



Friday, 15th November 2024
Term 4 - Week 6 of 11

The Giving Tree

Helping Those in Need



As we commence the Season of Advent, and in the same spirit of giving that we undertook during Lent, we invite families to contribute one non-perishable item, per week, for the next four weeks. These gifts and offerings will to be collected in tubs located in each classroom. These will then be turned into food hampers and distributed by our fabulous Melton St Vincent De Paul team to those in need of assistance at this time of the year.

In conjunction with the Giving Tree located in the foyer of St Catherine's Church, a Christmas Giving Tree will also be located in our school foyer and be decorated with tags representing a child and their suggested age. We would love for our families to choose a tag, and if able, donate a small gift - a toy or book that reflects the child's details provided. These gifts are then placed in the large basket found at the base of the Giving Tree.

These gifts will then find their way to children, who at this time of the year, find themselves with little to celebrate due to hardship experienced by family circumstances.

In the words of St Francis of Assisi – For it is in giving that we receive....

Fr Alex's homily last Sunday, regarding the Gospel that told the story of the woman who gave all she had, a single penny, explains it all too well.

The giving of our time, our talents and our gifts.

TEACHERS VERSUS STUDENTS



On the Friday, 8th November, we had our first Teacher vs Students Sports game.

We had played soccer with a team of 11 students and 11 teachers. The game played for 30 minutes, and it was a great competition. We do believe the students played much better than the teachers. At first the students had a good lead at 3-1 but unfortunately, they caught up to make the score a draw 5-5.

The whole school was on the sidelines cheering us on which made us even more excited. It was so much fun to see all the teachers running around trying to keep up with us. We're looking forward to our Volleyball clash on Friday, 15th November.

Written by Deng N (6B) & Owen M (6C)





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 - agjordimaina@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au



Celebrating Our Students Talents With The Parish

This Sunday, after the 9.00am Mass, the school will be open to our parishioners to view the amazing artwork of our students that is displayed throughout the school. The school will be open from 10.00am till 10.30am following Mass.



REMEMBER TO REMEMBER

Last Tuesday, as a school, we gathered to commemorate Remembrance Day. As a school, we would like to acknowledge to our families how incredibly respectful our students were during the Remembrance Day Service. The minute of silence was silent, and the prayers recited truly honoured those who have given their lives so that we can live our own in peace.

Originally known as Armistice Day, Remembrance Day commemorates the signing of the peace agreement that ended World War I at 11am on 11 November 1918.

For most of us, war is a phenomenon seen through the lens of a television camera or a journalist's account of fighting in distant parts of the world. Our closest physical and emotional experience may be the discovery of wartime memorabilia in a family keepsake box. But even items such as photographs, uniform badges, medals, and diaries can seem vague and unconnected to the life of their owner.

For many of us, these family heirlooms may have come from countries Australia was at war with. Yet it does not take away, nor diminish the need for us to stop for one minute and reflect and honour in thought and prayer, the sacrifice these people made for what they believed in.

For those of us born during peacetime, all wars seem far removed from our daily lives. One only has to reflect on the current conflicts within the world to appreciate how distantly removed it can be. Yet for some of our school families whose extended families are caught within those conflicts, or who have fled their country because of conflict, it can be all too real.

By remembering the service and sacrifice of those who went to war, who continue to seek to make this a more peaceful and just world, we recognize the tradition of freedom these men and women fought and fight to preserve.

On this Remembrance Day, we acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who served and serve their country and acknowledge our responsibility to work for the peace they fought so hard to achieve.

Lest we forget.

2025 Class Placement & Transition Days

Thank you to the many parents that have emailed the school in the past five weeks to assist in the placement of their child next year.

In Week 9 we commence our student transition (orientation) days. It's a strategy we use to provide our students with a sense of belonging, an opportunity to get to know both the teacher and the students they will share the coming year with, along with getting a sense of the learning environment they will be working within.

Our two transition days for our current students from Prep to Grade 5 are:

Tuesday 3rd December 2025

& Monday 9th December 2025

Our teachers are greatly aware of the expression

“Directors of First Impressions”

and just how important it is to develop a positive relationship with the students within their class and care.

So too, I ask you as parents to be mindful of your role as a director of first impressions when your child/ren discuss their class placement with you.

Your own reaction, expression and comments, be they positive or negative, will have a lasting impression on your child/ren's attitude to the coming school year. Let's together make it a positive experience.



Week 7

All library books to be returned this week

Monday 18/11

- Exec Team 2.15pm
- **Prep Transition Session 2 9am – 10am**
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Tuesday 19/11

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 20/11

Thursday 21/11

- The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 22/11

- **Sports Carnival Day**
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Sunday 24/11

- Solemnity Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King Of The Universe

Week 8

Monday 25/11

- *Saint Catherine of Alexandria*
- **2025 Prep Transition Session 3 9am – 10am**
- Exec Team 2.15pm
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Tuesday 26/11

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- **Parent Advisory Council 7.00pm – 8.00pm**

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
- Archdiocesan Celebration of Principalship 2.00pm – 9.30pm

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**
- Exec Team 2.15pm
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Tuesday 03/12

- Saint Francis Xavier
- **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*
- 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**
- Exec Team 2.15pm
- 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**



As our **Sport Carnival** fast approaches, we would like to invite all members of our community to join us on **Friday, 22nd November**. Activities will be run by our Grade 6 House Captains, but we would greatly appreciate the assistance of parents and carers to assist with taking scores and assisting students throughout the day.

Students will be participating in a range of activities, rotating through each one to score points for their house colour. Prep students will be paired with their Grade 6 buddy while Students in Grades 1 to 5 will be split into their house colours within their year levels.

Activities will go for 30 minutes on a rotational basis. The first activities will **begin at 9.30am**, with the last activity **finishing up at 3.00pm**. Further information will be provided closer to the date but we are very excited to get students involved in a range of games and have an amazing day.

Absences & Late Arrivals

Going to school every day is the most important part of your child's education. There are no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes as well as their social connectedness. The best thing you can do is support your child to get to school every day. That also means getting them to school on time.

For most of our students, their arrival time depends upon their mum, dad or a carer dropping them off or picking them up.

Being late everyday is nothing to be proud of!

A positive attitude towards school, healthy habits and routines, and most importantly, parental responsibility, ensures a child's regular school attendance and prevents both chronic absence and late arrival patterns.

Please help your child to get to school on time. Their absence and or lateness does impact upon their learning.

On the back of this newsletter is a flowchart that highlights how the school will be addressing absenteeism. It has been implemented in and for the best interest of our students.



This Weekend's Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to [Mark 13:24-32](#)

He shall gather his elect from the four winds.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

Gospel Reflection

The whole of chapter 13 in the Gospel of Mark is devoted to a discourse about the future. In the section preceding this week's passage, Jesus has foretold the destruction of the Temple and the fall of Jerusalem. He has also predicted war on a massive scale and the persecution of his followers. Now, in this passage, Jesus predicts the return of the Son of Man and the fulfilment of the kingdom of God.

Why does the gospel include such an extended description of the collapse of the world as it was? Because that's exactly what was going on around the community of this gospel writer! This gospel is understood to have been written somewhere in the period 70-75 CE. In the year 70 CE the city of Jerusalem was besieged by Roman troops who stormed the city and destroyed it. As a sign of complete disdain for the people of Jerusalem and a mark of overwhelming victory, the Romans burnt and completely destroyed the Temple in the heart

of Jerusalem. For the entire Jewish community, this was absolute devastation. The destruction of the Temple surely marked the coming of the end times – the day of judgment and completion of this world. The community gathered around this gospel writer were no less affected. On top of this, the Roman Emperors were reaching new heights (or depths) in their persecution of the followers of Jesus.

In the midst of this despair and fear, the followers of Jesus are challenged to remember the teachings of the one they follow. This passage is written for them as an encouragement to not give up in the face of what appears to be overwhelming odds. It is a call to hope. Although we can understand the context in which it was originally written, we are also challenged to apply its message of hope and perseverance to our own lives.

Historical Context – 70 CE

In 66 CE a Jewish revolt against Roman occupation began in Caesarea and soon spread to most of the country. By the year 68 the sheer weight of Roman numbers had stamped out a lot of the rebellion. The leaders of the revolt rallied again in Jerusalem and in the year 70 the Roman armies laid siege to the city for several months. Finally, Titus, the emperor Vespasian's son, led an assault on the city and the Romans ransacked and burnt the entire city. The treasures of the Temple were looted and the Temple itself – the very centre of Jewish religion – was destroyed.

Living the Gospel – People of Hope

Whilst the community who were the intended audience of the Gospel of Mark were expecting the return of Jesus and the end times to occur during their lifetimes, nearly two thousand years later we realise that wasn't the case. Today, as in Mark's time, many people approach the future and change with fear and apprehension. As Christian people we are called to be optimistic and hopeful as we approach the future. We know that God is good, that God loves us unconditionally and that God has a dream for us. That is the simple basis of Christian hope.

Gospel Focus – Eschatology

Theologians refer to beliefs about the future and the end times of the world as 'eschatology'. The word itself comes from two Greek words meaning 'last' and 'discourse' – basically meaning talking about the end. In Christian tradition, eschatology concerns many different concepts: the end of the world; the return of Jesus; the Last Judgment; the fulfilment of the Messianic prophecy; the accomplishment of the kingdom of God. These eschatological events are sometimes simply referred to as 'the end times' or 'the last things'. The whole of Mark Ch 13 – from which this gospel passage comes – is referred to as an eschatological discourse by Jesus.



Prep A

Madelyn F - For an excellent job writing about your dream job as a teacher, wanting to help kids to learn numbers and sounds and facts about animals.

Yalise O - For an excellent job writing about your dream job as a teacher, teaching kids to segment and blend because it's good to learn to read and write.

Prep B

Achol A - For being a knowledgeable learner and sharing your knowledge of different animals with the class.

Drona C - For being a respectful member of the Prep B community and always treating your friends with kindness.

Prep C

Adoniyah T - For mapping, reading and writing words that contain 'igh' making the long i sound. Awesome work!

Lillian O - For your improvement in recording the sounds you hear to write sentences about what you would like to be when you grow up. Awesome work!

Year 1A

Grace A - For making amazing progress in reading, in both decoding and fluency!

Amelia V - For writing about your future career by including technical and descriptive language, which helped create a vivid picture for the reader.

Year 1B

Mansan T - For demonstrating your knowledge of appositives in class.

Ana D - For reading with improved accuracy and expression. You're a reading superstar, keep up the great work!

Year 1C

Ian F - For demonstrating your knowledge in partitioning numbers to 100, into two, three and four parts. Amazing work!

Oscar J - For your improvement in reading fluency. You've been reading more smoothly and confidently each day. Keep it up!

Year 2A

Charlie S - For trying hard to have a growth mindset during the writing hour! Well done!

Amelia G - For your hard work and effort in spelling challenging words when writing. You are a super star!

Year 2B

William Mc - For demonstrating your knowledge and understanding of telling the time to "quarter past." Well done!

Thomas W - For continuing to show the school value of "Responsibility" amongst our classroom. Well done Thomas!

Year 2C

Chout M - For your excellent effort in completing your Mathematics tasks this week. Well Done Chout!

Grace S - For being a fantastic role-model in your class each day by being respectful, safe, responsible and kind!

Year 3A

Peter L - Showing tremendous growth in your mathematical understanding this year.

Payton R - Always working hard in all your subjects. You have a fantastic attitude to learning.

Year 3B

Bonnie R - For displaying resilience when completing assessments this week. You should be so proud!

Fatuma J - For contributing to class discussions. It has been great to see your confidence grow and hear your ideas about different topics.

Year 3C

Heath P - For your quiet determination and consistent focus in your learning. Your steady commitment to doing your best work this year has been truly remarkable.

Georgia A - For demonstrating impressive growth in your academic skills. You approach the majority of your tasks with thoughtfulness and a desire to improve, setting a wonderful example for others.

Year 4A

Mayen B - For independently researching and showing your results on a digital spreadsheet. Amazing!

Aaliyah Q - For independently using a digital spreadsheet to display your data as a graph and table (with attention to formatting). Excellent!

Year 4B

Alana F - For being confident and demonstrating excellent participation skills during our class discussions.

Nathaniel A - For always being kind and courteous to his peers and teachers, following our school PBL values.

Year 4C

Jayden D - For effort and focus during assessments. You have shown consistent growth in your learning.

Ella P - For your positive mindset towards learning tasks. You always apply yourself during independent tasks to achieve work to a high quality. Keep up the fantastic effort!

Year 5B

Joel A - For having a positive growth mindset and always staying focused in class.

Semira C - For being engaged in class and contributing to whole class discussions. Great contributions!

Year 5C

Nyok A - Making incredible growth in your reading this year. You are a star!

Harper K - Making outstanding growth in your reading this year. Take pride in your achievement!

Year 6A

Jed T - For showing great conceptual understanding of Maths and applying this in his PAT M testing.

Sienna H - For working diligently on your Rosary assignment, using feedback to add detail to your answers.

Year 6B

Benedita D - For your growth in the use of sentence structure and paragraphing to support your main ideas. Keep up the great work, Benedita.

Christian T - For making accelerated progress in reading and writing this semester. Your dedication to your school work is admirable.

Year 6C

Diyar M - For demonstrating impressive growth in understanding statistics, eagerly tackling new concepts and applying them with confidence and accuracy in class activities.

Avah M - For making wonderful progress in proofreading your work, taking the time to carefully review your writing and making thoughtful improvements. Keep it up!

Mathematics Award

Emma W (4A) & Nathan 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!**



Absenteeism Flowchart

At St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School, the monitoring of student absences is the responsibility of all staff. Homegroup teachers must work through the flowchart with the support of Level Leaders and Wellbeing Leader to alert families and school leadership when concerns are raised regarding extended absences and late arrivals.

Please note:

- Any child having an planned extended absence of 6 days or more consecutive days will meet with the Principal prior to approval has been made (eg. notification of extended holidays).
- When families make Operoo notifications regarding absences, this information will be passed onto Homegroup teachers by the Office staff.
- Please consider the context relating to the purpose of the absences/late arrivals prior to communicating with families.

