

PRAYER for ADVENT

Loving Father,
You sent Your Son to bring joy to the world.
As we await His coming, fill our hearts with
gladness. Help us to rejoice in Your presence,
to share joy with others, and to spread the
good news of God's love for all. Amen.

St Bernadette - pray for us.
GOD LOVES US - LET US LOVE GOD



Quick reminders:

TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER - LAST DAY OF THE YEAR

Children can wear casual clothes on this day

Mass at 9:15am followed by a brief assembly and staff

farewells at 10:00am in the Church

School finishes at 12:00 noon

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

This is the last newsletter for what has been another wonderful year at St Bernadette's. As I look back on all that we have achieved this year, including the amazing and successful production of 'The Wizard of Oz', I feel very proud to be part of such a diverse, welcoming, caring and talented community.

Tomorrow night we celebrate our Year 6 Graduates. These young people have once again been great examples of all we stand for at St Bernadette's. They are a vibrant and mature group of individuals who have shown great leadership, dedication to learning and support for each other and their teachers. Congratulations to these children and their families. We wish them well as they move onto secondary school.

Congratulations also to our Newcomb Team who will compete in the Interschool Sport Grand Final on Friday. We wish them well. Huge thanks to Mr Miller and the staff for coordinating and supervising the Interschool Sports this year. The staff will challenge the Newcomb Team in a friendly game on Monday 15th December at 2:30pm. All parents are welcome to come and watch the game.

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.

We have our final mass and assembly on Tuesday 16th December at 9:15am. We will once again celebrate our Year 6s, present our 2026 Student School Leaders and farewell the staff that are leaving. We will then gather again at 11:45am on MacKillop Sports Area to say our final goodbyes to our Year 6s and leaving staff and students. All parents and carers are invited to join us for these celebrations.

We bid farewell to Mr Christopher O'Rielly (Prep O), Mr Thomas O'Rielly (3P) and Mrs Jennifer Gualtieri (6M) who are moving onto new and different things. These staff members, in their own individual ways, have contributed to our school.

- Mr Chris has been at St Bernadette's for 2 years, teaching in the Prep area. He has grown a lot as a teacher, and has a wonderful rapport with students and staff. Over the 2 years, he has done a great job of introducing our Preps to St Bernadette's and beginning their education journey in primary school. Mr Chris is moving to Holy Eucharist Primary School in St Albans.
- Mr Thomas came to St Bernadette's in April this year, and took over from Mr Powell who went on leave. Mr Thomas has enjoyed getting to know and supporting the Year 3s, and taking part in their camp at Sunnystones and preparing the children for Reconciliation. Mr Thomas is moving to Derrimut Primary School, Derrimut.
- Mrs Gualtieri joined us mid-way through the year, working every Friday in 6M. She has really enjoyed her time at St Bs, supporting the learning and wellbeing of our Year 6 children. She has also enjoyed coaching the Interschool basketball teams. Mrs Gualtieri will continue working at St Paul's, Sunshine West.

We thank these 3 teachers for their dedication to the children and families of St Bernadette's and wish them well for the future. We will be acknowledging their wonderful contributions to St Bernadette's at our last assembly next Tuesday morning.

We will also acknowledge Miss Monica Hughes and Mrs Jacquie Lumsden, who will be taking leave from St Bernadette's for the 2026 school year.

In 2026, we welcome back Mr Daniel Powell who is returning part-time. We also welcome Mrs Huong Lamont, Mrs Joanna Prereira, Miss Alicia O'Brien and Mr John Maguire who will be joining our teaching staff in 2026. A full list of staffing for 2026 is included in this newsletter.

We also acknowledge and farewell the following families who end their time at St Bernadette's this year:

Chuol, Da Silva, Gadze, Gueco, Hlawn Ceu, Le(Jayden), Marcus, McKenner, Nguyen(Isabella), Nguyen(Khoa), Nguyen(Luke), Nguyen(Olivia), Nguyen(Teresa), Polari, Ro, Tran(Cindy), Vo(Jake), Vu(Sarah), Williams, Dang(Noah), Huynh(Harry) and Trinh(Evelyn & Ethan) Families.

Some of these families have had a long connection with the school. We thank them for their contributions to our school community and wish them all the very best for the future.

Thank you to the children of St Bernadette's who are an absolute joy to work and learn with. Their interest and enthusiasm in every learning opportunity and challenge is to be commended. From the youngest to the oldest, they bring joy, respect and curiosity to their learning spaces and the playground. They have worked very hard, and should be very proud of their efforts.

Thank you to all the parents, carers and families who constantly support our school and the work we do with your children. You have been a wonderful support to your children's education this

year. Thank you for entrusting your children to us — it is a privilege to care for and nurture your children and we appreciate your support, interest and friendship.

Thanks also to Fr Silvio for his spiritual guidance, leadership and support of our school over the year. Fr Silvio is a valued part of our school community with his friendly and approachable nature, who has supported the faith development of students, staff and families.

Finally, a very BIG thank you to all the staff who give of their gifts, talents and time so freely to enable your children to grow and flourish as learners and as young people. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated staff who truly commit themselves to enabling ALL students and families to reach their full potential by providing wonderful learning opportunities and a safe, caring and welcoming environment. We are truly blessed. Thank you.

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 12th 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.

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.

During this Christmas Season, may you and
your families be blessed with . . .
the **spirit** of Christmas, which is **peace**;
the **gladness** of the season, which is **hope**;
the **heart** of the season, which is **love**.
And may the New Year bring you good health
and happiness and a refreshed spirit.

Have a great holiday everyone.
I look forward to your safe return in 2026.
God bless, Brendan



GOD LOVES US - LET US LOVE GOD

ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH, SUNSHINE NORTH **CHRISTMAS MASSES 2025**

Wednesday 24th December

- 6:00pm - Christmas Carols
- 6:30pm - Family Mass with Nativity Play
- 8:00pm - Christmas Carols
- 8:30pm - Christmas Eve Mass

Thursday 25th December

- 8:30am - Christmas Day Mass
- 9:45am - Christmas Mass - Polish
- 11:00am - Christmas Day Mass
- 12:30pm - Christmas Mass - Vietnamese



PARISH CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

St Bernadette's Parish will be holding Carols by Candlelight in Pioneers Hall on Friday 19th December, starting at 7:30pm till 9:30pm.



ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY

The next practice for the Christmas Nativity Play will take place TOMORROW, Thursday 11th December at 5pm in the Church. The Christmas Nativity Play is part of the Christmas Eve Family Mass on 24th December at 6.30pm and at the Carols by Candlelight on Friday the 19th of December. If your child would like to be part of the Christmas Nativity Play this year, please call Amanda on 0438 514 304.



ST BERNADETTE'S SCHOOL - STAFFING FOR 2026

Class Teachers

Prep E - Miss Emma Scerri
Year 1G - Miss Daniela Granata

Year 2F - Miss Lana Frost
Year 3T - Miss Cecilia Tran

Year 4C - Miss Elise Casamento
Year 5J - Mr John Maguire
Year 6R - Mr James Reitmaier

Prep S - Mrs Suzanne Sciberras
Year 1T - Mrs Sarah Turner & Mrs Joanna Prereira
(Mon-Wed) (Wed - Fri)

Year 2O - Miss Alicia O'Brien
Year 3P - Mrs Huong Lamont & Mr Daniel Powell
(Mon-Wed) (Thurs-Fri)

Year 4M - Miss Jessica Mahoney
Year 5M - Miss Claudia Mattas
Year 6M - Ms Nicole Marevic/Ms Franca Tiziani
(Mon-Wed) (Wed - Fri)

Leadership

Principal
Deputy Principal and ICT Leader
Religious Education Leader
Student Diversity Leader
Literacy Leader
Mathematics Leader
Student Wellbeing Leader
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader
Parish Priest

Mr Brendan Gill
Mrs Heidi Chapman-Foehn
Ms Nicole Marevic
Mr Fred Zeinstra
Ms Lyn Sciberras
Mrs Renee Cassar
Mrs Ashleigh Cahill
Mrs Gabrielle Bright
Fr Silvio Bezzina MSSP

Support and Specialist Staff

Visual Arts
Physical Education
Music
Learning Enhancement Teacher Year Prep
Learning Enhancement Teacher Year 1-2
Learning Enhancement Teacher Year 3-6
Digital Technologies and Robotics
Italian
Community Kitchen Program
Evodia Resource Centre Manager
ERC Assistant & Translator

Mrs Joanne Butler
Mr Ian Miller
Mrs Jenny Marshall
Mrs Jenny Marshall / Mrs Kim Nguyen
Mrs Julie Whatman
Mrs Leonie McCarthy
Mrs Kim Nguyen
Mr Matteo Maccio & Mrs Jane Gilmartin
Mrs Jane Gilmartin
Ms Bernadette Fenech
Ms Thi Phan

Learning Support Officers

Mrs Alex Rossi
Ms Deb Shaw
Mrs Rosemary Romeo
Mrs Debra Michaelides

Mrs Amanda Nguyen
Mrs Marita Debattista
Mrs Suzy Asmee

Mrs Cherie Saad
Mrs Rosie Cremona
Mrs Suzanne Scaramozzino

School Administration

Administration Manager
Student Administration
Finance Administration
Canteen Manager
Canteen Assistant
Grounds and Maintenance
School Counsellor
Speech Pathologist

Mrs Kerrie-Ann Macuz
Mrs Sandra Attard Borg
Ms Errica Mastrilli
Ms Marita Debattista
Mrs Rachel Gilmore
Mr Joe Tabone
Ms Sarah Judde
Ms Claire Huynh

IMPORTANT DATES 2025 (as at 10/12/25)

- **Year 6 Graduation** - Thursday 11th December @ 7:00pm
- **Staff v Student Newcomb Match** - Monday 15th December @ 2:30pm
- **End of Year Mass and Assembly** - Tuesday 16th December @ 9:15am
- **2025 School Year finishes** - Tuesday 16th December @ 12:00noon

IMPORTANT DATES 2026 (as at 10/12/25)

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 - Tuesday 15th December

- **Staff return to school** - Tuesday 27th January
- **School Office open** - Tuesday 27th January 12:00pm - 2:00pm
- **School Office open** - Wednesday 28th January 11:30am - 3:00pm
- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - ALL CHILDREN** - Thursday 29th January 8:45am
- **ASSEMBLY** (Mr Gill) - Friday 30th January @ 2:30pm
- **No school for Prep** - Wednesday 4th February
- **No school for Prep** - Wednesday 11th February
- **ASSEMBLY** (6M) - Friday 13th February @ 2:30pm
- **School Closure Day - Meet and Greet - Monday 16th February**
- **No school for Prep** - Wednesday 18th February
- **No school for Prep** - Wednesday 25th February
- **ASSEMBLY** (6R) - Friday 27th February @ 2:30pm
- **Labour Day Holiday - No school - Monday 9th March**
- **ASSEMBLY** (5C) - Friday 13th March @ 2:30pm
- **ASSEMBLY** (5J) - Friday 27th March @ 2:30pm
- **School Photos** - Thursday 19th March

SACRAMENTS (TBC in 2026)

- **First Reconciliation (Year 3)** - Tuesday 10th November
- **Eucharist (Year 4)** - Saturday 13th June - 6:00pm & Sunday 14th June - 11:00am
- **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