

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT in CONFIRMATION



Your Spirit, Lord, is truth and love. May it set us free.
Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, is gentleness. May it bring us peace.
Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, renews all the earth. May it renew the
depths of our hearts.
Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, fills the whole universe. May it open our
hearts to give praise.
Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Holy Spirit, hear our prayer.
Come, live among us, and raise us to new life. Amen.

Holy Spirit, Source of life and love – Pray for us
St Bernadette – Pray for us.

GOD LOVES US – LET US LOVE GOD

A REMINDER THAT SCHOOL FINISHES FOR TERM 3 ON FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER AT 1:00PM

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy couple of weeks at St Bernadette's. Our Year 1/2s had an exciting and engaging visit to Ceres Farm yesterday. Hopefully the warmer weather is here to stay!!

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

This Thursday, the following children will have the Sacrament of Confirmation conferred upon them during a mass starting at 7:00pm in St Bernadette's Church. Bishop Martin Ashe, who visited and spoke to the children last Wednesday, will be presiding, and Fr Silvio will assist. Please pray for the following children and their sponsors and families, as they prepare for this important step in their faith journey.

Martin, Eli, Sophia, Violet, Hannah L, Ariela, Riley, Alex, Maddy,
Winchester, Minh-Vy, Yanai Kezius, Mercedes, Amy, Issac, Genevieve,
Jasmine, Jordan, Elisha, Atlas, Nelly and Charlie

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of these candidates, and enkindle in them
the fire of your Love.*

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.

MACSSIS SURVEY - PARENT/CARER

Last Monday, all 250 families received an email inviting a parent/carer to complete a survey giving feedback to the school. So far only 21 surveys have been completed. That's less than 10%. Your responses are really important to the school, and will help identify areas of strength and areas for growth. Last year we had 83 families complete the survey and I'm hoping we can beat that number this year. So please check your emails, and please complete the survey. Your feedback is important to the school and to your child's education.



BOOKWEEK, PARADE and THE GREAT BOOK SWAP - THAT'S A WRAP

We had a wonderful week of celebrations for Bookweek, with the children enjoying reading and sharing the nominated and successful books. It was great to see so many of the children dressed up for the Parade on the Friday. We had a variety of book characters from minions to Where's Wally, from Boys with Pink Hair to Derek, and from Harry Potter to the Big Bad Wolf!! The children had a lot of fun doing a variety of art activities based on the nominated books. The Great Book Swap was also a great success. Lots of books were swapped for a nominal fee, with the school raising around \$340 for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. This was a wonderful effort.

REGIONAL ATHLETICS

Yesterday, Winchester, Riley, Charlie and Amy represented our school, and the Sunshine Division, in the Regional Athletics Carnival. They all did their best on the day and are to be congratulated for making it to this level. Congratulations to Charlie who finished 2nd in the Shot Put event, and will go on to compete at the next level. Congratulations also to Winchester who finished 3rd in the Long Jump and Amy who finished 3rd in the Long Jump.

STAFF CONFERENCE

On Wednesday 26th August, the staff of St Bernadette's took part in our annual Staff Conference. Brother David Hall facilitated the day, which was a mix of engaging and interesting information, and some time to dialogue and discuss the content. David emphasised the importance of FAITH, HOPE and LOVE in our lives, and without faith, the other two are very difficult. As Catholic Educators, we aim to promote all 3 - HOPE for humanity and the future, LOVE of God, self, neighbour and creation, and FAITH in God and the person of Jesus Christ whose life, death and resurrection makes it all possible.

During our Conference Dinner we celebrated all staff, and especially those who have reached a service milestone in their career. This year, Mrs Pereira, Ms Tiziani, Mrs Errica and Ms Deb all celebrate 10 years of service to Catholic Education. We congratulate them and thank them for their contribution to our school and community.

LITTLE ANGLERS INITIATIVE - FREE CHILDREN'S FISHING KITS

There are still a number of Little Anglers Kits available at the office. I really don't want them cluttering up the office/admin area, so if you know of any one that would like one, please contact the office. <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/go-fishing-victoria/little-angler-kit-project>.

CHILD SAFETY AT ST BERNADETTE'S

Child Safety is everyone's concern at St Bernadette's. All children have a right to feel safe and heard. Please read the attached MACS Care article on ***Child Safe Standard 8 - Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.***

- Children are safest when the adults around them know how to recognise risks, respond to concerns, and act in ways that protect their wellbeing.
- Ongoing training and professional learning help staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities, stay up to date with best practices, and feel confident in keeping children safe.
- When schools have well-trained staff, they can respond quickly to any concerns, prevent harm before it happens, and build trust with children and families.

CARE AND SAFETY CONCERNS - A REMINDER

Recently there have been a couple of incidents at school that have raised concerns around children's safety and care. As a result of these, I wish to state the following:

- **NO GLASS WATER BOTTLES** - children are not to bring glass water bottles of any kind to school. These can be quite dangerous if dropped or broken. Please use only plastic or metal.
- **NO TOYS AT SCHOOL** - although it is a temptation for children to bring favourite toys to school to show and share, these toys become a temptation for other children. **NO TOYS ARE TO BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL.** The school will take no responsibility for lost or damaged toys.
- **ONLY 1 OR 2 KEY TAGS ON BAGS** - it is becoming quite ridiculous and distracting the number of keyrings/tags that children have on their bags. Again, they are a temptation for children, so please limit the number of keytags to 1 or 2.
- **NO SQUISHIES AT SCHOOL** - children are not to bring squishies to school of any kind. These are considered a toy and are not allowed at school. They are a distraction in the classroom, and recently on the news, I heard that some of the 'fake' ones are a health risk. **So NO SQUISHIES AT SCHOOL**
- **NO SHARING OF FOOD** - can you please remind your children not to share food with any other student at school. This is a serious health risk due to the potential health risks of allergies and anaphylaxis

I do not enjoy being the 'fun police', but I certainly don't enjoy or wish to deal with the consequences, disputes, fallout, etc from any of the above matters.

Have a great week,

Brendan Gill
Principal



St. Bernadette's Parish
70th Anniversary Celebration Mass

We will be having a **Special Mass on 27 September 2026 Sunday 10:30am** in the Church to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the parish. Refreshments to follow at the school hall.

For catering purposes please RSVP by putting your name, telephone number and the number of people attending on the blue sheet in the foyer by **Sunday, 13th September**. Please call the Parish office on 9311 2977 for more information. **Please mark this date on your calendar** and ensure you come along.

There will be no 8:30am, 9:45am Polish, 11:00am, and 12:30pm Vietnamese masses for this weekend. All are invited to attend this special mass at 10:30am.

IMPORTANT DATES 2026 (as at 8/9/26)

SCHOOL TERMS 2026

Term 3	Monday 13th July to Friday 18th September
Term 4	Monday 5th October to Tuesday 15th December

- **Confirmation Mass** - Thursday 10th September @ 7:00pm
- **Term 3 ends** - Friday 18th September @ 1:00pm
- **St Bernadette's Parish 70th Celebration Mass** - Sunday 27th September @ 10:30am

SACRAMENTS 2026

- **Confirmation (Year 6)** - Thursday 10th September @ 7:00pm
- **First Reconciliation (Year 3)** - Tuesday 17th November

CAMPS

- **Year 3 Camp** - October 13 - 14

NO SCHOOL - PUBLIC HOLIDAY / SCHOOL CLOSURE

Monday 2nd November - No School - Time in Lieu Acquittal

Tuesday 3rd November - Public Holiday - Melbourne Cup

Wednesday 2nd December - No School - Planning Day for 2027 (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2027 (Please note changes to highlighted dates)

Term 1	Friday 29th January - Wednesday 24th March
Term 2	Monday 12th April – Friday 25th June
Term 3	Tuesday 13th July – Friday 17th September
Term 4	Monday 4th October – Tuesday 14th December

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.