



Friday, 15th August 2025



Prayers for our Grade 6 Confirmation Candidates

This weekend, our Grade 6 students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation—a significant step in their journey of faith. Through this sacrament, they will be strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and called to live as witnesses to Christ in their daily lives.

We ask our school and parish community to keep these students in your prayers. May they be blessed with wisdom, courage and a deep love for God as they affirm their faith before Bishop Martin Ashe.

We also pray for their families, sponsors and teachers who have guided and supported them throughout their preparation. May this special day be a joyful celebration of God's presence in their lives and may the Holy Spirit continue to inspire and guide them always.

Book of Isaiah 11:2

*The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

With Gratitude to God and Our School Community

Dear Families of St Catherine of Siena,

After much prayer and reflection, I wish to share with you that I will be retiring from the role of Principal at the end of this school year. This is not a decision I have made lightly, as my 35 years in Catholic education - including 25 years as a principal - have been an extraordinary blessing and privilege.

My teaching career began in 1990 at St John the Baptist, Ferntree Gully. Over the next decade, I was blessed to work alongside wonderful students, families and colleagues at St Paul Apostle North, Endeavour Hills and Holy Family, Doveton, before serving as a School and Curriculum Adviser with Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools.

In 2001, I commenced my principalship at St Brendan's, Somerville - marking the beginning of a leadership journey across seven unique and faith-filled school communities. From there, I was appointed to St Joachim's, Carrum Downs, later leading both St Joachim's and St Anne's School, Seaford, for a three-year period. In 2015, I became Principal of St Ambrose's, Woodend, before being appointed to Resurrection, Kings Park, in 2019 just months before the challenges of COVID-19 emerged. In 2023, while continuing at Resurrection, I was also appointed to St Brendan's, Flemington, where I was engaged to reinvigorate the school prior to the appointment of a new principal in 2024. Finally, in 2024, I commenced my current role here at St Catherine of Siena, Melton West.

Since joining this community, I have been deeply moved by the warmth, generosity and faith-filled spirit that shines so brightly in our students, families and staff. Working alongside our talented leadership team, we have strengthened learning and teaching practices, improved assessment processes and encouraged greater student engagement. Together, we have also nurtured a culture of respect, responsibility and high expectations for behaviour, allowing every child to grow and flourish.

As I prepare for this next chapter, my heart is full of gratitude—for the trust you have placed in me, the joy of seeing our students thrive and the privilege of leading a community where Christ's love is at the heart of all we do.

School Leadership Arrangements – Remainder of Term 3

Next week, from Tuesday to Friday, I will be attending the Australian Catholic Education Conference with Mrs Jakleen Hajjar, our Year of Jubilee Ambassador.

From the beginning of Week 6 I will be taking Long Service Leave for the remainder of Term 3.

During this time, we have put in place arrangements to ensure that our school continues to run smoothly and that our strong sense of community and learning focus is maintained:

- **Miss Lisa McCallin** will step into the role of Acting Principal while I am away.
- **Ms Nadine Barnes** will take on the role of Acting Deputy Principal while Lisa is Acting Principal.
- **Mrs Angela Giordimaina** will return in Week 6 to her role as Deputy Principal – School Operations and Religious Education.
- While **Mrs Mel Anderson** is on Long Service Leave, her work will be overseen by Nadine and well supported by our dedicated leadership team.

These arrangements not only keep things running consistently but also give our leaders valuable opportunities to further develop their skills and share their many talents with our community.

I am confident that the school will continue to be in excellent hands during this time and thank you for your ongoing support.

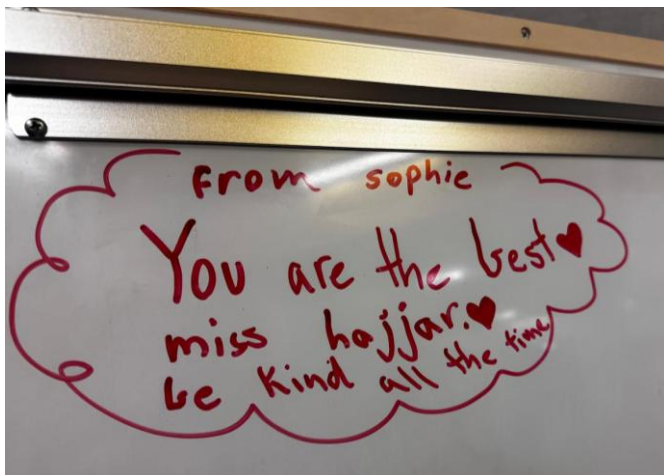
As mentioned in my email to the community on Monday, I look forward to spending the remainder of this year walking alongside you, celebrating our achievements and ensuring a smooth and hope-filled transition to new leadership. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your story and for being such a treasured part of mine.

Yours in Christ,

Mr Desmond Noack
Principal

A Student's Voice

Every now and then, one of our students will do something that gently stops us in our tracks—a moment that reminds us just how much we mean to them and the lasting impact we have on their learning and their belief in themselves. The photo below captures one of those moments. It's a simple gesture, yet it speaks volumes about why we do what we do and why we choose to do it the way we do.



New app for paying school fees coming soon – Term 4 pilot with select families



We are excited to share that our school will be helping pilot a [new school fee management feature](#) in the CDFpay app from next term.

While this is something we hope to be able to roll out to all families next year, the Term 4 pilot will be limited to select families.

However, if you would like to participate in this new pilot project and utilise the functionality of this app to make school fee payments, we strongly encourage you to contact Lisa Nolan (school finance manager) via email (accounts@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au) or phone (9743 2166).

We will share further details with these families in the coming weeks about when the CDFpay app will be available to download, how to register for a CDFpay account and how to view and manage school fees in the app.

We encourage all families to continue making fee payments using existing payment channels in the meantime.

We look forward to providing you with a further update soon!



Book Fair Visit Organisation

Like birthday parties and special family occasions, events such as these require a lot of planning, consideration as to who is attending and the preparation to make it work. The following is communication sent out this week by Susie Aquilina highlighting the thinking that goes behind such events. As you read it, take a moment to reflect upon the consideration Susie shows for our students, especially for our Preps.

On Monday 18th August our Book Fair arrives at the school. All classes need to make a visit to the Bookfair so the kids can have a look at the books they like and write a wish list to take home to their parents. 30% of the Sales from the Book fair come back to the school to purchase more books and resources.

I suggest that the Preps and Grade 6's come together so the 6s can write for them. They could come after lunch so they have more time. The Book fair will be delivered in the morning and set up in the upstairs space. To fit all the grades in they will have to come in quickly and on time. I have slotted in whole cohorts coming together as there isn't time in the day to come in grade at a time.

The Bookfair will then be open for kids and parents to make purchases from Monday after school. It is open mornings 8.15 to 8.40am and afternoons from 3.15 to 3.45pm.

Please fill in the table with the time you will bring your class. It would be ideal to fit in all kids viewing on Monday as we only have the Bookfair for 1 week and if there is a delay in them taking home the wish list, kids may miss out on getting a book they would love to read & keep.

Thanks for your assistance, Susie.

Time	Grade
11.35 - 11.55	Grade 4
11.55 - 12.15	Grade 1
12.15 - 12.35	Grade 5
12.35 - 12.55	Grade 2
12.55 - 1.15	Grade 3
2.20 - 3.00	Preps and 6's



Lady Northcote Camp
Year 4



Year 4 students had an incredible time at Lady Northcote camp last Thursday and Friday!

As part of the experience they enjoyed Archery and making pizzas using ingredients from the Kitchen Garden. Students also enjoyed Mountain Bike Riding, with many students growing in confidence in riding skills and pushing themselves out of their comfort zone on the Giant swing! Year 4 staff are so proud of them for their respect and resilience on camp!

Here are some things that students had to say about their favourite activities.

- I loved spending time with my friends, the food and sleeping.
- I liked how we got to pick who was in our cabins and it was fun getting to talk to and get to know everybody.
- I enjoyed bike riding because I loved riding around open spaces
- I've never known how to ride a bike but now I know how to brake and ride properly.
- I got to learn Archery for the first time and I hit the yellow target!
- Archery was fun because it was competitive and I loved shooting the arrow!
- We got to play different games in Archery. One was pizza where each colour was a different topping. The other one was an addition game.
- During Kitchen Garden, I had fun making the shapes and choosing the toppings for my pizza.
- It was great how on the Giant Swing, you have a choice of how high you go.
- On the Giant swing, I liked when they counted down, as you pulled on the blue hippo string to swing into the air.

Abby 4B, Ajhak 4B, Ayen 4B
Jason 4A, Eli 4A, Payton 4A, Gurnaaz 4A
Aditya 4C, Apual 4C, Duken 4C







This weekend's Gospel reading is the holy Gospel according to Luke 12:49-53

I have come not to give peace, but discord

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
I have come not to give peace, but discord.
Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!*

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

Gospel Reflection

This week's short and sharp gospel brings to mind two popular sayings (sometimes regarded as blessings, and sometimes regarded as curses). The first is fictitiously ascribed as an ancient Chinese saying, 'May you live in interesting times!' The inference of the blessing/curse is that 'interesting times' equate to disturbing, tumultuous times or times of rapid change. Some people thrive on such change and upheaval, while others dread the thought of change.

The second blessing/curse is, 'May the peace of Christ disturb you!' It occasionally turns up around Christmas or Easter and is sometimes provocatively used by those who advocate for justice and peace. The saying cuts to the heart of what Jesus says in today's gospel: the message he brings is not a cosy, complacent peace, but rather a message that confronts and challenges, even turning loved ones against each other.

Jesus reminds us that if we take on his message of compassion, hospitality and table fellowship then it

can set us apart from those who have not accepted the message – even family members. It's a challenging message that even love and loyalty within a family can be disrupted by seeking to authentically live the model of Jesus. If we authentically place the needs of the lowly and the outcast ahead of our own and ahead of our family, then this can be very confronting and very disrupting. What are the consequences for family gatherings? What might the gathering at Christmas dinner look like if we take this message seriously? Jesus says that the normal obligations to family have to take second place to acting on his message and bringing about the kingdom of God.

Living the Gospel – Speaking a hard message

Today's gospel reminds us that the message of Christianity is not always a popular one. Sometimes we are called upon to speak a hard message; a challenging message; a confronting message. The message of the gospel frequently confronts our popular culture and accepted social practice. It often contradicts the expedient decisions of our political leaders. There is a responsibility on us to speak the hard message of the gospel even at the risk of unpopularity and even in the face of threat. The Christian heroes of our time are those who call leaders to measure up to the demands of the gospel.

Scriptural context – Turning point

As we've seen over the last few weeks, chapter 12 of the gospel of Luke presents a collection of sayings by Jesus exhorting his followers to take up his message fearlessly and assuring them that if they do so then God will protect them – even in the hardest of times. The chapter captures what must have been a period of frustration for Jesus in his ministry: he has been preaching and performing miracles, yet his followers don't seem to understand his purpose. The chapter has an urgency and a sharpness of tone that reflect the frustration of Jesus at this mid-point in the gospel.

Historical Context – Family ties

In the ancient world, and particularly in Jewish culture, family meant everything. One's identity was completely tied up with family. Families absolutely depended on one another for survival and for personal identity. Young men were identified by who their father was. Women quite literally 'belonged' to their father or husband. The entire fabric of society and tradition was held together by extended families. For Jesus to say that his message would tear families apart was to say that all of society would be transformed by the message. The kingdom of God turns expectations and society on their head, breathing new life into tired, restrictive structures.



Prep A

Mikyla K - For your great growth in our addition and subtraction unit in Maths. Great work!

Lyla A - For always trying your best to sound out words when writing sentences during our dictation lessons. Superstar!

Prep B

Kaylani S - For your amazing growth in your addition unit in Maths. Keep up the great work.

Toa O - For your fantastic understanding of families during our inquiry unit.

Prep C

Athena K - For your great growth in our addition and subtraction unit in Maths. Great work!

Reeva T - For your great growth in our addition and subtraction unit in Maths. Great work!

Year 1A

Dorin L - For the amazing work she has been doing with creating and labelling 2 and three item patterns.

Lincoln G - For demonstrating his knowledge of common letter sounds when reading and writing.

Year 1B

Cyrus N - For being respectful, responsible, 'ready to learn' and for trying hard to focus on your tasks independently. Keep it up!

Gabriella G - For being ready to learn throughout all parts of the school day and engaging in your learning tasks responsibly.

Year 1C

Levi A - For demonstrating respect and responsibility, by being ready to learn and

engaging in your learning in a focused manner.

Aluel A - For demonstrating respect and responsibility, by consistently listening to all instructions and engaging in your learning.

Year 2A

Denzel S - For following our school values everyday and teaching others how to use a Bible and use scripture references. Amazing!!!

Mariah A - For showing more confidence in Maths by having a go and answering questions in class to show your understanding. Well done Mariah!

Year 2B

William G - For mastering grouping and sharing and bravely challenging yourself with remainders. You are a mathematician superstar!

Evelyn P - For confidently demonstrating a clear understanding of sharing and grouping problems through the use of manipulatives and visual methods. Great work!

Year 2C

Aluel M - For your perseverance in using arrays and repeated subtraction to solve division problems. Keep up the great work.

Akot R - For your efforts in reading fluency with emotion, clarity and voice. Keep up the great reading.

Year 3A

Alek B - Showing wonderful effort and enthusiastic participation during our spelling focus on adding the suffixes 'ful' and 'less'. Keep up your hard work!

Mayom A - Your amazing effort and enthusiastic participation throughout our unit on angles. You showed determination when exploring right angles, turns and angle types.

Year 3B

Quinn B - For your positive energy every morning. Your warm welcome is a great start to each day! Thank you so much!

Chase H - For applying the bar model for multiplication with accuracy during the post assessment. Keep up the great effort!

Year 3C

Amelia G - For demonstrating resilience in the face of change, particularly with the OSH Club and maintaining a positive mindset.

Andrew M - For consistently challenging himself in his learning, particularly in Mathematics, while also supporting peers.

Year 4A

Godfrey M - For your perseverance during camp activities and showing ALL the PBL values of respect, safety, responsibility and kindness.

Lexi T - For your willingness to try each activity and for being an excellent role model on camp! Amazing!

Year 4B

Agot A - For your excellent mental addition skills during Archery on camp! Superstar!

Ajhak A - For your full participation in camp, being a role model for others and giving everything a go. Well done!

Year 4C

Jai M - For using the vertical algorithm with accuracy in our multiplication unit! You are a math superstar!

Ellie T - For your outstanding progress in our multiplication unit as shown in your post-test results – keep up the amazing work!

Year 5A

Adau D - For demonstrating great learning and growth in your knowledge of fractions. You did amazing on your post-fractions assessment. Well done!

Ella P - For showing increased participation in our classroom learning. Keep it up!

Year 5B

Emma W - For demonstrating fantastic improvement in your fractions post-test. You have shown increased confidence in applying new strategies. Keep up the outstanding work!

Isabella T - For achieving a fantastic result in your fractions post-test. You have demonstrated a strong understanding. Amazing work!

Year 5C

Ellie Y- For writing a great paragraph, using a topic sentence and supporting sentences. Amazing effort.

Matilda H - For showing persistence when completing challenging tasks. You try your best at all times and have seen success. Well done.

Year 6B

Sebastian D - For showing curiosity and enthusiasm during Bishop Martin Ashe's visit, asking thoughtful questions and sharing impressive knowledge about the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Maya B - For showing fantastic improvement in your pre and post-test results on fractions, demonstrating hard work, persistence and a stronger understanding of the topic.

Year 6C

Habeeb F - For listening to feedback from last term and making great improvements with a positive attitude. Well done!

Chelsea G - For taking on feedback from last term and making positive, encouraging changes by showing self-awareness and recognizing behaviour in the moment.

TERM 3

dates for your diary

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**



Last week Jobe and Noah (both from 5A) received some exciting news, that they had both been selected by Basketball Victoria for the annual U12 Country Jamboree.

They were selected out of over 1000 boys across country Victoria. We wish both of them every success!

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA BOOK WEEK 2025

MONDAY 18TH - FRIDAY 22ND AUGUST

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd
8.15 - 8.45am &
3.15-4.00pm

book an adventure



BOOK PARADE - 9AM
TUESDAY 19TH AUGUST
School Hall - All Welcome!

Dress as your favourite book character -
students, staff and families are encouraged
to get creative!

Parade Prizes Include:
2 x Best Dressed Winners per class
(42 books up for grabs!)
1st - \$50 Scholastic Book Fair Voucher
2nd - \$35 Voucher
3rd - \$25 Voucher

