

Dear Families,

As we enter the sacred season of Lent, we do so with hearts open to renewal, reflection, and growth. This year, our Lenten journey is made even more special as we celebrate the *Jubilee Year*, a time to embrace faith, love, and unity within our school and wider community.

The theme for this Jubilee is *Pilgrims of Hope*. This Lent as we share in the Jubilee motto let us journey together in hope, reminding us that Lent is not just a personal journey but a shared one. Through prayer, acts of kindness, and giving to those in need, we walk side by side, supporting and uplifting one another.

During this season, our students will take part in meaningful activities that encourage them to grow in faith and compassion. We invite families to join us in making this Lent a time of hope and joy, strengthening our bonds as a school community.

I know many of the students are generously giving to the Caritas appeal, to those less fortunate than themselves. I also know the students continue to pray together for the needs of the community, the needs beyond the community and their own needs. As we practice fasting, I hear how many of the students have given up sweet treats as a way of fasting. Fasting helps us empathize with those who go without food daily. It encourages us to be more charitable and to share our blessings with those in need as well imitating Jesus' 40 days in the desert, before he began his ministry. The prayer this week is to begin our Lenten journey and speaks of "fasting" and "feasting" as way of "giving, doing and being" during Lent. It may support the spiritual renewal Lent asks of each of us.

I also write to advise of the impending Principal Pilgrimage I will be embarking on titled "In the Footsteps of St. Paul." This journey is a time of spiritual renewal, faith enrichment, and reflection, tracing the path of St. Paul, the first great gentile leader of our Church.

Pilgrimage is a sacred opportunity for prayer, learning, and deepening one's relationship with God. As I follow the journey of St. Paul, visiting the places where he preached and spread the Gospel, it will be a time of spiritual sabbatical, bringing renewed inspiration and faith for myself as the faith leader and to our school community as I share the wisdom and blessings upon my return. I will be away from Wednesday 26th March until the end of term 1. Kate Flanders will act as Principal in my absence. I thank you for your prayers as I embark on this journey, and for your continued support of the leaders and staff at Bethany.

And as we enter Lent, may this be a time of grace for us all, as we journey together in hope towards Easter

A few reminders to all:

1. Prep Enrolment 2026- **For existing families, you may like to collect an enrolment pack from the office.**

2. NAPLAN takes place for Year 3 and Year 5 from **Wednesday 12th March up until Monday 24th March**. More information will follow soon for these students and their families.
3. **School Photo Day is on Thursday 13th March**. Full summer uniform is required on this day. No sports uniform. Please bring runners in your child's bag if they have sport on the day.
4. **Inform and Empower for all families on Thursday 20th March at 7:30pm**. This is an opportunity to be empowered with knowledge around how to keep your children safe online.
5. **Catholic Education Week** begins on 17th March. Our student school leaders will represent us at St Patrick's Cathedral Mass

Last day of Term 1 – Friday 4th April — Casual Dress – 12:30pm finish. NO LUNCH ORDERS
First Day of Term 2 – Tuesday 22nd April — 8:45am start

Enjoy the remainder of the week and the week ahead.

Take care. God bless.

Joanne Webster
 Principal

Prayer

As we begin Lent, may this prayer provide reflection and spiritual renewal to all.

Fast from judging others; and
 Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
 Fast from fear of illness; and
 Feast on the healing power of God.
 Fast from words that pollute; and
 Feast on speech that purifies.
 Fast from discontent; and
 Feast on gratitude.
 Fast from anger; and
 Feast on patience.
 Fast from pessimism; and
 Feast on hope.
 Fast from negatives; and
 Feast on encouragement.
 Fast from bitterness; and
 Feast on forgiveness.
 Fast from self-concern; and
 Feast on compassion.
 Fast from suspicion; and
 Feast on truth.
 Fast from gossip; and
 Feast on purposeful silence.
 Fast from problems that overwhelm; and
 Feast on prayer that sustains.
 Fast from anxiety; and
 Feast on faith.
 We pray this through Christ our Lord
 Amen

School News

Masses, Sacraments and Family Nights for 2025

2025 Bethany Masses & Sacrament Dates Updated

Sacraments: Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation / Year Level Mass / Whole School Mass / Bethany Community Mass at St. Andrew's Church

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
<p>Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass Wednesday March 5th 10am (Week 6)</p> <p>Bethany Community Mass at St. Andrew's Church Saturday March 29th 6pm (Week 9) TBC</p> <p>Holy Week Liturgy Friday April 4th 9:30am (Week 10)</p>	<p>Eucharist Family Meeting Wednesday April 30th at 6:45pm (Week 2)</p> <p>Year 1 & 6 Level Mass Thursday May 8th at 10am (Week 3)</p> <p>Our Lady Help Of Christians Mass Whole School Mass Friday May 23rd at 10am (Week 5)</p> <p>Reconciliation prior to Eucharist Thursday June 5th at 12pm (Week 7)</p> <p>Sacrament of Eucharist Thursday June 12th at 5pm St. Andrew's (Week 8)</p>	<p>Confirmation Family Meeting Wednesday July 23rd at 6:45pm (Week 1)</p> <p>Reconciliation prior to Confirmation Thursday July 31st at 12pm (Week 2)</p> <p>Bethany Saints Feast Day Whole School Mass Friday August 1st at 10am (Week 2)</p> <p>Sacrament of Confirmation Thursday August 7th at 5pm (Week 3)</p> <p>Prep, Year 3 & 5 Level Mass Thursday August 21st at 10am (Week 5)</p> <p>Year 2 & 4 Level Mass Thursday September 4th at 10am (Week 7)</p> <p>Bethany Community Mass at St. Andrew's Church Saturday September 13th at 6pm (Week 8) TBC</p>	<p>Reconciliation Family Meeting Wednesday Oct 22nd at 6:45pm (Week 3)</p> <p>Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesday 29th Oct at 5 pm (Week 4)</p> <p>Thanksgiving/ Grandparents Day Whole School Mass Thursday November 13th at 10am (Week 6)</p>

Inform and Empower

Bethany Catholic School – Inform and Empower Digital Safety and Wellbeing online webinar – Thursday 20th March, 7:30pm – 9:00pm

A reminder that the parent Inform and Empower webinar -


Raising Kids in the Digital World is on Thursday 20th March, 7:30pm – 9:00 pm.

Please register using the link sent out via Operoo. Once registered with your name and email address you will be sent the link to the live webinar.

RAISING KIDS IN A DIGITAL WORLD WEBINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS


- Social media
- Online gaming
- Strengthening Family communication
- Impacts of screen time
- Cyberbullying
- Managing devices at home
- Child & tween online trends
- Explicit/adult content

Bethany Catholic School
Thursday 20 March | 7:30 - 9:00 pm




Webinar registration:
bit.ly/parents20march

*This session is strictly for parents and carers only as the content is not suitable for children.



Presented by
Martin McGauran,
primary teacher and
digital safety educator
and Carley McGauran,
psychologist and mum
to 3 school-aged kids.



An evening that provided some reality checks! A Few new changes in our home this week! - Parent

Marty and Carley were simply sensational. Their presentation was relevant, honest and informative. A MUST for each school, every year. - Principal

Incredible session... Should be essential for all parents! - Parent

INFORM & EMPOWER
informandempower.com.au | hello@informandempower.com.au

Trusted eSafety Provider
esafety.gov.au

All students attending Bethany 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.

Assemblies

Assemblies are held on Mondays, generally fortnightly at 2:25pm. Please find the Assembly Schedule. All families are invited to attend. These are generally held on the basketball court or in the school hall. **The last assembly for Term 1 will be next Monday, 17th March at 2:25pm. We look forward to seeing you there..**

ASSEMBLIES - 2025								
	TERM 1		TERM 2		TERM 3		TERM 4	
WEEK	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS
1			22 APRIL		21 JULY		6 OCTOBER	
2	3 FEBRUARY	Principal - JOANNE	28 APRIL	Year 6 Teresa/Little	28 JULY	Year 5/6 Kolbe/Mandela	13 OCTOBER	Year 5 Chisholm/MacKillop
3	10 FEBRUARY		5 MAY		4 AUGUST		20 OCTOBER	
4	17 FEBRUARY	PBL	12 MAY	Year 2 Indigo/Blue	11 AUGUST	Year 2 Gold / Violet	27 OCTOBER	Prep Earth/Star
5	24 FEBRUARY		19 MAY		18 AUGUST		3 NOVEMBER	
6	3 MARCH	Leadership Assembly	26 MAY	Year 4 Jordan/Sepik	25 AUGUST	PE / Italian	10 NOVEMBER	REMEMBRANCE DAY- Leadership Centre
7	10 MARCH	HOLIDAY	2 JUNE		1 SEPTEMBER		17 NOVEMBER	
8	17 MARCH	Year 1 Yellow/Green	9 JUNE	Year 1 Red/Orange	8 SEPTEMBER	Prep Sky/Ocean	24 NOVEMBER	Year 3/4 Todd/Murray
9	24 MARCH		16 JUNE	HOLIDAY	15 SEPTEMBER		1 DECEMBER	PP DAY
10	31 MARCH		23 JUNE	Year 3 Werribee/Yarra			Thurs 11 DECEMBER	End of Year Assembly JOANNE
11			30 JUNE				15 Dec	

Positive Behaviour for Learning - Playground Safety: Being Safe, Respectful, and Responsible



At Bethany, we encourage all students to be safe, respectful, and responsible when playing on the playground. By following a few simple rules, we can ensure that everyone has a fun and safe playtime!

Students are reminded to always go down the slides, not climb up them, to prevent accidents. When using the monkey bars, they should take turns and wait patiently for their go. Sharing is important, so we ask everyone to be considerate and give others a chance to use the equipment too. Most importantly, students should speak to each other with kindness and include others in their play

We would also like to remind families that students must only use their designated play equipment. This ensures that all children are playing in areas suitable for their age and ability.

After school, it is the responsibility of parents and carers to supervise their children while they are on the playground.

Thank you for helping us create a safe and happy environment for all our students!



Positive Behaviour for Learning School Wide Expectations



Let Learners Learn and Teachers Teach

	Be Safe	Be Respectful	Be Responsible
Learning Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Line up and walk calmly and quietly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use kind words and actions Use whole body listening Follow directions promptly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look after self, others and equipment Be a responsible learner
Outside Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands and feet to yourself Use spaces and equipment correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use kind words and actions Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look after self, others and equipment Wear correct uniform Be on time & walk promptly to line up

UPDATED JAN 2024



The Resilience Project - Helping Students Build Resilience Through Self-Check-Ins



Recognising and understanding emotions is an important part of developing resilience. By regularly checking in with their feelings, students learn to manage challenges, express themselves, and seek support when needed.

Students in Green Hub have been tracking their emotions throughout the day, using a simple system to show if they are happy, worried, or need help. This allows friends and teachers to support them during difficult moments and celebrate positive ones!

In Year 4, students learned that “emotions are like visitors”—they stay for a short time before fleeting away as situations change. This valuable lesson helps children understand that feelings, even the tough ones, don’t last forever and that they have the ability to work through them.

By making self-check-ins part of the school day, students develop self-awareness, emotional regulation, and problem-solving skills—key traits of resilient individuals. Families can continue these conversations at home, reminding children that all emotions are valid and will pass with time. Together, we can support our students in becoming strong, confident, and emotionally aware individuals.



Happy Families - Navigating the Bullying Maze: A Guide for Parents

Bullying is an issue that affects many children, and as a school community, we must work together to ensure all students feel safe, respected, and valued. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 70% of children aged 12-13 have experienced bullying, highlighting the need for open conversations and proactive strategies.



Understanding Bullying

Bullying is not just a disagreement between children—it is repeated, intentional behavior where there is an imbalance of power. It can take different forms, including physical, verbal, social, and cyberbullying. These actions can lead to emotional distress, academic struggles, and even physical health problems.

How Families Can Help

If your child is being bullied, listen and validate their feelings, encourage problem-solving, and work with the school to address concerns. If your child is displaying bullying behavior, it's important to acknowledge the issue, teach empathy, and set clear expectations for respectful behaviour.

By promoting kindness, open communication, and strong school-family partnerships, we can create a culture where every child feels safe and supported. Let's empower our students to be upstanders, not bystanders, and work together to build a community of respect and inclusion.

For more information, visit <https://schools.happyfamilies.com.au/login/bethanycps> and use the password **happybcps**.

Family News

Key Enrolment Dates for Year 5 2025 beginning Secondary School in 2027

If you wish to enrol your child in a Catholic Secondary School beginning in 2027, please observe the following dates.

- Tuesday 28th January 2025 – Applications will open for students commencing Year 7 in 2027.
- Friday 15th August 2025 – Applications will close.
- Friday 17th October 2025 – Offers will be posted to prospective 2027 Year 7 applicants.
- Friday 7th November 2025 – Final date for parents/carers to accept an offer made by a school.

If you require any further information, please see Sheree or Elaine.

Matters Financial

Student Levies

All student levies (\$420.00 per student) were expected to be finalised by **Friday 31st January 2025**. We would appreciate you attending to this matter if you have not already done so. Payment can be made over the phone by credit card or in person between 8:30am – 4:00pm.

Health Care Card Holders (CSEF)

Parents who hold a Health Care Card that is current on 29th January, 2025 may be eligible for the CSEF. This grant offers \$154.00 per student. The payment is made directly to the school and as such would offset \$154.00 of the student fee.

Families with a Health Care Card are asked to make an application for the Sport / Excursion grant at the beginning of the school year. It is important that you have your Health Care Card with you when making an application. Successful applicants will then only need to pay \$266.00 per student fee.

If you received this payment in 2024 you do not need to reapply. You will automatically receive this payment if your Health Care Card is still valid.

Concessional Fee Policy

The concessional fee policy was introduced to support families struggling to pay school fees. Concessional school fees are available to any family that meets the below eligibility criteria:

- Holding a valid HCC and eligible for CSEF
- Experiencing severe financial hardship
- Holding a DVA Gold Card
- Identified as refugees and holding an ImmiCard
- Of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage

You will also be required to complete a form as a part of the process to determine eligibility. Should you wish further information re this funding or if you have questions as to whether you are eligible, please do not hesitate to contact the school and ask to speak to Joanne Webster. **First**

Instalment School Fee

If you opted to by your school fees by three instalments, the first instalment **\$615.00** was due by **Friday 14th February**. We would appreciate you attending to this matter if you have not already done so.

Important Dates –

School Dates for 2025 **NEW**

March 2025

Wednesday 12th March – Monday 24th March – NAPLAN Yr 3 and Yr 5
Wednesday 12th March – Bethany School Open Night 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Wednesday 12th March – School Advisory Council meeting 6:45pm – 7:45 pm
Thursday 13th March – School Photos
Monday 17th March – Year 1 Yellow and Green Assembly 2:25pm in the School Hall
Tuesday 18th March – Summer Gala Day
Wednesday 19th March - Parents in Partnership 1:30pm – 3:00pm
Thursday 20th March – Inform and Empower parent webinar 7:30pm – 9:00pm
Monday 24th March- Police in School visit – Exploration Centre **NEW**

Thursday 27th March – Yr 5 MCG excursion
Friday 28th March – Casual Dress Day and Easter Raffle donation **NEW**
Saturday 29th March – Bethany Community Mass at St Andrew's 6:00pm
Monday 31st March – Bethany Athletics Day

April 2025

Thursday 3rd April – Easter Raffle Drawn
Friday 4th April – Stations of the Cross 9:30am – 10:30am
Friday 4th April – Last day of Term 1 – Casual Dress – 12:30pm finish – NO LUNCH ORDERS
Tuesday 22nd April – First Day of Term 2 – 8:45am start
Thursday 24th April – Bethany Day
Friday 25th April – Anzac Day – Public Holiday
Wednesday 30th April – First Eucharist Family Night 6:45pm – School Hall

May 2025

Wednesday 7th May – District Cross Country
Thursday 8th May – Mother's Day Breakfast 7:45am – School Hall
Friday 9th May – Mother's Day Stall
Thursday 15th May – Year 3 Melbourne Zoo excursion **NEW**
Friday 16th May – Year 5 Mad About Science excursion
Monday 19th May – Year 6 Victorian Space Science Education Centre excursion
Tuesday 20th May – Year 6 Victorian Space Science Education Centre excursion
Thursday 22nd May – Wyndham Cross Country
Thursday 22nd May – Exploration Centre Animal Land Children's Farm excursion **NEW**
Friday 23rd May – Our Lady Help of Christians whole school mass 10:00am
Tuesday 27th May & Wednesday 28th May – Lady Northcote Camp Year 4

June 2025

Monday 2nd June & Tuesday 3rd June – School Closure days – Professional Learning – School Vision
Thursday 5th June – Reconciliation for Eucharist 12 noon
Thursday 12th June – Sacrament of Eucharist at St Andrew's Church – 5:00pm
Monday 16th June – Wednesday 18th June – Year 5 Anglesea Camp
Wednesday 18th June – Friday 20th June – Year 6 Anglesea Camp

July 2025

Thursday 3rd July – School Closure Day – Learning Conversations
Friday 4th July – Last day of Term 2 – Casual Dress – 12:30pm finish – NO LUNCH ORDERS
Monday 21st July – First Day of Term 2 – 8:45am start
Wednesday 23rd July – Confirmation Family Night 6:45pm – School Hall

Parent in Partnership Dates for 2025

Term 1

Wednesday 19th March – 6:45pm

Term 2

Wednesday 23rd April – 1:30pm

Wednesday 21st May – 6:45pm

Term 3

Wednesday 30th July – 1:30pm

Wednesday 20th August – 6:45pm

Term 4

Wednesday 15th October – 1:30pm

Wednesday 12th November – 6:45pm

School Advisory Council Dates 2025

Wednesday 12th March – 6:45pm

Wednesday 28th May – 6:45pm

Wednesday 3rd September – 6:45pm

Wednesday 19th November – 6:45pm

School Closures for 2025

The following dates are school closure days for 2025. **PLEASE MARK THESE IN YOUR DIARIES:**

Monday 2nd June and Tuesday 3rd June – Professional Learning – School Vision

Thursday 3rd July – Learning Conversations

Monday 3rd November – Report Writing Day

Monday 1st December – 2026 Planning Day

Public Holidays for 2025

Monday 21st April – Easter Monday

Friday 25th April – ANZAC Day Public Holiday

Monday 9th June – King's Birthday Public Holiday

Tuesday 4th November – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Sacrament Dates 2025 PLEASE MARK IN YOUR DIARIES

First Eucharist – Year 4 Thursday 12th June at 5:00pm at St Andrew's Church

Confirmation – Year 6 Thursday 7th August at 5:00pm in the Bethany School Hall

First Reconciliation – Year 3 Wednesday 29th October at 5:00pm in St Andrew's Church

Family Nights for Sacraments 2025

Eucharist Family Night – Year 4 students and parents/carers – Wednesday 30th April 6:45pm
School Hall

Confirmation Family Night – Year 6 students and parents/carers – Wednesday 23rd July 6:45pm
School Hall

Reconciliation Family Night – Year 3 students and parents/carers – Wednesday 15th October
6:45pm School Hall

All students and families celebrating these sacraments are required to attend.

LUNCH ORDER PRICELIST 2025

HOT FOOD	
Party Pies	\$2.00
Sausage Rolls	\$5.20
Hot Dog with Sauce	\$5.20
Hot Dog with Sauce & Cheese	\$6.00
Schnitzel Sandwich	\$6.50
Schnitzel Sandwich with Lettuce & Mayo	\$7.00
Extras: Sauce	\$0.20
Mustard	\$0.20
Paper Bag	\$0.20

CAKES	
Iced Donuts	\$1.20
Cinnamon Donuts	\$1.00
Jam Donuts	\$3.00
Chocolate Jam Donuts	\$3.50
Croissant	\$3.00
Lamington	\$4.00
Apple Cake	\$4.50
Mini Mud Cake	\$4.50
Hedgehog	\$4.50
Muffin (Chocolate Chip & Blueberry)	\$4.50
Happy Face/Neenish Tart	\$3.50

DRINKS	
Prima (Orange or Apple)	\$2.50
Prima (Apple & Raspberry)	\$2.50
Kids Milk (Chocolate or Strawberry)	\$3.00

SANDWICHES	
Ham or Chicken	\$4.00
Ham or Chicken & Cheese	\$5.50
Ham or Chicken, Cheese & Salad	\$7.50
Cheese & Salad (Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber & Carrot)	\$7.50
Cheese & Bacon Roll	\$2.00
Cheese Roll	\$1.80
Cheese & Vegemite Scroll	\$4.00