

PRAYER for ADVENT

Loving God, as we begin this sacred season of Advent, be with us, lead and guide us, as we do all we can to 'stay awake' and prepare for the birth of Jesus. Give us the courage, strength and patience to slow down, even just a little, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

St Bernadette - pray for us.

GOD LOVES US - LET US LOVE GOD



Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Sunday the Catholic Church celebrated the **Feast of Christ the King**. This feast day recognises Jesus, not as a ruling, dominant king, but a King who serves, a King who cares for his people, a King who rules with love, respect and inclusion. It also heralds the end of another liturgical year, as this weekend we begin our celebration of **Advent**. Advent is one of my favourite times of the year. It is a great time for preparing, not only our homes, but our hearts as well, to welcome Jesus again this Christmas. Whether it be a wreath or a calendar, Advent is filled with many signs and symbols to remind us that Jesus, the promised one, comes to us this Christmas.

We congratulate the following Year 3 children who celebrated the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** for the first time last night. These children were beautifully prepared by family and staff, and participated so reverently in our lovely celebration.

Ana, Isla, Jaslene, Jonathan, Michael, Isabella, Sebastian, John, Mia Tripodi,
Nakai Daisy, Siena, Scott, Helen, Ozzie, Luke Abigail, Mary, Newton, Jessica,
Oliver, Mia Tran, Macie, Giacomo, Kiera, Adam, Michael, Brandon, Clara,
Isabel, Nathaniel and Evan

Today we welcome our Prep 2026 children and their families to the school for their second transition session. We had a wonderful time with them at the first session and we are looking forward to welcoming them again.

St Bernadette's respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as the owners of the land on which we live, play and learn at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

All students attending St. Bernadette's Primary School have the right to feel safe. The care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a fundamental responsibility of all within our school.

Our Year 6 students will be taking part in their transition activities over the next 2 weeks as they prepare for Secondary School. This is an exciting and nervous time for them and their families, so I ask that you keep them in your prayers.

STUDENT REPORTS AND OPTIONAL LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

Your child will receive their Semester 2 report on Monday 8th December, outlining their achievements and areas for growth. Learning Conversations associated with these reports are optional. If you would like a learning conversation with your child's teacher about their learning, please contact the office and book a time on Wednesday 10th December between 2:30pm and 5:00pm.

SCHOOL FEES/LEVIES 2025

Thank you to those families who are up-to-date with or who have paid their fees in full. I really appreciate your attention to this matter. Could all families make sure their fees/levies are paid in full by **Friday 5th December**.

SCHOOL FEES AND LEVIES FOR 2026

St Bernadette's aims to keep a Catholic Education affordable and achievable for all families who seek it for their children. At the same time, meeting the requirements and increasing costs, across multiple areas, in running a school.

Our School Fees are also influenced by the Commonwealth Department of Education's calculation of our community's ability to financially contribute to the operating costs of our school, known as the Capacity to Contribute, or CTC, which is reviewed annually.

In consultation with the School Advisory Council and Business Manager, there will be an increase in both the fees and levies. **For 2026, School Fees have been set at \$1600 and Levies at \$380.** This is an increase of \$180 in total for one child or \$4.50 a week over 40 weeks.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| - School Family Fee | \$1600 per family |
| - Education Levies | \$380 per student |
| - Camp Prep - Yr 2 | \$10 per student |
| - Camp Yr 3 (Sunnystones) | \$230 per student |
| - Camp Yr 4 (Doxa-Malmsbury) | \$115 per student |
| - Camp Yr 5/6 (CYC - Adanac) | \$310 per student |
| - Interschool Sport Yr 5/6 | \$30 per student |
| - Graduation Yr 6 | \$20 per student |
| - Swimming Prep - Yr 4 | \$100 per student |

If you have received a Health Care Card since July 2025, please bring the card to the office so that we can apply for the CSEF contribution towards your school costs.

As is always the case, any family who may have difficulty in paying the above school fees/levies, are invited and encouraged to contact the office or myself to discuss the matter.

PAYMENT PLANS FOR SCHOOL FEES/LEVIES FOR 2026

For those families who have set up a payment plan for 2025, this information will be rolled over to next year, and amounts will be adjusted according to student fees/levies for 2026.

LIBRARY AND CLASSROOM BOOKS/RESOURCES


Could you please have a look at home for any school library books or resources and return them to school as soon as possible. Thank you.

If you are leaving St Bernadette's at the end of the year and your child is not in Year 6, could you please contact the office and let them know.

Have a great week,
Brendan Gill - Principal

Keeping our kids safe online: A partnership with families

Quick facts about the upcoming changes

 Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Social media age restrictions

New rules for under-16s	What's still accessible	What it means for schools
Popular platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X, and YouTube may soon restrict account access for students under 16. Other platforms may be added to the list impacted by the legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Public content that doesn't require login.Educational platforms like Google Classroom and YouTube Kids.YouTube videos that can be viewed without signing in.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Schools may need to explore new ways to communicate with students and families.Teachers can still share age-appropriate educational content to support learning.

Learn more at the [eSafety Commissioner's Social Media Age Restrictions Hub](https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions-hub)
www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions-hub

Let's work together to help our children become safe, skilled and responsible digital citizens, who can navigate the online world with confidence and care.

IMPORTANT DATES 2025 (as at 27/11/25)

- **Prep 2026 Orientation Session 2** - Thursday 27th November
- **Year 6 Cluster Transition Day** - Friday 28th November
- **Advent Liturgy** - Monday 1st December @ 2:30pm
- **Planning Day for 2026 - NO SCHOOL - Tuesday 2nd December**
- **Assembly - Announce School Leaders 2026** - Friday 5th December @ 2:30pm
- **Year 6 Big Day Out** - Monday 8th December
- **Step Up Day - Classes for 2026** - Tuesday 9th December - 9:00am - 10:45am
- **Year 6 Graduation** - Thursday 11th December @ 7:00pm
- **End of Year Mass and Assembly** - Tuesday 16th December @ 9:15am
- **2025 School Year finishes** - Tuesday 16th December @ 12:00noon

TERM DATES AND IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026 (as at 26/11/25)

Term 1	Tuesday 27th January to Thursday 2nd April (Students start Thursday 29th January)
Term 2	Monday 20th April to Friday 26th June
Term 3	Monday 13th July to Friday 18th September
Term 4	Monday 5th October - Wednesday 16th December

SACRAMENTS

- **First Reconciliation (Year 3)** - TBA
- **Eucharist (Year 4)** - TBA
- **Confirmation (Year 6)** - Thursday 10th September @ 7:00pm

CAMPS

- **Year 5/6 Camp** - April 22 - 24
- **Year 4 Camp** - July 29 - 31
- **Year 3 Camp** - October 13 - 14

ADVERTISEMENTS AND PUBLIC NOTICES

EXPERIENCE MUSIC

Experience Music is offering their program to the students at St Bernadette's. Lessons are available for guitar, keyboards, drums and voice. For more information and how to enrol, please visit www.experiencemusic.com.au/enrolment.



experience music

CAMP AUSTRALIA

Camp Australia are our before and after school care provider. Please contact them on 1300 105 343 or email info@campaustralia.com.au should you wish to book a place.



Camp Australia acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and Elders, both past and present.