Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL
FAITH AND LOVE
STRATHMORE

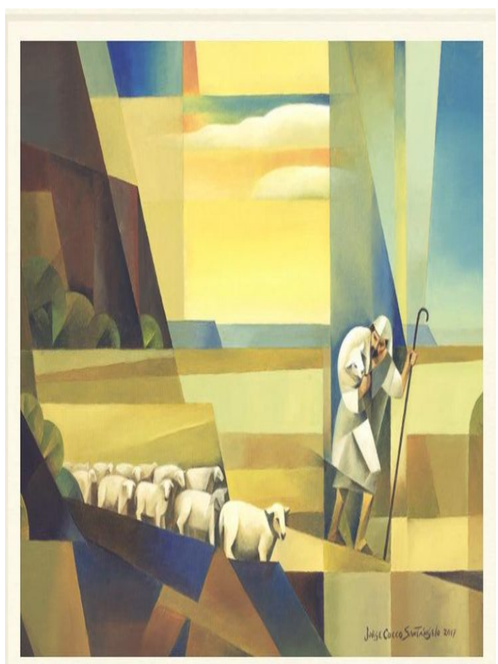
# Newsletter

**St. Vincent de Paul Primary School**
**Principal:** Shane Byrne
**A:** 94-112 Woodland St, Strathmore
**E:** info@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au
**P:** 9379 5723 **F:** 9374 2389
**W:** www.strathmore.catholic.edu.au



## Reflection

### Sunday's Scripture Reflection: The Lord Is Our Shepherd



This Sunday's Scripture readings offer a beautiful reminder of God's loving care for each of us. In the first reading from Ezekiel, God describes himself as a shepherd who lovingly watches over his flock. He promises to seek out those who are lost, bring back those who have wandered, care for the wounded and strengthen the weak.

These words remind us that no matter what challenges we face, we are never forgotten or beyond God's care.

### First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11–12, 15–17

The Lord will judge between sheep and sheep.

The Lord says this:

"I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness.

I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats."

### A Prayer Inspired by Psalm 22(23)

**Loving God,**

You are our shepherd, and we know that with you, we have everything we need.

Lead us to places of peace and rest when life feels busy or difficult. Renew our spirits, guide us along the right path and help us to trust in your loving care.

Thank you for the many blessings you place in our lives. May your goodness and kindness follow us each day, and may we share that same kindness with those around us.

Help us to walk in your love, knowing that you are always beside us, guiding and protecting us.

May we dwell in your love today and always.

**Amen.**



**Principal:** Shane Byrne
**Email:** principal@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au

**Parish Priest:** Fr Nhan Le
**Email:** strathmore@cam.org.au
**Website:** www.stmonicasparish.com.au

**PARISH OFFICE**
22 Robinson Street
Moonee Ponds 3039
**Telephone:** 9370 5035

## Principal's Message

**FETE**

Although our 2026 Fete has come and gone, it certainly won't be forgotten, having provided an unforgettable day for everyone involved. The calm leadership and meticulous preparation behind this major event was led by Gemma Bugryn and Josephine Agresta, and not even the initial wet weather could dampen the excitement. Thank you to Gemma and Josephine for their 18 months of dedication and organisation to ensure everything ran smoothly.

They were wonderfully supported by our Parents Association Executive Team, PA representatives, and the many parent helpers who worked tirelessly on the day. Their energy and enthusiasm brought the event to life and showcased what a strong, supportive community we have at St. Vincent's.

While we will announce our final fundraising total for the Senior Yard redevelopment in the coming weeks, the fete was already a massive success in bringing our community together for a shared purpose.

**CASE STUDY VIDEO**

In Term 3 this year, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) contacted our school to discuss our approach to learning and teaching—specifically our use of Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI), which we have been implementing over the past three years. Following the success of this approach, we were invited to film a case study showcasing our implementation process and student outcomes.

This video has now been shared with school leadership teams across Melbourne to demonstrate the positive impact EDI has had on our students' learning. As one of only a handful of the 300 Catholic schools in Melbourne invited to share our story, we feel immensely proud of what our students, staff, and parents have achieved together on this learning journey.

The link below will allow you to view the video.

https://youtu.be/Na2Q7o_3BKQ?si=Nc44bdLrkPn0E55-

**BEGINNING OF 2027 SCHOOL YEAR**

Next year the start date for all children will be Thursday, January 28. This is different to previous years as the type of testing we will be doing with the children can be done as a class group for the majority of the children.

More details about closure days and sacraments will be made available in the coming weeks as we wait for details from the Bishop's office regarding the Confirmation date.

**PREP ORIENTATION**

On Tuesday, our future 2027 Prep students attended their very first Orientation Day. They enjoyed exploring the Prep classrooms and discovering some of our school facilities. We look forward to welcoming them back next Wednesday for their second session, and then the following Thursday when they will have the exciting opportunity to meet their 2027 classroom teacher.

**KINDER VISITS**

To help our 2027 Prep students prepare for their transition to school, our Year 5 students have been visiting local kindergartens. These visits have been a huge success, giving both the Year 5 students and our future Preps a wonderful opportunity to share stories, experiences, and insights into school life. Our Year 5 students are already looking forward to welcoming the Preps as their buddies in 2027!

**NATIVITY STORY**

On Tuesday, December 8, our Prep students will be presenting the story of the Nativity, reminding us of the events of Jesus' birth and the true meaning of Christmas. There will be two sessions. The first beginning at 9:20 am and the second at 10:00 am. Parents are warmly invited to attend one of the sessions and share in this special celebration.

**STAFFING**

As is common at this time of year, we have a few staffing updates to share for 2027.

After 13 years working at St. Vincent's Holly Caven has accepted a position as Arts teacher at St. John Bosco's in Niddrie.

In her time at St. Vincent's Holly has been in a variety of roles including classroom teacher and Performing Arts teacher. Many children have benefitted from her knowledge and skills over the 13 years whether it be her role in organising events such as the Christmas Carol Evening, School Production or the teaching of the many different subject areas. The care and empathy she shows all around her are just two of her many qualities that the community recognise in her and appreciated.

Giulia Costanzo, our Year 4 classroom teacher, has accepted a position at St. Mary's in Ascot Vale. We sincerely thank Giulia for her two years at St. Vincent de Paul, the wonderful work she has done with our students, and her many contributions to our school community. We wish her all the very best in her new role.

Lucy Kett, our Numeracy Leader, has decided to retire after an incredible 37 years of service to Catholic education. Throughout her career, Lucy has held numerous classroom roles and served as a Maths consultant for Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS). We thank her not only for her commitment to our students and staff, but also for her lifelong dedication to Catholic education. While we wish her a wonderful retirement, we may see Lucy around the school now and then working as a consultant when she is not looking after her increasing number of grandchildren.

We also bid farewell to Cathy Manos, who has taught part-time at our school for the past two years, sharing the Year 1 classroom with Simone D'Cruz. Cathy has brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to our team. We thank her for all her hard work and wish her every success as she continues her teaching journey at Our Lady of the Nativity Primary School.

***"St Vincent de Paul School empowers students to become lifelong learners facing life with faith, hope, humility and resilience."***

## Principal's Message cont.....

**KRISNA'S ORDINATION**

This Saturday Krisna, who has been Deacon, will be ordained a priest. This is an exciting time for Krisna and is the culmination of many years of study and work. The ordination will take place on Saturday 21st November at 10:00am at Our Lady of La Vang Shrine, 225 Hutton Road, Keysborough.

A bus has been organised for parishioners who wish to attend this special occasion. The bus departs at 8:30am from St Vincent de Paul Parish. Cost is $20 per person. Booking is essential. If you wish to reserve a seat, please contact the Parish Office on 9370 5035.

We ask that you keep Krisna in your prayers as he prepares for this significant event in his life.

**GRADUATION CEREMONY**

The Graduation ceremony for the Year 6 children graduating this year will take place on December 10. The ceremony will be held in the Church and will begin at 6.00pm. The Graduation Dinner will be held at Melrose Receptions in Tullamarine and will begin at 7:30pm. Information on booking and costing for the dinner was provided to Year 6 parents last week.

The children in Year 5 are also expected to attend the Graduation Ceremony (not the dinner) together with the Year 6 children who will be graduating. Year 5 has an important role to play in the ceremony and we need their support in maintaining this tradition. We ask that parents of Year 5 & 6 children mark this date on your calendars to ensure your child is able to attend.

*Shane Byrne*
***Principal***

## Understanding Grief - Information Session

November marks a season of remembrance and commemoration in the church and in many cultures around the world.
Loss can cause significant grief and challenge our well-being.

An information session to help understand the impact of grief will be held on:

**Wednesday 25th November**
**at the Parish Centre**
**St Vincent de Paul Parish, Strathmore**
**from 7:00pm to 8:30pm**

The session will be led by a psychologist.
It is an opportunity to share information, engage in reflection and understand ways of supporting ourselves and one another during times of loss.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend the session, followed by a light supper.

Please RSVP the Parish office via email, strathmore@cam.org.au, if you would like to attend or for further enquiries.

## Prep Nativity Story




## 2026 St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal



## Learning Diversity & Student Wellbeing

### Supporting Grammar Development

For children, learning grammar is not just about memorising rules or passing school tests; it is the foundation of how they think, read, write, and connect with others. Grammar is the base for clear communication and builds confidence in reading and writing. It also ensures accurate comprehension and expression and is essential for language growth and sentence structure.

Grammar is the set of rules within language that helps us structure and combine words to create meaningful sentences. It includes things like verb tenses (e.g. the past tense of 'play' is played) and plurals (e.g. more than one 'mouse' are mice). Children often develop grammar through hearing it modelled around them. At a young age, parents may be their main language models.

Grammar can be modelled to children through 'recasting'. This is where a parent listens to a child making a grammatical error and then recasts it to them by using the correct form.
For example:




The goal of recasting is not for the child to copy what the parent says, rather hear the grammatical word used correctly in a sentence. During a conversation, try to recast grammar naturally, without getting in the way of listening to and responding to your child's intended message.

The images below are a clear example of just why grammar is so important!







Rebecca Glenton & Will Kingston
***Learning Diversity and Student Wellbeing Leaders***

## Sports News

### Whole School Athletics Carnival

Our Whole School Athletics Carnival will be held on Tuesday 1st December, at the Aberfeldie Athletics Track. All students are required to wear a t-shirt in their designated house colour (blue, gold, green or red). ***Please submit one online Audiri excursion consent form per student by Tuesday 24th November***.

*Daniel Igoe*
***Sports / PE Co-ordinator***

## 2026 Term Dates

**TERM 1**
Wednesday 28th January (Prep)
Friday 30th January (Yr 1–Yr 6) – Thursday 2nd April
*(Note: Easter 3rd-6th April)*

**TERM 2**
Monday 20th April – Friday 26th June

**TERM 3**
Monday 13th July – Friday 18th September

**TERM 4**
Monday 5th October – Tuesday 15th December

## 2026 School Closure Days

- Tuesday 31st March (Learning Conferences)
- Thursday 28th May
- Monday 27th July
- Wednesday 16th September (Learning Conferences)
- Monday 2nd November
- Wednesday 2nd December

## Parish Bulletin

Please see below for a link to the St. Vincent de Paul Strathmore and St. Monica's Moonee Ponds parish bulletin.
https://www.stmonicasparish.com.au/newsletter.html




## 2026 School Fees

Thank you to those families who have paid their school fees.
All school fees are now due. A recent statement with the final balance was emailed on 19th October 2026.
If you have any concerns about your financial situation and are experiencing hardship, please contact Mr Shane Byrne (principal@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au), so that a confidential financial arrangement can be discussed.

## Awards

Please find listed below the names of those students receiving awards at the assembly on **FRIDAY 20th November at 2:25 pm** in the hall.



| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **PREP BLUE** | Bobby McKay<br>MacKenzie Haynes | **FOUR BLUE** | Luca Short<br>Audrey O'Sullivan |
| **PREP GOLD** | Aiden Sfirlas<br>Luna Cintolo | **FOUR GOLD** | Emilio Toro Portelli<br>Evan Sfirlas<br>Paige D |
| **PREP GREEN** | Zalia De Silva<br>Ethan Gray | **FOUR GREEN** | Zak Piaia<br>Lia Camberos Bucci |
| **ONE BLUE** | Xavier Thompson<br>Roman Dockar Clay | **FIVE BLUE** | Keira Reardon<br>Poppy Hegarty |
| **ONE GOLD** | Alexander Drakopoulos<br>Sonny Gittins | **FIVE GOLD** | Curtis Coleman<br>Max Nolan |
| **TWO BLUE** | Austin Abela | **FIVE GREEN** | Ella Kemp<br>Jordan Liu |
| **TWO GOLD** | Chiara Interligi<br>Sonny O'Connor | **SIX BLUE** | Leo Giansalvo<br>Gia Sidhu |
| **THREE BLUE** | Mila Pantano<br>Leila Diseris | **SIX GOLD** | Ruben Trimboli<br>Jayden Liu |
| **THREE GOLD** | Kenzie Schepis<br>Cole Layton | **SIX GREEN** | Fionn O'Carroll<br>Louie Howard |

## St Aidan's Preschool Farewell



## Important Dates

### NOVEMBER 2026

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2<br>**School Closure Day** | 3<br>**Melbourne Cup Day** | 4<br>**Whole School Athletics Carnival - POSTPONED** | 5 | 6<br>**Zooper Dooper's** | 7<br>**Yr 6 Commitment Mass (Certificate) 6pm** | 8 |
| 9 | 10<br>**Music Soiree** | 11<br>**Remembrance Day** | 12<br>**Prep 2027 Information Evening** | 13<br>**Zooper Dooper's** | 14<br>**School Fete** | 15 |
| 16 | 17<br>**Prep 2027 Orientation - Session 1** | 18<br>**Prep & Yr 6 Mass 9:15am** | 19<br>**School Advisory Board Meeting** | 20<br>**Zooper Dooper's**<br>**Year 2 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)** | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25<br>**Prep 2027 Orientation - Session 2** | 26 | 27<br>**Zooper Dooper's** | 28 | 29 |
| 30<br>**Parent's Association AGM (in person)** | | | | | | |

### DECEMBER 2026

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1<br>**Whole School Athletics Carnival** | 2<br>**School Closure Day** | 3<br>**Prep 2027 Orientation - Session 3** | 4<br>**Zooper Dooper's** | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8<br>**Prep Nativity Play**<br>**Session 1 - 9:20am**<br>**Session 2 - 10:00am** | 9 | 10<br>**Year 6 Graduation Ceremony & Dinner** | 11<br>**Zooper Dooper's** | 12 | 13 |
| 16<br>**2027 Transition Day** | 15<br>***End of School Year Mass 9:15am**<br>***Year 6 Assembly 12:00 noon (Hall)**<br>***Last Day of Term 4 1:30pm Finish** | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24<br>**Christmas Eve** | 25<br>**Christmas Day** | 26<br>**Boxing Day** | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31<br>**New Years Eve** | | | |

### JANUARY 2026

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1<br>**New Years Day** | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26<br>**Australia Day** | 27 | 28<br>**Term 1 Commences for all students** | 29 | 30 | 31 |