



NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

As we continue our journey through the Catholic Church's season of Lent, we are reminded that God calls us to care for and support those less fortunate in our community. One meaningful way we are living this out at school is through our support of **Project Compassion**.



Thanks to your incredible generosity, we have already raised over \$900. Our next fundraiser will be a **Casual Clothes Day on Friday 13th March**. We sincerely thank you for your continued support as we work together to make a difference in the lives of others.

PARENTS & FRIENDS – EASTER RAFFLE



Our Parents and Friends Association is excited to launch our School Easter Raffle to help bring an exciting new project to life! Funds raised from the raffle will go towards the installation of several new synthetic courts at our school: two basketball courts, a netball court, a soccer court and three pickle ball courts. These modern, all-weather facilities will provide safe, high-quality spaces for sport, play and physical activity every day. Your support will directly benefit every child in our community. We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our families and thank you for supporting this wonderful initiative. You are invited to purchase raffle tickets online here: <https://rafflelink.com.au/stmcpseaster26> for the 25 prizes that are awaiting winners! The Easter Raffle will be drawn **Tuesday 31st March**.



HARMONY WEEK

Next week we celebrate Harmony Week at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School. Harmony Week is a time to celebrate the rich multiculturalism of our community and celebrate the message that “Everyone Belongs.” It promotes inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for all Australians.

As part of our celebration, students are encouraged to wear a “touch of orange” (the official Harmony Week colour) with their uniform on **Friday 20th March**. We look forward to celebrating the diversity that makes our school such a vibrant and welcoming community.



HARMONY WEEK

NAPLAN 2026

Today, on the first day of NAPLAN testing, there was a major Australia-wide NAPLAN website outage that caused significant disruption, leaving our Year 5 students unable to complete the Writing assessment. The Year 3 students were able to complete their Writing assessment as their assessment was completed on paper rather than online. Our Year 5 students will complete the Writing assessment once we are notified that the NAPLAN website is functioning again.

Our school's revised assessment schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday 11th March – Writing (Year 3)
- Thursday 12th March – Writing (Year 5) & Reading (Years 3 & 5)
- Friday 13th March – Catch-Up for Writing & Reading (Years 3 & 5)
- Monday 16th March – Conventions of Language (Years 3 & 5) & Numeracy (Years 3 & 5)
- Tuesday 17th March – Catch-Up for Conventions of Language (Years 3 & 5) & Numeracy (Years 3 & 5)

Assessments, except for the Year 3 Writing assessment, will be completed online using student Chromebooks. **All students require a set of headphones.** We encourage students to approach NAPLAN as an opportunity to show what they know. Please reassure your child that these assessments should not cause stress or concern.



PARENTS & FRIENDS HOT DOG FUNDRAISER

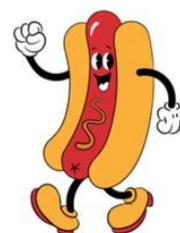
On **Monday 23rd March**, students will have the opportunity to order a hot dog for lunch as a fundraiser for the Parents and Friends Association.

Cost: \$5.50 per hot dog

\$1.50 from each hot dog sold will go directly to the P&F

Orders can be placed through QuickCliQ (our usual school canteen ordering system)

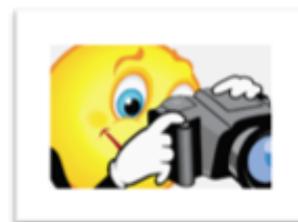
Thank you in advance for your support!



SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our annual school photos will take place on **Wednesday 25th March**.

Students are required to wear their full summer academic uniform (no sports uniforms). Photo orders can be placed through the MSP website link that was sent to families last week.



FOUNDATION (PREP) 2027 ENROLMENTS

All Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools have commenced the 2027 Foundation (Prep) enrolment process. Please refer to the attached information for full details.

Kindly note that current families must also complete the enrolment process, even if they already have children attending the school.

School TV: [HARMONY WEEK](#) (link)

'Harmony Week is a celebration held annually in March across Australia. It's aimed at promoting diversity, respect and inclusiveness. This event is an excellent opportunity for parents to teach their children about different cultures, traditions and customs. The goal is to encourage everyone to appreciate and celebrate differences and promote a sense of community and belonging for everyone. During Harmony Week, there are several events and activities held to bring people from different cultures together. These activities include multicultural food festivals, cultural performances, art exhibitions and workshops. Participating in these events helps children to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the diverse communities that make up Australia. As a parent, you can engage your children in discussions about multiculturalism and encourage them to ask questions. Promoting a more harmonious and inclusive society, can help children grow up with a greater appreciation for the richness and diversity of Australia's cultural landscape.'



SPECIAL REPORT

Celebrating
Harmony Week



School Closure days in 2026 (Student free)

Date	Purpose
Friday 5 th June	Mental Health - staff Professional Development
Friday 31 st July	Religious Education - staff Professional Development
Tuesday 1 st September	FLARE Literacy - staff Professional Development
Monday 2 nd November	Curriculum - planning and reporting

Thank you for your continued support of our school. We are blessed to work in partnership with such a generous and engaged community.

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Mr Simon Duffy,
Principal

Term 1 Calendar, 2026

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 March	9 Public Holiday -Labour Day	10	11 NAPLAN testing	12 NAPLAN testing Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Allan	13 NAPLAN testing. K's for Caritas as a fundraiser - gold coin donation
8 March	16 NAPLAN testing	17 NAPLAN testing	18 Foundation 2027 Parent Information session 9.15am- 10.15am	19 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 1/2 Edmends Foundation 2027 Parent Information session 9.15am- 10.15am	20
9 March	23	24 Foundation 2027 Parent Information session 9.15am- 10.15am	25 School Photos Sacrament of Reconciliation 5.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral	26 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 3/4 Hawkes/DeBono	27
10	30	31 Easter Raffle: drawn @ 2.50pm	1 Stations of the Cross: Whole School Prayer @ 2:30pm led by 5/6 Baker	2 Last day of Term 1 1.45pm finish	3 Good Friday -Public holiday

Term 2 Calendar, 2026

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 April	20	21	22	23 <i>Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 5/6 Smith</i>	24
2 April/May	27	28	29 <i>Sacramental program Eucharist - Parent info session 9 am at St Thomas More</i>	30 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 3/4 Gittings/Willey</i>	1 Year 5/6 Interschool Football
3 May	4	5	6	7 <i>Mother's Day Stall Mother's Day Liturgy Prayer @ 2:55pm led by our 1/2 Classes</i>	8 <i>Mother's Day Breakfast 7 – 8.30am</i>
4 May	11 Interschool Cross country	12 <i>Year 5 Secondary Education Experience Day (SEED) 9:00-1:30pm St Pat's & Loreto College</i>	13	14 <i>Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by Foundation Cudia</i>	15 <i>School Athletics Day Years 3-6 at Llanberris</i>
5 May	18	19	20	21 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 5/6 Larkin</i>	22 <i>Junior F-2 Athletics Carnival at St Thomas More School</i>
6 May	25 <i>Catholic Education Week</i>	26	27	28 Special Person Day <i>Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 3/4 Martin</i>	29 Year 5/6 interschool Soccer <i>Year 3/4 Mass 9.15am</i>
7 May/June	1	2	3	4 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Turkenburg/Bourke</i>	5 <i>School closure day Staff PD - Mental Health training day</i>
8 June	8 <i>King's Birthday- Public Holiday</i>	9	10	11 <i>Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by Foundation Gannon</i>	12 Yr 5/6 Interschool Netball
9 June	15	16	17	18 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by Foundation Edwards School production @6pm at Ballarat Civic Hall</i>	19 Yr 5/6 Interschool sport STM versing Emmaus
10 June	22 <i>St Thomas More Feast Day Mass 9.15am</i>	23	24	25 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Hammill</i>	26

Enrolment Information for Prospective 2027 Foundation (Prep) Students

DIOCESE
OF
BALLARAT
CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
LIMITED



CATHOLIC EDUCATION BALLARAT

at Catholic Primary Schools in the City of Ballarat

A single enrolment application process is in place for all families seeking Foundation (Prep) enrolment for the 2027 school year at a Catholic primary school within the City of Ballarat (see school list contained in this document). This process includes families with children already enrolled in one of the eleven schools.

Note that information collected through the enrolment process is collated on a common database shared by the eleven schools.

Families seeking enrolment should follow the steps below to express their interest in enrolment by **Thursday 14 May 2026**.

Expression of Interest Process

1. Contact/visit the website of the school/s you are interested in enrolling your child at – see school list.
2. Engage with the school's process for conducting information sessions or school tours
3. Complete the online Expression of Interest form by 4.00pm on Thursday 14 May 2026 by visiting the [DOBCEL website](#) (click link). Note that this link will not be live until Monday 9 February 2026 at 9.00am.

Important:

- You will be asked to indicate your first, second and third preference schools.
- You will be required to upload your child's Birth Certificate and Baptism Certificate (if applicable).
- If you are unable to access the online form, contact Danielle at enrollments@dobcel.catholic.edu.au for assistance. Your query will be attended to as soon as possible.

Key 2026 Dates

Foundation (Prep) enrolment applications open	Monday 9 February at 9.00am
Expression of interest period closes	Thursday 14 May at 4.00pm
School principals meet to determine allocation of placements	Wednesday 3 June
Invitations to apply sent	Friday 12 June at 12.00pm
List of schools with vacancies published	Friday 12 June at 12.00pm
Placement acceptance closes	Friday 19 June at 4.00pm

Important:

- Completing this expression of interest process does not guarantee an offer of enrolment in a City of Ballarat Catholic primary school.
- You may be required to attend an interview at your school of preference prior to receiving an invitation to apply for enrolment.
- Once completed application forms are received, along with signed Parent Code of Conduct and Enrolment Agreement, a letter of offer will be sent to successful applicants.
- Each Catholic Primary School will make offers of enrolment in line with the [Diocese of Ballarat Enrolment Policy](#) which takes into consideration a variety of factors.

Catholic Primary Schools

St Thomas More Primary School

Location: 100 Cuthberts Road, Alfredton
Website: www.stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5334 2244

St Patrick's Parish Primary School

Location: 119 Drummond St South, Ballarat
Website: www.spballarat.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5332 7680

St Alipius Parish Primary School

Location: 106-108 Victoria St, Ballarat East
Website: www.saballarat.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5331 1816

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Location: 100 Fortune Street, Ballarat East
Website: www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5331 6311

St Columba's Primary School

Location: 306 Howard Street, Ballarat North
Website: www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5332 4894

Lumen Christi Primary School

Location: 111 Whitelaw Avenue, Delacombe
Website: www.lcdelacombe.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5336 2015

Siena Catholic Primary School

Location: 150 Eleanor Drive, Lucas
Website: www.slucas.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5334 3906

Emmaus Catholic Primary School

Location: 1503 Geelong Road, Mt Clear
Website: www.emtclear.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5330 2266

St Aloysius Primary School

Location: 800 Ripon Street South, Redan
Website: www.saredan.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5335 8177

St James' Primary School

Location: 260 Albert Street, Sebastopol
Website: www.sjsebastopol.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5335 8750

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Location: 480A Gillies Street, Wendouree
Website: www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5339 4726

Please apply to these schools directly - expressions of interest process does not apply

St Mary's Primary School

Location: 131 Powells Road, Clarkes Hill
Website: www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5334 5280

St Brigid's Primary School

Location: 98 Inglis Street, Ballan
Website: www.sballan.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5368 1015

St Patrick's Primary School

Location: 1564 Old Melbourne Road, Gordon
Website: www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5368 9495

St Augustine's Primary School

Location: 125 Napier Street, Creswick
Website: www.sacreswick.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5345 2106

St Michael's Primary School

Location: 29 Smith Street, Daylesford
Website: www.smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5348 1261