

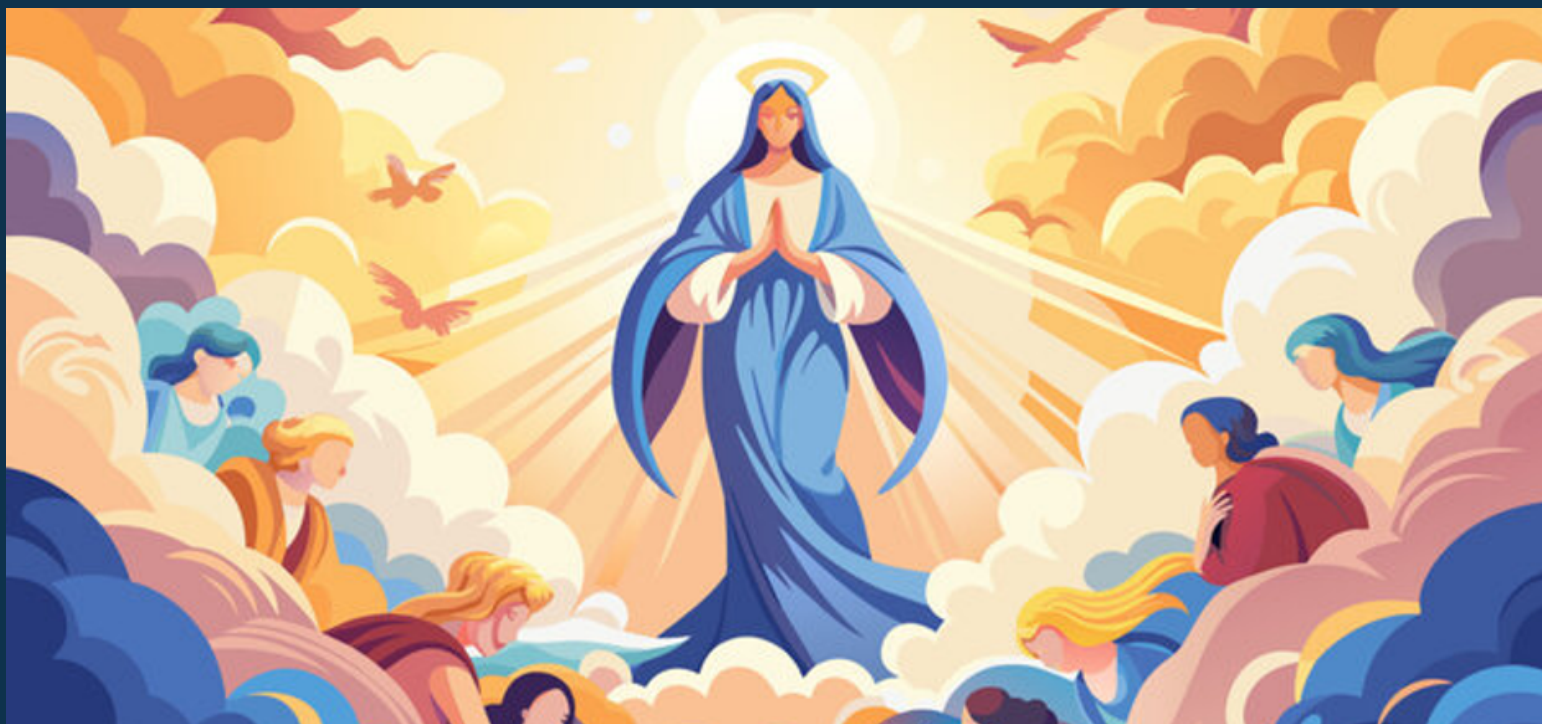


ST CATHERINE OF SIENA NEWSLETTER

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire"

Term 3, Week 5 14th August 2026

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Feast of the Assumption – Reflection

On Saturday, August 15th, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption. On this Holy Day of Obligation, the Church remembers and celebrates the Blessed Virgin Mary being taken (assumed) up into heaven, body and soul. God wanted to reward Mary with this great gift for saying 'Yes' to being Jesus' mother and for always being faithful to Him. She responded with great hope and love to all that God asked of her even in the times when she did not fully understand. Mary pondered and treasured God's Word in her heart. Mary's example helps us when we listen and pray so that we can be people of faith, hope and love.

With her gentle and most pure heart, Mary continues to love and pray for us as our Mother in heaven. She is always a wonderful example for us and she encourages us to follow Jesus as faithful disciples, so that one day we can join her to be with him in heaven.

Blessed Are You Among Women!

Book Week - Term 3, Week 6

The theme for this years Book Week is

SYMPHONY OF STORIES

Book Week Parade

Monday, 17th August - 9:15am

Students may dress up as their favourite book character or they can use the theme: 'Symphony of Stories' as inspiration for dressing up. Parents and family members are welcome to attend.



As part of our Book Week celebration the Scholastic Book Fair will open for parents following the Book Week Parade in the Performing Arts Room. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to explore new titles, build their home libraries and foster a lifelong love of reading.

While you are visiting the Book Fair, be sure to take a stroll past the Library! It looks absolutely amazing with vibrant decorations to bring some most loved books to life.

We look forward to seeing our students and families celebrating the magic of reading together!

Health & Safety Notice: Sending Sick Kids to School

As seasonal illnesses like colds, influenza and gastrointestinal viruses circulate, maintaining a healthy learning environment for our students and staff requires a collective effort. While consistent attendance is essential for academic progress, sending an unwell child to school significantly increases the risk of spreading contagious infections across classrooms and to medically vulnerable families.

To limit the spread and ensure a swift recovery for all students, please do not send your child to school if they exhibit any of the following:

- **Fever:** Any child with a body temperature at or above 38°C must remain at home. Students must be completely fever-free for a full 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication (such as paracetamol or ibuprofen) before returning.
- **Vomiting or Diarrhea:** Students must remain home until a minimum of 24 to 48 hours have elapsed since their last episode.
- **Persistent Cough & Secretions:** A continuous, heavy cough or persistent, thick nasal discharge indicates a high level of contagiousness and prevents full participation in classroom activities.
- **Symptom Suppression:** If your child requires medication before school or during the day to manage active symptoms, they are not well enough to attend school.

If a student exhibits symptoms or becomes unwell during the school day, staff will contact parents for immediate pickup.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community healthy and safe.



Invitation to Father's Day Breakfast

We warmly invite all fathers, father figures and special male role models to join us for our upcoming Father's Day Breakfast to celebrate and honour the important role they play in the lives of our students.

This shared breakfast is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community. To add to the joy of this event students and guests are encouraged to come dressed in their favourite footy team colours to celebrate Footy Colours Day.

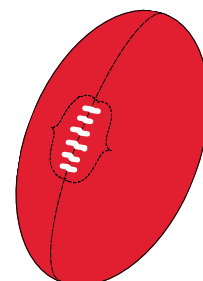


Event Details

Date: Wednesday, 2nd September

Time: 7:15am

Location: Atrium and School Courtyard



Thank you for helping us prepare for this special event. We look forward to welcoming you for food, footy colours and fun as we celebrate the incredible father's and father figures in our school community.

[**Register for Father's Day Breakfast Here**](#)

Father's Day Stall Volunteers

We're excited to be hosting our annual Father's Day Stall on Thursday, 3rd September, and we would love your help to make it a special event for the children! We're looking for parent volunteers to assist with setting up and running the stall between 8:30am and 11:30am.

Whether you can spare an hour or the whole morning, your support would be greatly appreciated. Parents will need a Working With Children's Card to help out.

If you're available to lend a hand, [please register your details here](#). Thank you in advance for your time and generosity – events like these wouldn't be possible without our wonderful school community!

Father's Day Stall

Thursday, 3rd September

Gifts priced between \$1 and \$4

Please bring a plastic bag to put your gifts in.

Students will have the opportunity to purchase 1 - 2 gifts



Supporting our Staff while Planning for the Future

Currently, all Catholic schools are working through planning and budgeting activities for 2027 to ensure we are well placed to support our staff, students and school communities in the coming year. This includes looking at how we can accommodate the changes likely to flow from a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) with school staff.

We recognise the significant financial pressures many households are facing and we are making a conscious effort to ensure these costs are not passed on through significant fee increases.

We will continue to keep our parent community informed throughout this process. As always, our focus remains on maintaining strong school communities and continuing to deliver a high-quality Catholic education for every student

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Help our school WIN a share of \$20,000!*

Plus go into the draw for your chance to win a \$50 Woodgrove Gift Card each week.



Scan the QR code to upload your receipts from purchases made at Woodgrove to earn points for our school.

For more information, please visit woodgroveshoppingcentre.com.au

**Terms & conditions apply.*

100 Days of Prep!

It was a fantastic day filled with excitement, laughter and plenty of opportunities to celebrate just how far our youngest learners have come. From the nervous first steps through the school gates at the beginning of the year to now being confident and enthusiastic members of our school community, our Prep students have achieved so much in their first 100 days.

Throughout the day, students enjoyed a range of special activities and celebrations, including a visit from the ponies and spending time celebrating alongside their teachers, friends and Grade 5 buddies. The day concluded with a special assembly where we recognised the growth and achievements of every Prep student.

More than anything, our 100 Days celebration was an opportunity to recognise the incredible learning, friendships and memories that have already been created this year.

We are incredibly proud of our Prep students and all they have achieved in their first 100 days of school. We can't wait to see what the rest of their Prep journey brings!

Congratulations, Preps, you are officially 100 days smarter!



Term 3 & 4, 2026

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

17 Week 6 Book Week Parade @ 9:15am 	18	19 Whole School Mass – Feast for the Assumption @ 9:15am Assembly @ 2:15pm	20	21 Year 4 MAV Games Day	22 Year 6 Sacrament of Confirmation 	23
24 Week 7 School Closure Day	25	26 Year 6 Confirmation Retreat Day	27 Year 4 Camp – Lady Northcote 	28 Year 4 Camp – Lady Northcote	29	30
31 Week 8	1 September	2 Father's Day Breakfast Assembly @ 2:15pm	3 Father's Day Stall	4	5	6
7 Week 9	8	9 Prep attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am	10	11 Installment 3 of School Fees Due	12	13
14 Week 10 St Catherine's National Day	15 Week of the Deaf People	16 No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights Assembly @ 2:15pm	17 Year 3 Camp – Sunnystones 	18 Last Day of Term 3 Students dismissed at 3:15pm Year 3 Camp – Sunnystones	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1 October	2	3	4
5 Week 1 Term 4 Commences Prep Swimming Program	6 Prep Swimming Program	7 Year 5 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Prep Swimming Program	8 Year 6 ASPIRE Incursion Prep Swimming Program	9 School Closure Day	10	11
12 Week 2 Year 6 Graduation Photo 	13	14 Year 6 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Whole School Assembly @ 2:15pm 	15 Year 5 Camp @ Campaspe Downs 	16	17	18

Child Safe Standard 7

"Processes for complaints and concerns are child-focused."

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven and legal responsibility to uphold and actively promote the wellbeing and safety of every student entrusted in our care. Our commitment to the protection of students includes ensuring that children, families and community members can raise complaints and concerns safely, are listened to respectfully, and understand how to access child-focused complaint processes that prioritise children's voices and wellbeing. Our Catholic communities uphold clear, accessible and child-centred policies and procedures for responding to complaints and concerns, supporting staff and volunteers to act promptly, lawfully and with integrity so that child safety and wellbeing are central to every response.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they are designed to help keep children and young people safe and what schools governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are doing to prioritise and achieve this.

Why is it important that complaints and concerns are child-focused?

Children are safest when they know that adults will **listen** to them, take their concerns **seriously**, and act in **their best interests**.

When schools have clear and child-focused processes for handling complaints and concerns, children and families are **more likely to speak up early**.

This helps schools respond **quickly**, provide **appropriate** support, and **prevent** harm. Child-focused processes also **promote fairness, transparency, and trust**, ensuring that concerns are addressed respectfully and with care for everyone involved.

Child Safe Standard 7

Child Safe Standard 7 reminds us that children and young people have the right to be heard, listened to, and responded to with care and justice. As scripture tells us:

"Learn to do good; seek justice" (Isaiah 1:17)

This teaches us that safeguarding children is not only about protection, but about acting justly when concerns are raised. It calls us to listen attentively, respond wisely, and place the dignity and wellbeing of children at the center of our actions.

By ensuring that complaints and concerns are handled through clear, accessible, and child-focused processes, Child Safe Standard 7 supports a school culture where children feel safe to speak up, families feel confident to raise concerns, and issues are addressed promptly and fairly, strengthening trust across the whole school community.



What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Clear and accessible policies and processes:** We provide simple, child-friendly and family-friendly ways to raise concerns or make complaints, including clear information about who to contact and what to expect.
- **Listening and taking concerns seriously:** All concerns raised by children, parents, carers, staff, or community members are treated with respect and care.
- **Timely and thoughtful responses:** Concerns are responded to promptly and thoroughly, with appropriate action taken to support safety and wellbeing.
- **Appropriate reporting and cooperation:** Where required, concerns are reported to relevant authorities, and the school cooperates fully to ensure children are protected.

How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

Child Safe Standard 7 works best when schools and families partner together to support children's safety and wellbeing. Families can help by:

- **Encouraging children to speak up:** Let your child know they can talk to you or a trusted adult at school if something doesn't feel right.
- **Knowing how to raise concerns:** Get familiar with the school's complaints and concerns policy and processes and who to contact if needed.
- **Sharing concerns early:** If you notice changes in your child or have a worry, raising it early helps the school respond quickly and appropriately.
- **Working in partnership:** Engage openly and respectfully with the school, knowing that listening, fairness, and child wellbeing guide how concerns are managed.

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we're supporting child safety, please get in touch. More information on the Child Safe Standards can be found via the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website. Check out these additional resources below to learn more:

The Australian Human Rights Commission offers practical guides, resources and information on how to develop, review and maintain Child Safe organisations:

[AHRC: Child Safe Organisation Resources](#)

The Federal Government has a National Office for Child Safety; National Principle 6 **Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused** reflects Child Safe Standard 7.

Resources regarding National Principle 6 can be found here: [National Office for Child Safety](#)