

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 2 2025

Thursday 8 May

Rosary Park Catholic School

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We acknowledge the Wonnarua people-the first custodians of this land

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults - particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese. All employees are required to undergo a National Police Check and, where legislated, hold a Working with Children Check. Diocesan workers are expected to personally adopt and enact the Diocese's Safeguarding Commitment Statement.

IMPORTANT DATES

Weekly Mass Times: 6pm Saturday Branxton; 8am Sunday Greta

MAY		MAY	
Fri 9 th	Mother's Day Breakfast and Liturgy – 7:45am Wear Your Footy Jumper to School Day for Zane	Fri 30 th	School Maths Bee
Wed 14 th	Diocesan Cross Country Carnival	JUNE	
Fri 16 th	School Spelling Bee	Mon 2 nd	Catholic School Week begins Liturgy, open classrooms and picnic afternoon tea
Wed 21 st	Dio Touch Football	Tue 3 rd	SCHOOL PHOTOS
Wed 21 st	School Assembly 9am	Wed 4 th	School Assembly 9am
Wed 28 th	Reconciliation Week Morning Tea	Fri 6 th	Year 2 School Excursion

IMPORTANT DATES

PUPIL FREE Day: Monday 30th June – Student Led Conferences

Praise to you, God of our salvation; you come to our help and set us free. May your strength be our shield and your word be our lamp, that we may serve you with pure hearts and find victory through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Principal's Message

Welcome back to Term 2. A very busy start already but one in which will fly by! We have Parent Phone Calls, Reports, Student Led Conferences all in this term!

COGAT

Year 2 have been experiencing the CoGAT test, which occurs every year around this time in Year 2, to assess general cognitive skills and is used by the Catholic Schools Office to ascertain students who may be Gifted or Talented in a particular area of skill.

YEAR FOUR – BAIAME CAVES

I was fortunate to take a group of Year 4 students to Baiame Caves on Tuesday. Their behaviour, inquisitive nature and willingness to try new things like walk in caves, climb up and down steep hills and for some (including Mr Borg) conquering their fears was wonderful to watch. Congratulations to all of our students on an outstanding day out! To the staff, in particular Miss Easton, Miss Dever, Miss Morgan, Mrs Bellott and Mrs Cortis, thank you for making the time to organise and supervise the students so well. They had a great day because of you. A big thanks to Wonnarua elder, Uncle Warren Taggart, for being with us and telling us the story of Baiame.

BEST WISHES – MATHS OLYMPIANS

Best wishes to all of our Maths Olympians, Games experts and Games junior competitors this week, as they undertake their first "Olympiad". These are held once a month from May, until September.

Athletics Carnival

What a fantastic day held at Maitland last weekend for the annual Rosary Park Athletics Carnival! The conditions were perfect and God blessed us by holding off the rain until all of the students got on their buses to go home!

Thank you to all of the staff for their hard work and dedication to the task. To Miss Dever and the Active Lifestyle team, my utmost appreciation goes to you for the smoothest carnival I have seen and that includes the 5-6 have done at different levels!

MAT Program

Darius and Leisa are back for 2025 with the MAT program for Years 3- 6. Term 2 features Years 5 and 6 and next Term will be for Years 3 and 4. We thank both Darius and Leisa for their expertise, compassion, kindness and excellent work ethic in developing our students' resilience through martial arts.

UNIFORMS

It has been noticed by staff and myself recently that girls ribbons and bows do not match the intended uniform colour. Please ensure that ribbons and bows are kept to either BLUE or WHITE. Also, by the end of Week 4 (This is Week 2), the expectation is that everyone is in FULL WINTER SCHOOL and SPORT UNIFORM.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS

It has been a blast taking so many families through our school to speak about potential enrolment for Kindergarten. We have a huge request for enrolment this year, so if you know of anyone who wishes to apply, they will need to get cracking, as applications CLOSE on May 23. We will be making first round offers for enrolment from June 13.

STAFF LEARNING

On Monday May 19, we will be having visitors from other schools in the Lower Hunter Region for the COSI (Continuum of School Improvement) day at Rosary Park Branxton. This is a chance for all schools to collaborate on how well the Lower Hunter does Catholic Education. We are extremely proud of our work at RPB, so showing off our great school was always never going to be a problem! If you see different teachers throughout the school on this day, please make them feel welcome and say hello! It is a normal day for all.

THANK YOU – MOTHER’S DAY

A special thank you in advance to our parent volunteers and to our teachers for their work in the Mother’s Day Stall and Breakfast, this Thursday and Friday. Your efforts never go unnoticed. On behalf of all of the staff, I would like to wish all mums, (and all those who are like mums to our students) the happies of Mother’s Days. We also pray for those mothers who are in heaven with God our Father.

ZANE’S DAY

We also have the pleasure of honouring our past student Zane this Friday with “Zane’s Day”. Details are on Compass.

GOOD LUCK - CROSS COUNTRY

Good luck to all of our students on Wednesday May 14 for the upcoming Diocesan Cross Country event at Maitland. Miss Dever and I are very much looking forward to seeing you do your personal bests.

SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

Letters will be going home to families by Tuesday of next week to come and view your child in the School Spelling Bee Competition, to be held Friday May 16 in the Hall. The winners of each stage competition at school will compete in the Regional Spelling Bee competition at Branxton June 20.

Wishing everyone a terrific fortnight ahead.

Mr Ashley Borg

PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal’s Message

PB4L:

At Rosary Park we follow a Positive Behaviour for Learning framework. This ensures that teachers interact with students in a positive way. The primary focus is on rewarding positive behaviours and specifically teaching children what these positive behaviours look and feel like.

To make things as simple as possible, we only have 3 basic rules -

I am safe, I am responsible and I am an active learner.

There are many positive behaviours we encourage for the students under these 3 rules. The positive behaviours are linked to our Mercy Values. This is our scope and sequence for term 2.

Term 2	School Rule	Behaviour Focus	Mercy Value
Week 1 and 2	I am Safe	I show courage when I make safe choices travelling to and from school.	Courage
Alternate 2			
Week 3 and 4	I am an Active Learner	I show respect by actively listening with my eyes and ears	Respect
Alternate 4			
Week 5 and 6	I am an Active Learner	I show courage when I use a growth mindset to persevere with challenging tasks.	Courage
Alternate 6			
Week 7 and 8	I am Respectful	I show hospitality when I say kind words and use my manners	Hospitality
Alternate 8			
Week 9 and 10	I am Safe	I show compassion when I use safe hands and feet	Compassion
Alternate 10			

When students are displaying the rule of the week, they may be given a gotcha token that goes towards their colour house. Teachers also reward children with a "Mercy Award" at assembly each week. This is for a child who has displayed this focus pillar in the classroom or on the playground.

Raising Healthy Minds App

The Raising Healthy Minds app is a FREE, personalised pocket resource to help you raise confident, resilient children. Co-designed with parents and experts and funded by the Australian Government, the app offers a mix of quick-read articles, videos and animations designed to support your child's social and emotional wellbeing from birth to age 12.

Simply download the App and add details to create an account. This will give you access to supportive content relating to the age and needs of your children. I myself have downloaded the App and can say that the resources I have found here are informative and helpful.

Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for the QR code link to the App or simply search "Raising Healthy Minds" in the App Store.

This term, I am honoured to step into the role of Acting Assistant Principal. While I am taking a break from my usual position as Religious Education Coordinator, I look forward to supporting our students, staff, and families in this new capacity. It is a privilege to work with such a dedicated and faith-filled community, and I am committed to ensuring a positive and supportive environment for all.

Please feel free to reach out if I can assist you or your child in any way.

Mackenzie Gageler
Assistant Principal (Relieving)

Religious Coordinator's Message

Pope Francis

We are deeply saddened to share the news that Pope Francis passed away peacefully on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, at the age of 88. As the leader of our Church, Pope Francis showed us

what it means to live with kindness, humility, and love for all people - especially the poor and those in need.

In his final Easter message, Pope Francis reminded us of the hope we find in Jesus' resurrection and called on the world to work together in peace. His words and example continue to inspire us to be people of compassion, courage, and faith.

As a school community, we give thanks for his life and leadership, and we pray that God welcomes him into eternal peace. Let us keep Pope Francis in our hearts and remember his message by showing love and respect in all that we do.

*Loving God,
Thank you for the life of Pope Francis.
He was a shepherd who guided your people with love and wisdom.
Welcome him into your heavenly home,
And may his example help us to live with kindness and faith.
We pray for the Church as it looks to the future,
And for all who are sad today.
May your comfort and peace be with us.
Amen.*

Month of Mary

May is a very special month for us as we remember Mary, the Mother of Jesus and Mother of us all. A full month is given over by the Church to Mary. It allows us to tell Mary how much we love her, to ask her to help us to stay close to her son Jesus and to try to live as Jesus shows us.

At Rosary Park during this month, a bell will ring at 1pm and we will all stop as a whole school to say the Hail Mary. At the end of the prayer, students will resume learning. You may like to engage in prayer at home or work during this time to reflect on Mary. You may also like to talk about this with your child/ren at home.

ANZAC Day Liturgy

On April 25th each year, we stop to say thank you to all the men and women who have served in the armed forces. In Week 1, our Year 5 students led us in our ANZAC Day liturgy. We remembered all men and women, their bravery, their sacrifices, and the peace they helped to protect. ANZAC Day reminds us how important it is to care for each other, stand up for what is right, and work for peace in our world. A big thank you to member of the Branxton RSL who joined us in our liturgy.



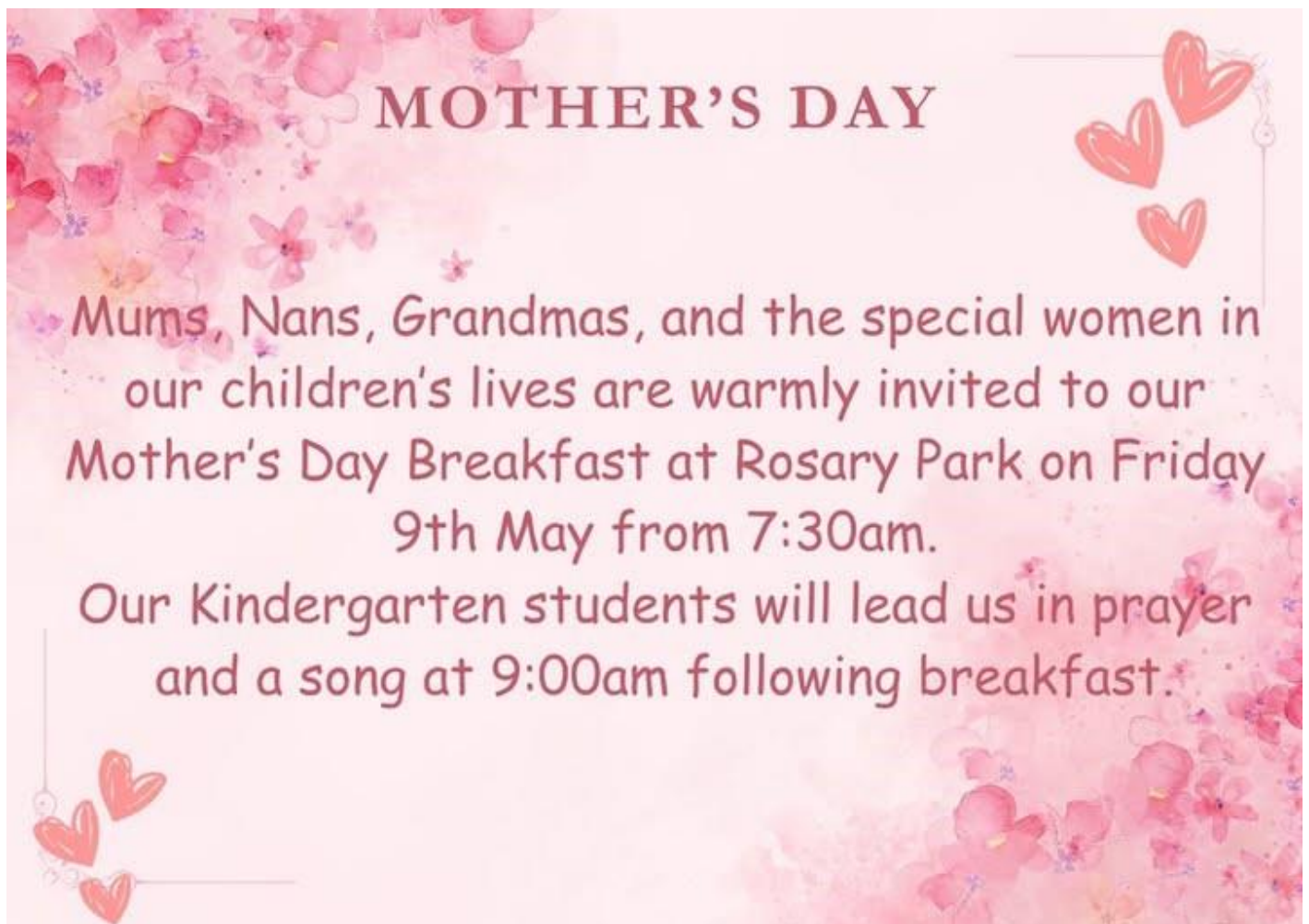


Resurrection Liturgy

In Week 1, Year 1 and 4 led us in the Resurrection liturgy. After dying on the cross, Jesus rose from the dead three days later. His resurrection shows us that God's love is stronger than death and that new life and hope are always possible. It reminds us that Jesus is alive, and He is with us always, offering us peace, forgiveness, and joy.

Project Compassion

A huge thank you to all our students and families who contributed to the 2025 Project Compassion. We raised a total of \$1,089 that will go straight to Project Compassion. Thank you for your generosity and helping transform lives today and for all future generations.



God bless
Grace Dever
Religious Coordinator (Relieving)

Sport News:

Athletics Carnival

In Week 1 we held our school athletics carnival at Maitland Regional Athletics Centre. It was a fantastic day full of energy, teamwork, and school spirit! All students gave their best in races and field events. It was great to see everyone cheering for their house teams and supporting each other with smiles and encouragement. Whether running fast, jumping far, or trying something new, every student showed great sportsmanship. A big thank you to our teachers, staff, and parent volunteers who made the day run smoothly. The Regional Athletics Carnival will be held on 2nd July. There will be more information about this in the coming weeks.





Walk Safely to School Day

Walk Safely to School Day will be held on Friday 16 May 2025. On this day, staff will meet students at 8:30am outside the bakery on Maitland St. We will then walk to school. Parents are welcome to join us on this walk.

Please see below for more information regarding Walk Safely to School Day:

This day is a great opportunity for families to walk to school together and have conversations about being a safe road user.

Here are some tips to help make walking to school a regular part of your routine:

Plan your route: Take some time to plan the safest and most convenient route to walk to school.

Consider pedestrian crossings, footpaths, and traffic lights.

Set a schedule: Decide on the days and times you'll walk to school each week. Consistency is key to forming a new habit. Try to stick to your schedule as much as possible.

Safety first:

ALWAYS hold your child's hand until they are at least 8 years old. Closely supervise them until they are at least 10 years old.

ALWAYS hold your child's hand:

- when on the footpath
- when crossing the road or
- when in a car park

Teach your child about being a safe pedestrian: This includes watching out for driveways, walking facing traffic when there are no footpaths and always Stop, Look, Listen, Think, every time you cross the road.

Avoid distractions: Set a good example by putting your phone away. Focus on your surroundings.

If you need to use your phone, stop in a safe place.

Make it fun: Keep the walks enjoyable by talking about what you see and about your day. This can help make the time go quickly and make walking to school something your child looks forward to.

Join forces: Coordinate with other families in your neighbourhood to walk to school together. Not only does this make it more fun for the kids, but it also provides additional safety in numbers.

Celebrate achievements: Celebrate achievements along the way to keep motivation high.

Whether it's reaching a certain number of walks or noticing improvements in fitness, acknowledging progress can help reinforce the habit.

Practise, Practise, Practise: The more supervised pedestrian experiences your child can get the better, so they will be ready to safely travel by themselves when they are older.

Grace Dever

Sports Coordinator



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Anzac Portal
anzacportal.dva.gov.au

2025 ANZAC DAY SCHOOLS' AWARDS

ENTRIES CLOSE THURSDAY 29 MAY 2025



REMEMBERING GALLIPOLI: 110 YEARS

Use the Anzac Portal and other websites to research the Gallipoli campaign and the legend of the Anzacs to share their stories and experiences.

PRIZES

NATIONAL WINNER	\$5,000
STATE & TERRITORY WINNERS	\$3,000
SPECIAL CATEGORY WINNERS	\$2,000

FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT HOW TO ENTER
AND THE SELECTION CRITERIA GO TO

anzacportal.dva.gov.au/adsa



Every Wednesday, we're encouraging students to reduce waste by not throwing out any rubbish at school. On these days, bins will be removed to help students think about their environmental impact.

We're promoting the use of NUDE FOODS — food packed without disposable wrappers or packaging. This helps us cut down on landfill and builds better habits for a sustainable future.

Tips for Nude Food lunches:

- Use reusable containers and drink bottles
- Pack fresh fruits, veggies, sandwiches without cling wrap or foil
- Avoid single-use items like chip packets or juice boxes

Let's work together to keep our school clean and green!

Year 3 Blue News

Dear Parents / Carers of 3 Blue,

As Miss Rodwell will be on leave when the Student Led Conferences will be taking place, an opportunity exists to meet with to discuss your child's learning in a Student Led Conference. You should find the Student Led Conferences tab on your Compass Dashboard to book now.

Dates and Times:

Week 8 – TERM 2

Wednesday 18 June – 8am, 8:15am

Thursday 19 June – 3:15pm – 3:45pm

Friday 20 June – 8am – 5pm (with breaks in between)

Please select an applicable time ASAP. Bookings close Week 7 – FRIDAY 13 June.

No late bookings will be accepted. When booking, please make note of times, as the schedule is removed when times close on 13 June 2025.

Miss Rodwell

Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards.

Week ending Friday 2nd of May (Term 2 Week 1 2025)

<i>Class</i>	<i>Class Award One</i>	<i>Class Award Two</i>	<i>MJR Award</i>
Kinder Blue	Lukas E	Lucas H	Eleanor S
Kinder White	William C	Jaxon K	Henry W
Year 1 Blue	Blaine S	George A	Oliver C
Year 1 White	Oliver B	Knox M	Indy H
Year 2 Blue	--	--	--
Year 2 White	Millah L	Bradley S	Eva S
Year 3 Blue	--	--	--
Year 3 White	Lleyton L	Hunter A-L	Maisy C
Year 4 Blue	Imogen M	Liam H	Mason C
Year 4 White	Baxter A	Sofia P	Campbell C
Year 5 Blue	--	--	--
Year 5 White	--	--	--
Year 6 Blue	Sophie C	Alyssa B	Liam P
Year 6 White	Kendra C	Lilly S	Alex L

Week ending Friday 9th of May (Term 2 Week 2 2025)

<i>Class</i>	<i>Class Award One</i>	<i>Class Award Two</i>	<i>MJR Award</i>
Kinder Blue	Savannah I	Callum F	Asha W
Kinder White	--	--	--
Year 1 Blue	Hunter B	Aurora M	Emily G
Year 1 White	Henry C	Archie A	Jax B
Year 2 Blue	--	--	--
Year 2 White	Ava G	Amelia H	Makayla C
Year 3 Blue	Tristan C	Josie W-H	Ayla B
Year 3 White	Isaac K	Charli C	Lleyton L
Year 4 Blue	Cruz J	Baxter D	Jesse S
Year 4 White	Hudson L	Ellesse S	Elliana D
Year 5 Blue	--	--	--
Year 5 White	--	--	--
Year 6 Blue	Sammy W	Logan C	Cooper C
Year 6 White	Sam D	Jacob L	Darcy H

Principals Awards

Matilda B, Holly N, Eva S, Levi C, Indi M, Jack C, Isaac L, Lara T, Frances M, Alfie W, Tyler T, Miya W, Hannah Cx2, Makayla C, Brooklyn Y, Ava M-Z, Eva N, Dustin P, Jenson F, Ava G, Teren G








Screen Free Week

Get involved in the global event during the first week of May and step away from screens for recreation.

It's a great opportunity to spend time doing things that don't involve technology, like being active, learning new hobbies, and enjoying family time.

During Screen-Free Week, we encourage students and families to:

-  Play outdoor games or sports
-  Explore nature and enjoy the outdoors
-  Learn a new dance
-  Spend quality time with family, like having a board game night or going for a walk
-  Try a new hobby, like drawing, cooking, or crafting



Hunter New England
Local Health District

@HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
<https://goodforkids.nsw.gov.au>

Good for Kids acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land that we live and work on as the first people of this country, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.



Now in
Maitland!



Create
Contact Card



When you need
immediate medical attention*
But don't need a
lengthy hospital wait.

Free
parking



30 Metford Road East Maitland
13 0009 0009 | healurgentcare.com.au

*Non life threatening acute injury and illness. \$295 treatment fee (variable rebate applies)



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