

HOLY CROSS
PRIMARY SCHOOL
New Gisborne

NEWSLETTER



A Message for Our Families

This is the first Easter message that I would offer you: it is always possible to begin anew because there is a new life that God can awaken in us in spite of all our failures.
~ Pope Francis

As parents, you see a lot of what happens around school — the photos, the events, the stories that come home at the end of the day.

But there's also a lot you don't see.

It's in the quiet routines.

The small steps forward.

The moment something clicks after a few attempts.

The growing confidence to ask a question, and to listen for the answer.

Someone said to me recently that students at Holy Cross are a little different. They're curious. They ask questions. But they also take the time to think, to listen, and to understand. That doesn't happen by chance. It's shaped by the work of our teachers, the consistency of our classrooms, and the partnership we share with you.

Over the holidays we have spent time, among other things, to develop this new newsletter format. Shared fortnightly, it is designed to offer a window into what's been happening across the school, but more importantly, to help build connection, make learning visible, and deepen our shared understanding of what matters most at Holy Cross.

We hope the break has been a chance to pause and reset, and we look forward to welcoming you back.

Many Blessings,
Eloise Meyer

emeyer@hcnewgisborne.catholic.edu.au

VOL.
1

20 APRIL, 2026

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The **must read section** of the newsletter. All your need to know information in one spot and **always** on the back page.

All students attending Holy Cross Primary School have the right to feel safe. The care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a fundamental responsibility of all within our school.

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TERM 2 DATES

Week 1

- **Apr 20-21:** School Closure Days PL
- **Apr 22:** Term 2 Commences for students.
- **Apr 22:** Year 5 Visit to Salesian College
- **Apr 23:** District Cross Country
- **Apr 24:** Anzac Assembly (3:00 PM)
- **Apr 25:** Anzac Day Service - Gisborne Cenotaph

Week 2

- **Apr 27:** District Softball
- **Apr 28:** Composting Incursion
- **Apr 29:** Year 5 Visit to Sacred Heart
- **Apr 30:** 3/4M Class Mass
- **Apr 30:** Enrolment Online Info Session 6-7pm
- **May 2:** Confirmation Commitment Mass (6 PM)
- **May 3:** Confirmation Commitment Mass (11AM)

Week 3

- **PE Uniform on Mon & Tues ([see here for info](#))**
- **May 5:** District AFL
- **May 6:** Confirmation Family Evening (6:00 PM)
- **May 6:** Emergency Drill
- **May 7:** Mother's Day Stall (Time TBC)
- **May 8:** Mother's Day Afternoon: Activities, Tea, and Prayer (from 2.15pm)
- **May 10:** Mother's Day

Week 4

- **May 14:** 3/4S Class Mass
- **May 15:** Whole School Prayer Gathering led by P/1D
- **May 15:** District Soccer
- **May 16:** The Winter Warm-Up Working Bee (*fee discount applies)
- **May 18:** AFL Girls Workshop 3.45-4.45pm

Week 5

- **May 22:** Assembly (3:00 PM)
- **May 24-31:** National Reconciliation Week

Week 6

- **May 25 :** Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians
- **May 26:** Confirmation Reflection Day at St Brigid's
- **May 26:** National Sorry Day
- **May 27:** National Simultaneous Storytime
- **May 29:** Confirmation Rehearsal at St Anne's Sunbury
- **May 29:** Preps/1/2 to Sovereign Hill
- **May 31:** Sacrament of Confirmation (4:30 PM)

Week 7

- **Jun 1:** AFL Girls Workshop 3.45-4.45pm
- **Jun 3:** Regional Cross Country
- **Jun 5:** Year 5/6 Sovereign Hill Excursion
- **Jun 5:** Assembly (3:00 PM)

Week 8

- **Jun 8:** King's Birthday Public Holiday
- **Jun 11:** 1/2P & 1/2C Class Mass
- **Jun 12:** Whole School Prayer Gathering led by 3/4P

Week 9

- **Jun 15:** District Netball
- **Jun 19:** Assembly (3:00 PM)
- **Jun 19:** Division Soccer

Week 10

- **Jun 22:** Semester Reports Distributed
- **Jun 24:** 3/4 Polly Woodside Excursion
- **Jun 26:** End of Term Assembly
- **Jun 26:** End of Term Finish 1.30pm (Staff finish 2pm)

All dates are accurate at the time of printing; however, as the term unfolds, some details may need to change. We will always keep you informed of any updates by highlighting them in our school newsletter or other communications as needed.

Staff Learning Spotlight

Positive Behaviour for Learning



Our school will be closed on Monday, April 20, and Tuesday, April 21, for staff professional learning supported by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS). During these days, we are beginning work on Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL), a key improvement strategy from our school improvement plan.

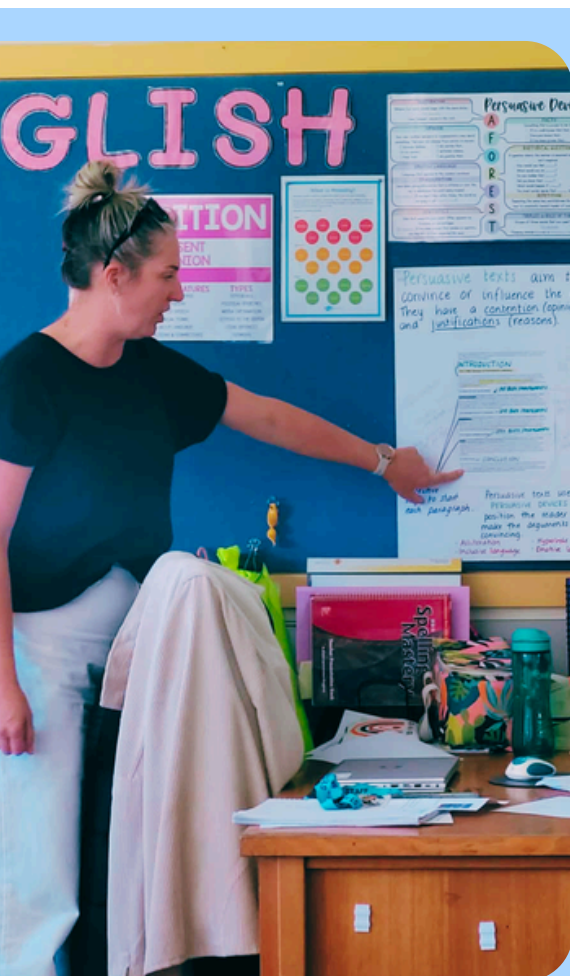
What is PBL?

PBL is a structured framework designed to create a calm and predictable environment. By establishing "whole-school" expectations from the classroom to the playground, we can ensure every student feels confident and supported. Deeply rooted in our Catholic values, staff will explore how our faith shapes the way we support one another. We are also refreshing our School Vision to ensure it perfectly aligns with this supportive environment.

Your Voice Matters

A framework that serves everyone must include the voices of our families. This week, we will reach out to gather your feedback on the core values that will drive our PBL journey. Students will also have the opportunity to share their input when they return on Wednesday, April 22.

We are so looking forward to sharing our progress with you as we create a more predictable and purposeful environment for every child. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.



Classroom Walkthroughs: Seeing Learning in Action

To wrap up Term 1, staff spent time moving through classrooms, noticing the everyday practices helping our students learn and grow. There was a strong sense of consistency across the school, with simple, shared practices building confidence and independence.

In each space, students were drawing on co-created tools—charts, templates, and examples—returning to them as they worked to guide their thinking and support independence. Clear routines and dedicated 'focus time' in art were evident, allowing students to settle, concentrate, and engage more deeply in their learning.

Student voice was a clear thread throughout. Calm spaces, designed with students, offered a place to reset and refocus while class charters, developed together, made expectations visible both for learning and for how we treat one another at Holy Cross and beyond.

Celebrating strong practice provides a strong foundation for shared expectations, collaboration, and consistency as we begin our PBL journey in Term 2.

Specialist Spotlight: Cross Country

Our rescheduled Cross Country was a wonderful day of grit and school pride. It was wonderful to see students dig deep, building confidence, stamina, and resilience as they cheered each other toward the finish line. Beyond the outstanding individual performances, the day succeeded thanks to our incredible staff, parent helpers, and spectators. Every lap truly mattered, with students earning house points and raising \$594 to go towards new school instruments, thanks to the generous support of Melbourne Podiatry. Congratulations to the 45 students heading to Districts on April 23rd. We are already so very proud of you.



Faith

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to all of our students who celebrated their first Reconciliation in the last week of Term 1.

It was a beautiful celebration of new beginnings and God's 'big hug' for all his children.



New Bishop Appointed



Pope Leo XIV has appointed Melbourne's Auxiliary Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ as the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Sandhurst. While we are sad to see him leave our Archdiocese, this is a significant step as he takes on the spiritual leadership of a new region. Many of you will remember his kindness from last year's Confirmations. We are blessed to welcome him back to our Parish this May for our students' Confirmation before he begins his new ministry in July 2026.

Easter "Overview Effect"

As the Artemis II crew returned from their journey around the Moon, they spoke of the Overview Effect—a moment of awe where Earth is seen as one, without borders.

Easter offers us that same shift. The Resurrection invites us to see beyond what we thought was final. Death is not the end. Division is not the last word.

In a world marked by conflict, uncertainty and division, this perspective matters. When we step back, what comes into focus is not what separates us, but what we share—our common humanity, our need for hope, our call to peace.

In the words of St Augustine, "If you have understood God, then what you have understood is not God".

So this Easter, don't rush past the mystery. Sit with it. Let it reshape how you see the world—and how you choose to live within it, with compassion, hope and peace.



Moments that Matter

Introducing the JOY Award



Last term, during Catholic Education Week, we were called to notice joy in the everyday; in classrooms, on the playground, and in the way students supported one another. Rather than let that pass, we've built on it and introduced a new tradition — **the JOY Award**.

This award recognises students who quietly make a difference each day. JOY recipients are **J**esus-centred, **O**thers-focused, **Y**our best — going out of their way to support others.

These students shape our culture. They're the sunshine in our community, showing that small actions can make a big difference. Congratulations to our very first JOY award recipients.

- **Junior: Charlotte-** for going out of her way within both the classroom and yard to make other students feel welcome and included.
- **Middle: Isabelle** for continuously having a positive attitude, welcoming others and going above and beyond in class to help the teacher and her class mates.
- **Senior: Hudson** for the way he has supported his buddy with his transition to school. Hudson is regularly seen looking after his buddy, making sure he feels safe and welcome.

SRC: Setting the Vision for 2026

At the end of Term 1, we met with SRC Representatives for the first time to reflect on what's working well and their vision for what we can improve at Holy Cross.

Students shared that they enjoy having different jobs across the school including SRC and sandpit monitors. They spoke about how welcoming our school is, especially how students help new children settle in and find friends. The Prep buddy sessions and the "I Can Club" were highlighted as helping everyone feel included. There was also lots of excitement about the improvements to our outdoor spaces.

In Term 2, students are keen to help with our Positive Behaviour for Learning framework. This will tie in strongly to the improvement ideas raised at the meeting including keeping the school tidy and consistent behaviour in all classes.

The SRC has already had a huge impact in our school. We look forward to working with these incredible leaders as the term progresses.



Our SRC reps at their first meeting!

Child Safety

11 Months, 11 Standards: Our Child Safety Journey

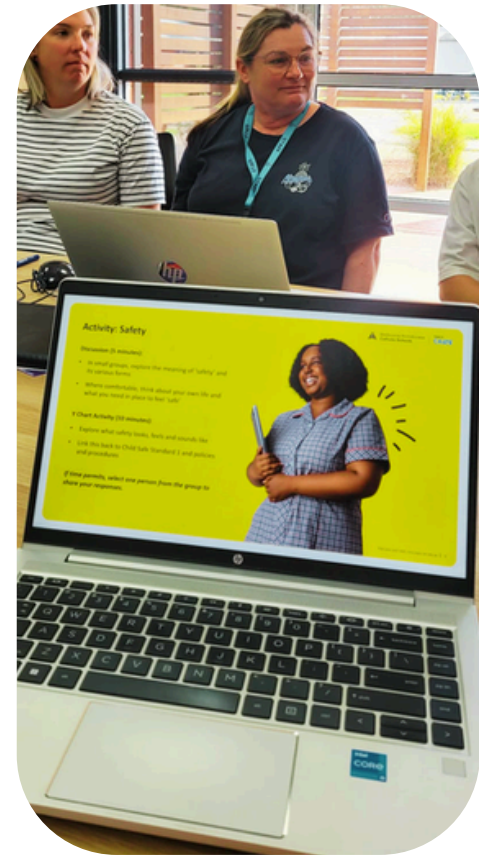
At Holy Cross, child safety is at the heart of everything we do. To deepen our commitment, we are launching 11 Months, 11 Standards.

Each month, we will spotlight one of the eleven Child Safe Standards—the essential requirements designed to keep children safe from harm. Through this intentional focus, we'll share how these standards come to life in our daily practices, from staff training to student well-being.

Look out for monthly updates, fact sheets, and posters as we continue to build a proactive, transparent, and protective culture for every child in our care.

"In Hope there is desire of good things to come, and God's word helps us find reason for hope."

Dr Ed Simons
Principal Forum Oct 2024



PFA Update

It takes a village... to build one!

A huge thank you to the incredible team of parents, students and volunteers who spent literally countless hours sourcing, building, painting, and coordinating our new cubby house village! These vibrant play spaces formed part of our Traffic School plan and were a huge hit at our come and try day over the holidays. We are so excited to see these integrated into this term's junior History unit and enjoyed as imaginative play spaces for many years to come. Going forward, each of our school houses will take on responsibility for maintaining their own 'house'.

With over thirty helpers contributing their time over the holidays, it is impossible to list every individual here, but please know we are truly grateful for the immense work and passion you poured into this project.

A Special Mention To Our Supporters:

- **Taubmans Australia:** For the generous donation of paint that brought the cubbies to life.
- **Anglican Parish of Gisborne:** For the donation of the cubby houses.
- **Community Bank Gisborne and District (Bendigo Bank):** For the vital grant funding.
- **'Tim and his Tools'** for his work supporting our project
- **Our PFA:** For their tireless fundraising efforts to cover the remaining costs.

Gisborne & District
Community Bank Branch

 **Bendigo Bank**

Photo Gallery

COMING SOON... **HOLY CROSS NEWS**



Family Photo Time!



Learning to play giant chess in the sunshine



Our 'handy' house painter!



New friends shooting hoops!



More painting helpers!

Quick Reminders

STAY CONNECTED

Follow us for reminders, updates and real moments from school life.



Facebook & Instagram
Holy Cross New Gisborne



Growing Together



A big thank you to [TCC Real Estate](#) for sponsoring our enrolment boards this year. It's a simple thing, but it helps us tell our story and welcome new families into Holy Cross. Partnerships like this matter—they strengthen connection, support growth, and quietly make a difference across our community.

HOLY CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL
New Gisborne

PREP 2027

BOOK A TOUR

ENROL NOW

WEEKLY TOURS AVAILABLE

📞 5420 8100

158 HAMILTON RD NEW GISBORNE

SCAN ME

Leading us to God's Mountain

Multicultural Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

Holy Cross is launching **Toddler Time** for all pre-school aged children. Come along and enjoy stories, sensory play, crafts, songs and games, while families connect in a warm, welcoming space.

It's a great way to build early confidence, experience gentle school routines, and get a feel for our community.

Wednesday mornings 9.15-10.15am.
Register [here](#).

We can't wait to see you there!

HOLY CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL
New Gisborne

Toddler Time

Play • Explore • Connect

Wednesday mornings from 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM
Click [here](#) to register

Community News

Sacred Heart College Kyneton

Connection Through Ownership: Building stronger families through shared responsibility

Members of the local community are invited to attend this event.

Guest Speaker: Luke Kennedy

Luke is an international best-selling author, mental health advocate and one of Australia's leading youth speakers. This event is for anyone who has a connection with a young person - parents, carers, grandparents, extended family, coaches, mentors, youth leaders, and community members.



Luke will share practical, real-world insights to help adults:

- strengthen connection and communication with young people
- build healthy boundaries and ownership (without constant conflict)
- better understand what sits underneath behaviour
- support confidence, passions, and decision-making in a noisy world
- help young people take responsibility and move forward after mistakes

For more info on Luke visit: lukeskennedy.com

When: Thursday 30 April

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: Mary Moloney Theatre
Sacred Heart College, Kyneton

Tickets: This is a free event but seats must be booked
via: www.trybooking.com/DLCEK

A Ministry of Mercy Education Limited - ABN 69 154 531 870



Parent Engagement Partnership



Spice & Soul: Cooking and Connecting



This is more than a cooking class; it's a 'safe space' community circle.

Discover hidden gems of authentic home cooking, using recipes passed down from my family in a country town in southern India; these are the special, soulful dishes you often won't find in restaurants.

<p>First Session</p> <p>Sat 23rd May 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm 12 Hamilton St, Gisborne</p> <p>Book Session 1</p>	<p>Second Session</p> <p>Sat 20th June 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm 12 Hamilton St, Gisborne</p> <p>Book Session 2</p>
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Podiatry and Footwear



Shop 12, Nexus Centre, 19 Nexus way, Gisborne VIC 3437 PH: 1300 650 293

Prospective Parent Evening

This event is aimed at families of current Grade 5 & 6 students

-  Thursday 30th April 2026
-  6.30pm start
-  The Barcham Theatre, Gisborne Secondary College



Scan the QR code to register your attendance



MACEDON RANGES

AUTUMN FESTIVAL

April 1-30

EAT • DRINK • EXPLORE



• A MONTH-LONG CELEBRATION ACROSS NINE VILLAGES •







Community News



MACEDON CATS
EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!

MACEDON CATS
 WE ARE LAUNCHING
 OUR **SECOND**
U9's TEAM!
 AND WE NEED
MORE PLAYERS!

JOIN THE FUN! **REGISTER NOW!**



GIRLS 10-18 – JOIN THE CATS!
Footy. Fun. Friends. Fierce.
 Come try it out – no experience needed.

Training:
 Monday 5:15pm – JD Clifford Reserve
 Thursday 5:15pm – Tony Clarke Reserve, Macedon



Ford aussie hoops x MRBA
 Term 2 2026

AUSSIE HOOPS
 Beginners 5-8 years old

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

7 WEEKS - 45 MINS SESSIONS
INTRODUCTION TO BASKETBALL

SESSIONS
GISBORNE - MRSP
 WEDNESDAY - 4:30PM - 5:15PM
 WEDNESDAY - 5:15PM - 6:00PM
 - ALL GIRLS SESSION -
 SATURDAY - 8:30AM - 9:15AM
WOODEND - BUFFALO
 FRIDAY - 4:45PM - 5:30PM
 SATURDAY - 8:30AM - 9:15AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION - AUSSIEHOOPS@MRBA.ORG.AU



Melbourne Archdiocese
 Catholic Schools

Your voice helps
shape the future
 of Catholic
 education.

Complete the **MACS**
Family Survey.

This anonymous survey closes on
 Wednesday 6 May 2026. It takes 10-15
 minutes to complete.

surveymonkey.com/r/MACSFAMILY

The Back Page

SPECIALIST SCHEDULE CHANGE: MON & TUES

From week 3, we're making a small shift to our weekly structure. **Specialist lessons will now run across Monday and Tuesday.**

This means **students will now wear their PE uniform on both Monday & Tuesday.**

This change is about creating a better rhythm for learning. By spreading specialist classes across two days, we reduce unnecessary transitions and give students more consistent time with their classroom teacher.

Like all good schools, we keep refining what we do when we see a better way. This adjustment helps settle the start of the week and supports each child to learn with greater focus and ease. Thank you for your support as we make this change together.

WINTER UNIFORM TIME!

It's winter uniform time! Students will have until the end of Week 2 to transition to Winter Uniform.

Please [click here](#) to view the winter uniform list. Order and pay through CDF Pay or pop into the Uniform Shop every Friday from 8.30am.

REMINDERS

2027 PREP ENROLMENTS are now open—please complete the online form via our website and spread the word to your friends and family!

TODDLER TIME begins Wednesday, April 29th at 9:30 am—join us for the fun!

HELPERS NEEDED

We are seeking volunteers to assist with classroom activities, lunchtime clubs, and special events. Please email jbarlow@hcnewgisborne.catholic.edu.au with your availability and any specific skills or "talents" you'd like to share.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE: INTERNAL REPAIRS

We are currently rectifying minor internal water damage sustained over the summer break. To ensure the building is ready for the Macedon Ranges winter, we are replacing plaster and fixing cracks in affected areas. Starting this week, you will notice sections of the MPR, hallway, and library cordoned off. These repairs are expected to take approximately two weeks. Thank you for your patience as we keep our spaces in top shape!

