Term Four, Newsletter 24, Friday 15th November, 2024



## St Ambrose Primary School



Centred by Faith - In Partnership with Community -We Provide Excellence in Learning





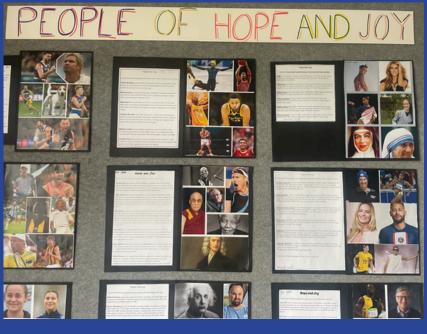






Help us, who today remember the cost of war, to work for a better tomorrow; terror and conflict, bring us all, in the through Christ our Lord. Amen.





| Wednesday 20 November 2024 | Prep Orientation Session 2- 9-10am                   |  |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
|                            | Advent Paraliturgy week 1 – 2.45pm                   |  |  |
| Friday 22 November 2024    | Junior school Zoo excursion                          |  |  |
| Wednesday 27 November 2024 | Assembly 2.45pm                                      |  |  |
|                            | Advent Paraliturgy week 2 – 2.45pm                   |  |  |
| Monday 2 December 2024     | Advent Paraliturgy week 3 – 2.45pm                   |  |  |
| Tuesday 3 December 2024    | Prep Orientation Session 3 – 9-11am                  |  |  |
|                            | Step up day – 9-11am                                 |  |  |
|                            | Parent Helper Training 9am                           |  |  |
|                            | Advent Paraliturgy week 4 – 2.45pm                   |  |  |
| Wednesday 4 December 2024  | SAC meeting 9.15am                                   |  |  |
| Thursday 5 December 2024   | Family Christmas Carols and Picnic on the oval 5-7pm |  |  |
| Saturday 7 December 2024   | Feast of St Ambrose                                  |  |  |
| Monday 9 December 2024     | Prep Nativity 2.45pm                                 |  |  |
|                            | Grade 6 Graduation Liturgy/Ceremony 6pm              |  |  |
| Wednesday 11 December 2024 | End of Year Mass (9.30am)                            |  |  |
|                            | St Ambrose Feast Day - STEM activities               |  |  |
|                            | Canteen special menu                                 |  |  |
|                            | Assembly 2.45pm                                      |  |  |
| Thursday 12 December 2024  | Year 6 excursion to Splash Waterpark                 |  |  |
|                            | Grade 3/4 Lady Northcote Camp                        |  |  |
| Friday 13 December 2024    | Grade 3/4 Lady Northcote Camp                        |  |  |
|                            | Last day of school – students dismissed at 3.30pm    |  |  |
| Monday 16 December 2024    | Numeracy Testing (by appointment via Operoo)         |  |  |
| Tuesday 17 December 2024   | Numeracy Testing (by appointment via Operoo)         |  |  |
| Wednesday 18 December 2024 | School Holidays commence                             |  |  |
|                            |  |  |  |



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#### Message from the Principal

Dear families, parishioners and friends,



The Catholic view of peace emphasises reconciliation, justice, and the dignity of every human person, grounded in Christ's teachings of love and forgiveness. Peace is seen not only as the absence of conflict but as the active pursuit of harmony and social justice. Remembrance, particularly in the context of war, is seen as a way to honour the suffering and sacrifice of others, while also fostering a commitment to peace and the avoidance of future violence. On Monday, we paused for a minute's silence to commemorate Australians who have served and died during war and peacekeeping operations. Our students and staff reflected and gave thanks to the men and women who have contributed to the safe, secure society that we enjoy in Australia today.

St Ambrose School continues to play an active role in Remembrance Day services that bring our communities together in a sign of solidarity.

And so, it is fitting that we continue to pray for peace.

We are called to cultivate a culture of peace in our souls, families, communities and internationally. This is a vast and at times overwhelming task. The Spirit reassures us that we don't do it alone, for Jesus is beside us each step we take towards being peace makers.

As Christians we strive to contribute to be people of hope and joy who contribute to a peace filled world.

Our school captains were beacons for our school at our local Remembrance Day Service where they recited Remembrance Day and Poppies For Remembrance.



#### **Introducing:**

We are pleased to introduce Ms. Alissa Wilan and Mrs. Jodi Menzies who will be joining us as classroom teachers in 2025.

Both Alissa and Jodi are highly accomplished and experienced teachers who will bring their broad skillsets to our team.



"Hello, My name is Alissa. I am so delighted to be joining the St Ambrose school community in 2025. As a passionate and dedicated educator, I believe in fostering a positive and engaging learning environment where every student feels valued and empowered. I strive to inspire curiosity, promote growth, and make learning an exciting journey for all my students. I eagerly look forward to 2025 and meeting staff, students and families of the St Ambrose Woodend Community."



I'm so excited to join the St Ambrose community! Outside of teaching, I love spending time with family and friends, cheering on the Melbourne Vixens in netball, and getting out in nature for some bushwalking and relaxation. I also enjoy being creative with crafts and staying up-to-date with all things digital technology. I can't wait to bring my passions into the classroom and get to know everyone at St Ambrose Primary School.

#### Learning Diversity & Numeracy Leader

Introducing ...

#### Ms Chantell Albani

I am very happy to be joining your community in 2025.

I moved to the Macedon Ranges three years ago and I absolutely love the area. It is such a pleasure to be living in such a beautiful setting. I am a mother of two beautiful



girls. As a family, we love to bake, play games and snuggle together for family movie nights. We also love spending time outdoors, soaking up the sun or splashing in the puddles!

I have worked in Catholic primary schools for the last 16 years. In that time, I have been a classroom teacher in Junior, Middle and Senior classrooms as well as a Mathematics leader working alongside staff and students across years Prep to 6.

In my role as Learning Diversity Leader and Mathematics Leader at Saint Ambrose Primary School I look forward to working with teachers, students and parents to target the diverse learning needs of students across the school.

I am very excited to meet and work in partnership with you all very soon.

Chantell also comes to us with a wealth of experience, knowledge and expertise. She will take over Jennifer Boldiston's role as Jennifer is retiring at the end of this year. We will celebrate Jennifer at the end of term four.

#### **Congratulations Christine McLay**



Mrs Christine McLay will finish with us at the end of this year to take up a position as a Year 7 teacher in 2025 at Braemar College. We have been fortunate to have Christine working with us over the past two years. For family reasons Christine has accepted her new position and while we will be sorry to say goodbye to her at the end of this year we certainly wish her every success in her new role.

We will farewell Christine at the conclusion of term four.

#### Farewell Haley Te Wiata



Mrs Haley Te Wiata finished with us (for now) this week and is now on maternity leave. We thank Haley for nurturing her students so well and wish her all the very best as she and her family prepare for the arrival of their second child. The class had a celebration on Wednesday afternoon to honour Haley for her dedication and to wish her well.

Mrs. Kelly Woodman who has been teaching in 3-4T-W on Fridays and some of Thursdays will take the class for the remainder of this year.

#### **2025 Class Placement**

The cut-off for your feedback for class placement in 2025 has passed. As you are aware, we are in the process of completing our class groupings for 2025. Class lists will be finalised by going up day on December 3rd when your children will learn who their teacher and class is for the coming year.

We have taken into account your input along with our knowledge of your children's needs within the school setting. Please understand that we are unable to accommodate requests for specific teachers unless they align with our picture of your child's needs as a learner within the context of our school environment.

We carefully consider the needs of each child to attain the best possible balance within the classes which takes into account student needs, social dynamic, gender, abilities and friendships.

Indeed, we feel most fortunate to have dynamic, dedicated and skilled members of staff and we are looking forward to what we can achieve with you in 2025. We warmly welcome our new staff who will compliment and add further diversity to our team.

When children find out who their 2025 teacher will be it will assist them if you are positive with them regarding the class groupings they are in. I understand that change is sometimes difficult but in reality, it is the only thing that we can be certain of and we support our children to learn to welcome change in their lives and see it as an opportunity for growth. We thank you for the trust you place in us in placing your children for their next year at school.

I will publish our 2025 staff roles in our next newsletter which goes out on November 29th.

#### Bushfire Preparedness Through Education & Community Engagement

As part of their Inquiry Unit - 'Bushfire Preparedness through Education' our 5/6 s presented their research to local community members at our local CFA station on Sunday. They attracted much interest in their work and commented on how well our children presented their work!







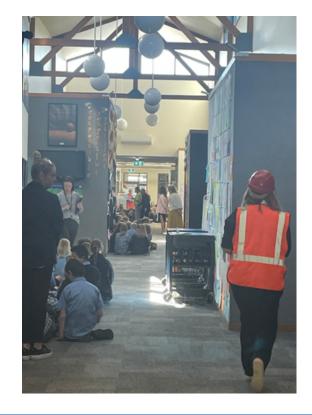




## Emergency Management Bush Fire Preparedness Drill

We keep an up to date Emergency Managment Plan and we have regular drills to ensure we are prepared for any emergencies. We recently conducted a 'Shelter in Place' drill where our students and staff assemble in the corridor if there is a bushfire. Our students and staff followed the correct procedures in a calm manner and all students, staff and visitors were accounted for. Congratulations to our wardens, staff, students and visitors on great team work! This gives us confidence that the systems we have in place will support us in the event of an emergency. Each term we conduct at least one drill which could be a lockdown, evacuation or shelter in place. We have an action plan for different possible scenarios.





#### **Bushfire Procedures**

St. Ambrose Parish School has been listed on the 2024-25 BARR and will be required to close on days with a fire danger rating listed as Catastrophic.

The following information will help us plan and prepare our school to support the safety of staff, students and the wider community.

Assessing bushfire and grassfire risk schools and early childhood education services are categorised based on their risk of bushfire and grassfire in line with the Victorian Education Facility Bushfire Risk Methodology and review this classification annually. To inform this classification, we have used the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) analysis informed by the Bushfire Management Overlay, Victorian Fire Risk Register, and terrain and fuel type exposure.

Our school is rated as CAT 3. This means that St. Ambrose Parish School:

· Must close on days forecast as 'Catastrophic' by the Bureau of Meteorology within our designated fire district. Victoria uses 4 tiers of fire danger, from 'Moderate' to 'Catastrophic'.

Fire danger ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start. They are important because they provide people with information so that they can take action to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires.

From September 1, Australians will have a simplified, action-oriented Fire Danger Rating System.



- The AFDRS will also introduce 'off' for those days where no proactive action is required by the community. On these days, you will still need to abide by local seasonal laws and regulations, but there is little or no risk of a fire that starts spreading in a dangerous or life-threatening way.
- The AFDRS is informed by one of Australia's largest social research projects which found that most Australians do not understand the current system, and would prefer a simpler, action-oriented set of fire danger ratings.
- The AFDRS is being implemented consistently across Australia and will mean that wherever you are across the country, you will be able to understand the threat posed on any given day and make appropriate decisions to keep you and your family safe.

#### What can Parents do?

Make sure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website <a href="https://www.sawoodend.catholic.edu.au/">https://www.sawoodend.catholic.edu.au/</a> and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff. If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can access more information about school closures on the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) website. For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website at or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

#### A Little Kindness Goes a Long Way!



Augie and Jethro are to be recognised for the great kindness they offered a new student who felt nervous on his first day with us. Thanks to their thoughtfulness and care our visitor felt reassured and welcome.

#### **2025 Prep Orientation**

Our 2025 prep students spent their first one hour in the classroom this week enjoying play based activities while having fun with their friends, making new friends and becoming familiar with our school. We look forward to seeing them back next week!





#### **Uniform Fittings**



Poppy is pictured above wearing her new school dress. It was a joy observing our 2025 prep students' excitement as they tried on uniform items.

Darren from Hip Pocket will be onsite again on December 3rd between 10.00 and 11.00 am for those across any year level who would like to try on uniform items to determine sizing.

#### **Parents as Helpers Training**



We are grateful that we have you assisting with our various school programs and activities. Our students really enjoy your input. We have a parent as helper training course scheduled before the end of the year on our Step Up Day which is on

#### Tuesday December 3rd at 9.15am.

We encourage any of you who are yet to do the training or need to do the refresher course to email Debbie Geisler (debbie.geisler@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au) and book in to the appropriate course.

Some of our 2025 prep parents are pictured above getting to know each other over morning tea.

## Year 6 Transition to Secondary School

On Wednesday we welcomed Year 6 students from St. Mary's in Lancefield, Lancefield Primary School and Woodend Primary School for a day of interactive fun. This day offered students the opportunity to meet peers from other schools who are going to their secondary school in 2025. From the students' feedback, they really enjoyed this day and feel more confident about going in to Year seven next year knowing some more people. Thank you to Erin and to our Year six teachers for organising this day.





#### **2025 Annual Tuition Fee**

As communicated in our last newsletter, the following details the changes in tuition fees for the 2025 academic year.

Any decision to adjust tuition fees is never made lightly, nor without careful and thorough consideration of our students' needs and our school's capacity to provide an education experience that supports every student to flourish. We are also cognisant of the financial pressures that many families have experienced this year.

St Ambrose School too, is facing increasing costs in multiple areas of school operations, including WorkCover premiums, Child Safety compliance, risk management, teacher resources and professional learning, and higher central system costs.

Our tuition fees at St. Ambrose School are also influenced by the Commonwealth Department of Education's calculation of our community's ability to financially contribute to the operating costs of our school, known as the Capacity to Contribute, or CTC, which is reviewed annually.

School funding is complex, so I have included with this letter a simple school funding "explainer" which I hope will support your understanding of how government funds Catholic (and other non-government) schools and how tuition fees support our school.

To ensure that we can continue to deliver a personalised, high-quality education that is responsive to the diverse interests and academic, social and emotional needs of our students, it is necessary to adjust our fees in 2025.

As a result, St. Ambrose School 's annual fee schedule for 2025 will be:

| Fees                     |             | 2025 Budget |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| (One payment per family) | Family Fee  | \$2,500.00  |
| (One payment per family) | Capital Fee | \$ 200.00   |
| Levies (for each child)  | Curriculum  | \$ 665.00   |
| (for each child)         | Swimming    | \$ 30.00    |

This is an increase of \$9.00 per week on 2024 fees for one student and less for each additional student as the family fee and capital fee is only paid once per year per family.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the fee increase, or wish to discuss your individual circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact me. We remain committed to keeping tuition fees as low and affordable as possible, and to working closely with our community to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Thank you for your understanding. We are grateful for your ongoing support and trust in our school.



Further information is available on the School Resourcing Standard through the Australian Department of Education.

Catholic schools (and other non-government schools) are funded through a combination of:

- 1. Commonwealth Government funding
- 2. State Government funding
- Parent contributions in the form of tuition fees and charges.

This is how the pieces of the pie fit together.

#### Baseline funding (the SRS)

There is an agreed annual amount that government funds every school to meet its students' educational needs. This is called the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS). Under this national agreement, the Australian and state governments together fund schools in line with the SRS.

The final SRS Base for 2024 was \$13,570 for each primary student, and \$17,053 for each secondary student.

In addition to this base amount, there are up to six loadings that can provide additional funding for student priority cohorts and disadvantaged schools.

To ensure that funding keeps up with changes in wages and other costs, the SRS base amount and loadings are indexed each year.

# School fees have to make up the shortfall

#### The Capacity to Contribute (CTC)

For Catholic schools, the SRS base amount is then reduced by the school community's CTC. This can be as much as an 80% reduction.

The Capacity to Contribute (CTC) for each school is determined by the taxable income of the families attending the school, as reported annually to the ATO.

Schools are currently expected to recover the CTC shortfall in SRS funding through school fees.

Importantly, none of this government funding can be used for buildings and infrastructure in Catholic schools. Our buildings and infrastructure are funded by capital grants from the Commonwealth and/or Victorian governments, and by parent contributions through fees, school cash reserves and capital levies

#### **Fortnightly Assemblies**



This week our 3-4M students did a superb job leading our assembly. We begin with an acknowledgement of country followed by a prayer. Leon is pictured above leading this week's prayer. We then sing the national anthem together before the class presenting shares some of their learning. After that the awards are presented.

We are always happy to have parents and family members join us for these assemblies.

Congratualtions to our students for all they are achieving.



#### **School Policies**

Note that all of our MACS school policies are kept updated and are available within the policy suite on our website. You can access these online whenever you feel the need to.

Visit our website via the link under the "Next Newsletter" title and click on the policy button.

Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.



Gratitude is not just about joy and abundance; it's about finding resilience in the messiness of life.



#### **Next Newsletter**

For more news and photos visit our <u>website</u>
and look at latest news including our AFL Roadshow,
Garden Club or Hockey by clicking on our facebook
button.

Our next newsletter will be published on Friday, 29th November 2024.



Bronwyn Phillips
Principal



## GRADE 3-4M CLASSROOM FEATURE

#### Science Experiments

As part of our Inquiry into forces, we have been delving into science experiments. In this experiment, students investigated the forces of push and pull. We looked at how the upward push of water changes how we experience the weight of objects and how gravity can move objects. Soon we will explore magnetic forces and use new knowledge to complete challenge tasks.



#### **Artist Visit for Local Mural**

We were very lucky to have
Natalie Davis join us to gather
our grades' input into a new
mural to be created in
Woodend. In conjunction with
the Woodend Neighbourhood
House, our students were able
to learn about the
Neighbourhood house and give
their ideas for the mural.
We look forward to seeing it
when completed.

#### Godly Play

As part of our Religious
Education unit exploring how
Mary was the first disciple, we
have been retelling the story of
the Enunciation using Godly
play. Using simple props,
students have expressed their
understanding of this important
scripture.





#### **AROUND THE SCHOOL**

#### St John's First Aid in Schools

Last week in PE sessions we had Robyn from St John's Victoria teach all the classes basic first aid. The junior classes learnt about Danger, Response and Send for Help and calling 000. The middle classes learnt that as well as how to check airway and breathing. The senior students also learnt those things as well as CPR. This is a free program for schools that we do every second year to build students' knowledge as they progress through the year levels.





#### Ms Smith's website - Mindful Mates



X + 3 K a X c +

When Mrs Smith was teaching 5/6P for 4 weeks she told us about the website she created, Mindful Mates. She has been working on it since 2022. The website helps children in understanding, regulating, and expressing their feelings in a healthy, safe and empathetic way.

By Dash, Riley and Violet.

mindfulmates.co

#### **Remembrance Day**



Around the School

#### AROUND THE SCHOOL

## **Artist Workshop - Neighbourhood House**



X + 3 to Xe +













Around the School

## **Student News**



#### Melbourne Cup Winners!



Jett, Arlia, Aston, Taj and little brothers Boston & Jagger were lucky enough to hold the Melbourne Cup on Wednesday. The winning horse, Knights Choice, is trained at Macedon Lodge, where their Dad Liam works.



#### **Congratulations Isaac!**

Congratulations to Isaac who ran in the 800m state athletics event last Wednesday in the 11 boys category. He came 14th in the race meaning he is 14th fastest in the state for 800m! Great work Isaac.



## Well done to our girls' relay team!



Congrats to our 9-10 girls relay team who made the state final last Wednesday. The girls ran 3rd in their heat to make the final that night! I hear a great race in hot conditions coming 7th overall. A great effort meaning top 7 of the state!!

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## **Student News**



#### **Student Awards**

Prep K - Amy M for always completing work to the best of her ability!

Prep K - Audrey C for showing some great strategies when reading tricky words!

Prep K - Lachie E for working hard to improve his listening skills at learning times!

Prep T - Aaliyah F for her positive and friendly attitude and a great start to her time at St Ambrose!

Prep T - Rupert F for consistently working hard and trying his best!

1/2CM - Elias B for his thoughtful ideas when persuading his audience in writing!

1/2CM - Gwen G for her amazing understanding when working on fractions!

1/2CM - Peaches K for demonstrating great resilience when things are challenging.

1/2S - Grace H for her kind, considerate and positive attitude. Thank you for always displaying our school values.

1/2S - Ryder M for being an incredibly hard worker. Well done on always giving 100% to everything you do.

1/2S - Dominic O for his thoughtful ideas when trying to persuade the audience in his writing. Well done!

1/20 - Mack R for always being willing to help others in class.

1/2O - Holly C for all of her thoughtful and kind responses during special person roll.

1/20 - Harper C for showing resilience and perseverance during our fractions unit.

3/4M - Hamish M for his dedication to achieving his writing goals.

3/4M - Jethro F for being kind and welcoming to a new student.

3/4M - Patrick F for his improvement in his understanding of time.

3/4R - Matilda C for working hard and taking on feedback to complete her realistic narrative!

3/4R - Felix D for being a responsible learner, completing his realistic narrative at home!

3/4TW - Scarlett M for demonstrating kindness and resilence in challenging times.

3/4TW - Sofia M for always having a positive attitude and giving 100% effort.

5/6M - Tom C for his understanding of co-ordinates and Cartesian planes.

5/6M - Lewis L for always playing fair during break time games and senior sport.

5/6P - Ruby S for her work on cartesian planes in maths.

5/6P - Elke F for excellent efforts plotting co-ordinates in maths.

5/6P - Riley W for his engaging presenting skills at the CFA Open Day.

Sports Star of the Week - Pip F for excellent partner balances in PE this week.

PBL Bronze Awards (20 Bee Gotcha Tickets)

Lizzy D, Ellie B, Harriet F, Indie R-H, Cosette D, Asher J, Hugh F, Violet D, Dash B

PBL Silver Awards (40 Bee Gotcha Tickets)

Matilda C, Ben H, Amy M, Stuart P, Elijah E, Tilly N, Olive S

PBL Gold Awards (60 Bee Gotcha Tickets)

Caleb S, Joe O, Myles L, Felicity F, Peaches K, Leo H, Lachie E, Chase K, Nick L, Alice C, Holly C, Harper C

PBL Rainbow Awards (100 Bee Gotcha Tickets)

Maggie C, Harry R, Poppy C, Everly B, Angus N, Remy B, Olivia C

PBL Diamond Award (150 Bee Gotcha Tickets) Elliott N



16 November Tillie J 17 November Ruby W 23 November Isaac C & Ivy H 24 November Florence H 28 November Joel W

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## **SCHOOL NEWS**



# Ambrose (gre Christmas Appeal Giving a gift this Christmas

Ambrose Care will, again, be supporting families in need this Christmas.

We will be providing those families with a gift card for each of their children to spend on gifts. For any families in need of support for food, some food vouchers will also be gifted.

If you are able to help, you can purchase a voucher from your preferred local business and drop it into the office or you can give a cash or bank transfer donation directly to Ambrose Care. Ambrose Care will purchase the cards on your behalf.

Cash can be dropped at the office or can be transferred to the following account:

Name: Ambrose Care

BSB: 063-806 A/C: 10210993

Re: Christmas appeal

So we can distribute to families before the end of the school term, could we please have all donations in before Monday 9th December.

School Events



Erin Brass

## **Grade 6 Transition Preparation Day**

Our mission last year was to expand the Grade 6
Transition Preparation Day to include other schools, and on Wednesday we did just that. Our Grade 6's hosted the Grade 6 students from St Mary's Lancefield, Lancefield Primary, and Woodend Primary.

The students spent the day participating in a variety of activities designed to prepare them for their transition into Secondary School whilst also providing them opportunities to form new connections, and possible friendships, with others that are attending their future schools.



Lots of fun challenges were presented to the students across the day, that gave them opportunities to not only bond over commonalities but also to solve problems as a cohort. The students had the chance to identify their common hopes and worries for next year and together, begin brainstorming ways to ease some of their shared worries.



In the afternoon, the students from Woodend Primary joined us for the Q & A sessions with the Students' future schools. We were very fortunate to have our former students Liv S and Matthew M join us for these Q & A sessions. Having experienced this day themselves, they came prepared with the relevant information they thought the students needed.







## JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS

# Faith & Family

Loving Father,
May the poor widow move us to
trust fully in your Providential
Care.

All is yours and all is your gift. In you, we are enough and have enough.

Let us live humbly, love tenderly and walk justly each day you give us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Action:

During this week let us assess our resources, personal skills and talents included. What more is asked of me, of you?

What are we being asked to give as our "mite" today?

#### Religious Calendar of Events in Term 4:

| Date                         | Details                                      | Time               |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| 20th November<br>(Wednesday) | Advent Prayer Service Week 1 (Jocelyn)       | 2:45 pm            |
| 27th November<br>(Wednesday) | Advent Prayer Service Week 2 (Grades 5/6)    | 2:45 pm            |
| 2nd December<br>(Monday)     | Advent Prayer Service Week 3 (Grades 3/4)    | 2:45 pm            |
| 3rd December<br>(Tuesday)    | Advent Prayer Service Week 4<br>(Grades 1/2) | 2:45 pm            |
| 9th December<br>(Monday)     | Nativity Play (Preps)<br>Gr. 6 Graduation    | 2:45 pm<br>6.00 pm |
| 11th December<br>(Wednesday) | St. Ambrose / End of Year Mass               | 9:30 am            |

Please note: All are welcome to our Masses. If you would like to join us in any of these celebrations, you are most welcome. Gospel Reflection: Mk 12:38-44

Jesus describes a scene he has witnessed: a widow who gave from her need-two small coins, a "mite." While this would not be much of a sacrifice for most of us, for her it was a significant portion of her livelihood, a precious commodity.

I witness "widow's mites" in the residents of a nursing home I regularly visit: the lady who looks out for her roommate, though she herself is equally in need; the man in a wheelchair who guides his wife's wheelchair down the hallway, pushing her chair with his arms and propelling his chair with his feet.

Small gestures, but I imagine God smiling.

Financial giving to charities and churches is a laudable thing. But giving of ourselves goes beyond money.

By: Pat Ruggaber (Copyright © 2024 University of Notre Dame)

#### **NEW SATURDAY EVENING MASS TIMES**

When the parish of Woodend and Lancefield/Romsey came under the administer of one priest a change was made to Masses in both communities. The Parish of Lancefield/Romsey went from three weekend Masses to one weekend Mass. A request was made to have a second weekend Mass for Lancefield. The only option was an additional Saturday Evening Mass. Recently both communities were asked to put forward their preferred option for Mass times. After collating the responses put forward the following are the new times



5pm Woodend 6.30pm Lancefield.

I know this may not suit everyone. Change can sometimes be difficult. I ask that we embrace these new Mass times as the best way to serve both communities. At the moment we have two priests, the reality is that sometime in the new year we will have only one priest. This change has been made in preparation for when one priest will minister in both Parishes. These new mass times will begin on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

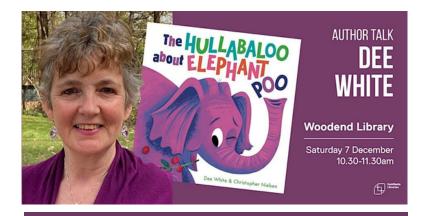
Faith & Family 16



## **COMMUNITY NEWS**







For our last Saturday Storytime of the year, local author Dee White will be joining me to launch her new picture book all about elephants and how surprisingly sustainable their poo can be. Great fun for young families. There will be book sales and signings, as well as a fun filled storytime session.

Book here



KERRIE HALL INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE OUR

#### 90th Birthday Dance 23rd November

4pm start; Devonshire Tea; Face Painting. 7pm Dance Band - Trio Plus One

Traditional Country Supper Ladies please bring a plate (sandwiches or cake) BYO and Licensed Bar available

Entry - Donation

Proudly Sponsored by Bendigo Bank (Lancefield and Romsey)

EMAIL: kerriehallinc@gmail.com
WEB: www.kerriehall.com.au
PHONE:Marlene 5427 0202



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