



Friday, 22nd November 2024
Term 4 - Week 7 of 11

Dear Parents, Students & Friends of St Catherine's,
The following dates highlight what remains of the 2024 school year. May the Season of Advent fill our hearts with the gift of Christ and in so doing reflect Christ to others.

With kindest regards,
Des Noack
Principal



Week 8

*All library books should now have been returned.

Monday 25/11

- Saint Catherine of Alexandria
- **2025 Prep Transition Session 3 9am – 10am**

Tuesday 26/11

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- **Whole School Advent Liturgy 8.50am**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 27/11

- **Year 6 Graduation Photo (Summer Uniform)**
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Thursday 28/11

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

Friday 29/11

- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Saturday 30/11

- Saint Andrew

Sunday 01/12

- 1st Sunday Of Advent

Week 9

Monday 02/12

- **2025 Prep Transition Session 4 9am – 10am**
- **Whole School Assembly 2.30pm**

Tuesday 03/12

- Saint Francis Xavier
- **Whole School Advent Liturgy 8.50am**
- **2025 Student Transition Day 1 (Prep – Grade 5's) @ 11:30am - 1pm**
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 04/12

- Saint John Damascene

Thursday 05/12

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

Friday 06/12

- Saint Nicholas
- **Whole School Assembly 2.30pm**

Saturday 07/12

- Saint Ambrose

Sunday 08/12

- 2nd Sunday Of Advent

Week 10

Monday 09/12

- The Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary
- **2025 Student Transition Day 2 (Prep – Grade 5s) @ 11:30am - 1pm**

Tuesday 10/12

- Our Lady of Loreto
- **Whole School Advent Liturgy 8.50am**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 11/12

- Saint Damasus I
- **Carols By Candlelight & Family Picnic 5.00pm - 7.30pm**

Thursday 12/12

- Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 13/12

- Saint Lucy
- **2025 Prep Transition Session 5 9am – 10am**
- **Whole School Assembly 2.30pm**
- **Reports sent home**

Saturday 14/12

- Saint John of the Cross

Sunday 15/12

- 3rd Sunday Of Advent

Week 11

Monday 16/12

- **Year 6 Big Day Out**
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Tuesday 17/12

- **Year 6 Graduation Liturgy & Presentation Night 6.00pm**

Wednesday 18/12

- **Whole School Liturgy 10am – Advent Wk. 4**
- **End of Year Award Ceremony @ 2:00pm**
- **Last Day of Term 4 – Dismissal Time 3:15pm**



2025 Sacramental Program

A distinctive mark of a Catholic school is the emphasis on community – principals, teachers, staff and parents working together and with the wider community to educate and develop the whole child: emotionally, academically, physically, socially, and spiritually.

By choosing St Catherine of Siena Primary School, your child is nurtured in an environment which engages with the Gospel teachings as well as participating in the parishes Sacramental program.

Next year's (**2025**) Sacrament dates have been confirmed and we are communicating this early in order for you to ensure that you are prepared and informed well in advance.

All children enrolled at St Catherine of Siena, who have received the Sacrament of Baptism, will have the opportunity to celebrate three sacraments during their primary school years.

These are:

- The Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation (**Year 3**)
- The Sacrament of First Eucharist (**Year 4**)
- The Sacrament of Confirmation (**Year 6**)

The following outlines the school's Sacramental Program.

Sacrament Enrolment Evening

All families who have a child, that has been Baptised and, is in Year 3, 4 or 6 and wishes for their child to receive the following sacrament **MUST** attend a Sacrament Enrolment Evening. This will be held on **WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19th, 2025**, at **7pm**.

This night provides parents/guardians a brief overview of the sacraments and what is the school, parish and as parents are expected to do in preparing your child in receiving the sacrament.

On this night you will be asked to submit a *Sacrament Enrolment Form* which will be provided to you at the beginning of the school year.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

In preparation for this Sacrament families must attend and participate in the following:

- **Penance Family Night** held on **February 25th, 2025**, at **6:30pm**.
- **Penance Presentation and Commitment Mass** held on **March 8th, 2025**, at **6pm**.
- **Sacrament of Penance** held on **March 12th, 2025**, at **7pm**.



Sacrament of First Eucharist

In preparation for this Sacrament families must attend and participate in the following:

- **The Sacrament of First Eucharist Family Night** held on **May 13th, 2025**, at **6:30pm**.
- **The Sacrament of First Eucharist Presentation and Commitment Mass** held on **May 24th, 2025**, at **6pm**.
- **The Sacrament of First Eucharist** held on **May 31st, 2025**, at **11am and 1pm**.



Sacrament of Confirmation

In preparation for this Sacrament families must attend and participate in the following:

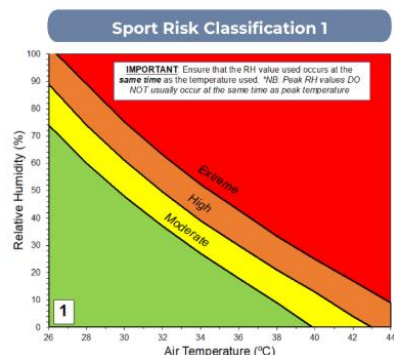
- **Sacrament of Confirmation Family Night** held on **August 5th, 2025, at 6:30pm**. Sponsors will also be required to attend this night.
- **Sacrament of Confirmation Presentation and Commitment Mass** held on **August 9th, 2025, at 6pm**.
- **Sacrament of Confirmation** held on **August 16th, 2025, at 11am and 2pm**.

If you have questions regarding the Sacramental Program, we ask that you please speak with or email Mrs Angela Giordimaina - agiordimaina@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au

Managing Heat Stress

Assessment of the risk of heat stress at St Catherine's is based on a fundamental heat balance model that determines the combination of temperature (measured in the shade) and humidity at which critical levels of heat stress risk to health are predicted to occur. For more information as to how we go about managing student participation on days of excessive heat, please refer to the following link: [Sports Medicine Australia: Extreme Heat Policy](#)

GREEN: Low Risk
YELLOW: Moderate Risk
ORANGE: High Risk
RED: Extreme Risk



Aspire

leadership

On Wednesday the 13th of November all of the Year 5s got to experience an incursion lead by 2 members of the UPP team. Their names were Gil and Alana. In the morning we started with a slideshow, this slideshow was about being a leader without a badge. This was an exciting part of our day. This part had lots of activities with our BFFT, which stands for Best Friend For Today. Some of the tasks were challenging and some were fun. When we got told to partner up, we all chose our friends, then we got split up with people we have barely ever talked to.



After snack we straight away went to the hall to continue our learning of being a leader for Year 6. When all the classes came to the hall and sat in the learning space, Gil and Alana our UPP instructors, told us about the word A.S.P.I.R.E. Aspire is what we were focused on in the middle sessions of the day.

The word A.S.P.I.R.E has a meaning for each letter. The first letter is for Action, S meaning Serve, P for Persist, I for Influence, R for Respect and E for Encouragement.

These words had a big impact on us for the day of course but also for us to keep at in the yard, outside of school and more.

As well as learning about A.S.P.I.R.E, for the whole middle block, all the year 5s got to participate in something called the 'Epic Race', which had around 11 activities being, a puzzle, a dice roll, a pyramid stack with cups (eyes closed), an egg and spoon, and other amazing activities. But before we got to experience these things, all the Year 5s were split into 12 groups consisting of 6-7 people we weren't really friends with. We all really enjoyed doing these activities as they taught us heaps, helped us learn great life skills with tea, and other great qualities.



After the epic race and lunch break, we started learning about **Prophet, Planner, and People Leaders**, also known as **PPP**.

A Prophet Leader comes up with ideas to make something better than it is at the present moment, a Planner Leader uses the idea from the Prophet Leader, and structures it. And a People Leader is basically "in control" of making sure everyone has a great, fun time, enjoying whatever the Prophet and Planner Leader created.

Once we learnt about PPP, all of the Year 5 classes used strategies to fit through a hula hoop as quickly as possible. 5C class were very fast, we finished in 29 seconds, then when we tried again, we beat our score finishing with 26 seconds. Our strategy was using groups to fit through the hula hoop, 5B's strategy was hopping through the hoop one by one, and lastly, 5A went from legs to head. But originally we thought that it was a race, then Gil said it wasn't a competition, it was actually a race to beat our original score.

By Alana, Maya, Harper, Mia & Avalon 5C

Take ACTION, Have a go-

SERVE, be kind and give others a go.

PERSIST through struggles and setbacks.

INFLUENCE others and set the example.

RESPECT for people, group & equipment.

ENCOURAGE others.



This Weeks Gospel Is That Of The Readings In Two Weeks Time. The School Has Brought Forward The Teaching Of Advent To Ensure That We Are Able To Do So In The School Time Provided.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to [Luke 21:25-28. 34-36](#)

Your redemption is near at hand.

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.'

Gospel Reflection

We are, perhaps, used to thinking of the season of Advent as a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. But this week's readings, and the readings of the next few weeks, remind us that the notion of preparation extends well beyond the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are reminded that we are, in fact, living in an 'in-between time'. From this week's first reading we are reminded that the expectation of a Messiah was a very long-standing hope for Israel. The coming of the Messiah would usher in a new prosperity and a divine reign of God. The earliest Christians began to see that the ancient prophecies could all be applied to Jesus and they began to regard Jesus as the promised Messiah – the fulfilment of prophecy. However, Jesus also promised that he would come again, and the expectation of the first followers of Jesus was that his return would be in their lifetime. In our second reading from the letter to the Thessalonians,

we can see the growing realisation that perhaps Jesus' return will not occur within the current generation. This realisation had a dramatic effect on the life and faith of the community. Imagine living with the belief that the end of time was going to occur not just in your lifetime but literally any day now. Slowly, they realised that Jesus' words were not that specific and the time of return had not been identified. What Jesus had called for was a state of readiness, a state of preparedness. This didn't mean he was coming immediately; what it meant was that there was need to get the house in order because he would be coming at some time. Advent is a time to remember that we still haven't really got the house in order.

Scriptural context

This week's gospel passage comes from a lengthy passage in the gospel of Luke in which Jesus speaks extensively about the future. It is a very different style of writing from the usual narrative, teaching and parable forms that make up most of the gospel. The style is an echo of the prophetic writings of the Old Testament. Compare this passage with this week's first reading of other passages from the writings of the prophets. The style is always rich in metaphor and symbol. There is a grandness about the style. We know, just from the use of language, that great things are afoot!

Have you thought? – Waiting, waiting, waiting ...

I'm not a big fan of waiting! Anticipation is pretty good; getting prepared and getting ready are OK, too. But when it comes down to being all dressed up and ready to go, I'm just hopeless at waiting. If Advent is a time of pointless waiting for Christmas then we've somehow missed the message. Rather than just waiting, Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. But it's not just about anticipating Christmas. That's part of it, sure. However, Advent is about reminding ourselves that we have a job to do: preparing for the reign of God – in our lives and in our world.

Different View – We're doomed!

Fundamentalists love readings like this week's apocalyptic gospel passage. Full of portent and urgency, it inspires the sort of thinking that says, 'Repent now, because you could be dead tomorrow!' It is easy to look at a passage like this and apply it to the conditions of the world today: everything's going to rack and ruin; it's just as the Bible foretold; the end of the world is just around the corner. But we have to remember that this was written nearly 2,000 years ago! Yes, there is still urgency! Yes, there is still need for change! But we still have time to get it right.

Star of the Week

Prep A

Shannon S - For entering the classroom calmly. We are very proud of this achievement.

Sarah T - For making consistent gains in your phonics knowledge. We are so proud of your willingness to share your understandings of these gains.

Prep B

Dorin L - For demonstrating our school value of respect

Akoi M - For demonstrating our school value of responsibility.

Prep C

Ryan S – For combining whole dollar amounts up to 20! Awesome work.

Shakira N – For being a great role model at demonstrating our school value of kindness in the classroom!

Year 1A

Genevieve J – For adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers using efficient mental strategies

Connor K – For being a role model regarding our school values of Respect, Safety, Kindness and Responsibility

Year 1B

Oskar S – For giving your best at the sports carnival

Liam P – For writing a fantastic sentence with an appositive! You're a writing superstar!

Year 1C

Evelyn P - For your creative use of appositives, adding wonderful detail to your writing. Well done!

Zoey T - For your efforts in exploring the use of appositives to add detail to your writing. Keep growing, Zoey!

Year 2A

Jairus-Leonard R - For being a great role at showing kindness in the classroom. Fantastic!

Andrew M - For identifying and reading different times on an analogue clock. Amazing work!

Year 2B

Audrey K - For identifying and recognising different times on an analogue clock. Well done Audrey!

Mathias K - For continuing to display the school value of "safety" whilst moving around the classroom.

Year 2C

Andreana D - For sharing your knowledge of the Rosary prayers and helping others learn the Glory Be prayer. Thank you, Andreana!

Yuot Y - For showing the school value of Responsibility by taking ownership of your words and actions. Great job Yuot!

Year 3A

Bunny M - For showing amazing growth in your Pat Reading results this year. Keep up the great work!

Sienna P - For always coming to school with a positive attitude ready and responsible for the days learning.

Year 3B

Emily D - For making an excellent growth in the Mathematical unit of Measurement and Geometry. You should be so proud of yourself! Keep up the hard work.

Ava K - For making an excellent growth in your Term 4 Mathematics testing. You should be so proud of yourself! Keep up the hard work.

Year 3C

Anyiel S - For being actively engaged in your learning and sharing your achievements in understanding fractions. You are a star!

Lexi T - For consistently demonstrating the school values of respect and responsibility in our classroom. Thank you.

Year 4A

Jayden R - For your excellent effort in locating fractions on a number line. Well done!

Sifa A - For working responsibly as an independent learner this week. Amazing!

Year 4B

Ellie Y - For demonstrating exceptional self-confidence and perseverance in completing her

learning tasks independently.

Charles N - For making a good growth in counting and ordering mixed numerals on a numberline. Keep up with good work.

Year 4C

Annabell Grech - For constantly showing the school values of respect and responsibility in our classroom. Well done!

Caitlyn S - For your positive mindset towards learning tasks. You always apply yourself during independent tasks to achieve work of a good quality. Keep up the fantastic effort!

Year 5B

Jaxson S - For putting in effort in your narrative writing and for taking on verbal feedback to improve your sentences. Well done!

Nandana D – For your positive mindset towards your learning and building your confidence to participate in whole class discussions. Keep it up!

Year 5C

Nazar G – For displaying courage and persistence in completing your school leadership application. Good luck!

Kelsey B – For displaying PBL values during all times at school this week. Keep it up!!

Year 6B

Dudi A – For making accelerated growth in maths, reading and writing this semester. Amazing job

Jaxon F – For your progress in reading comprehension this semester. Fantastic!

Year 6C

Jakob B - For demonstrating understanding in the concept of calculating elapsed time using the Z strategy. Well done!

Alexia Z - For demonstrating understanding of using context clues to find the meaning of unknown words in a text. Well done!

Mathematics Award

Shahana S (4C) - For successfully recalling all of the multiplication facts up to 12 x 12. Well done

St Catherine of Siena

Family

**Come and enjoy a night of Christmas
Carols and performances from
students across the school.
A great event to celebrate the
Christmas season!**

*Wednesday, 11th
December*

**BYO Picnic beginning at 5pm
Carols begin at 6pm - 7:30pm**

**St Catherine of Siena
Soccer Pitch!**

