



## Important Dates

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### Sports Day

Friday 28 March 2025

### Pupil Free Day

Monday 31 March 2025

### Year 4 Mass

Wednesday 2 April 2025

### Easter Plays

Wednesday 9 April 2025

### Easter Plays

Thursday 10 April 2025

### Last day of School - 2:05pm finish

Friday 11 April 2025

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## Upcoming Events

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### Sports Day

Date: Friday 28 March

Time: 8:30am - 2:45pm

Venue: Jaensch/Homburg

## From the Principal



Dear Parents, Carers, Teachers, and Students,

We will host our annual Sports Day tomorrow. I look forward to seeing all our parents, guardians, friends, and family at this event.

We kindly ask that everyone supports the day with kindness and sportsmanship. Your encouragement and positive behaviour will create a joyful and inclusive atmosphere for all participants. Let's celebrate our students' efforts and achievements, fostering a sense of community and shared pride.

Thank you to everyone who attended the St Joseph's School AGM, held on Monday, March 24th, 2025, in the Middle Years building. The 2024 School Performance/AGM Report was presented and can be accessed on the St Joseph's School website at <https://www.stjomb.catholic.edu.au>

We bid farewell to four members of our School Board: Darren Hollitt (Chairperson), Leanne Maxwell, Deacon Arturo, and Mrs. Holland.

At this meeting, it was formally announced that Mrs. Deb Holland will retire at the end of Term 1, 2025. Deb, a long-standing staff member, began her journey in our community in 1992 and has worked in various roles, including classroom teacher in various grade levels, Inclusion Co-ordinator, EALD teacher, and over the past 14 years, as the Assistant to the Principal Religious Identity and Mission (APRIM). In this role, she has led Faith and Religious Education, working alongside past Priests, Principals, staff, and students to implement the Religious Education Curriculum Frameworks. Together with the leadership team, she was responsible for the school's religious identity and the active development of Catholic ethos and culture both in the school and parish. Deb has been passionate about keeping the Josephite tradition alive and thriving in our school, demonstrating her love and care for those in need and her generosity to all our families over the years. We sincerely thank Deb for her passion, patience, and energy at St Joseph's School for the past 32 years. Let's wish Deb a happy and restful retirement.

We sincerely appreciate all our past School Board members for their dedication, leadership, and invaluable contributions to our school community. Their commitment to supporting the vision and growth of our school has had a lasting impact, and we are truly grateful for their service. With these transitions, we are excited to welcome three new members and a new Parish Priest to the 2025 School Board. This presents a wonderful opportunity for fresh perspectives and continued collaboration.

If you are interested, there are still positions available. Serving on the Board is an important opportunity to contribute to our school's success. The School Board plays a critical role in shaping school policy and making strategic decisions that affect our students, staff, and overall school environment. Board membership requires only seven meetings annually, ensuring a balanced time commitment alongside your other priorities.

Please contact our current School Board members below to ask about their role or if you have any questions. I encourage all interested community members to nominate themselves for the School Board by contacting Leesa Angove in the administration office.

**President:** Fr George Oluoch (to begin in April/May 2025)

**Principal:** Mrs Ros Oates

**Chairperson:** remains vacant until the next general meeting

**Pastoral Parish Council Representative:** remains vacant until the next general meeting

**School Staff Representative:** Mrs Nicki Clifford

**School Board Members:** Existing School Board members, Mr Jamie Mulcahy, Mr Josh Strauss and Mr Sean Ching. New Board Members Kate Tucker, Melanie Reiffel and Monica Askins.

For more information about the role of the School Board, please visit the Catholic Education South Australia website: <https://www.schoolboards.cesa.catholic.edu.au>



Our first Pupil-Free Day is scheduled for this **Monday, 31 March**. This day will be dedicated to Teacher Professional Development, specifically focusing on collaboration with Catholic Education staff from the Religious Education Team to plan curriculum units using the 'Crossways' Curriculum Framework.

We understand that arranging childcare can be challenging. To assist our community, Camp Australia will offer booking slots from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on that day.

Should you encounter any difficulties, please email me at [ros.oates@stjomb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ros.oates@stjomb.catholic.edu.au). We are committed to finding a solution that meets your family's needs.

## Reminder: Term 1 ends early on Friday, 11 April at 2.05 pm

The remaining Pupil-Free Days for 2025 are as follows:

- **Term 2:** Nil
  
- **Term 3:** Monday, 21 July  
Friday, 8 August
  
- **Term 4:** Thursday, 11 December and Friday, 12 December.

### 2025 NAPLAN Testing

Congratulations to all our Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students who recently completed their NAPLAN tests. Thanks also to their teachers and Meghan Rowland, who did an incredible job organising and supporting the teachers and students over this period.

## REMINDER MID-TERM ENROLMENTS

In 2025, St. Joseph's School will continue to offer mid-year enrolments. If your child turns **five between 1 May 2025 and 31 October 2025**, they can start school at St. Joseph's in **Term 3, 2025, and the school fees are free**. Children starting in Reception mid-year will have a minimum of 6 terms in Reception. **Please let friends and family know that enrolments are open for mid-Year 2025 starting Term 3**. An information session for the parents/carers will be held early Term 2.

## 2026 ENROLMENTS

Enrolments are also open for the beginning of 2026. Children who turn **five from 1 November 2025 until 30 April 2026 can begin school in Term 1 of 2026**. Please contact the school administration to register your interest and book a Principal's tour. Our **JOEY's**

**transition** program is available from Term 3, 2025 for all children beginning school at the start of 2026. This is also a free program for those students. Information about JOEY's will become available at the end of this term, however, registration of interest in this program is now open by contacting Luke Woods in our administration office.

Thank you

**Mrs Ros Oates**  
**Principal**

## Lenten Prayer

*God of our journey*

*we are all pilgrims of hope*

*brought together by your love*

*and your wish that we may all be one.*

*We pray that in this Year of Jubilee*

*when we are called to greater justice*

*and care for our common home*

*that we may Unite Against Poverty.*

*May we work in unity for the freedom of the oppressed*

*and the renewal of creation.*

*May our compassionate minds and generous hearts*

*help bring about a world where all can live in peace.*

*May our Lenten pilgrimage of fasting, almsgiving and prayer*

*bring us closer to your loving heart.*

*We ask this in the name of Jesus.*

Amen



## Holy Week Ceremonies in Murray Bridge

**Holy Thursday, The Lord's Supper - 6pm**

**Good Friday, Stations of the Cross - 10am**

**Good Friday, Passion of the Lord - 3pm**

**Saturday, Easter Vigil - 7pm**

**Sunday, Easter - 11am**

## School Uniforms

Over 90% of our students adhere to the correct school uniform guidelines. We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining these standards. Please note that some students have been granted the Principal's permission for uniform adjustments due to sensory issues; however, Navy remains the primary colour requirement.

Parents and Guardians will be notified of any uniform breaches in the coming weeks as we transition to warmer items within our uniform range. If you encounter any issues with uniform ordering, purchasing, or product quality, please contact us via the school email address: [info@stjomb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stjomb.catholic.edu.au).

Distributing our uniform through Vinnies is the most cost-effective and convenient option. Vinnies supports our school as a non-profit

organisation, ensuring that uniform prices remain reasonable and below cost for the quality provided. Further information can be found below.

### Ordering Uniforms

We have been working with Vinnies to help improve the process for our families to either book a uniform fitting or place an order for the new uniform. This can now be done via scanning the QR code using a mobile device such as your mobile phone.

### Book a Fitting

A reminder from Vinnies - 'Please book any future appointments online or call the store direct. We can book a fitting for the same day if needed. This avoids double bookings and parents won't be disappointed if asked to wait or come back at a later time.'

Please scan the QR code and make a booking for a suitable time or visit <https://vinniesuniformshop.simplybook.me/v2#/book>

Opening hours at Vinnies in Murray Bridge are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 – 5:00 pm. Please call the store manager Rochelle on (08) 8532 6699 if you have any questions.



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## Children's University



On Monday of Week 9, Mrs Nicki Clifford and Mrs Lisa Watkins met with students in Years 2 to 6 and interested Middle Years students to share information about Children's University (CU). CU is an innovative program that engages children and young people in exciting, out-of-school learning opportunities to increase their chances for educational achievement and rewards them for taking responsibility for their own learning.

Students record hours for the out of school learning they participate in and if enough hours are recorded, they have the opportunity to graduate at Bonython Hall in Adelaide. Interested students took a note home with a QR code. This QR code is where families need to go to register their child. The QR code will automatically be closed by CU staff at the end of business on Thursday 27th March, therefore please ensure any registrations are completed before this time.

## Religious Education - LENT - a time to ponder our existence and that of others



We are now in the third week of Lent, a time of personal preparation for Easter.

Looking for something worthwhile to do for yourself during the coming season of Lent? How about having a look at how you participate as a member of our single human family that is equally marvellous, fascinating and perhaps threatening in its diversity. Lent is often a time given over to 'holy' words of repentance and promises of self-reform but: "However many words you speak, what good will they do if you do not act on them?" (Buddha)

The challenges of our times are not only political and social, but they are also spiritual: "The modern world is 'desacralised', that is why it is in crisis. The modern person must rediscover a deeper source of personal spiritual life." (Carl Jung) It is difficult to grow spiritually, morally or ethically, if we fail to give due recognition that all people are equally valuable and important. We can't grow spiritually, morally or ethically if we belittle people different to us in their appearance, manner and customs to make us feel more important as human beings. We will begin to grow spiritually, morally or ethically, when we are ready to sincerely embrace the truth and fascination of our differences and welcome the common yearnings we have about life.

"Whatever our culture, religion or language, we want food, shelter and good health. We want to be able to get up in the morning, enthusiastically, and sleep safely at night. We want health, safety and happiness for our loved ones. We want to know that our lives are purposeful and sometimes gracious. We want to feel part of something greater than ourselves. We want and need inspiration and meaning." (Extract: Seeking the scared)

Our spirituality is as personal as our breath or our fingerprint, but, as we move through the forty days of Lent, we might on occasion, surrender freely to the quiet within us, to rediscover the resources and strengths that are there. We might begin to see better and appreciate more, the value of our existence, to see ourselves with more gratitude and respect and to see others in a like manner.

Lent concludes on Palm Sunday, April 6th a day we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem which begins Holy Week. Holy Week reminds us of the great love Jesus has for us as he journeyed to his death on the Cross which ultimately resulted in his resurrection to become our great Saviour giving us hope for eternal life.

**On Wednesday, April 9th and Thursday, April 10th at 9:15 please join us for the Easter Plays with Mrs Liebich and our Year 5 students. The Easter Plays tell us about the Passion and death of Jesus at the first Easter that we remember during Holy Week.**



# St Joseph's Day

See below images of St Joseph's Day celebrated last Wednesday at our School:

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## From the Classroom - Year 3

This term, Year 3 students have been busy across all learning areas!

In Maths, we have completed two units. In our Place Value unit, students explored numbers beyond 1,000, including four- and five-digit numbers. We also worked on Calculation Strategies, where students learned different ways to solve addition and subtraction problems, such as counting on, bridging through 10, and using number bonds. Additionally, we have been developing our multiplication skills by exploring the 0, 1, 2, 5, and 10 times tables and their rules.

In English, students have written a book review and planned a narrative, which they will develop into a full story in the coming weeks. We have also focused on improving handwriting and grammar skills to support their writing.

In Technologies, we completed a Sustainability unit, where students explored ways to reuse materials and applied their learning to design and construct solar ovens using recycled materials.

In Science, we have been investigating Earth and Space Science, with a particular focus on rocks and soil. Students have explored different types of rocks, how they are formed, and why soil is important for our environment.

It has been a fantastic term of learning so far!

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## SPORTS DAY INFORMATION

### SPORTS DAY REMINDERS AND PROGRAM

When?

This Friday the 28th of March

Where?

Do not drop your children off at school, please drop off your children at the corner of Beatty Tce and Cooke Street on the Murray Bridge United Soccer field. Sports Day will start and finish there.

Before arriving:

1. Hair colouring can be worn (applied before arriving to sports day)
2. Students can wear coloured zinc (applied before arriving to sports day)
3. Students can wear team colour ribbons in their hair
4. Plain white socks, school sport shorts, team coloured T-shirt or polo (shoulders covered) and school hat.
5. Bring your own sunscreen if you are allergic to school supplied sunscreen.
6. Pack your recess and lunch.
7. Water bottle – extra water will be located in the first aid area for refills
8. Relabel hats and jumpers
9. Bring any required medications (eg. Asthma Puffers)

Program:

A program has been sent home today and a copy has been put up on SeeSaw.

Sports Day Morning:

Between 8:30am and 8:50am, Reception to Year 3 students need to meet their teacher in front of their Year Level marquees on the Soccer Field. The class roll will be called there before walking down to the Cricket Oval to begin Sports Day. The Year 4 to 9 students need to meet their teacher between these times at the Year Level signs on the Cricket Oval.

At 8:55am, all students will gather in front of the team flags on the Cricket Oval to begin proceedings.





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## From the Library - The Premier's Reading Challenge

Our school will be participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge again this year. For any parents or caregivers who have not heard of it or not had their child/ren participate in it before – here is some information for you:

Every year the Premier of South Australia challenges students from Reception to Year 12 to read 12 books by September. This year the challenge finishes on the 5th September.

The Premier's Reading Challenge continues to be an important initiative that supports the State Government's commitment to Literacy Guarantee for young South Australians and encourages them to enjoy reading.

The Reading Challenge requires students to read in total 12 books (For Rec – Year 6 usually 8 chosen or labelled books plus 4 own choice books and for Years 7-9 usually 4 chosen or labelled books plus 8 own choice books).

The students (or teachers for the younger grades) will record the name of the book and the author and this is signed by either a parent, teacher or library staff.

When classes visit the library each week, a Premier's Reading Challenge book is usually read and recorded on a form kept in the library.

Last year all 12 books for Reception to Year 4 were read just in library sessions. Teachers in Year 5 & 6 included class novels and the students also included books of their own choosing as well.

This year we would like to encourage more participation from Middle Years students to complete the challenge – so at school we are looking at ways to engage them to participate and we encourage families to do the same.

Last year our school had over 400 students complete the challenge, so we are looking to at least match that number again this year.

When students complete the challenge for the first time they receive a certificate, and from then on it is a progressive medal each year which will be presented to students sometime in November.

If parents/students would like a blank form to fill in, please direct them to ask their teacher or library staff. Also if you have any questions about the challenge, please don't hesitate to ask.



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## NATIONAL FAMILY READING MONTH

**NATIONAL FAMILY READING MONTH** is an initiative that represents the heart of our business— literacy being the key to learning and achievement. We believe that all children, with the help of their families and reading role models, can benefit from a lifelong love of reading.



This year marks the 29th Scholastic's National Family Reading Month (NFRM), which encourages families to read together on a regular basis to create strong reading habits. Most of us know how important reading together is and its long-term value to our children's success in school and in life. However, we also know it is not always that easy to put into practice with our busy schedules and increasing competition with screen time.

That is why we ask you to take the 31-Day Challenge— to inspire you to make reading together for at least 10 minutes every day a focus, to create positive, long-lasting reading habits and lifelong readers!

NFRM will launch on, THURSDAY 1ST OF MAY 2025, AT 11AM AEST AND 1PM NZST where it will be livestreamed all across Australia and New Zealand via Facebook and YouTube. Mr Luke will read his book *Guess What We Are Doing Today?* together with illustrator Chris Kennett and kick off the 31-Day Challenge, as we **READ EVERY DAY! READ MORE IN MAY!**

You are invited to go to our website to download more assets and join the 31-Day Reading Challenge with us. Visit [scholastic.com.au/nfrm](https://www.scholastic.com.au/nfrm) for downloads, reading tips and exclusive content from Mr Luke.

Let's encourage the 31-Day Reading Challenge and celebrate National Family Reading Month together!



### Guess What We Are Doing Today?

The children in Mr Luke's class are brimming with ideas about what they might be doing today. Will they battle a dragon? Fly into space? Sail the seas or ride unicorns? Could there be a way for them to do all the things they imagine? Written by internationally renowned teacher sensation, Mr Luke.

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## Phantastic Physics Show



# PHANTASTIC PHYSICS SHOW

**Monday, 14th  
April, 11:00am**

The Phantastic Physics Show is a journey of discovering what makes things move. We explore energy and forces with Phantastic science demonstrations that you don't get to see everyday! High powered lasers, cannons that suck in the air around us and we finish with a BANG! This is a show for any age, small kids to big kids.

Great for school aged kids!

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17 BRIDGE ST, MURRAY BRIDGE

Girls Football

# RIVER MURRAY GIRLS FOOTBALL FRIDAY NIGHTS



PLAY

21st March - 9th May

## U13 & U16 GIRLS COMP

U13 - 2012-2014

U16 - 2009-2011

Register as an individual to your local football club and join us on Friday nights for fun filled games.

Teams will change so you get the opportunity to challenge yourself and play against team mates!

This program is for anyone interested in playing football, new or experienced!

To register please contact your local football club for a voucher code.



For more information, contact  
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PLAY



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