

St Ambrose Primary School

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

Respectful Responsible Resilient Kind



To know yourself as the Being underneath the thinker, the stillness underneath the mental noise, the love and joy underneath the pain, is freedom, salvation, enlightenment.

Eckhart Tolle



We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of this land, and offer our respect to Elders both past present & emerging.



GRATITUDE

God, we come before you with grateful hearts for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ.

We thank you for his sacrifice on the cross and for the hope of eternal life that his resurrection brings.

May we never take for granted the magnitude of your love for us, and may we **always** be filled with gratitude for your blessings. In Jesus' name.



Our next newsletter will be published on Friday 1st May 2026.

Message from the Principal

Dear Families, Parishioners and Friends,

This message is to offer you a heartfelt thank you for your support of our school fete.

What an incredible day! Despite the precipitous weather and morning mist, the St Ambrose community rallied together to make this year's fete an outstanding success. It was a joy to witness our families and local residents connecting in such a vibrant, "good old-fashioned" atmosphere.

The day was packed with highlights, including:

- **Delicious Treats:** Baked goods, fairy floss, ice cream, preserves, honey, aromatic curry, samosas and a classic BBQ.
- **Treasures & Finds:** Plants, clothing, and books.
- **Entertainment:** Musicians, a sensational DJ (Archer) and MC (Mrs. Macca), and the thrill of the silent auction.
- **Fun & Games:** The obstacle course, various activity stalls, camel rides, petting zoo, giant slide, Easter raffle and plenty of prizes.

An undertaking of this scale is only possible through the dedication of our volunteers. I would like to extend a special "thank you" to our core committee: Sophie Lynch, Danielle Galle, Nadege Garnier, Ali Adams, and Stefanie Renaud. These five individuals worked tirelessly for months to ensure every detail was seamless.

We also acknowledge our extended committee who organised a stall each and the many parents, teachers, local businesses and students who managed stalls, donated goods, and stayed late to set up on Friday and pack down after the fun was had. We are also deeply grateful to Fr. John (what a good sport) and our Parish members for their continued patronage and for the use of the Parish Hall and Church.

I am thrilled to announce that, thanks to your generosity, we have currently raised \$12,000.00! These funds will be invested directly back into our school community through:

- new furniture for our Art/STEM room.
- a TV screen for the Church to benefit both parishioners and students.
- new resources for our school garden.

Events like this reinforce the strength and spirit of St Ambrose. To everyone who donated, volunteered, or simply attended with a smile—**Thank you.**

Hats off to you all!



Sacrament of Reconciliation

We congratulate all of our students and parishioners who made their sacrament of reconciliation last week. Thank you to Jocelyn Devlin, parents, Fr. John, Fr. Zaheer, and their teachers for supporting them in preparing for this sacrament.



Walk Through Holy Week



Our students have learned that Holy week begins on Palm Sunday. Holy Week is the most sacred time in the Christian calendar, marking Jesus' final days on earth and his ultimate sacrifice for humanity. Each of our classes has presented part of the events of Holy Week to assist them to understand the meaning of Easter.

Student Representative Council



We have a very professional SRC pictured above discussing their plans to introduce team mascots for our sports teams. They are collaborating on how this will be decided.

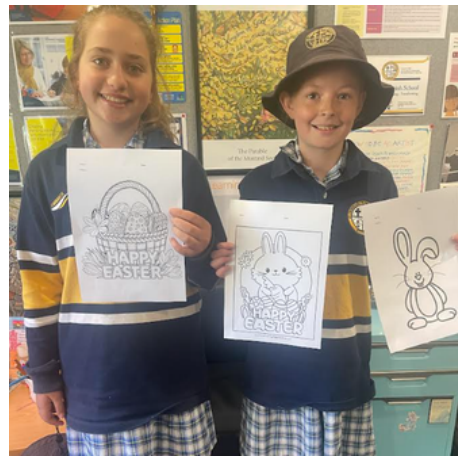
Pasta Making Fun



Our 3-4 students made delicious pasta for their lunch from our garden silverbeet today! Thankyou for sharing your expertise Mrs. Raco and Steph!



Student Initiatives



Ruby and Scarlett are pictured above sharing their idea for an Easter colouring in competition. They invited any student who wished to take part to enter their work which is displayed in our corridor. The girls have also generously provided a prize for our junior (Hetty M), middle (Isla Millar) and senior (Caleb S) successful entrant. Well done everyone!

ANZAC March-Save the Date

The traditional Anzac Day March and commemorative service will be held on Saturday 25th April at the RSL in Anslow St.

The march will assemble on the High St slip road opposite Coles. We encourage our students to join us dressed in their school uniform ready to begin marching at 11.30am, pausing at the Vietnam memorial and the clock tower to lay wreaths.

The commemorative service will commence at 12pm noon. This year we will be unveiling the new mural as part of the service, which the RSL hopes will be celebrated by the Woodend community. You might be aware that it was the RSL that delivered the clock tower and the Avenue of Honour to the local community and the mural is their reminder of the contribution and sacrifices made by the Woodend community over the years.

The mural tells the story of a number of Woodend residents who have served the nation at different times. I'm sure that you and our students will find it interesting.



Introducing our 2026 SAC

At our first meeting for this year on Monday March 23rd we completed the MACS SAC training module. The SAC act as an advisory body to the principal. They also offer another avenue for you to have your say at St Ambrose. We elected a new Chairperson and Secretary at this meeting. Pictured below from left to right on each row are our chairperson this year Gerald Sullivan, our Secretary Rilla Healy. Maurice Fanning (parishioner), Paul Daniels, Brad Ellul, Debbie Geisler and Fr. John are also on our SAC. Our members are pictured below. You are welcome to introduce yourself to them.



NAPLAN



We congratulate our year 3 and year 5 students who have completed their Naplan assessments over the past two weeks. Naplan is one of numerous assessments we use to track our students progress.

Cobaw Sports



In Cobaw sport, the girls' cricket team played at Romsey Recreation Centre. The first game we played was against Saint Mary's, unfortunately we lost but we tried our hardest. The next team we played was against Romsey Primary School and we won by 40 runs. Then we played Woodend PS, Lancefield PS and our last game was against Kyneton PS, they were all good games and fun to play against. It started to rain so we called it a tie with Kyneton PS, went back to school and in the end we had two loses, two wins and a tie.



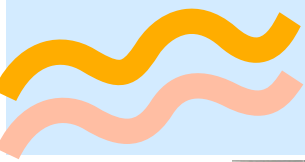
Next Newsletter

Our next newsletter will be published on Friday 1st May 2026!

For more news and photos visit our [website](#) and look at latest news by clicking on our Facebook button.



Bronwyn Phillips
Principal



5/6W CLASSROOM FEATURE



In 5/6W we have been creating a design to put on our own t-shirts. Our design is meant to represent ourselves, we are able to do this thanks to Ms Menzies and her amazing machine that allows us to print our design onto our shirts.

Just yesterday all of the 5/6's had their summer Cobaw sports where we competed for our school in 3 sports, tee-ball, cricket and volleyball. Volleyballers were lucky enough to make it through to the next level in Bendigo.

Now this Saturday we have the school fete coming up where there will be games, easter egg hunts, a dunking machine and lots more fun activities and stalls. All of the students are very excited for the fete and we thank all of the amazing parents and helpers who are making this fete so amazing.

Amari and Rose on behalf of 5/6W



Cobaw District Summer Sports

On 26 March, our Grade 5/6 students competed in the Cobaw District Summer Sports in Romsey. The sports included Cricket, Volleyball, and T-Ball, and we entered both a boys' and girls' team in each event.

Everyone was very excited, especially as, for many students, it was their first time competing at district level and for some, their first experience playing these sports competitively.

Our most successful team was the boys' volleyball team. They remained undefeated throughout the competition and advanced to the grand final against St Mary's. It was a nerve racking match to both play and watch. St Mary's led for most of the game and at one stage were ahead by 10 points. However, in the dying minutes, our boys made an incredible comeback with some outstanding serving, winning the game by 6 points and taking home the premiership flag. The boys' volleyball team will now progress to the Division Sports in Bendigo.

Our cricket teams were also very competitive, winning several games throughout the day. Their skills improved as the competition went on and there were plenty of cheers as runs were scored and catches were taken. Unfortunately, their final games had to be abandoned due to rain, but overall, both teams had a fantastic day.

The T-Ball teams were eager to compete against other schools in the district. After carrying their gear to the main oval and warming up, they played with great enthusiasm.

It was especially exciting to see students who were new to competitive T-Ball perform so well. Both teams secured a couple of wins and everyone finished the day with smiles on their faces.

We would like to thank our teachers and parent helpers for their support in coaching, umpiring and scoring throughout the day.

By Grade 5/6



Volleyball

On 26th of March 2026 St Ambrose competed in Cobaw sports at Romsey. Volleyball was one of the sports St Ambrose competed in and we were very excited to be playing volleyball for the first time; Amari, Aston, Jim, Lawson, Seb, Deon, James, Walter, Leon and unfortunately Jett and Miles missed out on the big day. The boys team were undefeated for the entire competition and we won the flag, which means we get to go to the next stage in Bendigo. Against St. Marys we were losing by 10 and in the last 6 minutes we came back and won by 6 from our amazing servers. Well done everyone!



Congratulations Gwen!

On Tuesday (10/3/26) me and mum went on a really long car trip to Swan Hill Swimming for St Ambrose at the School Sports competition.

On the way the land around us was endlessly flat and there was a lot of space and not a lot of trees. We overtook five caravans and had the whole road to ourselves. When we arrived at swan hill outdoor swimming pool we managed to find a lucky parking spot but it was busy and cars were everywhere.

When we got in to the change rooms I put on my best swimming suit and I ran to the little pool for a play. It was not long until my race so I hopped into the big 50m long pool to do my warmup. I did 5 backstroke push offs, 100m swim and 2 dives. Then the man with the loud voice and microphone shouted "everyone out of the pool, freestylers report to marshalling"

"9-10year old Girls backstroke report to Marshalling" came soon. That was me! I'm only 9 but they make me swim with the 10 year olds. I hurried to marshalling and after a quick roll check they sent us to the blocks.

I pindropped in to the freezing water my toes froze and my hands felt all slippery on the warm metal bar. Luckily it was just a second until the man blew the whistle and I shot off like a rocket. I swam a little faster at the start than I'd like and by the time I was half way I was wondering if there was an end to this freezing pool. Then I saw the flags flying above my head and I accelerated as fast as I could toward the end. My fingers touched the wall and I sprang upward. The people timing said I had a two second PB which is a lot! Overall I had a great day. I finished feeling pretty proud of myself I had a really good swim and a nice day.

By Gwen G 3/4C



Easter Raffle Winners

Thanks to your generous donations we were able to offer nine great prizes in our Easter raffle. Congratulations to all of our winners!

Guess the Number of Eggs

Congratulations to Jock R who guessed the closest number of Easter Eggs in the jar!



AROUND THE SCHOOL





Fete Fun - [more photos here](#)





HAPPY BIRTHDAY



27 MARCH	ARCHER G
28 MARCH	SKYLAR C
29 MARCH	REUBEN T
5 APRIL	GEORGIA B
8 APRIL	AUDREY C, ASTON J
10 APRIL	GRACE H
12 APRIL	JOREL L
14 APRIL	ASTON M, JETT M
15 APRIL	PIP F, BEN H, INDY H, ISLA M
19 APRIL	MILANA M
20 APRIL	ARI F
21 APRIL	OWEN D
22 APRIL	HALEY C
23 APRIL	MILLIE E
24 APRIL	JIM G
26 APRIL	JACK D
28 APRIL	CHLOE M
29 APRIL	WALTER G, COOPER L



Congratulations

- 1/2B Charlie C for the fantastic effort and positive attitude he has show towards his learning.
- 1/2B George E for his confident reading to the whole school during the Holy Week Walk Through.
- 1/2S Valerie W for demonstrating great resilience during writing tasks. Keep it up!
- 1/2S Louis M for the amazing effort you are putting in to all your learning! Keep it up!
- 1/2T Archer G for being an enthusiastic, hard-working student who brings a positive spark to every lesson - well done!
- 1/2T Atticus L for showing great focus during spelling lessons and commitment to mastering every new sound - well done!
- 3/4O Grace H for always modelling focus and kindness to the rest of the class.
- 3/4O Skylar C for her excellent tutorial in our open mic. You spoke so well Skylar! Well done!
- 5/6BM Sebastian M for being a great supportive friend.
- 5/6BM Marli P for taking on extra jobs to help with the smooth running of our classroom.
- 5/6W Amari B for always showing our school values inside the classroom and outside. Well done Amari!
- 5/6W Aston M for always showing respect towards others and for always trying your best at everything you do. Keep up the great work!

PBL Bronze Award - Willa M, Everly B, Mollie H, Sophie P, Boston M, Thomas S, Taran G, Redmond O, Oliver D, Emilia T, Jaxen H, Winter T, Valerie W, Stuart P, Neville G, Mo R, Elise R, Lexi K, Leo H, Lachlan M, James F, Aaliyah F, Louis M

PBL Silver Award - Willow S



Cooking Competition

Mystery Box Challenge! Ages 9 - 13

When: Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th April
10.30am - 12.30pm

Where: Macedon Ranges Health, 5 Neal St, Gisborne

Bookings essential

✉ kristen.holding@benetas.com.au

☎ 03 5428 0300

Get ready to think like a chef!

In this fun, hands-on cooking challenge, kids will open a surprise mystery box filled with fresh, healthy ingredients and create their very own masterpiece.

Participants will work in small teams to design a tasty, colourful snack - just like on MasterChef! There's no right or wrong answer, just plenty of creativity, teamwork and fun.

Our friendly judges will be looking for:

- 🌟 Creative ideas
- 🍴 Colourful, nutritious choices
- 👁️ Eye-catching presentation
- 👏 Great teamwork

From rainbow veggie pinwheels to fruit parfaits and crunchy veggie cups, this session is all about building confidence in the kitchen while learning that healthy food can be fun and delicious. Fast-paced and full of surprises!



The Man Cave: Community Keynote

When: Monday 27th April, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
RSVP: Monday 20th April

✉ melissa.bankowski@benetas.com.au

📍 Macedon Ranges Health
5 Neal St, Gisborne

☎ 03 5428 0300

🍷 Refreshments provided

Parents. Teachers. Coaches. Youth leaders. If you work with or care about young men this conversation is for you.

Designed to unpack what's really going on for young men today, this keynote explores mental health, identity, connection, confidence and positive masculinity and what adults can do to better support them.

Why attend:

- Learn how gender stereotypes and "tough guy" norms can impact wellbeing
- Hear what young men are really experiencing
- Gain practical strategies for engaging with teens
- Understand how to build healthy masculinity together

Why this conversation can't wait:

- Suicide is the leading cause of death for young men under 25
- Many boys feel pressure to hide vulnerability and "tough it out"
- Emotional isolation increases risk of diabetes, disengagement and harmful behaviour
- Communities that promote emotional literacy and respect build stronger families, schools and clubs



Term 2, 2026
Loddon Mallee
Regional Parenting

What's On: Term 2

All programs are delivered by our qualified and passionate facilitators.

New Program for Schools!

Tuning in to Students

An exciting new program and professional development opportunity for school staff, to build emotionally intelligent classrooms through 'emotion coaching'.

Based on the highly regarded University of Melbourne suite of Tuning in to Kids programs.

Flexible delivery options available to meet the needs of your school, contact us:

(03) 5338 1300 | parenting.bendigo@catholiccarevic.org.au



Multi-Session Programs

Tuning in to Kids | 6 Sessions, Tuesdays

Helping parents and carers build their skills to help their children develop emotional intelligence and recognise their emotions using 'emotion coaching'.

For parents and carers with children aged 2 - 12.

FREE | Tuesdays, 28 Apr - 2 Jun | 10.30am - 12.30pm
CCV - Bendigo, 176-178 McCrae St, Bendigo



Tuning in to Teens | 6 Sessions, Thursdays

This program helps parents and carers to build strong relationships with their teenagers, and ensure positive interactions even in difficult times.

For parents and carers with teens aged 11 - 18.

FREE | Thursdays, 30 Apr - 4 Jun | 10am - 12pm
Online



Term 2, 2026
Loddon Mallee
Regional Parenting

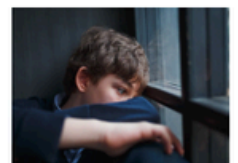
Single-Session Workshops

Kids and Worry

This free workshop explores reasons why children worry and ways parents and carers can support them. It will include ideas and practical tools to help parents and carers assist children to manage their worries.

For parents and carers with children aged 12 and under.

FREE
Wednesday, 13 May | 1.30pm - 3pm
Bendigo Library, 259 Hargreaves St, Bendigo



Connecting with Kids

Learn more about children's brain and their emotional development. This workshop helps parents and carers learn how to use emotional intelligence to understand and guide children's behaviour.

For parents and carers with children aged 12 and under.

FREE
Monday 15 June | 10am - 11.30am
Kangaroo Flat Library, 23 Lockwood Rd, Kangaroo Flat



Registrations are essential for all of our programs and workshops, places are limited.

Please call us if you have questions on 1800 123 228 or email bendigo.reception@catholiccarevic.org.au



Register:
www.catholiccarevic.org.au/workshops

JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS Faith & Family



During 2026 our focus for our community of faith will be based on the image of the Trinity (see our new picture). An image reflecting the community of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, calling us to be a community of WELCOME and HOSPITALITY.

Prayer: HOLY WEEK

Lord,
let everything I do in the coming Holy Week be inspired by You.
Help me to remember that nothing is important in my life unless it glorifies You in some way.

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for March:
For Disarmament And Peace
Let us pray that nations move to effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. Pope Leo has proclaimed this year as the Jubilee Year of St. Francis.

Ponder:

How do you feel when you give your all and no one seems to notice?

Parish Bulletin 29 March 2026

EASTER SERVICES 2026

As Fr. John and Fr. Zaher are to a number of churches, they have had to spread the services around. Please note where the services are taking place this year:

Thursday, 2nd April - Holy Thursday
7 pm St. Brigid's, Gisborne & 7 pm St. Ambrose, Woodend (the church will stay open until 9:30 pm)

Friday, 3rd April - Stations of the Cross
10 am St. Brigid's, Gisborne & 10 am St. Ambrose, Woodend

Friday, 3rd April - Passion of the Lord
3 pm St. Mary's, Lancefield & 3 pm St. Brigid's, Gisborne

Saturday, 4th April - Holy Saturday
7 pm St. Brigid's, Gisborne & 7 pm St. Mary's, Lancefield

Sunday, 5th April - Easter Sunday
8 am Riddells Creek, 9 am Romsey, 11 am Woodend & 11 am Gisborne

Gospel Reflection: Matthew 21:1-11; 27:11-54

As a mother, I laid down my life daily for my family. Isn't that what all parents do? Isn't that love? Later in life, when one of our daughters asked if I could watch her two-year-old while she opened a business, I agreed. Once again, I became a full-time preschool mom. I taught and loved that little granddaughter as if she were my own.

Now, my adult children have what I affectionately call the "inner circle," where they let their hair down with each other. They discuss life as they remember it. Not to worry. One daughter, whom I like to think of as the truth teller, inevitably spills the beans every time.

One day, she could not get the words out fast enough. "The girls say you never did anything for them; you hardly babysat." Interrupting, I questioned, "Wait a minute, didn't I watch one grandchild for three years?" Nodding, she said, "Yes, Mom, I remember. She ruined it for everyone," and finished with the words, "But what did you ever do for me?" I wanted to shout, "I gave my all!" Trying not to show my disappointment, I added, "I hardly recognize myself when you all talk about me."

This conversation must have bothered me. It came to mind one day and as I teared up, I brought it to Jesus. His understanding words were, "You know, Ellen, it happens to Me too. Many of my children ask the same thing: 'What did You ever do for me, Jesus?'" Jesus trained Judas, loved him, then made him a disciple, yet Judas betrayed Him. I know it hurt Jesus's heart! Jesus chose Peter to be the Rock of the Church even though he denied Jesus three times. What did Jesus do for me? He gave His all. Isn't that love?

By: Ellen Mongan (Copyright © 2026 CatholicMom.com. All Rights Reserved)

Sacramental Dates in 2026:

If your child is making one of their Sacraments this year, please note the changes to the calendar below.

Date	Details
2nd & 3rd May	Confirmation Commitment Masses
7th May	Confirmation Evening Meeting (Venue To Follow)
29th May	Confirmation Practice
Saturday, 30th May	Confirmation @ 1 pm (Please note change of time!)
6th August	Eucharist Evening Meeting
22nd & 23rd August	First Eucharist Commitment Masses
10th September	First Eucharist Practice
12th & 13th September	First Eucharist Masses

THE MASS ON SATURDAY IS AT 5 PM SO ALL SATURDAY COMMISSIONING MASSES FOR THE SACRAMENTS WILL BE AT 5 PM.

Religious Calendar of Events in Term One, 2026:

Date	Details	Time
Wed, 1st April	End of Term Mass	9:30

Religious Calendar of Events in Term Two, 2026:

Date	Details	Time
Wed, 29th April	Project Compassion Day (Gold coin donation)	
Sat, 2nd May Or Sun, 3rd May	Commissioning Masses for Confirmation	5 pm Or 11 am
Wed, 6th May	Mother's Day Prayer Service	3 pm
Thurs, 7th May	Confirmation Evening Meeting for Parents and Students (Venue to follow)	6:30
Wed, 13th May	Junior Mass (Grs 1/2)	9:30
Wed, 20th May	Middle Mass (Grs 3/4)	9:30
Fri, 29th May	Sacrament of Confirmation Practice	11:45
Sat, 30th May	Sacrament of Confirmation	1 pm
Wed, 3rd June	Buddies Mass (Grs. P and 5/6)	9:30

Please note:
All are welcome.
If you would like to join us in any of these celebrations, you are most welcome. Please sit at the back or upstairs to make sure there is room for all the students.



COMMUNITY NEWS

MACEDON RANGES
AUTUMN FESTIVAL
April 1-30
EAT · DRINK · EXPLORE

• A MONTH-LONG CELEBRATION ACROSS NINE VILLAGES •

Macedon Ranges Shire Council | VICTORIA'S HEARTLAND | Community Bank Lonsdale and Horsey | Bendigo Bank | MVR | MACEDON RANGES REGIONAL COUNCIL

WOODEND SOCCER CLUB
Woodend Eagles
Spots Open
FOOTBALL VICTORIA

Community Bank - Trentham & Districts
Bendigo Bank

**Effort
Attitude
Teamwork**

For more information head to :
woodendsoccer.com.au/2026-eoi

Community Bank Trentham & Districts
Bendigo Bank | nice RICE | p2p

13 March 2026

Discover, Create, Learn at the Sacred Heart College Open Evening

Dear St Ambrose parents, students and families

We are once again thrilled to be able to invite you all to our approaching College Open Day. This year the event will be held during Term 1 on **Thursday 26 March**.

Open Days provide a valuable opportunity for families who are working through the process of choosing the right school for their child. At Sacred Heart College, Kyneton we understand the need for parents and children to explore their prospective school, speak with staff and students and have their questions answered about the educational experience on offer.

We encourage families to Discover, Create and Learn more about the College at our Open Evening on **Thursday 26 March from 4:30pm – 7:30pm**. This event will offer a range of hands-on experiences for children, aimed those in Years 3 – 6, allowing them to immerse themselves in creative and learning opportunities, while parents discover more about the diverse educational offerings and supportive wellbeing structure that are central College life.

Bookings for our Open Evening can be made via the College website: www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au

We hope to see you there.

Dr Darren Egberts
PRINCIPAL

**Discover, Create
Learn**

Open Evening
Thursday 26 March, 4:30pm - 7:30pm
Book Online: shckyneton.catholic.edu.au

Hands on activities, information sessions
and displays - lots to see and do.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE KYNETON
www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au
T: 5421 1200 E: registrar@shckyneton.catholic.edu.au
A Ministry of Mercy Education Limited - ABN 69 154 531 870