



# HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 8 - 1st December 2025

## EVENTS

### THIS WEEK 8

#### Monday

**Year 2 Intensive  
Swimming (Monday -  
Friday)**

#### Wednesday

**Kindergarten Liturgy  
(Chapel) 12:15pm**

**P&F Meeting - 6pm  
(Coachman Hotel)**

#### Thursday

**Primary Swimming for  
Sport**

**Year 2 Intensive  
Swimming Program**

**Year 6 Graduation  
Mass - 6pm  
(Holy Family Church)**

#### Friday

**Parents & Staff VS  
Students Basketball -  
9.30am**

**Assembly - 2.45pm**

**Christmas Parade -  
6pm**

### NEXT WEEK 9

#### Monday

**Presentation Night -  
6pm**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, I had the privilege of travelling to Narromine to judge the Central Cluster Spelling Bee. I was incredibly proud of our school representatives – Georgie Harris, Elsie Galvin, Jack Burt, Daniella Anasta and Minaga Lekam Ralalage. These talented students represented our school with determination and grace. We celebrated some outstanding results, with Georgie being named the Year 2 champion, Daniella and Minaga finishing second, Jack claiming third place and Elsie coming in sixth. Congratulations to all of you for your hard work and accomplishments!

Our Dads in School Day was another highlight, with so many of our wonderful fathers and father figures attending and spending time with their children. It was wonderful to see the joy on our Kindergarten students' faces as they shared their school experience with their dads.

A big thank you to our P&F for organising a fantastic disco last Thursday, which was a special way to farewell our Year 6 students as they prepare for the next chapter of their educational journey. The children danced the night away with so much energy and enthusiasm – what a memorable evening it was!

Congratulations to Nate Calabro who competed in the CSNSW Aquathon in Sydney gaining a bronze medal. This is an amazing achievement! Well done Nate!

This term, I have also been impressed with the efforts of our Year 2 swimmers participating in the Intensive Swimming Program. Their improvement in just one week has been outstanding, and I am looking forward to seeing their progress continue.

This week promises to be another exciting one, with a range of special events to celebrate and enjoy together:

- Kindergarten Liturgy: Wednesday at 12:15pm in our school chapel.
- Year 6 Graduation Mass: Thursday evening at 6:00pm in Holy Family Church.
- Year 6 Parents, Staff and Students Basketball Game: Friday at 9.30am.
- Local Christmas Parade: Friday evening, commencing at 6:00pm.

I encourage all families to take part in these special occasions that truly embody the spirit of our school and community. These events provide us with opportunities to come together, celebrate milestones and create lasting memories.

*Denise Gersbach*  
**Principal**



### CONTACT US

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**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**  
[Holy Family Parish School Parkes](https://www.facebook.com/HolyFamilyParishSchoolParkes)

## ★ Star of the Week ★

Amelia Gersbach is our Star of the Week for always being someone who shows kindness, respect and a genuine love of learning, exemplifying our core values—Praise, Love and Trust.

### Interview with Amelia



What is your favourite subject?



Art

In your free time, what do you like to do?

Draw

What is your favourite food?

Ramen noodles and KFC

What do you like most about our school?

My friends and the teachers



Running

What would you like to be when you grow up?

A doctor, a runner and a singer

Term 4 Week 8: Manner of the Week (From our Core Value - TRUST)

**Trust is earned through actions, not words.**

**This fortnight's challenge is about Mary, the Mother of God.**

<p><b>1. What was the name of the angel who visited Mary?</b></p>	<p>A. Michael B. Raphael C. Gabriel D. Daniel</p>
<p><b>2. What message did the angel give Mary?</b></p>	<p>A. She would become a queen B. She would be the mother of Jesus C. She would travel to Egypt D. She would build a temple</p>

<b>3. Where was Jesus born?</b>	A. Jerusalem B. Nazareth C. Bethlehem D. Rome
<b>4. What is the special prayer we say to honour Mary?</b>	A. The Our Father B. The Gloria C. The Hail Mary D. The Creed
<b>5. What do we call the prayer that honors Mary and reflects on Jesus' life?</b>	A. Stations of the Cross B. The Rosary C. The Angelus D. The Psalms
<b>6. What do we call Mary because she always listens and cares for us?</b>	A. Our Queen B. Our Mother C. Our Sister D. Our Teacher
<b>7. What colour is often used to represent Mary in art?</b>	A. Red B. Blue C. Green D. Gold
<b>8. What did Mary do when she visited her cousin Elizabeth?</b>	A. She asked for food B. She helped Elizabeth and praised God C. She built a house D. She travelled to Rome
<b>9. What special feast celebrates Mary being taken into Heaven?</b>	A. The Ascension B. The Transfiguration C. The Assumption D. Holy Thursday
<b>10. What is Mary often called because she protects and guides us?</b>	A. Star of the Sea B. Queen of Animals C. Lady of the Temple D. Mother of Kings

If there are multiple winning entries, your name will go into a draw. The winners will be drawn out of a hat and receive a prize at our School Assembly. Please write your name and answer on a piece of paper and hand it to me any time this week.

I hope everyone has a great week.  
Andrew Berger

# Religious Education

## First Week of Advent

Sunday, 30th December, the first day of the Season of Advent, ushers in the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The liturgical colour for Advent is violet.

### Advent Wreath

Advent is a period of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas, marking the four Sundays before December 25th. Each week of Advent emphasizes themes such as hope, peace, joy, and love, helping us prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Christmas.

An Advent wreath is typically made of evergreen branches and holds four candles, each representing one of the four weeks of Advent.

*"The lord himself will give you a sign - the young woman will conceive a child and will call him Emmanuel, a name that means God is with us." Isaiah 7:14*

### Reminder:

- ★ Year 6 Graduation Mass- Thursday, 4th December, Holy Family Catholic Church, 6pm

### News for the Christmas Season-

- ADVENT begins- 30th November 2025
- Carols In The Park 2025- Sunday, 14th December, 7:30pm

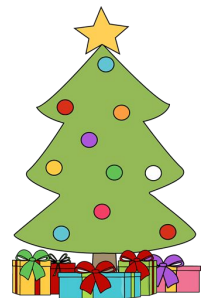
Our Holy Family School Choir will be singing the Christmas carol 'Do You Hear What I Hear'.

- Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Christmas is the Season of Giving, and we are asking our Holy Family Community to donate non-perishable foods or toys for those who will face Christmas alone or in poverty. All donations can be brought to our Giving Tree in the school foyer.

### \*Upcoming Masses, Liturgies & Retreats

- ★ Kindergarten Advent Liturgy- Wednesday, 3rd December, Chapel 12:15pm
- ★ Year 6 Graduation Mass- Thursday, 4th December, Holy Family Catholic Church, 6pm
- ★ Year 6 Retreat- Friday, 12th December, 9:00am-1:00pm HFS Hall



Have a wonderful week!

Beverly Berger

Religious Education Coordinator

# Notes

## IS YOUR FAMILY READY FOR THE SOCIAL MEDIA DELAY ON 10 DECEMBER?

The Council of Catholic School Parents NSW/ACT asked Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, one of Australia's leading psychologists, author and broadcaster, to help educators and parents and carers with children under 16 prepare for the upcoming changes social media platforms.

In this 30-minute video, Dr Carr-Gregg explains what social media is, how the age restrictions will work, why it's happening and how it will affect families and schools.

We invite parents and educators to take time out for half an hour to watch this video so that they understand and are equipped to handle the impact of the changes on their families and students.

PLEASE WATCH THE VIDEO HERE ON OUR WEBSITE: [The Social Media Delay: What It Means for Parents and Schools!](#)

In memory of all children who have died.

## Annual Worldwide Candle lighting

### The Compassionate Friends - Parkes

Lions Park (Orange road)  
on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
from 5.30pm

Candles will be lit and poems read at 6pm.

Bring a photo of your loved one ♥  
BYO nibbles and drinks and stay for a chat. We suggest you bring a chair/rug to sit at the Park.



For more information contact Judy Fisher (0402 599 001)  
Tony Fisher (042897055) or Fran Scurfield (0412103597)

# Gather

Gather • Together • Reflect

Please join us in the Holy Family School Religion Room at 8.40am on Tuesday the 2nd of December at 8.40am as we Gather Together and Reflect.....

..... and then stay for a Coffee and a Chat



## Holy Family Parish School Parkes, NSW

### YEAR 6 GRADUATION MASS

★ *Class of 2025* ★



DECEMBER

THURSDAY 4 06:00 PM

2025

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
29 CURRAJONG STREET, PARKES  
NSW 2870

# Notes

HOLY FAMILY PARISH SCHOOL,  
PARKES, NSW

## VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

*Please donate generously towards a good cause.*

*Our school community is coming together to donate non-perishable items of food and toys for those who will be lonely and those who live in poverty this Christmas.*

*Please send your donations to our Giving Tree in the school foyer.*

### CHILD SAFE SCHOOLS AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

We take our responsibility to protect children seriously. All staff are expected to promote child safety by having a clear understanding of their legal child protection responsibilities and act in accordance with those responsibilities.

In particular the school will:

- Maintain professionalism in our interactions with children at all times by exercising appropriate duty of care and maintaining professional boundaries.
- Follow an established process to address allegations of inappropriate behaviour by staff towards children.
- Ensure all people working in our school who are required to undertake a Working With Children Check have a valid clearance.
- Respond appropriately when we suspect a child is at risk of significant harm due to possible abuse or neglect by a parent/carer or other adult.

#### ADDRESSING COMPLAINTS OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR BY STAFF

We are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for both students and staff. This includes addressing complaints of inappropriate behaviour by staff towards any child or young person.

Such complaints are handled differently to other types of complaints which may arise in the school because of legal obligations established by the NSW Children's Guardian Act 2019. The NSW Office of the Children's Guardian is a government agency which requires schools and other organisations working with children to ensure systems are in place for recording and responding to all allegations of a child protection nature against staff. You should be aware that 'staff' includes volunteer helpers (including parents), contractors as well as paid staff.

# Term 4 - Parent Calendar

	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
October	1	13 First Day - Term 4 (Staff and Students) 5/6 Canberra Excursion	14 AECG Meeting - Junior and Senior (AGM -Parke Public) 5/6 Canberra Excursion	15 5/6 Canberra Excursion	16	17	18/19
	2	20 Book Fair Year 2 Reconciliation Parent-Student Workshop - 5pm	21 GTR - 8.40am Book Fair	22	23 First Reconciliation - Year 2 - 6.00pm HF Church	24 Assembly - 2.45pm	25/26
Oct/Nov	3	27	28 GTR - 8.40am	29	30	31	1/2
November	4	3	4 GTR - 8.40am	5	6 P&F Meeting - 6pm	7 Assembly - 2.45pm	8/9
	5	10 WF Diocesan Cricket - Boys (Parke)	11 GTR - 8.40am	12 AECG Meeting - Junior and Senior	13	14	15/16
	6	17	18 GTR - 8.40am	19 School Committee Meeting - 7.30pm	20 WF Diocesan Cricket - Girls (Dubbo) Primary Swimming for Sport Yr 3/4 - Dish and Stargazing Excursion Assembly - 2.45pm	21 WF Diocesan Tennis & Basketball (Dubbo)	22/23
Nov/Dec	7	24 Year 2 Intensive Swimming Program	25 GTR - 8.40am Year 2 Intensive Swimming Program	26 Year 2 Intensive Swimming Program	27 Primary Swimming for Sport Central Cluster Spelling Bee (Narramine) Dads In School (Kindy) 11.30pm - 1pm Year 2 Intensive Swimming Program School Disco - 6.00pm	28 Year 2 Intensive Swimming Program	29/30
December	8	1 Year 2 Intensive Swimming Program	2 GTR - 8.40am Year 2 Intensive Swimming Program	3 Year 2 Intensive Swimming Program Kindergarten Liturgy Chapel 12:15pm	4 Primary Swimming for Sport Year 2 Intensive Swimming Program P&F Meeting - 6pm Year 6 Graduation Mass - 6.00pm (HF Church)	5 Parents & Staff VS Students Basketball 9.30 am Assembly - 12.30pm Year 2 Intensive Swimming Program Christmas Parade - 6pm	6/7
	9	8 Presentation Night - 6.00pm	9 GTR - 8.40am	10 Last Day - Kindergarten Transition	11 Primary Swimming for Sport	12 Year 6 Retreat - 9.00am - 1.00pm	13/14
	10	15 Assembly - 12.30pm Year 6 Assembly - 2.00pm	16 GTR - 8.40am	17	18 Last Day for all Students	19	20/21