St Thomas More Catholic Primary School
With God First, We will Live, Learn & Thrive

NEWSLETTER

DATE: 4/11/2026
TERM: 4
WEEK: 5

Dear Families,

The Year 3/4 students thoroughly enjoyed their camp to Cave Hill Creek, last week. I would like to thank the staff for all their efforts in making this camp possible and for providing such wonderful experiences for the students.










MISSION MARKET DAY

Our Mission Day was a great success with over $2180 raised. The funds raised will go to *Catholic Missions,* who work with children in over 160 countries worldwide to improve their living conditions. Thank you for the generous donations from families and extra special thanks to all the students who planned, organised and ran the activities that raised money to support such a worthy organisation. This truly is an example of our faith in action.





CHANGE TO YEAR 3/4 CAMP MOVING FORWARD

Commencing next year, we will be moving to a new format for the Year 3/4 camp. In 2027 our Year 3/4 students will experience a long day camp. This will involve the students participating in a full day of camp activities and then returning to school in the evening prior to heading home. In 2027 the Year 3/4 students will head to Log Cabin Camp in Creswick. The change in format is due partly to the increasing costs associated with overnight camps which places financial pressure on some families. Moving to a full day of camp activities, with students returning home in the evening, will reduce costs while ensuring all students can participate in a variety of meaningful, engaging and challenging camp experiences. We have also found that a considerable number of students experience anxiety or difficulty sleeping when away from home overnight; this subsequently impacts on their ability to fully engage in camp activities. A day-based camp experience allows students to build confidence, independence and resilience while returning to the comfort and security of their own home. In 2027 the Year 5/6 students will continue the current format which is a two day and one night camp.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Next Wednesday, **11th November**, families are invited to join us at **10.45am** for a special whole school prayer to commemorate *Remembrance Day*. The students in Year 5/6 Larkin will lead us in prayer and reflection. This year marks the 108th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War in 1918. We are supporting the RSL by selling poppies, ranging from $2 - $20, at the front office. Donations are also welcome.



A PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE

Ever-loving God,
We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence;
May the same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony in our world.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT SCHOOL

Our Parents & Friends group are in the process of organising our school's Christmas Carols for **Thursday 3rd December**, starting at **5pm.** This will take place on the school oval and all students will be involved in performing various Christmas carols. This is a free event where families are invited to bring along their dinner and a rug or chairs to sit on. More details to come.



FAREWELL TO FR ED MOLONEY AND WELCOME TO FR MICHAEL MCKINNON

Last weekend, we farewelled Fr Ed Moloney as he took up his new appointment as Parish Priest of Heartland Parish. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Fr Ed for his five years of dedicated service to the Cathedral Parish and our school. Throughout this time, Fr Ed has served with humility, humour and gentleness, touching the lives of many through his faith, pastoral care and commitment to the school community. We wish Fr Ed every blessing as he begins this new chapter and settles into his new parish community. He will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

At the same time, we warmly welcome Fr Michael McKinnon, who has been appointed by Bishop Mark Freeman as Administrator of the Ballarat Cathedral Parish. Fr Michael will commence his new responsibilities on the weekend of 14–15 November. Over the past six years, Fr Michael has been serving as a missionary, assisting the Columban Fathers in the Peruvian Andes. We look forward to welcoming Fr Michael to Ballarat and supporting him as he begins his ministry within the Cathedral Parish.

As a school community, we give thanks for the contribution of our priests to the life of our parish and school. We pray that God will continue to guide and bless Fr Ed, Fr Michael and all our priests in their ministry and service to the people of God.

CONGRATULATIONS



A beautiful bundle of boy joy has arrived! We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Libby Jerram and husband Chris welcomed their gorgeous baby boy, **Fraser Mac Jerram**, into the world on Wednesday 21st October, weighing a healthy 3.93 kg. Fraser is the much-loved little brother of two-year-old Freddie, who has now been promoted to the very important role of big brother! Libby, our talented Performing Arts teacher, began her maternity leave at the end of Term 3, and we couldn't be happier for her and her growing family. We send Libby, Chris, Freddie and baby Fraser our warmest congratulations and best wishes as they enjoy this precious new chapter together.

VICTORIAN STATE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS





On Thursday 29 October, five of our students represented St Thomas More at the State Athletics Track and Field Championships in Melbourne. Harry, Jack, Myles and Jimmy competed in the 4 x 100m relay, finishing 10th overall. Vance competed in the shot put, where he performed incredibly well against some very talented competitors and finished in 15th place. Myles claimed 9th place in the hurdles. We are extremely proud of all five boys for their efforts, determination and the way they represented our school. Congratulations!

THANKSGIVING MASS AND YEAR 6 GRADUATION

Our Thanksgiving Mass will be held on **Friday 11th December** at **9.15am** at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, to which all families are most welcome to attend. At this mass we will acknowledge our Year 6 graduating students and departing staff while sharing a final celebration as a school community for 2026. The Year 6 parents have organised a special Year 6 Graduation Dinner to be held at the Ballarat Golf Club on **Wednesday 16th December**.

ENROLMENTS 2027

I would ask families who are aware that they will not be returning to St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School next year, to promptly inform the school as we continue to receive frequent enquiries from families seeking enrolment positions for 2027.

FINAL DAY FOR STUDENTS 2026

This year the final school day for students will be **Thursday 17th December.** We have planned a picnic at the Victoria Park playground for the students, staff and families. More details will be sent out in the next newsletter.

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Simon Duffy

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

Term 4 Calendar, 2026

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 Nov	2 *School closure day - Assessment and reporting*	3 *Melbourne Cup Day Holiday*	4	5 *Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by Foundation Cudia*	6 *Yr 5/6 Interschool Cricket*
6 Nov	9 *SAC Meeting 5pm*	10	11 *Foundation 2027 Transition Session #1 9.15 – 11am* *Remembrance Day* *Whole School Prayer @ 10:45am led by 5/6 Larkin*	12	13 Year 3/4 Mass 9.15am
7 Nov	16	17	18 *Foundation 2027 Transition Session #2 9.15 – 11am*	19 *Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 3/4 Martin*	20
8 Nov	23	24	25 *Foundation 2027 Transition Session #3 9.15 – 1pm*	26 *Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 1/2 Turkenburg/Bourke*	27
9 Nov/ Dec	30	1 *Catholic Secondary Schools Transition Day - Yr 6 to Yr 7 Going up day*	2 *Yr. 6 Adventure Park*	3 *Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 3/4 Hawkes/De Bono* *Christmas Carols 5pm – 7pm*	4
10 Dec	7	8	9	10 *Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 1/2 Allan*	11 *End of Year Mass and Yr 6 Graduation 9.15am*
11 Dec	14`	15 *Nativity Whole School Prayer 2.30pm*	16 *Yr 6 Graduation dinner at Golf club 6pm*	17 *Last day of Term 4 Final Fun Day & Picnic at Vic Park Dismissal 1.45pm*	18 *Staff Day.*