



Tuesday 24 March 2026

Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome to Week Eight! I would like to begin this week's newsletter by acknowledging the beautiful St Joseph's Day and Reconciliation Liturgies, which were led with such reverence and maturity by our Year Three students last week. A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Jolley and Mrs White for preparing the children so thoughtfully-their guidance was clearly reflected in the prayerful and respectful way our students participated. We are very proud of our Year Threes for the way they represented our school community with such dignity and joy.

Interschool Swimming Carnival

Thursday 26 March is the day that selected students from Years Four, Five and Six will represent St Joseph's at the Interschool Swimming Carnival at Mandurah Aquatic and Recreation Centre. Students should have already received communication from Mr Henry regarding the event. Parents and caregivers, please see Mr Henry if you are able to help us on the day. Your support is very much appreciated.

Merit Award and Friendship Ninja Award Assembly

Please join us Friday 27 March for a Merit Award and Friendship Ninja Award Assembly in the Hall at 8:45am.

Radical Reader Award Assembly

Our first Radical Reader Award Assembly for 2026 will be held Monday 30 March in the Assembly Hall at 8:45am.

Stations of the Cross Liturgy

Please join us Tuesday 31 March at 8:45am in the Assembly Hall for the school's Stations of the Cross Liturgy. Here, we commemorate Jesus Christ's last day on Earth, focusing on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. All are welcome.

Chrism Mass

Our Year Six Confirmation candidates have been invited to attend the Mass of the Oils in Bunbury on Tuesday 31 March. The Mass takes its name from the blessing of the holy oils used in the sacraments throughout the year, which are then given to priests to take back to their parishes. Not only is this a wonderful opportunity for our students to be part of this celebration, but to mix with other Year Six students from the Bunbury Diocese.

Canteen

Please note that, for your convenience, the canteen will be open on Wednesday, 1 April, which is the final day of Term 1 for students.

Easter Liturgy

Please join us in the Assembly Hall on Wednesday, 1 April at 8:45am for our Easter Liturgy. This is a special time in our faith community when we come together to remember and celebrate the heart of our Christian story-Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. Easter reminds us of God's great love, hope, and new life, and it is a beautiful opportunity for our students to reflect on these messages as we prepare for the Easter season.

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Annual Easter Egg Raffle

You are invited to join us for our annual Easter Egg Raffle, Wednesday 1 April at 2:00pm in the Assembly Hall. There's still time to bring in your donations of Easter eggs, Easter baskets and Easter gifts AND to buy some last-minute tickets! The funds we raise are donated to Caritas Australia.

Parent and Caregiver Interviews

A reminder that Thursday 2 April, a Pupil Free Day which has been allocated for Parent and Caregiver Interviews. Interviews will be 15 minutes duration and we ask that parents and caregivers respect this time allocation. If you feel you need a longer time frame, please let your child's teacher know. As teachers will be conducting interviews throughout the day, please be aware that children will not be supervised, so we ask that care arrangements be made for your children or that they remain with you during the interviews. Thank you.

CEWA Climate Survey

Catholic Education WA invites all school communities to take part in the CEWA Climate Survey, which helps schools understand how students, staff and families experience wellbeing, relationships and the overall school environment. CEWA uses this feedback to support continuous improvement across its 160+ schools and learning environments. We encourage all families to participate using the survey link that was shared a fortnight ago-your voice helps shape our ongoing planning and strengthens our school community.

Term Two

We look forward to welcoming students back Monday 20 April for Term Two! On Monday morning at 8:45am, we will gather in the Assembly Hall to celebrate the Stations of Glory. This beautiful reflection focuses on the joy of the Resurrection and reminds us that Easter is not only a story of sacrifice, but also one of hope, renewal, and the promise of new life. It is a meaningful way for our students to enter the new term grounded in faith and gratitude.

Swimming Lessons

Students from Pre-primary to Year Six will be participating in swimming lessons at the Murray Aquatic and Leisure Centre beginning Tuesday, 21 April. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, the lesson schedule for this term will be Tuesday 21 April, Thursday 23 April, Friday 24 April, Tuesday 28 April, Wednesday 29 April, Thursday 30 April and Friday 1 May. For the duration of the program, students are asked to wear their sport uniform each day with their bathers underneath, continuing to wear their coloured faction polo on their regular sport day and their blue polo shirt on all other days-including Monday 20 and Wednesday 22 April, even though lessons are not held on those days. Students will need to bring a towel, goggles and a change of underwear, and may wear thongs for the walk to and from the pool only. To avoid any mix-ups, please ensure that all belongings are clearly labelled. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher or Mr Henry.

Uniform changeover

I look forward to seeing all our Year Three, Four, Five and Six students returning Week Three (Monday 4 May) in full winter uniform. Please use the following link to ensure your child is in the correct winter uniform.

<https://www.stjoespinjarra.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-Uniform-and-Dress-Standards.pdf>



Proposed update to sport shoe requirement

At our most recent Catholic School Advisory Council meeting, I sought the Council's endorsement to begin a feedback process with our school community regarding an update to our current sports shoe standard. The Council supported this motion, and I would now like to take the opportunity to explain why this change is being proposed and outline what the new sports shoe standard would look like. Please note that Pre-Kindergarten is not included in the proposed standard.

-Rationale (why the change is proposed).

Consistency & Equity: A clearly defined, school-wide sports shoe standard ensures that all students are held to the same expectations, removing confusion about what is acceptable and reducing the variability that currently exists across classrooms and year levels. Establishing one consistent requirement also helps prevent brand-based or cost-based peer pressure, supporting families by removing the pressure to purchase expensive or fashionable footwear. A sport shoe standard promotes fairness, particularly for families who value clear guidelines to avoid unnecessary or inequitable spending.

Presentation & Uniformity: A clarified shoe standard strengthens the overall appearance of our uniform and fosters a sense of belonging and pride in the school community. By ensuring that sports shoes are consistent in colour, style and purpose, the school reinforces its identity and maintains the high expectations families and staff associate with St Joseph's. A cohesive presentation also supports our students in representing the school well during events, excursions and community activities.

Safety, Function & Developmental Needs: Sports shoes are not just a uniform item-they are essential for safe participation in Physical Education, sport and daily play. A standardised shoe ensures appropriate grip, heel support, enclosed construction, and non-marking soles designed for courts and playground surfaces. This reduces the risk of injury, supports healthy physical development (particularly in the Early Years) and ensures all students can fully participate in movement-based learning.

Reduced Disruption & Clear Expectations: When guidelines are unclear, teachers are often required to interpret or enforce inconsistent expectations, which can lead to frustration for students and families. A clear, shared standard removes ambiguity, supports smooth day-to-day operations and ensures consistent messaging across all year levels-from Kindergarten through Year 6.

Cost Predictability for Families: A single, unambiguous standard means families know exactly what to purchase and can plan ahead. By removing branded or highly styled options, the standard allows parents to choose affordable footwear from a wide range of stores without worrying about whether their choice meets expectations.

Proposed Sports Shoe Standard

Colour: Black (including laces/Velcro); with a black sole; minimal branding (subtle logo) which is also black.

Construction: Enclosed design; firm heel counter; secure fastening (laces or Velcro); non-marking sole with grip suitable for courts.

Not permitted: Platform soles; mid or high-top basketball shoes; skate shoes; shoes with wheels; slip-on sneakers; canvas or sock-style shoes; open mesh or cut-out designs; bright or flashing lights; sequins, glitter or metallics; large logos or coloured panels; coloured soles; studs/cleats; novelty features (charms, sound-activated, decorative



accessories). *Please note that Velcro is acceptable for sports shoes only; formal school shoes must not have Velcro fastenings.*

Adjustments: Orthotics/medical or disability-based variations permitted with confirmation (email to Principal).

Transition: New purchases to meet standard from the start of the 2027 academic year.

At the beginning of Term Two, families will be invited to complete a survey about the proposed change to our current sports shoe standard. The survey will be available online, with paper copies also provided for those who prefer that format. To support families in making an informed decision, the survey will include three price-point examples and information about local retailers where suitable black sports shoes can be purchased. As always, we genuinely value your thoughts and contributions. Your feedback plays an important role in shaping decisions that affect our students, and we appreciate working in partnership with you to ensure the best outcomes for our school community.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Enrolments for 2027

If you have a younger child who will be joining St Joseph's in Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten, please remember that enrolment is not automatic, even for siblings. Families are required to complete the full enrolment process so we can plan ahead and ensure places are available. We encourage you to submit enrolment forms as early as possible, as these year levels fill quickly. If you have any questions or need assistance with the process, please don't hesitate to contact the school office-we are always here to help.

Holy Week services

Please note the Holy Week services here at St Augustine's Parish.

Sunday 29 March-Palm Sunday, 10:00am

Thursday 2 April-Holy Thursday, 7:00pm

Friday 3 April-Good Friday, 2:30pm

Saturday 4 April-Easter Vigil, 7:00pm

Sunday 5 April, Easter Sunday, 10:00am.

As we come to the end of this newsletter, I would like to let you know that I will be taking leave for the first two weeks of Term Two, possibly a little longer. During my absence, Mrs Tracy O'Dwyer will be stepping into the role of Acting Principal. I am confident she will lead the school with her usual care and professionalism and I know you will offer her the same wonderful support that you have always shown me.

As the term draws to a close, I wish each of you the many blessings that Easter brings-hope, renewal and the joy of time spent with family and friends. Enjoy the Easter break, and I look forward to seeing you all upon my return.

God bless

Ms Vanessa Gangell

Principal

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