



# St Joseph's School PETERBOROUGH

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Mass Times – St Anacletus Church –Sundays 5:00pm

## IMPORTANT DATES

### WEEK 9

#### THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

End of Year Mass & Graduation  
6:30pm on Basketball Court

#### FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Splash Day 11-12pm  
Early Finish 1:00pm

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



2024

### OFFICE OPEN

#### MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY

Open between 9am – 3pm

#### TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY

Open between 9am – 3pm

#### THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

Open between 9am – 2pm

### WEEK 1

#### MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

First Day of School

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### END OF THE YEAR

The end of the year is a special time. It carries with it the opportunity to reflect on all the successes and challenges that we have encountered throughout the year. The end of the year also comes with great excitement for what lies ahead. We celebrate our Yr 6 students as they complete Primary School and share in joy that they are continuing their education journey with us. We celebrate our first group of Year 9 Graduates as they complete their final year of schooling at St Joseph's and venture on to Senior Secondary School. We also farewell staff and students from other year levels and wish them well for their future endeavours.

Similarly, for the Church it is the season of Advent and during this time we prepare ourselves for the joy of Christmas. I hope that for everyone in our school community, Christmas provides a special time with family and friends to receive the story of Jesus.

*Lord, We seek your peace. Guide our hearts to find peace in the midst of the storm. Help us focus our eyes on You and through your grace, discover your divine peace. Bring to us a great relief and knowledge of trust in You, Lord. Amen.*



### END OF YEAR MASS

This Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December we invite all parents, family and friends to attend the End of Year Mass to celebrate the year and to congratulate our Year 6 students as they complete their Primary schooling, our Year 9 students as they Graduate from St Joseph's, and farewell those who are leaving our school community. We will present our school awards at this special gathering.

This year the Mass will again be held on our basketball court and we ask that the students and their families arrive by 6:20 ready for Mass which starts at **6:30pm**.

**Students needs to be in full school uniform.**

**Please note that this is a compulsory school event for students to attend.**

### REPORTS

Student reports will be sent home as soon as we have internet and can print them! When you do get them, please take the time to look closely at these and celebrate the successes your child has had this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please organise a time to meet with your child's teacher.

### SCHOOL CLOSURES

Thank you all for your understanding with the School Closures on Tuesday & Wednesday due to the power & Telstra outage. I hope that everyone made the most of their mid-week break from school! Hopefully everything will be back to normal tomorrow for our final days of the year.

## COMMUNITY AWARD

Thursday night we will present a Parliamentary Medal, The Geoff Brock Award. This award is selected by staff and awarded by the Principal. This award goes to a student who has achieved excellence during the school year in either their learning, community and/or faith.

## SCHOOL BASED AWARDS

These awards will be presented at our End of Year Mass on Thursday night. These awards are selected by the staff and awarded by the Principal. Considerations are made to ensure that the awards recognise the efforts and achievements of all children over the entirety of the school year.

### MARY MACKILLOP AWARD (R-9)

*This award recognises a student who has shown a considerable amount of improvement in the learning they do at school. It acknowledges the hard work and effort they have displayed throughout the year.*

### FR CRESP AWARD (R-3)

*This award goes to a R-3 student that demonstrates leadership in all areas of their school life including learning, community and faith. The recipient will be someone who leads by example and motivates others by their enthusiasm and achievements.*

### FR LONERGAN (4-6)

*This award goes to a 4-6 student that demonstrates leadership in all areas of their school life including learning, community and faith. The recipient will be someone who leads by example and motivates others by their enthusiasm and achievements.*

### TENNISON WOODS AWARD (7-9)

*This award goes to a 7-9 student that demonstrates leadership in all areas of their school life including learning, community and faith. The recipient will be someone who leads by example and motivates others by their enthusiasm and achievements.*

### ROTARY COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD (R-9)

*This award goes to a student that demonstrates good community spirit both at school and in the wider community.*

## STAFFING FOR 2024

Please see below staffing arrangements for next year, it is always possible for changes to occur over the Christmas break, so please be mindful that whilst every effort is made to have staffing arranged, things can change.

We farewell one staff member at the end of the year, Lauren Yeomans. We wish Lauren well in her future endeavours and thank her for all that she has contributed to St Joseph's this year.

We warmly welcome Mary Gazzola and Jessica Robinson as 7-9 teachers to the St Joseph's Staff in 2024. We look forward to welcoming these new staff members into the St Joseph's community. Jasmine Wardrop continues her Parenting Leave in 2024. We hope to see her back during the year as a relief teacher and then part time when it works for her family.

Role	Person(s)
Principal	Bec Fahey (I will also be the designated RE Leader for 2024)
Leader of Learning & Wellbeing	Kylie Wells (Mon-Thur)
R/1 Teacher	Millie Smart
2/3 Teacher	Nicki Morgan
4/5 Teacher	Regina Farr (Mon-Wed) & Tracy Wu (Thu – Fri)
6 Teacher	Kaitlin Hier
7/8/9 Teachers	Mary Gazzola (Yr 9 Pastoral Care, English, HASS, RE, Food Tech, Vis Arts) Jessica Robinson (Yr 7/8 Pastoral Care, Maths, Science, HPE, Wood Tech, Media Arts, Drama) Tracy Wu (Digital Tech, Careers & Music)
HPE R-6	Regina Farr (Thu)
Music, Science & Chinese R-6	Tracy Wu (Mon-Wed)
Educational Support Officers	Kelly Limburg (Admin) Chris Malycha (Admin) Helen Latham (Finance) Megan McMillan (Curriculum) Brooklyn Virgens (Curriculum) Russell Hill (Grounds & Maintenance) Leonie Thompson (Curriculum) Shane Perrott (Curriculum) Jemma Howe (Curriculum) Aidan Jennings (Curriculum) Sarah Thomas (Curriculum)

## Our Catholic Identity

### GOSPEL VALUE

#### Simplicity

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.”

### JOSEPHITE VALUE

#### Mutual Relationship & Recognition

In the Josephite tradition, communion is nurtured by a deep spirit of mutual respect and relationship. We must be the change we see in others. Neither do we presume to fully know or own or be able to define the MacKillop charism: we are filled with joy when we recognise it in the spark of it in others.

## Our Values

**VALUES** – what is important to us

#### Resources

At St Joseph's School we are committed to:

- building capacity of individuals and groups within the school community
- effective stewardship of resources to ensure they are used wisely and sustainably
- creating a safe environment for everyone

## CAROLS ON THE OVAL

I want to thank everyone who came along to our Carols on the Oval last week. It was a great night celebrating together as a community. Thankfully the stormy weather held off for us and we could all enjoy a good sing along! A huge thank you to Katrina & Bill Hill for helping to cook and serve the BBQ and to staff who helped due to a lack of parent volunteers. Much appreciated and it ensured that everyone who attended was fed!



## FRONT OFFICE OPENING HOURS – 2024

The Front Office will be open next year for three days in Week 0 for uniform purchases and enrolment or other enquiries. The office will be open between 9:00am and 3:00pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of January & Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January and then 9-2pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

## KIDS CAFÉ / CANTEEN

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped with the Kids Café this year. The P&F raises money from this weekly fundraiser, which in turn benefits the children in our school. This year the Canteen profits have continued to fund our Breakfast Club which is fantastic and ensures that this service is sustainable for our students each year. Thank you! Please consider volunteering your time in 2024 to help ensure that the canteen can keep running.

## VOLUNTEERS

Another huge thank you to everyone that has volunteered in any way shape or form this year. School's always need volunteers to join the Board, support students, run events, fundraise etc. We truly appreciate all of your assistance no matter how big or small throughout the year. Thank you!

## NEW PRINCIPAL UPDATE

A letter was sent home to all families on Monday from our Director, Nichii Mardon, to update the community on the current process of appointing a new Principal for Term 2 onwards. The process is underway and will continue in the new year with the hope to make a formal announcement early in Term 1.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

I wish you all a safe and merry Christmas. May you share many moments of grace over the holiday break and let God shower you with his blessings. May Christ bless you with all the happiness and success you deserve!

**THANK  
YOU!**

*-Bec Fahey*

[www.stjopet.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjopet.catholic.edu.au)

# CATHOLIC IDENTITY

## ADVENT

Over the past two weeks, we have been celebrating the season of Advent. The word Advent means 'coming'. As we celebrate each week of Advent we light a candle which symbolises the coming of light (Jesus). This Advent we have been learning to act and pray for a fair world, with hope, peace, joy and love.

We will continue to learn more about Advent over the coming two days and will reconnect with the story of Jesus' birth as we prepare to celebrate this at Christmas.

### Luke 1:26-32, 34-35, 38

*God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee with a message for a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David. The angel greeted Mary and said, "You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you."*

*Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant. Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was."*

*Mary asked the angel, "How can this happen? I am not married!"*

*The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God."*

*Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said".*

## THE JESSE TREE

On Wednesday the whole school gathered in prayer to learn about the Jesse Tree.

### What is a Jesse Tree?

The symbol of the Jesse Tree comes from Isaiah 11:1-2

***"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse:***

***From his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him."***

Each branch of the tree is a story, one of the stories that make up the whole sacred Story of God's relationship with his people, with us. These stories remind us who God is and who we are.

Their roots sink deep, all the way back to the beginning, to the creation of the cosmos and of this small planet. Their branches reach wide, embracing the whole Story of God-with-us, from Eden to Bethlehem.

A Jesse Tree helps us remember our story, the story of God's people, who waited so long for the coming of the Messiah. Just as we are waiting through the days of Advent

for Jesus.

1. Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.
2. Pray for discernment of how God would like you to set your priorities and the ability to focus on them consistently to fulfill His purposes in your life.
3. Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.
4. Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of a loving community.
5. Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.
6. Pray for an enlivened imagination that helps you contribute to the world in creative ways.
7. Pray for freedom from all that burdens you - past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, hurts other people have inflicted, and more.
8. Pray for joy and a sense of humour.
9. Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust in His power to work things out for the best in your life.
10. Pray for a clear mind and the ability to clearly communicate what you value to others.
11. Pray for purity so you can grow as a person and encounter God more fully.
12. Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
13. Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others.
14. Pray for a passion to pursue justice.

~ Edited from Whitney Hople's "[Pray for Simplicity this Advent](https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/12-advent-prayers.html)"

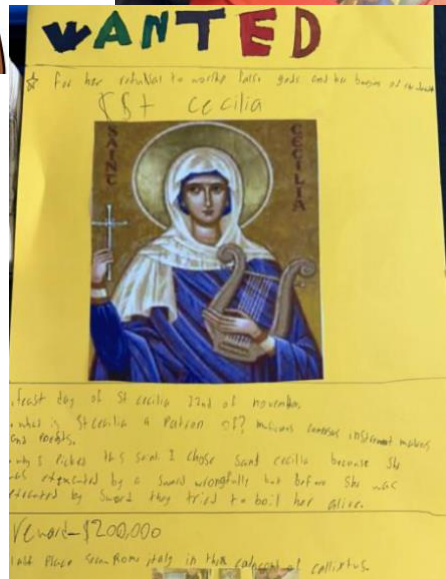
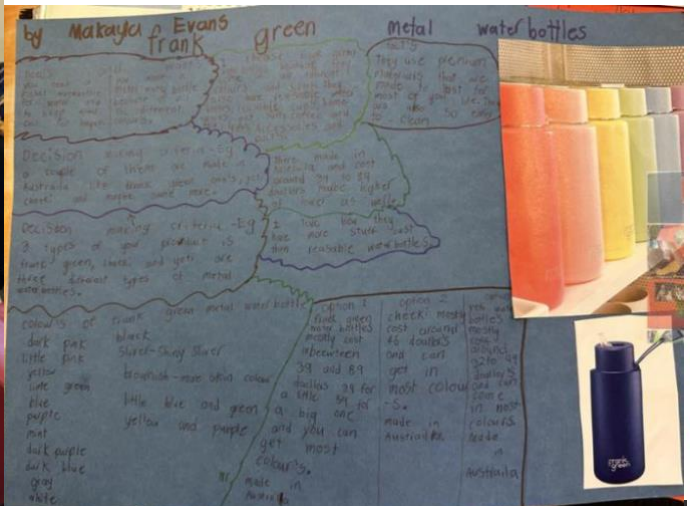
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The last few weeks have been a lot of finishing off our learning in the 5/6 classroom!  
Have a safe and wonderful Christmas!



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-Kaitlin Hier

# SCHOOL NEWS

## GRADUATION

Congratulations to our graduating Year 9's. We wish them all the best for their future studies and hope that no matter where they go, they remember their time here at St Joseph's School. We thank them for their contributions and leadership this year.



**Bean**



**Caitlin**

Dear Lord,  
Today we bring these graduates before You, asking you to keep your hand of protection upon them.  
Please guide their steps in the days ahead as they embark on this new journey before them. Grant them wisdom to make wise decisions according to Your will.  
May the road before them be paved with joyous opportunities that bring honour and glory to You.  
In the name of Jesus, we pray.



**Dylan**



**Latisha**