



Friday, 25th July 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, & Students,

Welcome Back to Term 3!

It's a joy to welcome back all our students and families as we begin Term 3. We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and refreshing break. The school is once again filled with energy, laughter and the sound of learning — and we couldn't be happier to see our community back together.

A special highlight this week has been watching our Grade Prep and One students enjoying the new playground. Their excitement and wonder as they explore, climb and play have brought smiles to all of us. The space has already become a hub for connection, fun and friendship — just as we hoped it would be.

Yesterday, the staff gathered to pray for Sara Brunell, the beloved sister of Angela Giordimaina (Deputy Principal) and auntie to Tayla (Prep C classroom teacher), who passed away quietly on Wednesday, surrounded by her loving family.

Thank you to so many of our families who have reached out to express their condolences and offer their prayers for Angela, Tayla and their family during this difficult time. Thank you for your continued care and compassion.

Next week, we look forward to a very special event — **Grandparents Day**, celebrated on **Wednesday**. We are delighted to be welcoming over **300+ grandparents** and special guests into our school. It's a beautiful opportunity to honour the important role our grandparents play in our students' lives. We can't wait to share this memorable morning with our extended school family.

Term 3 promises to be filled with rich learning, joyful experiences and many moments of celebration.

With kindest regards,

Des Noack
Principal



THE IMPORTANT ROLE GRANDPARENTS PLAY IN YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

Grandparent's Day is next Wednesday, 30th July and for many families, due to challenges with interstate travel and the general business of life, it has been a long time since children last saw their grandparents.

Grandparents play a very significant role in the development of young children that impacts them differently than a parent-child relationship, so it is important to foster this connection in ways that are accessible and safe for both.

While children do learn fundamental respect from parents, Grandparents have a particular impact on this lesson because they do not fulfil a traditional authoritative role. Instead, children learn to value their elders and navigate their capacity for holding significant relationships separately from parents.

Not only are grandparents a source of wisdom for young children, they also tend to introduce long standing family traditions and help formulate perceptions of healthy family dynamics.

Between school or day care, friendships and other activities, it can be difficult to fit grandparents in. But it's not the quantity of time that matters, it's the

quality. This quality time can give children a plethora of wisdom, learning and growth.

Next Wednesday, we have that opportunity to celebrate with our Grandparents, to share Communion, learning and morning tea. While celebrations like this one are a great way to recognise the importance of the relationship between children and their grandparents, they are not the only way to do so. Creating space for grandparents and grandchildren to connect can be as easy as a phone call once a week for a few minutes.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME & PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMITMENT MASSES

Ezekiel 36:25-28

"A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land and you shall be my people, and I will be your God."

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** is the third of the three sacraments of initiation and is a Catholic Sacrament of mature Christian commitment and a deepening of baptismal gifts. Confirmation perfects our baptism and brings us the graces of the Holy Spirit that were granted to the Apostles on Pentecost Sunday. It is most often associated with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

If Baptism is the sacrament of re-birth to a new and spiritual life, Confirmation is the sacrament of maturity and coming of age. Confirmation is a sacrament of empowerment. It gives the strength to follow Jesus and to become involved in the mission which Jesus left to the Church.

The Sacrament of Confirmation completes or confirms the Sacrament of Baptism. For Catholics it is a time when we re-examine our commitment to the Faith handed down to us from generation to generation.

Confirmation asks that we explore our personal lives in order to understand the love of God and ourselves more fully.

Knowing that it is primarily the parent's responsibility to bring up their child/ren in the practice of the faith and that the parish and our school community act in cooperation with parents to this end, one of the difficulties facing parents is having sufficient knowledge of their own faith so as to assist their child/ren's faith and spiritual development.

The Theology of the Holy Spirit

In response to this situation – in helping parents to guide their children along the path of faith, we are recommending that you take the time to watch **two adult education audio video session on the theology of the Holy Spirit** prepared by Father John Madden. Fr John will be presenting to the parents and students on Tuesday 5th August at the Confirmation Family Night.

Session 1 (Adult Faith Development):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfWfW7KsEYo>

Session 2 (Learning about Confirmation with your child): https://youtu.be/mOm_YBLY_no

These two videos, provide a starting point for parents to engage with their children to actively participate in the spiritual development of their children while enhancing one's own spiritual development and that of the whole family.

The Spiritual Wellbeing of your Child

The Sacramental Program is central to the spiritual development of your child and encourages active sacramental participation by you and your child. This can only benefit your child, your family and by your support, the whole community of God's people who make up this parish. For this reason, it is expected that all families, whose child is enrolled to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, attend the Commitment Mass.

Readiness

As mentioned before, for Catholics it is a time when we re-examine our commitment to the Faith handed down to us from generation to generation.

If you feel you or your child are not ready to commit yourself to the Sacramental Program you are always welcome to choose to defer for a year or more until you feel ready to make the commitment necessary to make this program as personally and spiritually meaningful as possible.

Fr Alex is more than happy to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have or to assist you in discerning your child's readiness in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation if you yourself are not sure they are ready.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Week 2

Wednesday 30/07

- **Grandparents Day Mass** (Whole School) & Celebration – 9:15am

Thursday 31/07

- **Year 4 Professor Bunsen Incursion**

Friday 01/08

- **Year 6 Excursion to Scienceworks**

Week 3

Monday 04/08

- **100 Days Of Learning for Preps**
- Morning Tea for Prep Parents 9am

Tuesday 05/08

- **Confirmation Family Night @ 6:30pm**

Wednesday 06/08

- **Whole School Mass – St Mary of the Cross Mackillop 9.15am**

Thursday 07/08

- **Yr 4 Camp** - Lady Northcote

Saturday 09/08

- **Confirmation Presentation and Commitment Mass @ 6pm**

Week 4

Bullying No Way: National Week of Action

Wednesday 13/08

- **Whole School Mass** – Feast of the Assumption

Friday 15/08

- **Wear Purple for Bullying No Way**

Saturday 16/08

- **Sacrament of Confirmation @ 11am and 2pm**

Week 5

Book Week – “Book an Adventure”

Tuesday 19/08

- **Book Week Parade**

Week 6

Friday 29/08

- **Year 6 Mad about Science Incursion**

Week 7

Wednesday 03/09

- **Father's Day Breakfast & Liturgy 7am**

Thursday 04/09

- **Father's Day Stall**

Week 8

Monday 08/09

- **Year 4 Shelter Building Incursion**

Wednesday 10/09

- **2025 Year 6 School Matinee & Production**

Thursday 11/09

- **2025 Year 6 School Production**

Week 9

Friday, 19/09

- **Last Day of Term 3**



This weekend's Gospel reading is the holy Gospel according to Luke 11:1-13

Ask, and it will be given to you.

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'

He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy,

your kingdom come;

give us each day our daily bread,

and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he

asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Gospel Reflection

In today's gospel, Jesus provides his disciples, and all Christians, with a model for prayer. In keeping with this modelling by Jesus, it is significant that the Lord's Prayer, or Our Father, is the common prayer of all Christians, regardless of denomination.

The parable and teaching that follow the Lord's Prayer make clear the particular purpose of prayer that Jesus was highlighting – prayer as petition. In this instance, Jesus assures us that if we pray for what we need with conviction and confidence, then God cannot fail to respond to our prayer. Jesus in fact encourages us to be demanding and persistent in our prayer. However, the parable used to demonstrate the persistent nature of prayer is not focused on demands for selfish purposes, but rather the neighbour needs assistance in fulfilling his obligations of hospitality to a traveller. He is not waking his neighbour in the middle of the night to ask for bread for himself; he asks for bread to give to his guest. He asks for help to fulfil his duty and responsibility. This gives us something of an idea about how we might focus our prayer. Praying for a pony or new bike isn't quite in the same league!

The final element of the gospel passage provides us with a description of God's love and care by something of a negative comparison: if human parents would not do harm instead of good to their children, God is even less likely to act like this towards us. It's a bit of an odd way around of saying that God's love is greater than anything within our experience or imagination.

Living the Gospel – Ask, Search, Knock

Jesus says in the gospel, 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.' The actions of asking, searching and knocking are means by which we initiate the encounter with God. If we don't ask, search and knock, how is anyone (including God) to know our needs or know what it is that we are searching for. Particularly in our spiritual lives, it is only through the search and the knocking on the doors of different experiences that we ever come closer to finding answers.

Historical Context – Stone for bread

The stone/bread, snake/fish and scorpion/egg comparisons seem a little far-fetched to us, but would have made perfect sense to a 1st Century Palestinian audience. The flat, brown stones around Lake Galilee look very similar to the flat bread that

was baked in the area. The 'snake' may refer to a sea-snake – an eel – which might be caught up in a fisherman's nets but was regarded as unclean by the Jews. The poisonous scorpions of the region are very pale in colour and when curled up at rest could be mistaken for an egg.

Gospel Focus – Relationship

A crucial aspect of prayer is the attitude with which we view God. We trust in God's character that it is not a pointless exercise to ask for something. We trust that God is even more loving than a parent who tries to give their child what they need. If we did not make these basic assumptions about God, there would be little point in prayer. When our prayer lives falter at times, perhaps we need to first check out our relationship with God and our attitude towards God before trying to 'fix' the ways we pray.



This year, our St Catherine of Siena Book Week celebrations will take place in Week 5 of Term 3.

On Tuesday 19th August at 9 am, we will gather in the hall as a school community to celebrate Book Week with our annual parade.

This year's Book Week theme is **Book an Adventure**.

We are encouraging staff, students and parents alike to dress as their favourite book character to help celebrate the day!

Perhaps we will see some "Very Hungry Caterpillars," or some "Wild Things," or perhaps a few "Gruffalos," or several "Cats in the Hat".

At the parade, there will be several prizes up for grabs.

We will be awarding the 2 best-dressed students per class a book prize. That's a whopping 42 books to be won!

Additionally, to celebrate Book Week our **Scholastics Book Fair** will be open for business all of week 5 i.e. **Monday 18th August - Friday 22nd August**. **Susie Aquilina**, our school librarian will be available for book sales between 8.15 -8.45 am and 3.15-4.00 pm daily.

Our partners at Scholastic have donated book vouchers to add to our Book Week parade prize pool.

We will have a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize being awarded for the 3 best costumes overall at the school parade!

1st prize will be a \$50 Scholastics Book Fair Voucher

2nd prize will be a \$35 Scholastics Book Fair Voucher

3rd prize will be a \$25 Scholastics Book Fair Voucher

Good luck to all and may the best dressed win!

Miss McCallin (Deputy Principal & Learning and Teaching Leader)

TERM 3

dates for your diary

Week 2

Monday 28/07

- Parent Support Group Meetings

Tuesday 29/07

- *Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus*
- Year 3/4 AFL Tournament
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Wednesday 30/07

- *Saint Peter Chrysologus*
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- **Grandparents Day Mass (Whole School) & Celebration – 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 31/07

- *Saint Ignatius Loyola*
- Year 3 Incursion Professor Bunsen
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Friday 01/08

- *Saint Alphonsus Liguori*
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Year 6 Excursion to Scienceworks

Saturday 02/08

- *Saint Eusebius of Vercelli*
- *Saint Peter Julian Eymard*

Sunday 03/08

- 18th Sunday In Ordinary Time-GREEN

Week 3

Monday 04/08

- *Saint John Vianney*
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- **100 Days Of Learning for Preps**
- **Morning Tea for Prep Parents 9am**
- **100 Days of Learning Assembly 2:30pm - Prep & Year 6**

Tuesday 05/08

- *The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- **Confirmation Family Night @ 6:30pm**
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Wednesday 06/08

- **The Transfiguration Of The Lord**
- **Whole School Mass – St Mary of the Cross Mackillop 9.15am**
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 07/08

- *Saints Sixtus II and companions*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- **Yr 4 Camp - Lady Northcote**
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Friday 08/08

- [Saint Mary Of The Cross](#)
- *Saint Dominic*
- **Yr 4 Camp - Lady Northcote**
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Saturday 09/08

- *Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross*
- **Confirmation Presentation and Commitment Mass @ 6pm**

Sunday 10/08

- **Saint Lawrence**
- 19th Sunday In Ordinary Time-GREEN

Week 4

Bullying No Way: National Week of Action

Monday 11/08

- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Tuesday 12/08

- *Saint Jane Frances de Chantal*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 13/08

- *Saints Pontian and Hippolytus*
- *Saint Cajetan*
- **Whole School Mass – Feast of the Assumption**
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 14/08

- Saint Maximilian Kolbe
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 15/08

- The Assumption Of The Blessed Virgin Mary
- Wear Purple for Bullying No Way
- St Francis Catholic College Applications for Year 7, 2027 Close

Saturday 16/08

- Saint Stephen of Hungary
- **Sacrament of Confirmation @11am and 2pm**

Sunday 17/08

- 20th Sunday In Ordinary Time-GREEN

Week 5

Book Week – “Book an Adventure”

Monday 18/08

- Scholastic Book Fair all week

Tuesday 19/08

- Saint John Eudes
- **Book Week Parade**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 20/08

- Saint Bernard
- **YEAR 5 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 21/08

- Saint Pius X
- LSO Meeting 2:15pm - 3:15pm
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 22/08

- The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 23/08

- Saint Rose of Lima

Sunday 24/08

- Saint Bartholomew
- 21st Sunday In Ordinary Time-GREEN

Week 6

Monday 25/08

- Saint Joseph Calasanz and Saint Louis

Tuesday 26/08

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 27/08

- Saint Monica
- **YEAR 6 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 28/08

- Saint Augustine
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 29/08

- The Passion of Saint John the Baptist
- Year 6 Mad about Science Incursion

Sunday 31/08

- [Social Justice Sunday](#)
- 22nd Sunday In Ordinary Time -GREEN
- **MACSIS Open for Input this week - Students, Families, Staff**

Week 7

Monday 01/09

- [World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#)

Tuesday 02/09

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 03/09

- Saint Gregory the Great
- **Father's Day Breakfast 7am & Mass (Whole School) 9.15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Thursday 04/09

- Father's Day Stall
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 05/09

- ONWZ Principals Network

Sunday 07/09

- 23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time-GREEN
- **Father's Day**

Week 8

National Child Protection Week

Monday 08/09

- Year 4 Shelter Building Incursion
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Tuesday 09/09

- Saint Peter Claver
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 10/09

- **YEAR 1 and 2 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm
- **2025 Year 6 School Matinee Production 11.30am**
- **2025 Year 6 School Production 6.30pm**

Thursday 11/09

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- **2025 Year 6 School Production 6.30pm**

Friday 12/09

- The Most Holy Name of Mary
- Instalment 3 - Family Fee Payment Due

Saturday 13/09

- Saint John Chrysostom

Sunday 14/09

- The Exaltation of the Holy Cross-RED

Week 9

Monday 15/09

- Our Lady of Sorrows

Tuesday 16/09

- Saints Cornelius and Cyprian
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 17/09

- **PREP ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 18/09

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 19/09

- Saint Januarius
- **End of Term 3**



YEAR 7 2027 ENROLMENTS DUE FRIDAY 15 AUGUST

As demand for places is high, applications received after 15 August will be classed as late and may affect your ability to secure a position in Year 7 2027.



You can apply online for our Melton and Cobblebank campuses at www.sfcc.vic.edu.au/join-us/enrolment



St Francis
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

We welcome you to join one of our final campus tours for 2025.

Reserve your place at www.sfcc.vic.edu.au/join-us/college-tour

St Catherine of Siena

GRANDPARENT'S DAY CELEBRATION

Wednesday 30th July 2025

9.15am Mass

10.15am Classroom Visits

10.45am Morning Tea for
Grandparents

RSVP via Operoo note

