

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.

Melbourne's weather has certainly had us scrambling for fans, air conditioners and umbrellas - all in one day!! I encourage you to speak to your children about removing clothing layers if they get hot. Some children are becoming quite overheated as the day progresses, as they either a) don't know how to take off their jumper, and/or b) have been told not to take off their jumper. A reminder, children should be wearing the **summer uniform** only at the moment.

Our Preps had a wonderful day at the Animal Farm on Monday. It was an amazing experience for all of them, and they talked and wrote about it with great excitement. Thank you to the staff for organising and supervising this excursion and to the parents who attended for their support as well.

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.

Tomorrow we welcome our Prep 2025 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 tomorrow.

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.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our **FAMILY CHRISTMAS AND END OF YEAR MASS** on THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER at 6:30pm. This promises to be a beautiful celebration of our school year and of the Christmas season we are quickly approaching. Our School choir will be leading the singing.

This Friday 29th November, we are holding the second of our **Parent Conversation and Connection Club** gatherings. 8 parents attended the first session, and there were lots of interesting and supportive conversations and connections. Come along at 2:30pm on November 29th and join Ms Eliza Katz and other parents to discuss all things to do with *calming children after a big emotion and de-escalation*. Tea/coffee and chocolate biscuits will be available to share.

STUDENT REPORTS AND OPTIONAL LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

Your child will receive their Semester 2 report on Monday 9th 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 11th December between 2:30pm and 5:00pm.

SCHOOL FEES/LEVIES 2024

Thank you to those families who are up-to-date with or who have paid their fees. Could all families make sure their fees/levies are paid in full by Friday 6th December.

SCHOOL FEES AND LEVIES FOR 2025

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.

School funding is complex, so I have included with this newsletter a simple school funding "explainer" which I hope will support your understanding of how government funds Catholic (and other non-government) schools and how school fees support our school.

In consultation with the School Advisory Council and Business Manager, there will be an increase in both the fees and levies. **For 2025, School Fees have been set at \$1430 and Levies at \$370.** This is an increase of \$150 in total or \$3.75 a week over 40 weeks.

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| - School Family Fee | \$1430 per family |
| - Education Levies | \$370 per student |
| - Camp Prep - Yr 2 | \$10 per student |
| - Camp Yr 3 (Sunnystones) | \$220 per student |
| - Camp Yr 4 (Doxa-Malmsbury) | \$110 per student |
| - Camp Yr 5/6 (CYC - Cowes) | \$300 per student |
| - Sacrament Yr 3 | \$15 per student |
| - Sacrament Yr 4 and 6 | \$20 per student |
| - Interschool Sport Yr 5/6 | \$30 per student |
| - Graduation Yr 6 | \$20 per student |
| - Swimming Prep - Yr 4 | \$100 per student |

Given the increase in fees and levies, we have decided to keep all other costs throughout the year the same for 2025.

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 2025

All families who pay their fees with a payment plan will have received a letter to set up a new payment plan for the 2025 fees and levies. Could you please complete the BLUE or GREEN form and return to the office ASAP. If any families wish to set up Direct Debit or Credit Card payment, please contact the office.

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.

PARISH CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

It's that time of year again when we will start to prepare for the Parish Christmas Nativity. The Christmas Nativity is part of the Christmas Eve Family Mass at St Bernadette's Church on Tuesday 24th December at 6.30pm. We are also hoping to present the Christmas Nativity at the Christmas Carols night on Friday 20th December in the school grounds.



If your child would like to be part of the

Christmas Nativity this year, please call Amanda on 0438 514 304. We will start rehearsals very soon.

PARISH CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

St Bernadette's Parish will be holding Carols by Candlelight in the School grounds on Friday 20th December, starting at 7:30pm till 9:00pm. BYO picnic rugs. Candles and limited snacks for sale.

Please NO chairs, they will be provided.



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.

A reminder that all dates appear on the school website www.stbsunshinenth.catholic.edu.au

Please contact the office if you have any questions regarding the Newsletter.

Should you need to contact any staff member, please phone on 9311 8872 or email the staff member. Emails are simply first initial and surname followed by @stbsunshinenth.catholic.edu.au For example Brendan Gill - bgill@stbsunshinenth.catholic.edu.au. I can also be contacted at principal@stbsunshinenth.catholic.edu.au.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 4:

- **Prep 2025 Orientation Session 2** - Thursday 28th November
- **Advent Liturgy** - Friday 29th November @ 9:15am
- **Year 6 Cluster Transition Day** - Monday 2nd December
- **Planning Day for 2025 - NO SCHOOL - Tuesday 3rd December**
- **School Christmas Mass and Shared Supper** - Thurs 5th December @ 6:30pm
- **Student Reports to Parents/Carers** - Tuesday 10th December
- **Optional Learning Conversations** - Wednesday 11th December 2:30pm - 5:00pm
- **Step Up Day** - Classes for 2025 - Thursday 12th December
- **Year 6 Graduation** - Thursday 12th December @ 7:00pm
- **End of Year Assembly** - Tuesday 17th December @ 10:00am
- **2024 School Year finishes** - Tuesday 17th December @ 12:00 noon
- **Parish Christmas Carols** - Friday 20th December @ 7:30pm

TERM DATES AND IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2025 (as at 27/11/24)

Term 1	Thursday 30th January to Friday 4th April
Term 2	Tuesday 22nd April to Friday 4th July
Term 3	Monday 21st July to Friday 19th September
Term 4	Monday 6th October - Tuesday 16th December

Monday 10th February - No School - Meet and Greet
Monday 10th March - Public Holiday - Labour Day
Monday 21st April - Public Holiday - Easter Monday
Friday 25th April - Public Holiday - ANZAC Day
Monday 9th June - Public Holiday - King's Birthday
Thursday 3rd July - No School - Learning Conversations
Friday 31st October - No School - Time in Lieu
Monday 3rd November - No School - Time in Lieu
Tuesday 4th November - Public Holiday - Melbourne Cup
Tuesday 2nd December - No School - Planning Day for 2026

No school for Prep/Year 1 - February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th

Have a wonderful week,
Brendan Gill
Principal

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.

Don't miss our next... **PARENT CONVERSATION AND CONNECTION CLUB**

Build Relationships and community

Meet and get to know other parents and families in the community, building connections and a sense of belonging at St Bernadette's



Learn about how we are doing things

Extend your understanding and knowledge of school learning through conversations about current topics and curriculum



Share your ideas and perspectives

Contribute and share your own knowledge, experiences and family perspectives about school learning to build our collective understanding



Next session: Fri Nov 29th, 2.30pm

Everyone is welcome to come along to join in a discussion about:

- Helping children to calm down after a 'big' emotion
- De-escalation and self-regulation through 'Escalation mapping'



Email Mrs Eliza Katz for questions and suggestions at ekatz@stbsunshinenth.catholic.edu.au

Coffee, tea and biscuits provided!

Can't wait to see you there!

Christmas Mass and Shared Supper

For all students and families

During this Advent season of preparation for Christmas, all students and families are invited to attend our mass to celebrate the end of the year and the Christmas season. After our mass, there will be a school community supper in Pioneer's hall.

Please bring a plate of food to share with our school community, that includes a list of ingredients.

When: Thursday 5th of December, 2024
Time: Mass begins at 6:30pm.
Where: St. Bernadette's Parish
Followed by supper in Pioneer's Hall.