



Tuesday 10 February 2026

Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome back! I trust the first week of the 2026 academic year has been enjoyable for both you and your children. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome new families to St Joseph's...I am thrilled that you have decided to join our wonderful community!

### **Welcoming Liturgy**

Thank you to Mrs White who prepared such a beautiful Welcoming Liturgy for us last Friday and also created the stunning slideshow showcasing highlights from our first week together. Her creativity, care and dedication helped us begin the 2026 school year in a truly special way-coming together as a community and reflecting on the many blessings we share. I spoke about kindness as our guiding principle-something that helps create a positive, nurturing environment for everyone. With kindness as our foundation and Jesus as our guide, we continue to build a community of strong connections, understanding and belonging. A big thank you to our Year Six students, who read so beautifully with very little time to prepare.

### **Merit Award Assembly**

Our first Merit Award assembly will take place Friday 13 February at 8:45 am in the Assembly Hall.

### **Staff Commissioning and Sacramental Enrolment Mass**

Please note, Sunday, 15 February is the School Commissioning Mass for staff, the School Advisory Council and the Parents and Friends members. It is also the Sacramental Enrolment Mass for students who will be making their Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation sacraments in 2026. It is a wonderful celebration for our school and I would love to see community members coming along to support us. I look forward to seeing you at St Augustine's church at 10:00am.

### **Constable Care Incursion**

Our friends from the Constable Care Foundation will be visiting us on Monday 16 February! Their engaging puppet show and interactive performance will teach students about protective behaviours and cyberbullying.



These sessions are important because they help children learn how to keep themselves safe, make confident choices and navigate both real-life and online situations responsibly.

### **Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday, 18 February is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Lent lies at the very heart of our Catholic faith and it is a time when we reflect on the dying and rising of Christ. Students in Year 3 to Year 6 will participate in an Ash Wednesday Liturgy in the church at 9:30am. I warmly invite you to join us.

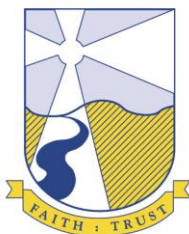
### **Parent Information Session**

Please join us for the annual Parent Information Session, Wednesday, 18 February, starting at 3:30pm. Teachers will address you in their classrooms from 3:30pm to 4:00pm, then repeat the session from 4:00pm to 4:30pm to cater for families with more than one child. We are providing the opportunity for students to be supervised in the STREAM centre from 3:30pm to 4:30pm if you are unable to find care for your children while you attend the session(s). For those who are unable to make it, Information Booklets from the sessions will be available on SEQTA Engage...look under the 'Documents' tab. Please note that these sessions are designed as general information presentations for all parents. For discussions about your individual child's progress or specific needs, we encourage you to schedule a personal meeting with your child's teacher at another time.

### **Merit Award Assembly and Year 6 Ministry Speeches**

Please join us Friday, 20 February in the Assembly Hall for a Merit Award Assembly at 8:45am, followed immediately by the Year 6 Ministry speeches. The students have been preparing their speeches to join either the Environmental, Executive, Pastoral or Sport Ministries. Our Year 6 leaders play a pivotal role in setting an example for the rest of the school. Being part of the Year 6 leadership group provides students with the opportunity to organise and carry out school activities and service projects and to work with teachers to foster a positive learning environment. Our Year 6 leaders promote the voice of the student body and help create a practical agenda for change that other students can identify with.

Please note, presentation of badges for Year 6 Ministry members and Year 4 and 5 Student Councillors will be on Monday, 23 February at 8:45am in the Assembly Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Faction Swimming Carnival**

Students in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be participating in the St Joseph's Faction Swimming Carnival, Friday 27 February at The Murray Aquatic and Leisure Centre, start time approx. 9:00am. Please return swimming notes as soon as possible so Mr Henry can organise events for your children. If you are able to assist in a volunteer capacity on the day, i.e., timers, ribbon presenters etc, please call the front office on 9530 5500 and indicate your willingness to help.

**Labour Day Long Weekend**

A reminder Monday, 2 March is a holiday, recognising Labour Day. We look forward to seeing the students returning to school on Tuesday 3 March.

**Canteen**

Please note, the canteen will be open TUESDAY 3 March for your convenience.

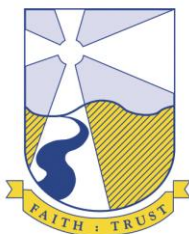
**On-entry assessment for Pre-primary students**

Over the next few weeks, Pre-primary students throughout the state will take part in the On-entry assessment. The main purpose of this assessment program is to provide teachers with information about the skills and understandings that a child brings to school. Conducting this assessment early in the year ensures that your child's teacher has information about the current skills and understandings of each child to assist in the planning and development of targeted learning programs that address the needs of each individual and identify children who may require early intervention or extension. Please note, there is no 'pass' nor 'fail' in this assessment. Please use the link below if you would like more information about how you can support your child's learning at home.

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/on-entry-assessment>

**Bushfire Response**

As I am sure you are aware, St Joseph's is situated within a high fire danger zone as determined by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). If we are given advanced warning by DFES to close the school to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff, you will be notified by SMS on the day



before the planned closure. The school will keep you up to date on further developments, including the re-opening of the school. It is imperative, therefore, that the school has current contact details for all parents and caregivers. Please contact the school if you have any queries about the Bushfire Plan.

### **Immunisation Requirements**

A reminder to our Kindergarten families about your child's routine vaccinations. Please visit [Starting or moving child care, kindergarten or school – immunisation requirements \(health.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/starting-or-moving-child-care-kindergarten-or-school-immunisation-requirements) for more information. If your child has recently received any vaccinations, please provide an updated AIR Immunisation History Statement to the front office so we can keep our records accurate and up to date. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and healthy school community.

### **Save the Date...an invitation from St Augustine's Parish.**

All families from St Joseph's, St Augustine's and the wider Christian community are invited to join us for a simple Lenten BBQ at the Murray River Foreshore, 7pm on Saturday 14 March. Pre-order a \$25, \$40 or \$60 meat pack for our fundraising BBQ. Please BYO drinks, salads, condiments and BBQ tools. There will be \$10 raffle ticket that gives three chances to win wine on the night! And yes-a shared meal is suitable for Lent, as Sundays are 'mini-Easters,' moments of joy within the season. Join us beforehand for 6pm Vigil Mass at St Augustine's, then gather at Pinjarra Town Square for food and fellowship.

### **Afternoon Pick-up arrangements**

To help the school to run smoothly, I am asking that parents and caregivers advise the front office early in the day regarding changes in your child's afternoon pick-up arrangements. As you can imagine, the end of the school day is particularly busy and it is very difficult to pass on messages to teachers late in the day. I would very much appreciate your support in this area.

Enjoy your week and I look forward to connecting with you at our Parent Information Sessions.

God bless

Ms Vanessa Gangell

Principal

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*Faith & Trust*