



# ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

*To live, to learn, love in all things*

Proudly learning on Ngadjuri land

## IMPORTANT DATES

### DEC 2024

- Sun 15th Family Mass 9am - blessing of the crib
- Sat 24th Christmas Eve Mass Sevenhill 6pm
- Sun 25th Mass St Michaels Church 9am

### JAN 2025

- Fri 17th Stationery/Uniform collection
- Mon 20th Stationery/Uniform collection
- Frid 24th Stationery/Uniform collection
- Tues 28th School Commences

DECEMBER 12 2024  
WEEK 9 TERM 4

## From the Principal...

Dear Parents & Friends of St Joseph's School, Clare,  
**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Last week, we held our Swimming Carnival at the Valleys whilst our Reception students celebrated a water play day at school. We hold our Swimming Carnival at the end of our swimming lessons as a celebration but also because those students who are not as confident in the water have just experienced a tremendous water safety program.

I would like to thank Maddi & Lauren for organising their water play activities, described by some students as "the best day ever". Thank you also, to Michelle Edmondson and Chris Slattery, for planning and coordinating the carnival, Kylie Murphy for her coordination of the junior pool activities, House Captains and School Leaders who did a great job with their leadership skills in coordinating their house teams, our staff for setting up and packing up and the parents and friends for providing such a tasty healthy lunch.

A great event which provided an opportunity for all students to take part at a level they feel comfortable.

disappointed that they had not planned or organised themselves to meet the requirements this year, a great goal for next year.

Thanks to Michelle Edmondson and Helen Smith, for coordinating our students and the teachers for providing the encouragement, support and reminders which provided the students with the tools for success.

## MUSIC

Over the last couple of weeks we have had the opportunity to showcase our students' musical talents. Kerry Davy and Sandy Bowen have presented a number of concerts - private students, bands, ensembles, choirs and our Year 4 recorders, Year 5 guitars and Year 6 drumming.

I would like to thank all those who support our Arts/Music program. It was great to witness the showcasing of these events in our Hall which acoustically was amazing. Well done to all our students who were able to show their talents.



Year 8 & 9s enjoying a novelty race



Junior Primary in the small pool



Kerry Davy with Georgia

## PREMIER READING CHALLENGE

We have a long and proud history of our students taking part in the Premier Reading Challenge which culminated in a celebration by our students who successfully met the requirements of this year's challenge, well done.

I know there were several students who were

COLLECT YOUR  
CHILD/REN'S  
STATIONERY  
PACKS

FRI 17 JAN  
MON 20 JAN  
FRI 24 JAN

UNIFORM SHOP  
ALSO OPEN

Where: Hall [MS complex] Time: 8:00am - 4:00pm  
Easy access to hall from our car park/kiss'n'drop zone, accessed via Gleeson St, Clare

# SAVE THE DATES

## ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

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# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## **BUSKING**

On Monday 9 December, 9 St Joseph’s students, under the guidance of Sandra Bowen, “busked” in the main street of Clare raising funds for the CVCO. Thankyou to Carla Verco and Miriam Furler who assisted. Shoppers enjoyed their lovely voices and music. A great way to promote the arts and raise money for a great organisation.



*Sandy Bowen, Carla Verco, Kade, Bridget, Olivia, Jazlyn, Lexi, Chase, Georgia, Willa & Lacey.*

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Delvene Mathie who has won a 12-month contract as Coordinator of Secondary Curriculum, Pedagogy and Wellbeing at Burra Community School.

Not only is Delvene highly skilled in the area of Wellbeing, but she has a passion for Secondary Curriculum – this 12-month contract will be a great opportunity for Delvene. We wish her all the best in 2025, and look forward to her return in 2026.

We will undertake advertising for a replacement for her role as Wellbeing Coordinator at St Joseph’s, Clare.

## **TRANSITION PROGRAM**

As we approach the end of the year, much work has gone into the planning, implementation and support of a number of transition programs. As the saying goes, “as one door opens another door closes”. As a result of the various transition programs that our students have been involved in, I believe they are very well prepared for their next steps and, on behalf of the staff, I wish them well.

I would like to thank Sarah Lawson, Laura Turley and Maddi Peacock for organising, coordinating and supporting our Reception transition, they were extremely well assisted by their band of hard working ESOs.



*2025 receptions enjoying break time at transition*

## **THANKYOU**

A big thank you to Alice Duncan for nominating our school to receive a set of “George the Farmer” books from Rabobank to promote the importance of agriculture to children.

Our students are loving them and they have already been borrowed to read at home!

Thanks, Rabobank and thanks, Alice!



*Angus, Tom & Alby enjoying the new books.*



*Nadia loves the “Vegetable Orchestra” book*



*Year 2 Lawson class got to enjoy all the George the Farmer Books*

## **INDIGENOUS PROGRAM**

Over the past term, we have been able to participate in several Indigenous Cultural activities. These Ngadjuri educational experiences have provided fourteen opportunities for classes to develop and form their Indigenous knowledge and experiences.

Students from Reception to Year 9 have been involved in learning traditional crafts such as weaving, painting and carving.



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A large aspect of this learning has occurred "On Country", and our students relish the opportunity to be outside. This has allowed them to experience and learn about bush medicines, bush foods, art and culture first hand.

We look forward to this partnership with local Ngadjuri teachers continuing in 2025, thanks to the support of the NYLB.



## OLD SCHOLAR SUCCESS

**Ashia Scott**

I always love the opportunity to showcase the successes of our old scholars. This newsletter, we get to do that again. Ashia Scott continues to excel on the Softball pitch.

Ashia has been selected to represent Softball SA in the under 16 and under 18 National carnivals as a Pitcher and 1st Base fielder. The Under 16's carnival will be held in Perth from 14-19 January, and under 18's from 21-26 January.

We wish her all the best and look forward to receiving an update of how she went.



## OLD SCHOLAR AND STUDENT SUCCESS

On Tuesday 3 December Bryce, Lachlan and Ned undertook grading with the Boars Martial Arts Club for their Shodan 1st Dan (junior). All young men achieved a black belt with white stripe. As part of this grading, all of the boys performed a number of requirements with their chosen weapon - a jo or staff.

This success is a result of extensive training and commitment. If you know of any old scholars achieving great things please let the school know.



## YEARBOOK 2024

I have been fortunate to have had a sneak peek at the 2024 School Yearbook, what an amazing summary of the year. It is hard to believe we achieved so much in a 12 month period, hence it is our largest magazine yet.

If you have not ordered one, and would like one, please contact Gabrielle in the front office as there will be a few spares.

I would like to thank the staff for capturing the moments and their efforts in providing so many summaries of




## FROM THE PRINCIPAL


great experiences. The biggest thank you needs to go to Gabrielle, who has done a mountain of work taking photos, chasing up events, coordinating, compiling and publishing the wonderful magazine.

## DANCE

Carmen's School of Dance celebrated their end of year performance in the Blyth Town Hall on Sunday December 8. Twelve St Joseph's students enjoyed their moment in the spotlight, dressed in gorgeous costumes and entertaining the audience with their passion and joy, well done to all.



**St Joseph's School**  
**2024**  
**YEARBOOK**



*To live, to learn, love in all things*

*If you did not order a Yearbook there are a few spares available from the front office*



*Standing: Hayley, Evie, Lexi, Zara, Carmen, Grace, Lucy, Millie S, Millie W, Ruby, Eva.  
Sitting: Charlotte & Stella.*

## PAGEANT

I would like to thank the staff and students who, after a long day at the Swimming Carnival, fronted up to represent our school at the Clare Christmas Pageant. It was great to have so many eager participants. Special thanks to our senior students who still take pride in representing the school and supporting our younger students.

## ST MICHAEL'S

As we approach the end of the school year, much work has continued on St Michael's Hall. It is progressing at an excellent rate, layout and floor plan is exceeding our expectations. We look forward to using these new facilities early in Term 1, 2025.

## WELCOME

We have two new members of our school community to welcome -

Congratulations to Krystal, George & Adriana Monogios on the arrival of "Sousana Maria" who was born on 25/11/2025. She was a lovely early surprise and is now thriving. Adriana loves her new little sister.



*Adriana with Sousanna*

Congratulations also to Lucy, Jamie, Evelyn & Audrey on the safe arrival of "Matilda", born on 2/12/2024. She is a much loved addition to the Drumond family.



*Audrey & Evelyn with Matilda*

We wish both families all the very best with their new arrivals.



Renovations are progressing on St Michael's Hall.



## 1SS/DN 2024 – MEDIA ARTS EXHIBITION

We are excited to share our Media Arts narrative videos with you! Students worked hard to complete the creative process, which involved:

- Reading and analysing narratives to observe common structures, vocabulary and grammar features
- Imitating modelled texts
- Innovating on modelled texts to create their own narratives and creative ideas
- Recording their narrative using the 'Voice Recorder' app
- Illustrating their stories on slides in PowerPoint, using images from Pexels
- Publishing to create a video

Please join us in celebrating the skills, talents, creativity and perseverance of our fabulous Year 1s!

Sheree Schmaal

| Author/Artist | Link to Media Arts narrative video  |
|---------------|---|
| Arlo          | <a href="https://youtu.be/r0JHfCRMlhs">https://youtu.be/r0JHfCRMlhs</a>   |
| Bobby B       | <a href="https://youtu.be/lGM4GB4VUFI">https://youtu.be/lGM4GB4VUFI</a>   |
| Bobby W       | <a href="https://youtu.be/dNDqWXN2HSQ">https://youtu.be/dNDqWXN2HSQ</a>   |
| Eddie         | <a href="https://youtu.be/B9lsoG-inMQ">https://youtu.be/B9lsoG-inMQ</a>   |
| Emily         | <a href="https://youtu.be/BV9Og_QqOac">https://youtu.be/BV9Og_QqOac</a>   |
| Eva           | <a href="https://youtu.be/VFescfaTZpM">https://youtu.be/VFescfaTZpM</a>   |
| Florence      | <a href="https://youtu.be/vyXUfcnXGll">https://youtu.be/vyXUfcnXGll</a><br><a href="https://youtu.be/y9EyH3ju360">https://youtu.be/y9EyH3ju360</a>  |
| Harry         | <a href="https://youtu.be/E72C5DnG98l">https://youtu.be/E72C5DnG98l</a>   |
| Harvey        | <a href="https://youtu.be/ph25wL8E2L4">https://youtu.be/ph25wL8E2L4</a>   |
| June          | <a href="https://youtu.be/wnvwdBopUwo">https://youtu.be/wnvwdBopUwo</a><br><a href="https://youtu.be/VUTq3Ua_OOM">https://youtu.be/VUTq3Ua_OOM</a>  |
| Mila          | <a href="https://youtu.be/lfi1JrHT-YQ">https://youtu.be/lfi1JrHT-YQ</a>   |
| Miller        | <a href="https://youtu.be/VuU8ZC3EKCY">https://youtu.be/VuU8ZC3EKCY</a>   |
| Millie        | <a href="https://youtu.be/iHsW0RJSUvl">https://youtu.be/iHsW0RJSUvl</a>   |
| Mufaro        | <a href="https://youtu.be/Xzcr_9PRENg">https://youtu.be/Xzcr_9PRENg</a>   |
| Patrick       | <a href="https://youtu.be/RKzutgpm_uQ">https://youtu.be/RKzutgpm_uQ</a>   |
| Rayansh       | <a href="https://youtu.be/nGHvTzCt3f0">https://youtu.be/nGHvTzCt3f0</a>   |
| Ruby          | <a href="https://youtu.be/SUix6g_lr1g">https://youtu.be/SUix6g_lr1g</a>   |
| Ryan          | <a href="https://youtu.be/Ke9Eb8DX5fw">https://youtu.be/Ke9Eb8DX5fw</a>   |
| Sophie        | <a href="https://youtu.be/h0qIglwgkGE">https://youtu.be/h0qIglwgkGE</a><br><a href="https://youtu.be/XgWogxMgFGY">https://youtu.be/XgWogxMgFGY</a><br><a href="https://youtu.be/UbmfeJ9qlvU">https://youtu.be/UbmfeJ9qlvU</a> |
| Vincent       | <a href="https://youtu.be/1VpYCDJT00U">https://youtu.be/1VpYCDJT00U</a>   |
| Will M        | <a href="https://youtu.be/dTITgyB2C0c">https://youtu.be/dTITgyB2C0c</a>   |
| Will S        | <a href="https://youtu.be/dTITgyB2C0c">https://youtu.be/dTITgyB2C0c</a>   |

## VISIT

It was lovely to have a visit from Charlii today. We have missed her beautiful smiling face.

She is recovering really well and will be up and about in no time.

All staff and her class mates were very happy to see her and sign her plaster. Keep smiling, Charlii.



## CLASS STRUCTURES

Below is the overview of our class structure for 2025. We are really excited to welcome our new teachers (who have already visited our school, commenced induction, planning and preparation).

I would like to thank the staff for their hours of work in assisting with the composition of the classes, a great job ensuring the social, emotional and educational goals are catered for in these class placements.

### 2025 CLASSES

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Reception</b>  | <b>Alice Harding/Danielle Niedorfer</b>     |
| <b>Rec/Year 1</b> | <b>Laura Turley</b>                         |
| <b>Year 1</b>     | <b>Courtney Gunn</b>                        |
| <b>Year 2</b>     | <b>Sarah Lawson/Kerrie Weckert</b>          |
| <b>Year 2</b>     | <b>Georgia Foulis</b>                       |
| <b>Year 3</b>     | <b>Leanne Nield/Kylie Murphy</b>            |
| <b>Year 4</b>     | <b>Leanne Lang/Tim Packer</b>               |
| <b>Year 4/5</b>   | <b>Lara Smith/Danielle Niedorfer</b>        |
| <b>Year 5</b>     | <b>Hugh Walker/Danielle Niedorfer</b>       |
| <b>Year 6</b>     | <b>Emma Ruffles</b>                         |
| <b>Year 7</b>     | <b>Kirsten Mooney</b>                       |
| <b>Year 7</b>     | <b>Hayley Weatherald/Danielle Niedorfer</b> |
| <b>Year 8</b>     | <b>Daniel Harding</b>                       |
| <b>Year 8</b>     | <b>Leah Carling</b>                         |
| <b>Year 9</b>     | <b>Meredith Crawford</b>                    |

Please note as per CESA initiative, our graduate teachers receive .01 release in their first year of teaching, Danielle Niedorfer will provide this.

## GRATITUDE

I would like to acknowledge and give thanks to the Clare Valley Christian Outreach Committee for their support of our school community.



## THANKS

It is with immense joy and pride – and a sense of sadness – that I write in the St Joseph's School newsletter for the final time. For those students graduating or transitioning to a new school, I wish you all the best. For staff retiring or heading to new teaching positions – thank you, and good luck.

To the parents, students, families, and wider community, thank you for your support, friendship and encouragement over the last 22 years – my family and I cannot thank you enough. Over the journey, I have written many newsletter columns celebrating the success of St Joseph's School, Clare, and I have also been the bearer of bad news - that is what "being community" is about.

I will take from St Joes many memories of a wonderful sense of community and have felt honoured and proud to serve as Principal of such a great community.

Enjoy as much family time as possible during the holiday period.

God Bless  
Peter Shearer

# Swimming Carnival

## RESULTS

### JUNIOR PRIMARY

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1ST - Cleary    | 122 |
| 2ND - Lennon    | 106 |
| 3RD - Burke     | 105 |
| 4TH - MacKillop | 92  |

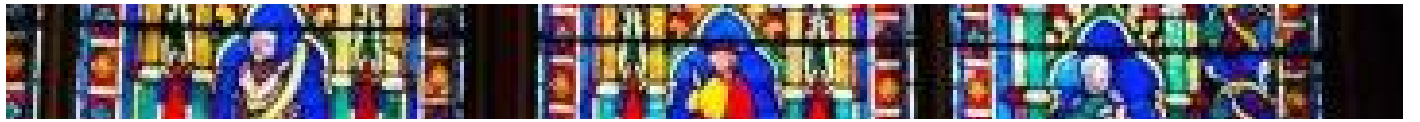


### OVERALL

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1ST - Burke     | 283 |
| 2ND - MacKillop | 277 |
| 3RD - Cleary    | 263 |
| 4th - Lennon    | 243 |



SCHOOL, CLAKE





# Reception Water Play







# MIDDLE SCHOOL

Well, that’s a wrap for 2024. I have been really pleased with the progress we have made this year. Our Middle School is starting to develop a unique identity and culture.

Our Year 9s have really made a stamp on our school and have helped to shape what the Middle School is all about. They have quietly gone about being fantastic young adults, acting as role models for the younger students. A prime example is Ben W; the manner in which he carries himself around the school yard is exemplary, the younger students really look up to him and follow his lead. He has helped bring to life Mary MacKillop’s maxim of “never see a need without doing something about it”. I could write about all of the Year 9 students in a similar fashion, and a few comments will have been made at their graduation. I am unable to give the full run down in this article, however, I am truly grateful to have shared 2024 with this cohort of students.

I am excited to see how our current Year 8s grow into being the leaders of our school, they have huge potential and are ready to step up into this role.

I am looking forward to seeing our current Year 7s move upstairs and take on parliamentary roles. Over the holidays, it is well worth considering what role you may be interested in taking up, as the impact you can make on the school can be significant.

I also can’t wait to have our Year 6s come into the Middle School. We have enjoyed several visits already, and they are primed for their new adventure.

A huge thank you to all parents who have made many varied contributions to the Middle School. From assisting with sporting events, donating time and effort at Lot 21, hosting our students on different excursions, to fundraising for the Year 7 camp and mentoring our young baristas, the generosity of time and resources is greatly appreciated. I look forward to working with you all again, next year.

*Have a safe and rejuvenating holiday. Merry Christmas.*

*Tom Gilligan*

*Assistant Principal*

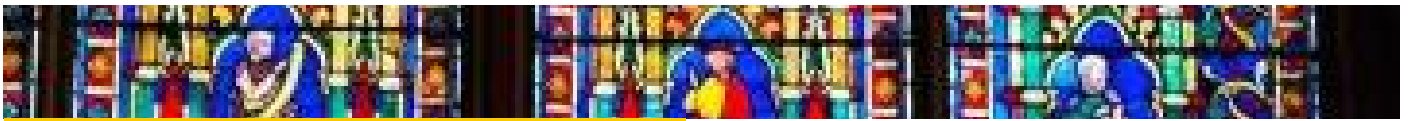
## **PROPOGATION**

The Year 8s (future Year 9s) and the Year 2s (future Year 3s) were engaged in the propagation of different varieties of trees and plants that they will be planting next year. This is through an initiative with Sarah Castine.



*Sarah Castine with Year 8 Students*





## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### CHICKENS - HYLINE BROWN

**Available Term 1, Week 1 - 2025**

This term, we are raising 29 chickens with the Middle School Ag classes, however, as we collected these in Week 3 this term and they are a different breed to the Isa Browns (the parents of them), we have decided to hold these over the holidays. If you would like to make a purchase, please complete an order on Qkr as we only have 25 left to sell. They will remain at \$25 each and will be available from Week 1 next year. If you would like to collect them in the holidays please contact the front office and we can arrange a collection time, in January.

Sophie and Lucy and family purchased some Isa Browns earlier this year and they have recently started laying. They brought in one of the largest eggs they have collected so far (weighs 96 grams compared to the usual 60 grams). Sarah Werfel also purchased some hens and one laid a double yolker on the weekend weighing 99 grams!!!



*Sophie & Lucy's 96g egg*



*Sarah Werfel's 99g Egg*

### ATSI

*On Monday and Tuesday, the Year 9 class worked with Ian and Jackaleen to learn how to craft our own Boomerangs.*

*We started off by choosing our piece of wood. Once chosen, we got our hatchets and started to take the bark off. We then did a thing called "rasping", where we filed down the wood to find the shape of the boomerang. Once our wood started to look like a proper boomerang, Ian took them to the sander to get them all cleaned up and smooth. After they were nice and smooth, we used oil to bring out the colour in the wood, they were then left to dry. This was overall a very fun and engaging project.*

*Hudson*

## ATSI NEWS

*On Monday and Tuesday of Week 8, the Year 9s got the opportunity to carve and create boomerangs with Uncle Ian. We were all given a variety of curved sticks to choose from. Then we were taught about his business where he makes and sells his boomerangs. We then started to carve the bark off and start to shape the wood. We used hatchets to get the bark off and create the basic shape, we then used metal files to create a smoother finish. Once we were approved on our shape and texture, Ian used a belt sander to finish the smooth edges and final shape. Once all the sanding was done, we oiled each of our boomerangs and set them out to dry. It was a really fun time and everyone enjoyed learning and applying our knowledge.*

*Cody*

*"Learning how to craft an ornamental boomerang from a freshly harvested piece of mulga was a wonderful way to wrap up our term of Indigenous Culture and Languages. Ian Harradine from Wurrtoo Cultural Services spent two days with our graduating Year 9 class, displaying his exceptional woodcarving skills and obvious passion for his craft. He showed us how to mould a piece of wood into a beautiful, ceremonial ornament that will endure for well over one hundred years. Each student now has a boomerang to keep as a memento of their final year, and as a reminder that they are always, welcome to return one day, as former alumni of St Josephs School."*

*Katherine Nugent*



*God Bless  
Tom Gilligan*

## FROM THE APRIM

### ADVENT

On Sunday, we celebrated the Second Sunday of Advent. The second Sunday's readings are about preparing the way for Jesus. It is a time when we reflect on our choices and repent. The second candle on our Advent wreath, which is purple, represents 'Peace'. The third candle is pink and symbolises joy. The fourth and final purple candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolises peace.

The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The colour white is for the purity of Christ our Saviour.

### FAMILY MASS

**Family Mass Sunday 9am at St Michael's Church- Blessing of the Crib**



## FROM THE APRIM

At this Sunday's Family Mass, we will have the blessing of the Crib, please bring along an item from your nativity set to be blessed.



### CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS 6PM SEVENHILL

The Christmas Vigil Mass will be held on Christmas Eve, 6.00pm at Sevenhill. This Mass is a Family Mass and is a beautiful celebration of the coming of Christ, with readings aimed at young people.

The Family Mass Committee is seeking helpers for the following roles: Readings, Prayers of the Faithful, Altar Servers.

We are also looking for volunteers to dress up as the different characters for the Entrance Procession. All costumes will be provided. Volunteers will process in to the Mass with songs linked to each person/character of the nativity.

All families are most welcome to attend this Mass. The Family Mass Committee, including Mrs Hay, will have members there at the beginning of the Mass and invite any young people who would like to have a role or dress up in nativity costumes to see them before Mass begins.



### GIVING TREE: MOORE STREET CENTRE FOR THE HOMELESS

*As decorations go up in shops and our homes, it is important that we remember what the Christmas season is about.*

It is my absolute pleasure to deliver our donations to the Sr Janet Mead Centre for the Homeless in the city. It is truly humbling to see all the volunteers busy at work, preparing for a day of running activities for their clients. They are so grateful for our ongoing donations, a partnership that has been in place for nearly 20 years. A big thankyou to you all, for your generous donations.



Delivering the donations last year and the giving tree in the library this year.



### CVCO CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Thank you to our Year 8 students who were involved in helping to set up for sorting and preparing of the food hampers that are delivered to families who are doing it tough in our community. Thank you to LEAD who also raised money to go towards the purchase of items for the hampers.



### CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Have you thought of sourcing some of your Christmas gifts from the CVCO Bookshop in Clare? There are some great gifts for people of all ages.

#### Prayer

*O God, open our hearts to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. Guide us in your ways of compassion so that we may extend your love and mercy to all people.*

*God of expectation, may we, your people, who prepare a way for the Lord, experience the joy of salvation and celebrate the feast of Christ with love and thanksgiving.*

*O God, your will is justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted. May the birth of Christ bring healing to our hearts and fill us with joy and hope.*

*God of love, help us to contemplate the heart of Mary as it opens to receive the gift of Emmanuel. May we listen to the peace within her heart and be ready to open our own hands and hearts when we hear you call our name.*

*Come Lord Jesus.*

*Amen.*

Wishing you all a safe and blessed Christmas and holiday period.

Helen Hay


Assistant Principal- Religious Identity and Mission



## WELLBEING

SEVENHILL PARISH  
INVITES ALL FAMILIES  
TO CELEBRATE

# CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS



*St Aloysius Church  
College Road, Sevenhill  
6pm*

There's no denying that day-to-day life can be stressful. The pressure of work deadlines, piles of laundry, mowing lawns and getting the kids to school, sports training and play dates can mean there's not a lot of quality time left for family.

Going away on a holiday provides a great opportunity to recalibrate. But how do you ensure that you make the most of this precious time you have together?

### 1. *Involve children from the beginning*



Getting children involved from the planning stage is a great place to start. "The process starts from the moment you start to fantasise and visualise the holiday, making it inclusive is a great way to make them feel engaged and build excitement."

Obviously, you can't just do everything they want to do on the trip, so it's important to find a balance. "You will find that kids will be more willing to do stuff that you want to do if it's a reciprocal relationship. Remember too, what they care about is time with you."

### 2. *Be playful and embrace your inner child*

Once you are there, it's important to stop, let go and enjoy yourself. "Let go for a little bit, be a bit more playful. Embracing your inner child is important."

"We learn about each other and about ourselves through play. Being on holidays is about connecting in the here and now and not focusing on outcomes and achievements. Get out of your routine. Allow the kids to see your fun side."

### 3. *Share your childhood holiday stories*

Another way to connect is by sharing stories about when you went on similar holidays when you were a child – whether it's a camping trip, beach break or snow holiday.

"I'm big on building rituals like sitting around the fire or reflecting on something that you were really grateful for or something that you loved a."

### 4. *Put down the device*

And, of course, it's important to minimise time on phones and video games to connect in person. "We need to have the integrity to hold ourselves accountable, because we can't really expect our kids to have that integrity if we aren't prepared to show it. You can be realistic and say if everyone in their family has their devices with them let's only use them during certain times." And don't worry if the holiday isn't perfect – focus on the fact that you are together.



SEVENHILL PARISH INVITES YOU  
TO

# Family Mass

Sunday 15 December, 9am  
St Michael's Church, Clare

Blessing of the Crib Mass  
Please bring an item from your nativity set to be blessed.




*Please join us for morning tea following Mass*



## WELLBEING

### 5. Create positive memories through play

Playing board games and making sandcastles are amongst the greatest holiday memories for Australians. 70 per cent of Australians believe that playing with kids helps to create stronger bonds and memories.



Psychologist and parenting expert Michael Carr-Gregg says finding time and places to engage in play on holidays helps create positive memories and early brain development and bonds families together. “Nothing lights up the human brain like three-dimensional play with loved ones,” he says. “Not only does play relieve stress, improve brain function and enhance creativity but it also improves our relationships and our connections to other people. Play is what helps us feel young and energetic throughout our entire lifespan.”

### 6. Make holidays fun for the whole family

“What family members want to do on a holiday can vary,” clinical psychologist Jaimie Bloch says. “For example, one of the kids’ values might be adventure, or it could be relaxation or bonding.” She says it’s important to think of ways each family member can fill their cup.

### 7. One-on-one time is important

Families may feel like they need to do everything together on a holiday, but just like in everyday life they can split up and do different things, coming back together at mealtimes. “We know that kids really value one on one time when they’re not having to compete with a mobile, smart device or another child,” Bloch says.

“It can just be a small thing. Fifteen or 20 minutes is often long enough. It’s good for their self-esteem and feeling more connected and bonded to a parent. The more you do things like that, the greater the connection you will have. When they feel connected and heard they’re going to be more likely to follow through on instructions and be more manageable,” she says.

*These days, there’s a lot of focus on material things – gifts, decorations, food, the best holiday spots, the best photo shots... Trying to make everything just perfect brings a lot of stress and for what? Focus on balance and make it as fun as possible. Allow the little squabbles and fights that always happens when children are around and give up the idea of perfect holidays. Perfection is overrated and years from now, you will only remember the beautiful little things that brought you joy – the fun you had shopping, the joy of baking cookies together, their smile when they opened their gifts... There’s beauty in the little things and looking back, you won’t remember the small annoyances that needlessly drove you crazy. And what will the kids remember????????? Those small moments too and the memories of special times shared.*

*Wishing you all a very Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year*

*Delvene Mathie*

*Wellbeing*

## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

*My kids have learnt so much this year, how do I make sure they don’t lose it?*

### *How to encourage your kids to keep reading over summer?*

If your child is just starting on their reading journey it’s important they still practice decoding words and thinking about all the sounds that letters represent when they look at words. And of course, holidays are a great opportunity to read together and instil a love of books through imaginary worlds, information and learning about the world we live in.

If you would like your child to do some “reading practice” over the holidays, check out these resources: <https://www.littlelearnersloveliteracy.com.au/blogs/decodable-books/apps>

<https://www.decodablereadersaustralia.com.au/pages/online-library>

If your child is reading independently and can decode most words by themselves, it’s still important to practice reading over the long holiday break. Discussing the who, what, where, when, why and how of a story your child is reading is a great way to find out how much they are understanding of their book. Vocabulary is important to expand when students are reading independently, so don’t be afraid to get out the dictionary and check out what a word means and where it comes from. Reading together is still a great way to increase comprehension by spending time discussing your favourite characters, the plot, predictions, and why a character behaved the way they did. All these incidental conversations can build background knowledge and help your child to connect with their reading more deeply.

If you need ideas for what to read, check out these fabulous Australian resources Your Children’s Books Daily <https://childrensbooksdaily.com/> or Kids Reading Guide <https://www.kidsreadingguide.com.au/>

### **What about writing?**

Practice writing skills by writing shopping lists, thank you cards after Christmas, or a letter to a relative/friend a long way away. Keep a journal of holiday activities, or get the whole family involved in writing and performing a play!

### **What about their numeracy skills?**

Spend time playing games that involve numbers – Yahtzee, Monopoly or car cricket are a few examples. You can also utilise those recently developed number skills by getting your child to help with shopping, cooking, counting sheep, working out fuel consumption or petrol prices, or any other activity where you use your maths skills.

A great way to reinforce the importance of literacy and numeracy skills is for your child to see you using them. Do some “thinking aloud” so your child can see how you solve problems and understand the processes involved. And showing your child that you use these skills in your everyday life rather than saying, “I was never good at Maths/English”, is a powerful way to improve their attitude to learning in these areas.

*I hope you have a wonderful Christmas, filled with family, games, books and relaxation!*

*Michelle Edmondson*

*Literacy & Inclusion Leader*



# ST JO'S PATCH

The wet, hot, humid weather has been very good for zucchinis, we picked a heap and some of them were huge!!!

As it is zucchini season, this week's recipe is a delicious and very easy zucchini slice, great for a meal or an easy packed lunch. Gabrielle made it and said it is so easy and tastes great.

We are having a bit of trouble with birds in our garden and we are wondering if anyone has any bird netting lying around that is not being used, we would love to have some to protect the produce in St Jo's patch, please let me know if you can help.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

Jen Vine



Chase & Hunter picking Zucchini's



Some to take home -  
Chase, Hunter, Issy & Ky



Now that is what I call a Zucchini!!!  
Chase



What can I make with this beauty? Ky

## Joke of the week

Q: If you've got four cauliflowers in one hand, and six cabbages in the other hand what have you got?

A: Very big hands!!



# ZUCCHINI SLICE

## INGREDIENTS

5 Free Range Eggs  
150g (1 cup) White Self Raising Flour, sifted  
375g zucchini, grated  
1 large onion, finely chopped  
200g rindless bacon, chopped  
1 cup grated cheddar cheese  
60ml (1/4 cup) vegetable oil (or melted butter)

## METHOD

Step 1

Preheat oven to 170C.

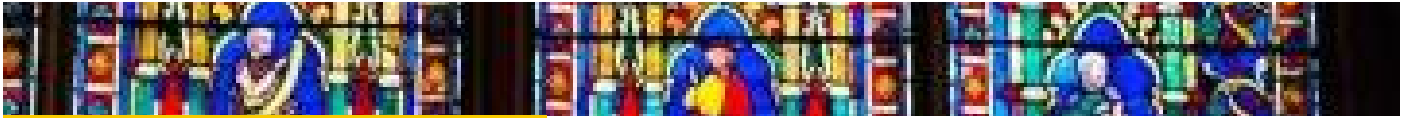
Step 2

Beat the eggs in a large bowl until combined. Add the flour and beat until smooth, then add zucchini, onion, bacon, cheese and oil and stir to combine.

Step 3

Grease and line a 30 x 20cm lamington pan. Pour into the prepared pan and bake in oven for 30 minutes or until cooked through.





# COMMUNITY NEWS

Arts Collective Clare Valley

## YOUTH ART

Local artists under 25 are encouraged to enter artworks of any medium responding to the theme

### 'MY WORLD'

Application forms available at  
[www.artscollective.com.au](http://www.artscollective.com.au)  
 Clare Art House, 8 Mill Street Clare  
[info@artscollective.com.au](mailto:info@artscollective.com.au)

**EXHIBITION**  
 28TH MAY - 30TH JUNE 2025  
 CLARE ART HOUSE



**Head for the Hills**

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY MOUNTAIN BIKING

Looking for an exciting, outdoor activity for the school holidays? How about Mountain Biking? We have a range of mountain bike programs for ages 10-16, for beginner to advanced riders!

**HOLIDAY MTB SKILLS CLINICS**  
 BEGINNER, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED & GIRLS SPECIFIC SESSIONS

- COBBLER CREEK
- FOX CREEK BIKE PARK
- O'HALLORAN HILL
- SHEPHERDS HILL
- MT BARKER

**AGES 10-16**

**GEOCACHE ADVENTURE**  
 HUNT FOR GEOCACHES & HIDDEN CLUES WHILE DEVELOPING YOUR MTB SKILLS

**Contact Us**

- [headforthehills.net.au](http://headforthehills.net.au)
- 0432 700 056
- [info@headforthehills.net.au](mailto:info@headforthehills.net.au)

Scan for more info or to BOOK!

