

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Term 1 Week 8 2026  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

Rosary Park Catholic School

Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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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**

MARCH		APRIL	
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	Harmony Day Celebrations at Rosary Park	Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	ANZAC Day March
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	Young Leaders Day	Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b> – Anzac day
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday Liturgy – 11:00 am	Tue 28 <sup>th</sup>	Anzac Day Liturgy – 9am
APRIL		Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly at 9am
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	Greta Tree Planting Event	MAY	
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Holy Thursday Liturgy – 9:00 am	Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Cross Country
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>LAST DAY OF TERM 1</b>	Thu 7 <sup>th</sup>	Mothers Day Stall
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FIRST DAY OF TERM 2</b>	Thu 7 <sup>th</sup>	Baiame Cave Excursion – Year 4
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup>	School Athletics Carnival	Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mothers Day Breakfast & Liturgy
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b>	Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sports Jersey Day for DIPG</b> – gold coin donation in memory of a former student

## Principal's Message

### WELLBEING WEEK

Thank you to all of the parents and students who wished staff a "Happy Wellbeing Week" this week. Wellbeing and sense of self are very important facets to success in classrooms and workplaces. This week, staff embarked on a movement theme, so you may have noticed different costumes and activities we have done to get ourselves moving. Staff enjoyed a coffee together on Thursday as well.

We have also enjoyed the treats and well wishes from our families.

### **Behavioural Matrix at ROSARY PARK**

A word about our Behavioural Matrix at Rosary Park. During my time as Principal, over an 8 year period, I have very firm beliefs and philosophies around schools and "best practice". One philosophy I hold very close is that safe schools make great schools. I can fully attest to Rosary Park being a safe school to attend. We have hard working staff and very well-written and clear rules, which give teachers the opportunity to follow through with this and give clarity and surety to all students that when things go wrong, we can help solve problems.

Where a behavioural matrix goes "wrong" is when we aren't consistent. At the commencement of 2026, I specifically spoke to teachers about the need for greater consistency in this area and that we need to be INSISTENT, PERSISTENT and CONSISTENT with behaviour. This is, for the most part, being done very well this year, which has resulted in more yellow cards around the school.

Whilst this seems "harsh", I will counter with this:

- ALL STUDENTS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO FEEL SAFE AND LEARN.
- ALL STAFF DESERVE TO COME TO WORK, FEEL SAFE AND TEACH.
- ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF DESERVE THE RIGHT TO BE RESPECTED WHILST AT SCHOOL
- YOU ALL PAY SCHOOL FEES AND DESERVE FOR YOUR CHILDREN TO NOT HAVE THEIR DAY AND PLAYTIME INTERRUPTED WITH DISRESPECT, POOR BEHAVIOUR AND UNDISCIPLINED STUDENTS.

I want your children to be safe, feel safe and be happy at school. When this happens, our teachers can teach, and your child can learn.

Students who choose to be unsafe, disrespectful and not be an active learner, whilst at Rosary Park will continue to be given opportunities to learn our behaviours through yellow cards and reflective practices, as per our Behavioural Policy. All students are expected to adhere to this, however, we respond differently depending on the needs of the child and their relative age. For example, we try REALLY HARD not to give Kindergarten students a yellow card in their first term at school, but we also can not excuse continued poor behaviour from a Kindergarten student. We also look at the impact on students with additional needs at our school.

Should these not work, expect that a meeting will take place with parents of children involved in these behaviours and Behavioural Support Plans put in place. These plans are to support children to learn how to do the right thing, with a guiding hand to hold them if needed.

For those thinking "This is all punitive, where's the positive?"

I say this:

- The students who do well, receive plenty of praise.
- The students who do well, are rewarded with merits.
- We don't receive rewards in our daily life for good behaviour, we do it because it is the RIGHT THING to do and we are part of a community who functions to the rule of law.
- Students who do well and are in the house group with the most gotchas each half term, are rewarded with special Spirit Cup awards.
- We teach the behaviours we expect and we expect our students to uphold them.

To my way of thinking, it is simple:

Your child deserves to be safe. My job is to keep them safe. If a student's behaviour causes this to not happen, then the school is expected to act.

Please support Rosary Park to work with all students to help them be the best they can be. I want to set children up to SUCCEED and the more we teach that certain behaviours are unacceptable in the real world, then the quicker they get that way.

### **Harmony Day**

Thank you to all of the staff who organised the fantastic Harmony Day celebrations at Rosary Park. We value our diversity and are welcoming of all. The liturgical service was tremendous, so were the outstanding traditional games on offer. It was lovely to see families interacting with their children at school in the way that occurred at school today!

A shout out to Miss Percival, our EAL/D Teacher, who has been outstanding in the role this term, which led to her being our preferred candidate for the permanent EAL/D role, previously advertised. Congratulations, Maddy.

### **Mr Fitzsummons Leave**

As per Compass, Miss Percival will continue to work with Mr Fitzsummons' class, whilst he is on leave. This is indefinite at this stage. Miss Percival will be replaced on Tuesdays to undertake her EAL/D component of her role.

### **Uniform Transition Term 2**

EARLY NOTICE – Students will be able to start transitioning into their WINTER UNIFORMS from March 23 if they wish. The only "rules" regarding this are that there are NO COMBINATIONS. It is ALL SUMMER or ALL WINTER uniform.

### **Sporting Achievements at Rosary Park**

A reminder to all families that our SPORT ASSEMBLY will be held in Week 10 of Term (This being Week 8). Date being WEDNESDAY APRIL 1. For those who are competing or not at school that day, we will ensure that student achievements are celebrated at the next assembly following this one.

### **Parent-Teacher Communication**

Communication between school and home is so important. We value your insights in working closely with us to develop your child academically, socially, and emotionally.

We have made some change in this regard. Out of respect for teacher's and parent's valuable time, we are no longer holding phone calls in the first two weeks of Term Two. I found, that as Principal, and reading through the details of conversations held, that it was essentially "doubling up" what was said with what was going into a student's report.

If you wish to contact a teacher about your child's learning, then you only need ask. A teacher, with appropriate notice, would be more than willing and able to converse with you about how your child is going at school. In fact, these are the conversations we'd prefer to have!

Student led conferences will be held Monday 29 June - pupil free day. These conferences are an opportunity for your child to lead the conversation about their learning, to discuss their progress to date and their future goals.

## **Daily Roll Marking and School Attendance**

Aside from our Wednesday assembly day, we are in classrooms marking class rolls on Compass as we begin our learning for the day. So, it is important that your child is at school on time or that you mark them absent (for full day absences only – not partial absences) via Compass promptly in the morning. Otherwise, you will receive the automated unexplained absence text message by 9:30am.

It is extremely important that children attend school every day. Days off school not only contribute to significant gaps and lost opportunities in learning, it is also hard for children to establish, develop and maintain social connections. Unless it is absolutely necessary, please do not schedule holidays during school time. Unless an emergency, medical appointments should be scheduled for school holidays.

If your child is not at school *for a valid reason*, parents are expected to log into Compass and give explanation for their absence within 7 school days. If you do not do this, you will be notified by the admin staff to explain your child's absence, although if it is past the seven-day window, it remains an 'unexplained/unjustified' absence on the class roll.

If your child has continued unexplained absences, you will be contacted by the school to explain these and asked to attend a meeting at school to work on formulating an attendance plan.

**Advanced Notice:** Our school athletics carnival for all K-6 children will be Tuesday 21 April at Maitland Athletic Centre. All welcome!

**Advanced Notice:** ANZAC Day Liturgy will be held TUESDAY April 28 at 9am. We hope to have a member from the Branxton RSL Sub Branch attend. Families are welcome to attend the service. We will also be attending the ANZAC Day Service on the Saturday, APRIL 25. Once we get details, we will pass these on.

## **Kindergarten 2027 Enrolments**

These are now open, and numbers are filling quickly. You can enrol by visiting our school website [www.branxton.catholic.edu.au](http://www.branxton.catholic.edu.au) – Enrolment – Enrol Online Now.

Our Timeline for enrolments in KINDERGARTEN are as follows:

### Round 1 (Priority Round)

February 23: Enrolment opens

May 22: Round 1 applications close

June 12: Round 1 offers sent

June 26: Round 1 acceptance deadline

God Bless,

Mr Ashley Borg  
PRINCIPAL

## Assistant Principal's Message

It has been a busy couple of weeks at Rosary Park. Congratulations to our Year 3 and Year 5 students (and staff!) who have navigated NAPLAN testing calmly, putting their best foot forward. These results will be available later in the year and form a small part of the picture in assisting us, as a school, to focus our professional learning and support to students in the most appropriate direction.

As you would know, over the last couple of weeks we have celebrated student and staff wellbeing weeks here at Rosary Park. These important moments remind us that while academic learning matters, it is most successful when it is underpinned by strong, positive relationships, and a sense of belonging.

Student wellbeing is at the heart of successful learning. As a Catholic school community, we believe every child is created in the image and likeness of God and is deserving of dignity, care, and respect. When children feel safe, supported, and connected, they are more confident, engaged, and ready to thrive academically, socially, and spiritually.

Wellbeing is about helping students flourish as whole people. Through our PB4L (Positive Behaviour 4 Learning) approach, we explicitly teach and model positive behaviours that reflect our shared values of respect, responsibility, and care for others. Students learn how to build resilience, manage emotions, form positive friendships, and develop a strong sense of belonging within a faith-filled community.

Each day, wellbeing is supported in simple yet powerful ways. Strong, positive relationships between staff and students create a safe and trusting environment grounded in compassion and fairness. Clear classroom routines and consistent expectations provide predictability and security, while collaboration, play, and service opportunities help students develop social skills and empathy. Through PB4L, students are acknowledged for making positive choices, reinforcing behaviours that help everyone learn and feel safe.

As a Catholic school, we also nurture students' spiritual wellbeing. Prayer, reflection, and opportunities to live out the Gospel values encourage students to show kindness, forgiveness, and gratitude. These practices help students understand that caring for themselves and others is part of living a Christ-centered life.

Families play a vital role in supporting wellbeing. Simple routines at home - such as regular sleep, healthy meals, and open conversations - can make a significant difference. Talking with children about their day, celebrating positive choices, and supporting them to work through challenges complements the PB4L strategies taught at school and strengthens their sense of confidence and resilience.

Wellbeing is a shared responsibility. By working together in partnership - school, family, and parish - we can ensure every child feels known, valued, and supported, growing to be their best self in faith, learning, and life.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you require further support in this space.

Maryanne Hacker  
Assistant Principal

# Religious Education Coordinator

## A Prayer for Lent

Dear Jesus,

During this season of Lent,  
help us to open our hearts to You.

Teach us to be kind,  
to share with others,  
and to say sorry when we make mistakes.

Help us to listen,  
to pray,  
and to grow in Your love every day.

Thank You for always being with us  
and for showing us how to love one another.

Amen.

Kindergarten to Year 6 have been learning about the season of Lent as we make our way towards Holy week. Below is a summary of what each class is learning:

### **Kindergarten:**

This module is an introduction to encounter with God. Students will come to know God through a sense of wonder and awe about who God is and what God is like. They will understand that God created human beings in His own image, in order to form a loving relationship with them and that they are special. Students will explore the experience of God in the created world, through prayer and reflection. They will communicate their ideas, feelings and thoughts about God throughout the various learning experiences presented as part of this module. There will be a special focus on the links between knowing God and the seasons of Lent and Easter as a special time.

### **Year 1:**

This module focuses on the concept of relationships. It makes connection with our response to God's love and sharing of God's love through the ways we live. It begins with the students' experiences with friendship and family, then broadens out to include the Christian way of relating to others. The module contains learning opportunities that help students to discover who they are through right relationships with God and others. Students will generate questions and answers about the people belonging to one human family living in solidarity. Students also examine the season of Lent as a time to help others as part of being in relationship with God and others, especially the poor and those in need. The module concludes with Jesus' journey in Holy Week from the Last Supper to Holy Saturday. It details how all Christians come together to remember and celebrate his death and resurrection.

### **Year 2:**

This module introduces students to ideas about community and what it means to belong to a community of faith. Students will begin to appreciate the significance of community for Christians: of living in loving relationship with God, others, and all of creation. Students will focus on the Church as the community of God's people. They will explore some of the ways in which faith is expressed, shared, and strengthened in a community of believers and about ways that God's is present in

these communities. They will also develop their understanding of the many ways in which faith is lived out and celebrated in community. They will identify and explore how the Church community lives as friends of Jesus, sharing God's love. Students also examine the season of Lent, exploring how our repentance, forgiveness and healing allow an experience of change and growth to benefit the Church community. This module concludes with Jesus' journey through the Stations of the Cross and how the Catholic faith community come together to remember his death and resurrection during the time of Easter.

**Year 3:**

This learning focus provides students with an opportunity to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the story of Jesus as told by four different Gospel authors.

Students will communicate ideas about the life and teaching of Jesus and about Jesus as the 'Good News' for all people. They will learn about the profile and characteristics of the four Gospels, especially the parables which teach about the Kingdom of God. Students will engage with the story of Jesus' resurrection as part of understanding the significance of Easter for Christians.

**Year 4:**

This module focuses on ways that Christians are called to share their gifts as part of the call to discipleship. Students explore how Christian discipleship is the call to be a follower of Jesus Christ. They learn about Jesus' mission and ministry and explore ways in which Jesus' teachings and actions continue to guide the life of the Church community today. They will come to understand that God's mission continues today. Students will identify and learn about the mission of the Church. They will consider the Church as a community of disciples called to continue Jesus' work through various ministries. Students will learn about Lent as a time to renew commitment to the mission of Jesus. This module concludes with a focus on Easter as a time of service and sacrifice.

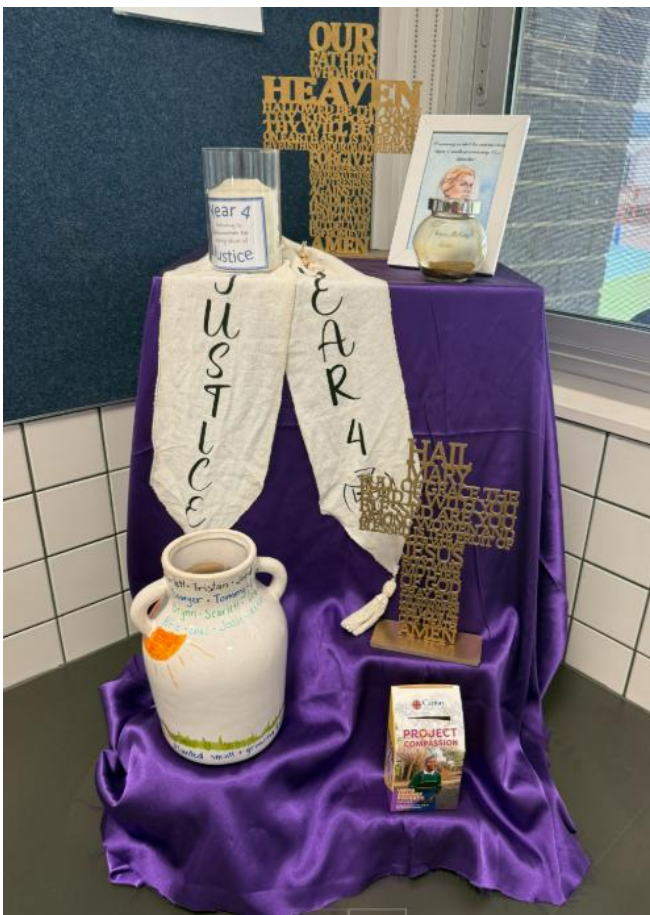
**Year 5:**

This module invites students to explore what it means to believe, through key Catholic teachings expressed in the Nicene Creed. Students engage with the mystery of the Trinity. They come to understand that Catholics believe in one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They explore the identity and mission of the Catholic Church, with particular focus on the four marks: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic, and consider how these shape the Church's role in the world today. Students deepen their understanding of Catholic beliefs about death and eternal life, and the Church's hope in the promise of heaven. They focus on the meaning of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. Students reflect on how Catholics believe Jesus' sacrifice reveals God's saving love, and how this is remembered and honoured by Christians, especially at Easter. Students will be able to describe these key Catholic beliefs and reflect on how they can connect with these ideas in their own lives.

**Year 6:**

- How do we make the Season of Lent a time of reflection, sacrifice and reconciliation?
- How can the 'Paschal Mystery' inform our daily lives, our prayer, and our participation in the life of the Church?
- What are the signs and symbols used during Lent and Easter that aid us on the journey towards an understanding of The Paschal Mystery?

Some of our amazing sacred spaces across our school that project our Catholic Culture and hold sacred symbolism of who we are as a Catholic school:



Project Compassion Walk for Water:

We are excited to be holding a **Walk for Water Fundraiser** on Thursday 2 April 2026 to support access to clean water for communities in need.

In the lead-up to the event, families are invited to make donations towards Project Compassion through QKR. Our whole-school fundraising goal is **\$300**. If we reach this target, a teacher will be soaked at the end of the day.

On the morning of the event, students will also have the opportunity to take part in a fun voting activity as they enter the school gates. Students may bring a gold coin donation and place it in the container of the teacher they would like to see soaked. The teacher with the most votes will be the one to take part in the soaking activity in the afternoon.

During the day, students will participate in a Walk for Water to help them understand the challenges faced by many children around the world who walk long distances each day to collect water.

We appreciate your support in helping us raise funds for this important cause.

### **Students completing the sacraments:**

This year, we have a number of students from Rosary Park and our community completing their sacraments, starting with reconciliation. We wish them all the very best as they begin these next week.

#### Parish Mass:

Everyone is welcome to attend our Parish Mass which will be facilitated by our students in Year 3.

Mr Nicholas Redgrove

Religious Education Coordinator

## **Journey of Faith: Is God Calling You?**

Are you curious about the Catholic faith? Or perhaps you were baptised but never received the Sacraments of Confirmation or Eucharist? Whether you've been attending Mass for years or are just starting to ask questions, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a welcoming space for you.

### **What is RCIA?**

It is a relaxed, no-pressure process where adults can explore the teachings of the Church, share their spiritual journey, and discern if they are ready to join the Catholic community.

### **Who is it for?**

- The Unbaptised: Those who want to learn more about the Christian life.
- Baptised Christians: Those from other denominations seeking to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.
- Adult Catholics: Those who were baptized but missed out on First Holy Communion or Confirmation.

**We invite you to come and see. Our sessions are designed to be a conversation, not a classroom. If you would like to join the group in Singleton, please contact the parish office.**

## Weekly Awards

Congratulations to those children who have received awards this past fortnight.

Weekending 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (Term 1 Week 7)

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award One</b>	<b>Class Award Two</b>	<b>Mercy Award</b>
<b>Kinder Blue</b>	Arabella P	Eden S	Maxwell M
<b>Kinder White</b>	Vinnie A	Zac A	Annabelle F
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Lukas E	Louis H	Kelsie L
<b>Year 1 White</b>	William C	Alex H	Lucas H
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Ayla D	Angus M	Georgie-Lee K
<b>Year 2 White</b>	--	--	--
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>	Johnny L	Maci H	Jesse J
<b>Year 3 White</b>	Stella M	Maxx R	Teren G
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	--	--	--
<b>Year 4 White</b>	Hallie D	Vinnie I	Eleanor C
<b>Year 5 Blue</b>	Cooper S	Aubree M	Keir N
<b>Year 5 White</b>	Mason C	Matilda M	Annie H
<b>Year 6 Blue</b>	--	--	--
<b>Year 6 White</b>	Addy S	Noah R	Tuan N

Weekending 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (Term 1 Week 8)

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award One</b>	<b>Class Award Two</b>	<b>Mercy Award</b>
<b>Kinder Blue</b>	Zahlee R	Luke L	Brianna D
<b>Kinder White</b>	Archie M	Bentley F	Hannah B
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Alani B	Ivy E	Toby B
<b>Year 1 White</b>	Sage L	Henry W	Hazel S
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Mason P	Lara A	Blaine S
<b>Year 2 White</b>	--	--	--
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>	--	--	--
<b>Year 3 White</b>	Winnie C	Noah L	Eva S
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	Carter A	Jasper W	Kobe
<b>Year 4 White</b>	Matilda B	Alexis I	Theo C
<b>Year 5 Blue</b>	--	--	--
<b>Year 5 White</b>	Franklin W	Jesse S	Holly N
<b>Year 6 Blue</b>	--	--	--
<b>Year 6 White</b>	Emmett C	Hudson W	Ellie A

**Principals Awards:** Lara A, Astrid C, Ari P, Jaiden X, Teren G, Armaan S, Parker G, Tillie E, Tristan C, Miya W, Cooper S



# St Catherine's Catholic College K - 12

Enrolments now open for  
Year 7 2027  
1<sup>st</sup> round closes 22 May 2026

**Enrol  
Now!**

**Scan the code!**



*Become part of the family in 2027*



St Catherine's  
Catholic College  
Singleton

# Open Day 2026

**Tuesday 28 April, 4pm – 6pm**

30-40 Combo Ln, Singleton NSW 2330





**SCHOOL HOLIDAY**

**CLINIC**



**Scan Me**

**14TH APRIL | 9AM - 3PM**

**@ROSE POINT PARK, SINGLETON**



**\$65.00 | AGES 5-12**



**INCLUDES FOOTY, ACTIVITY BOOK & LUNCH**



CO-DELIVERED WITH: **PCYC** SINGLETON

**READY TO LEVEL UP?  
PLAY JUNIOR FOOTBALL!**

**AGES 8-18**



**Find your Club**





## Fresh lunchboxes for 2026

A great lunchbox has a little of everything – fruit and veggies, whole grains, protein for growing muscles, and water to drink.

These **everyday foods** help kids stay energised, focused and ready for a big day of learning and play.

### Why not try some of our lunchbox favourites:

- Yoghurt tubs or pouches
- Carrot sticks
- Wholegrain salad wrap or roll
- Plain rice crackers and cheese
- Whole fruit



Always remember to pack an ice-brick to keep lunchbox food safe at school!

#### Drink

Water and/or plain milk

#### Lunch

A meal made with everyday foods, such as a sandwich, wrap, salad, pasta or rice dish



#### Recess

Vegetables or fruit + 1-2 everyday snacks

#### Veg & Fruit Break

Vegetables or fruit



Hunter New England  
Local Health District

📧 [HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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.

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