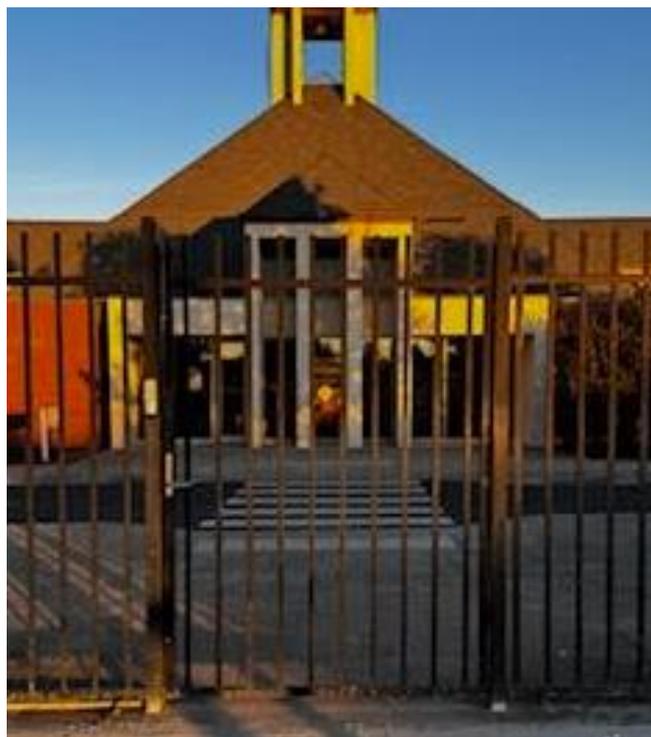
Over the last 10 weeks, observations have been made as how to improve pedestrian safety before and after school.

As a result, and commencing next Monday, all students, parents & visitors who enter the school via Bulman Road will need to enter via Gate 1. (As shown below)



Gate 2 (as shown below), located in front of the Church, will remain closed in the morning to ensure greater safety and supervision.

In the afternoon, Gate 1 & 2 will be open for students, parents and visitors to exit the school grounds. This action reflects a higher rate of pedestrian movement in a shorter period of time than what occurs in the morning.



Catherine's Story

On April 29, we celebrated the Feast Day of Saint Catherine of Siena. Though Saint Catherine of Siena came from poverty and received little education, she rose beyond her circumstances to have great influence in the Church and in society. We can be inspired by her willingness to stand for the truth in times of conflict.

Saint Catherine of Siena was born in 1347, the 25th child of an Italian wool-dyer and cloth merchant. It was a time of chaos and corruption for the Church and for society as a whole. Catherine also experienced turmoil in her home life; at the age of fifteen, her parents pressured her to marry her sister's widower. Instead, she became a lay Dominican, living a solitary life.

During her isolation, she began to have visions of Christ, which inspired her to look beyond her aesthetic life and serve others. She devoted herself to a life of activism, dictating hundreds of letters to state and church officials, calling on them to use their authority for the good of the people, rather than abusing their power. She also became involved in local politics, encouraging towns to support the pope and unite with other Christians, rather than focusing on disagreements.

Catherine is also credited with convincing Pope Gregory XI to return from Avignon to Rome in 1376. When his successor, Urban VI, was elected and the Great Schism occurred, Urban VI brought her to Rome. She advised him and encouraged Catholics to support him as the rightful pope. However, her great activism took its toll on her physical health; at the age of 33, she suffered a stroke which led to her death.

Pope Paul VI declared Catherine a "Doctor of the Church" in 1970 for her extensive writings on mystical prayer. Today, we can be inspired by her activism and stand against the evils in our society, whether we fight for the unborn, for the family, or for the poor and vulnerable.

Sources: *Butler's Lives of the Saints*
The Way of the Saints by Tom Cowan
[*Basilica of the National Shrine Guide Book*](#)



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TAKE TIME
TO DO WHAT
MAKES
YOUR SOUL
HAPPY





This Weekend's Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 15:9-17

No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you is to love one another.'

Nowish

THE SOUL

A Gospel Reflection by Richard Leonard

The Italian film, *Life is Beautiful* vividly portrays the truth of today's Gospel. It shows a father convincing his five-year-old son that the concentration camp is an elaborate game that the Nazis had invented to test the Italians. Some members of the Jewish community criticised this film because they claimed it made light of the holocaust. Writer and director, Roberto Benigni, however, argued that the heart of the film lies in the fact that most parents will do anything to spare their children the reality of evil. Most parents who have seen and wept through the film know exactly what he's talking about.



And if parents could take such risks and go to such lengths for their children, how much more has God done for us in Christ Jesus. We are the only world religion to believe that our God took our form and died out of love for us so that we might understand the love God has for us, and the love we are called to have for each other.

It isn't, however, just any old love Christ calls us to practise. It's not about a fleeting feeling or having a warm fuzzy inside. Jesus tells us today that the character of Christian love is the degree to which it's sacrificial. This is a challenging way of working out who we really love, isn't it? The people we love are those for whom we are prepared to sacrifice something of ourselves, maybe everything.

If that's the case we could decide to stop telling people we don't love that we love them. The goal of the Christian life is to love everyone, but until we achieve that, the more we lie about love the more

we lower its currency. It's perfectly acceptable to like, enjoy, be fond of, respect, admire and be grateful to others, and not love them. There are a very few people for whom most of us would be prepared to lay down our lives. This criteria sorts out our intimates fairly quickly.

We could also decide to stop saying we love things, animals, ideas or organisations which cannot love us back. Human beings can only truly love people. Jesus did not die for an ideology or an institution. He was put to death because of his uncompromising love for all humanity everywhere. If we find ourselves saying we love our pets, house, car, job, our ideology, even our Church more than we love other human beings, then we're in trouble.

That's what I like best about the model of loving Jesus gives us in this weekend's Gospel. Just when we might expect to find him using the analogy of a family, he talks about us being his friends. Sometimes we can hear people lament that they are 'stuck' with their families, and that they prefer their friends. It's an instructive moment, usually born out of a bitter and unloving history.

We choose our friends, and the strength of any particular friendship is usually found in how we know their history and story, and they know ours, in the way we give them time, attention and affection. A true friendship is mutual. Jesus loves us, his friends, enough to know us, be available to us, challenge and forgive us. And his love is mutual. The only thing stopping us from having a deeper relationship with Christ is our desire for it.

But Jesus also shows how friends are prepared to give their lives for one another. That's what we celebrate here each Sunday, that Jesus showed the quality and care of his love for us so that we might be empowered to go out and enable others to know and experience his love in the way we sacrifice ourselves for them.

No one promised us that the Christian life would be easy. All we have is our God, our friends, and our family in faith, to support us in every loving sacrifice we make.



Term 2

Week 4

Monday 06/05

- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 07/05

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 08/05

- **Mother's Day Mass 9.15am (Whole School) & Morning Tea**
- MACS Principals Forum 10am – 2.30pm

Thursday 09/05

- Saint John I
- **Mother's Day Stall**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 10/05

- *Saint John De Avila*

Saturday 11/05

- Saint Bernadine of Siena

Sunday 12/05

- Solemnity Of The Ascension Of The Lord
- **Mother's Day**

Week 5

Monday 13/05

- *Our Lady of Fatima*
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 14/05

- **Saint Matthias**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 15/5

- **Year 4 attending mass @ 9.15am**

Thursday 16/05

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Saturday 18/05

- *Saint John I*
- **Presentation Masses for First Eucharist**

Sunday 19/05

- **Pentecost Sunday**
- **Presentation Masses for First Eucharist**

Week 6

Monday 20/05

- Mary, Mother of the Church
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 21/05

- *Saints Christopher Magallenes and companions*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 22/05

- *Saint Rita of Cascia*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- **Mass & Reconciliation for Yr. 4's @ 9.15am**

Thursday 23/05

- Northern Region School Improvement Network (All Day)

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 24/05

- Our Lady, Help Of Christians

Saturday 25/05

- *Saint Gregory VII*
- *Saint Mary Magdalene de Pazzi*
- *Saint Bede*

Sunday 26/05

- Solemnity Of The Most Holy Trinity

Week 7

Monday 27/05

- *Saint Augustine of Canterbury*
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 28/05

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 29/05

- *Saint Paul VI*
- **Mass & Reconciliation for Yr. 4's**

Thursday 30/05

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 31/05

- **School Closure Day**
 - Science of the Brain PL (St Anthony's)
- **The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Sunday 02/06

- **Feast Of Corpus Christi**

Week 8

Monday 03/06

- Saint Charles Lwanga
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 04/06

- **Parent Advisory Board 7.00pm – 8.00pm**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 05/06

- Saint Boniface
- **Mass & Reconciliation for Yr. 4's**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Thursday 06/06

- *Saint Norbert*
- *Saint Marcellin Champagnat*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 07/6

- Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Year 6 ASPIRE 2 Incursion

Saturday 08/06

- Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sunday 09/06

- 10th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 9

Monday 10/06

- **King's Birthday – Public Holiday**

Tuesday 11/06

- Saint Barnabas
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Wednesday 12/06

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- **Year 4 attending mass @ 9.15am**

Thursday 13/06

- Saint Anthony of Padua
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 14/06

- Parent Support Group Meetings

Saturday 15/6

- **First Eucharist Masses 11.00am & 2.00pm**

Sunday 16/06

- 11th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 10

Monday 17/06

- Exec Team 9.30 – 11.00am
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Tuesday 18/06

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Wednesday 19/06

- *Saint Romuald*
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Thursday 20/06

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Friday 21/06

- Saint Aloysius Gonzaga
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Saturday 22/06

- Saints John Fisher and Thomas More

Sunday 23/06

- 12th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Week 11

Monday 24/06

- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 25/06

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Thursday 27/06

- *Saint Cyril of Alexandria*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- **Whole School Mass – End of Term 9.15am**

Friday 28/06

- Saint Irenaeus
- Last Day of Term 2
- Semester 1 Student Reports Sent Home
- **Dismissal Time 3.15pm**







Let's Celebrate!





May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Whole School Assembly 2.30pm	7 Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm	8 Mother's Day Mass 9.15am (Whole School) & Morning Tea	9 Mother's Day Stall Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm	10	11
12 Solemnity Of The Ascension Of The Lord	13 Whole School Assembly 2.30pm	14 Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm	15 Year 4 attending Mass @ 9.15am	16 Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm	17	18 Presentation Masses for First Eucharist
19 Presentation Masses for First Eucharist	20 Whole School Assembly 2.30pm	21 Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm	22 Year 4 attending Mass @ 9.15am	23 Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm	24	25
26	27 Whole School Assembly 2.30pm	28 Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm	29 Mass & Reconciliation for Yr. 4's	30 Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm	31 School Closure Day Science of the Brain PL (St Anthony's)	