



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Robert's
Newtown

2nd April 2026

NEWSLETTER

www.srnewtown.catholic.edu.au



At St Robert's, taking Jesus as our model, we **INCLUDE**, we **CONNECT**, we act with **PURPOSE**.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

Monday 20th April
Student Free Day

TERM 2 BEGINS

Tuesday 21st April
Gates open at 8:30am

PRAYERS IN PYJAMAS

Wednesday 29th April
Foundation Students - Details to come

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Week 10, our final week of Term 1!

As we come to the end of a very full and vibrant term, it is wonderful to pause and reflect on all that has been experienced, achieved and celebrated at St Robert's.

This term has been filled with rich learning opportunities, moments of growth, and many occasions where our students have demonstrated courage, perseverance and joy. From the excitement of camps and excursions, to the energy and enthusiasm shown at Whole School Sport Day, our students have embraced each experience with a positive spirit and a willingness to give things a go. It has been particularly pleasing to see the way students support and encourage one another, living out our commitment to being a community where everyone feels included and valued.

This week, Simon from B & G Sheds visited the school to assess our site and plans for the new shed. We have also received quotes for a bike shelter, which will now be a standalone feature in our yard, watch this space for further updates!

We have also seen beautiful moments of faith in action across the term. Through prayer, reflection and preparation for important sacraments, our students continue to grow in their understanding of what it means to live with compassion, kindness and service to others. On Monday, we came together for our Holy Week Liturgy, reflecting on this important time in our faith. We then enjoyed our Project Compassion coin trail fundraiser, raising funds to support communities in need. These moments remind us of the strong foundation we are building together as a Faith-filled community.

A highlight has been the strong sense of connection across our school. Whether it be at our Foundation Parent Welcome evening, on the sporting field, or in the everyday interactions in classrooms and on the yard, there is a genuine feeling of belonging at St Robert's. Our partnership with families continues to be a cornerstone of this, and we thank you for your ongoing support.

I would also like to acknowledge our dedicated staff, who bring energy, care and commitment to their work each day. Their planning, collaboration and focus on meeting the needs of every learner ensure that our students are supported to thrive.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue this journey in Term 2, beginning with valuable professional learning for our staff as we deepen our understanding of supporting all learners at St Robert's.

Thank you to our students, staff and families for a wonderful term. I wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable break, and look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another term of learning and growth.

Warm Regards,

Rebecca O'Leary
PRINCIPAL

UPCOMING DATES

P & F Meeting

Tuesday 5th May at 7:00pm

MacKillop District Cross Country - Select Students

Wednesday 6th May - NEW DATE

Mothers Day Breakfast & Liturgy - Details to come

Thursday 7th May - 8:15am

P & F Mother's Day Stall - Details to come

Friday 8th May

Identity, Culture & Inclusion Day and Pizza Lunch - Details to come

Monday 11th May



Loving provider, you gather me in this upper room with your Son, to be fed by your love. At that supper, Jesus told us to "love one another" and I know that is the heart of his gift, his sacrifice for me. I ask that I might find the source of my own heart, the meaning for my own life, in that Eucharist.

Guide me to the fullness of your love and life.

Amen

REPORT STUDENT ABSENCES BY 9:15AM ON THE DAY OF THE ABSENCE

Please call 5221 1075, press 1 & leave details of absence OR email: attendance@srnewtown.catholic.edu.au
OR submit via Skool Loop App Absences Tab

FAITH IN EDUCATION

Theresa Lewis

As we approach the great feast of Easter, we reflect on what has been a very busy and fulfilling term for the faith life of St Robert's. Along with the deep and important work being done in class RE lessons, students have witnessed and been part of many tangible expressions of faith. Some of these include:



- Shrove Tuesday
- Ash Wednesday mass and liturgy
- Lourdes Feast Day celebrations
- Project Compassion fundraising events (including the Zooper Dooper sale and coin trail)
- Celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation for Year 6
- Year 6 leaders representing the school at the Geelong schools pilgrimage in Queenscliff
- Holy Week whole school liturgy

We are so very proud of the way that our students have been open to learning about and living out the messages of our faith.

This includes the respect and kindness that is so evident within our community, as well as the willingness to reflect when things go wrong.

Wishing you all a very happy and holy Easter.

Lord, thank You for this Easter celebration and for all the gifts you give us. May our words and deeds today, and always, serve as reminders of the transformative power of Your love. Amen.

BASILICA - HOLY WEEK - EASTER SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY - Sunday March 29th THIS WEEKEND

Regular weekend Mass times, with the long Gospels read only at 9.30am & 11.00am Masses.

2nd RITE RECONCILIATION SERVICE -

Tuesday March 31st - 7.30pm.

HOLY THURSDAY - Thursday April 2nd - there will be no 10.00am Weekday Mass. Evening Mass (*incl. Washing of the Feet Ceremony*) - 7.30pm.

GOOD FRIDAY - Friday April 3rd

ECUMENICAL WAY OF THE CROSS PROCESSION - weather permitting - commences at 10.45am from Myers St (*at the old Anam Cara/Presbytery driveway*).

GOOD FRIDAY VENERATION OF THE CROSS - Service starts in the Basilica at 3.00pm (*includes veneration*).

HOLY SATURDAY - Saturday April 4th - (daytime)

There will be no 10.00am Mass, but Reconciliation will be held at 10.30am.

HOLY SATURDAY VIGIL MASS Saturday April 4th

- starts at 7.30pm with the Paschal Candle lighting ceremony just prior to Mass (*outside the front approx. 15 minutes earlier*) Once everyone is safely seated inside the Basilica the traditional Vigil Mass & included ceremonies will begin.

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES - Sunday April 5th

7.30am; 9.30am; 11.00am; Polish Mass at 12.30pm

ART NEWS

Annie Humphries

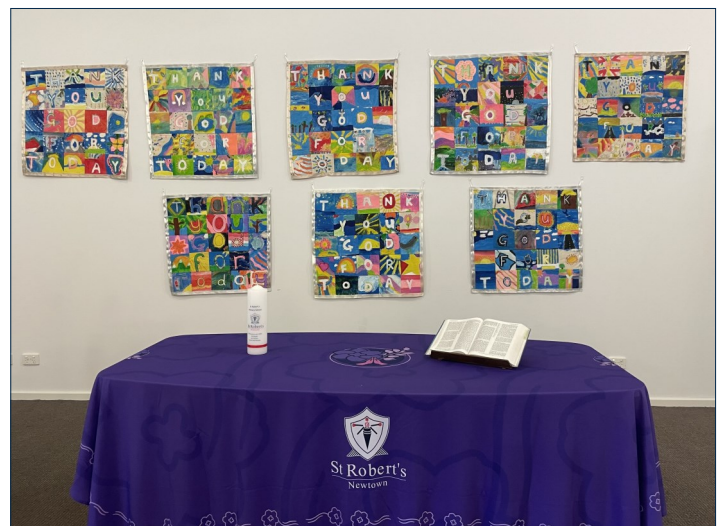
This term in art students participated in creating a small painting that reflects a part of God's creation.

Each piece has been sewn together and the finished cloths are currently on display in our multi-purpose space.

The theme of the cloths is 'Thank you God for today' reminding us all that we are so fortunate for all that we have, the importance of forgiving and seeking forgiveness and that each day is a blessing and offers us a fresh start.

Congratulations to all students for their beautiful artwork.

May you all have a wonderful and special time with loved ones over the Easter break.



SPORTS NEWS

Kelly Williams

North Geelong & Western Metro Swimming Comps

Congratulations to the students that represented St Robert's at the North Geelong Swimming Event.

Caitlin C finished 3rd in 12/13 years 50m backstroke and Isabel B came 2nd in 9/10 years 50m breaststroke.

Isabel B then equalled her personal best at the Western Metropolitan Region swimming. Well done!

Whole School Athletics

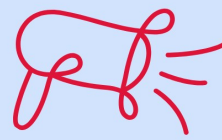
Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Whole School Athletics. The results for Year 3 to 6 results will go up during the first few weeks that will determine who progresses to the MacKillop Athletics Carnival.

MacKillop District Cross Country

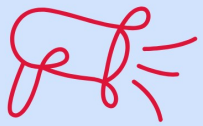
MacKillop District Cross Country was postponed due to the weather and will be held on Wednesday 6th May at Geelong Racecourse. Information to be sent to families at the start of Term 2.

North Geelong Division Year 6 Girls AFL Competition

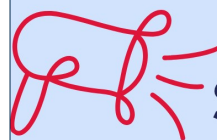
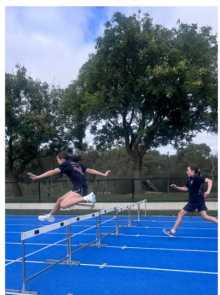
Selected Year 6 students represented St Robert's at the Geelong North Football competition on Monday 30th March. The girls competed really well, winning 2 games for the day. They should all be proud of their effort and commitment on the day.



North Geelong Division Girls AFL Competition



Whole School Athletics Day



Western Metro Swimming Comp (Select Students)



YEAR 6 LEADERS - PILGRIMAGE EXCURSION

On Wednesday the 18th, our School Captains, Vice Captains, Class Captains and Social Justice Leaders were lucky enough to attend the annual 'Geelong Catholic School Leaders Pilgrimage' as part of Catholic Education Week.

The Pilgrimage took place in Queenscliff, hosted by the local Catholic Primary school, Saint Aloysius. We participated in a beautiful mass, then set off on our pilgrimage. On our pilgrimage, a long walk to reflect, we stopped multiple times to talk about the Catholic history and culture of Swan Bay. Some of the places we stopped at were the town hall, outside the Maritime Museum, and Santa Casa. While we were walking, we thought about respecting God's creation. To conclude it all, we listened to Adam Wake, the CEO of Cottage by the Sea. He explained why he chose to work for the charity and answered all our questions about his life and mission to act in service of others. Oh, and we can't forget about the lovely food provided by Rolling Pin!

We had so much fun, and the mass and pilgrimage were lovely experiences.

Thank you so much to Saint Aloysius for hosting, their principal, Miriam Leahy and team, for coordinating everything, Father Linh Pham for leading a wonderful mass, Ms Lewis and Ms Chloe for accompanying us on the day, and Adam Wake for giving his time to speak with us. Adam spoke very well, and we were all moved and inspired by what he does for hundreds of children and families in need each year. He chose to leave his job in finance because he wanted a career with more purpose and to feel like he was making a positive impact on the world. We think that was an amazing choice. Giving others fun adventures, social connection, confidence and life skills through a range of camp offerings at Cottage by the Sea is a very kind thing to do. Adam was funny while also helping us learn how he cares for the underprivileged and how we can be like him. It was loads of fun, and we loved connecting with each other and with other schools.

By Phoebe and Martha



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Week 9

FCH	Bowie	Lachlan
FMC	Charlie	Rosie
Gr 1 LB	Charlie	Emi
Gr 2 RM	Ella	Sam
Gr 2 SC	Aurora	Patrick
Gr 3 MP	John	Karlo
Gr 3 SB	Marlowe	Ashlyn
Gr 4 EG	Willow	Clara
Gr 4 KR	Isla	Sophie
Gr 5 JB	Max, Arlo & Isla	
Gr 5 RR	Pippy, Abe & Mim	
Gr 6 CL	Kayla	Fletcher
Gr 6 PB	Cobie	Sophie

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Week 10

FCH	Grace	Ray
FMC	Odie	Maximus
Gr 1 LB	Emily	Eli
Gr 2 RM	Elise	Ezra
Gr 2 SC	Felix	Adam
Gr 3 MP	All of 3MP!	
Gr 3 SB	Whole 3SB Class!	
Gr 4 EG	All 4EG Students!	
Gr 4 KR	Charlotte	Sadie P
Gr 5 JB	Milla, Owen & Archie	
Gr 5 RR	Leo, Jemima & Gus	
Gr 6 CL	Poppy	Lenny
Gr 6 PB	Anna	Keanu

APRIL 20TH SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

Staff Professional Development



SUPPORTING NEURODIVERGENT STUDENTS

TEAM TEACH TRAINING

Since 2022, MACS has delivered Team Teach training to staff across various schools. Team Teach is an accredited professional development program built on proactive behaviour support, with a strong emphasis on relationship-building, de-escalation, and minimising risk and restraint. Its aim is to equip school staff with:

- A comprehensive set of positive behaviour support and de-escalation strategies
- A toolkit of both non-restrictive and restrictive physical interventions
- Structured post-incident restorative approaches and support



Supporting Neurodivergent Students

This session will explore how we can better understand and support neurodivergent learners, including ADHDers, autistic students and those with demand-avoidant profiles, within everyday classroom practice.

What we will focus on

- How ADHD and autism can present in the classroom
- Understanding behaviour as communication
- Making decisions in the moment
 - When do we hold expectations and when do we adjust or support?
- Adjustment ideas
- Understanding demand and stress, particularly for students with PDA profiles
- Navigating social communication differences between students
- Common practices – do they support learning, regulation and wellbeing?



Emma-Rose Parsons



EDUCATIONAL, UNDERSTANDING & SKILLS FOR LIFE

St Robert's acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land, the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders both past, present and emerging.



Child Safe Standard 3

‘Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.’

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven and legal responsibility to uphold and actively promote the wellbeing and safety of every student entrusted in our care. Our commitment to the protection of students is enabled in nurturing, respectful and safe communities where the uniqueness and sacred dignity of every young person are celebrated, and they can flourish in their learning and development.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they are designed to help keep children and young people safe and what school governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are doing to prioritise and achieve this.

Overview of Child Safe Standard 3:

To be aligned, schools must support the following:

- Children are informed about all their rights, including safety, information and participation
- The importance of friendship is recognized and support from peers is encouraged
- Where relevant to setting or context, young people are offered access to sexual abuse prevention programs in an age-appropriate way
- Staff are attuned to signs of harm and facilitate child friendly ways for children to express their views, participate in decision making and raise their concerns
- Organisations have strategies to develop a culture that facilitates participation and are responsive to input from children and young people.

The Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards are a set of guidelines that help organisations create safe environments for children and young people.

They make sure that children are protected from harm, listened to, and respected. These standards require organisations to have strong leadership, clear policies, and a culture that puts children first.

As a parent or carer, you can expect organisations to involve families, empower children, train staff properly, and respond to concerns quickly and respectfully.

This standard focuses on empowering children and young people by ensuring they are informed, respected, and actively involved in decisions that affect them. This participation helps build a school culture that is safe for them and values their voice.

What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Creating Opportunities for Student Voice:** We create formal structures such as student councils and leadership programs, but we also include fewer formal opportunities so all students, especially the most vulnerable, can have their voice heard.
- **Acting on Student Feedback:** We listen deeply to what students are telling us and we respond to concerns, suggestions and ideas. This includes making sure students are aware when we have acted on their feedback.
- **Building Staff Capacity:** Our staff receive professional learning, so they understand the importance and benefits of listening to and responding to, student voice. This also includes training for staff regarding how to incorporate student voice, agency and empowerment in their daily interactions and decision making.

How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

- **Listen and talk often:** Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings. Let them know it's always ok to speak up.
- **Talk about rights and safety:** Help your child understand that everyone deserves to feel safe and respected.
- **Be a role model:** Show kindness, respect, and inclusion in everyday life, children learn from what they see.
- **Stay connected with the school:** Take part in conversations or surveys about student wellbeing and safety.
- **Support student voice:** Encourage your child to get involved in school activities where their ideas can make a difference.

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we're supporting child safety, please get in touch.

More information on the Child Safe Standards can be found via the [Commission for Children and Young People \(CCYP\) website](#).



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FAMILY HUB

When schools and families speak the same language around mental health, our young people thrive.

Our **Family Hub** is designed to keep you in the loop, inspire everyday **wellbeing practices at home**, and help strengthen the connection between what your child is learning in the classroom and how you support them in life.

[Click here or scan this QR code to learn more about our Family Hub.](#)



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Woolworths



COME

&
PLAY!

Netball Australia's
Official Introductory Program

Woolworths NetSetGO Centre:

Bellarine & District Netball Association Inc

Session Day & Time:

Saturday mornings 9.30am to 10.30am

Location:

YMCA Venue, Newtown term 2, May 2 to June 27, 2026

Contact:

0417 525 885 cathiejennings@bigpond.com.au

Further Information:

Register: Via NETBALL CONNECT opening April 26, 2026

 **Woolworths NetSetGO**

St Robert's Family Calendar Term 2

WK	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	20.4 SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY Student Free Day	21.4 TERM 2 BEGINS All students - Gates open 8:30am	22.4	23.4	24.4 Saturday 25.4 ANZAC DAY 
2	27.4 ASSEMBLY AT 2:55PM Presented by 3SB	28.4	29.4 Prayers in Pajamas Foundation Students 	30.4	1.5
3	4.5	5.5 P & F Meeting 7:00pm	6.5 MacKillop District Cross Country Select Yr 3 to 6 Students NEW DATE	7.5 Mother's Day Breakfast & Liturgy from 8:15am 	8.5 P & F Mother's Day Stall
4	11.5 Identity, Culture & Inclusion Day & Pizza Lunch  ASSEMBLY AT 2:55PM Presented by 2SC	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5 MacKillop District Athletics (Selected Year 3 to 6 Students)
5	18.5	19.5 North Geelong Division Cross Country (Select Students)	20.5	21.5	22.5 MacKillop District AFL & Netball Lightning Premiership (Selected Year 6 Students)
6	25.5 ASSEMBLY AT 2:55PM Presented by ILB	26.5	27.5	28.5	29.5
7	1.6	2.6	3.6	4.6	5.6 ST ROBERT'S FEAST DAY
8	8.6 KING'S BIRTHDAY Public Holiday 	9.6 SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY Student Free Day	10.6	11.6 MacKillop District Year 6 Girls Netball (Select Students)	12.6
9	15.6 MacKillop District Year 6 Boys AFL (Select Students) ASSEMBLY AT 2:55PM Presented by 3MP	16.6 P & F Meeting 7:00pm	17.6	18.6	19.6 P & F Major Fundraiser Details to come!
10	22.6	23.6	24.6	25.6	26.6 LAST DAY OF TERM 2 1:15pm Dismissal

* Please note that events and dates are subject to change and were correct at the time of printing - 01/04/2026