

Learning, Respect, Community and Faith

ST RITA'S SCHOOL
BABINDA



7-13 Church St
Babinda QLD 4861

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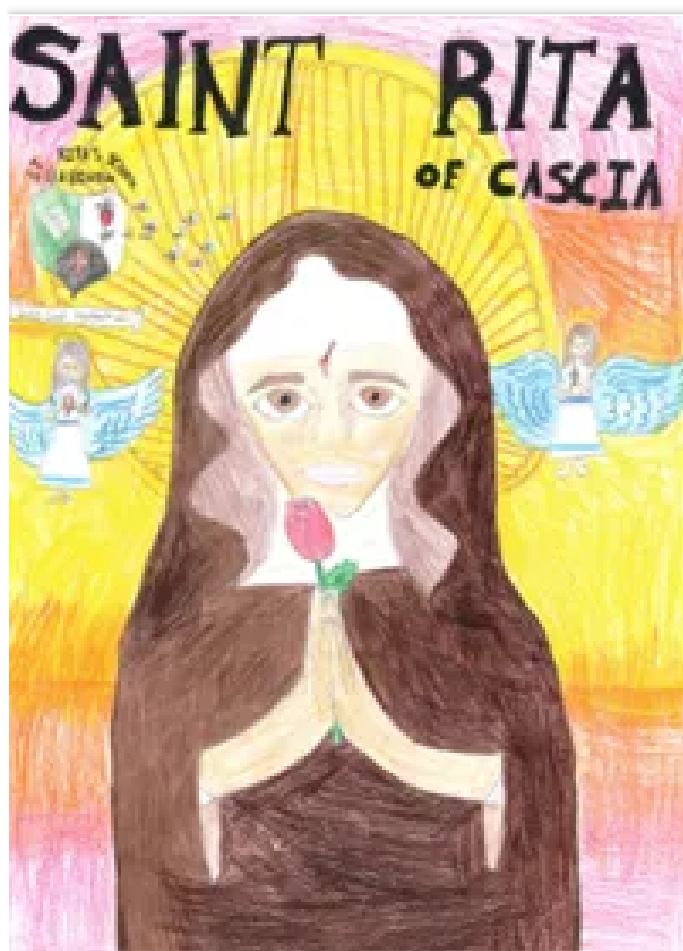


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30 April 2026

VISION STATEMENT



St Rita's school is a dynamic learning community strengthened by our Mercy heritage and inspired through the teachings of Jesus Christ. We are connected and compassionate to the needs of our community and are proud of our local Wanyurr-Majay culture. We engage our learners through relevant and hands-on experiences, bringing joy and confidence to learning.



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is both an exciting and stressful time in my household at the moment as Bek and I prepare to fly to Rome next week for my Renewal Leave. Renewal Leave is an entitlement for principals in our diocese and is something I have not taken until now. The aim of this leave is to further enrich the principal both mentally and spiritually, returning better, more-rounded leaders to our school systems.

After some deliberation, and although not entirely enthused by the prospect of overseas travel, I decided to visit Italy for my Renewal Leave. The reason for this decision is that Italy will provide a wonderful opportunity for me to further connect with

my Roman Catholic faith, particularly through time spent in Rome and The Vatican, which are very much the epicentre of the Catholic Church.

Through our travels in Rome, Bek and I hope to connect with the Italian culture (I may even try coffee), and visit some well known pilgrimage sites throughout Italy where we can further connect and be inspired in our faith.

St Peter's Basilica, the Sistine Chapel, Assisi (St Francis, St Clare, St Carlo), Monte Cassino (St Benedict) and San Giovanni Rotondo (St Padre Pio) are all holy places we plan to visit.

The place I am most looking forward to visiting, however, is the tiny village of Cascia—a town of fewer than 3,000 people—famous for our school's patroness, St Rita of Cascia. I will be fortunate enough to be in Cascia for her feast day and plan to take plenty of footage to share with our school community upon my return.

Please keep Bek and me in your prayers as we travel abroad for the first time as parents. Also, please pray for my mother, who has taken on the responsibility of caring for our four children while we are away. She will need every prayer she can get!

While I am away, I am thrilled that Ms Samantha Benvenuti will be stepping into the role of Acting Principal. Sam has been a leader at our school since 2022 and I am confident she will excel in this role over the next four weeks. Sam knows our school community very well, so please do not hesitate to contact her with any concerns you may have. She has an amazing team of staff around her who will no doubt continue to kick goals in my absence.



Last week, we commemorated ANZAC Day, and I wholeheartedly thank former School Captain and current member of the Royal Australian Navy, Clifford Stone, for visiting us on Thursday and sharing his insights into life in the ADF. Our students were enthralled and asked many thoughtful questions. A big thank you also to Clifford and his father, Ben (ex-Army), who attended our ANZAC Day Prayer Liturgy on Friday. I was extremely impressed by the reverence shown by all our students during this important event.



On Saturday, it was wonderful to see those who represented our school in the Babinda ANZAC Day March. The significance of this event is certainly not lost on the students of St Rita's, and I am very proud of how they conducted themselves.

Welcome Back, Hannah

I would like to welcome back Miss Hannah Sultana to St Rita's as she completes her final teaching placement with us. Hannah will be teaching in the 4/5/6 class under the supervision of Mrs Sinton and Mrs Masina over the next five weeks. Hannah has a bright future ahead, and we look forward to having her back at St Rita's.

Sporting Schools

This term in Physical Education, our students will be learning tennis skills. Tennis coach, Libor, will be visiting our school each Friday to put our students through their paces. All equipment will be provided, and students will simply need to wear their sports uniform as usual. There is no cost to families, as this program is funded by the Australian Sporting Schools initiative.

Cassowary Coast Cross Country

We wish Abel, Samuel, Michael, and Madeline the very best as they represent our school at the Cassowary Coast Cross Country event in Innisfail on 8 May. This opportunity comes after their top two finishes at the Small Schools event last term. We know you will do our school proud.

P&F Update

Last week, we held a P&F meeting in the library, during which the following items were discussed:

Mother's Day

A Mother's Day Afternoon Tea will be held on Friday 8th May @ 2:00pm. Mother's Day raffle tickets have been sent home—please return them as soon as possible. Additional books are available from Debbie if required. We also kindly ask families to contribute an item for the Mother's Day hamper. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Barn Dance

Our school will once again host a Barn Dance this year on Friday, 5 June. The P&F will meet again on Wednesday, 13 May to continue planning. All are welcome to attend.

Project Showcase

On Monday, 11 May, our senior class will host their first Project Showcase for the year. From 11:00am to 12:00pm, students will share their learning and projects with the St Rita's and wider community. All are welcome—we hope you can join us.

Michael Rowe
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



When the Bell Rings Twice

There's a quiet tension that sits in the heart of every educator who is also a parent; a kind of double-heartbeat you learn to live with.

Each day at our Catholic school, I show up for other people's children. I offer steadiness, patience, and the hope that they feel safe and seen. That's the work. That's the calling.

But alongside that role, another part of me is always present. The mum part. The part that wonders how my own child is going. The part that hopes someone notices his small wins. The part that trusts another school, another team of educators, to hold him with the same care I give to the children in front of me.

It's not a shift in location. It's a shift in the heart.

At my school, I am the one family's trust. At his school, I am the one doing the trusting. And that is humbling in a way that reshapes you.

Because when you're both a teacher and a parent, you understand something deeply: **every educator is someone's whole world.**

Babinda's schools; Catholic and government; may look different on paper, but the heartbeat is the same. Both are filled with people who show up tired but try anyway. People who carry their own families while caring for everyone else's. People who notice the tiny things that matter ..the wobble in a voice, the spark in a moment, the courage in a child trying again.

Good education has never been sector-based. It has always been human based.

Every morning, parents in this town hand over the most precious thing they have. And educators; in both schools, receive that trust with hands already full, but hearts wide open.

If there's one message, I hope our community hears, it's this:

We are all on the same side.

We all want children who feel safe, capable, and known. We all want a future built on kindness, courage, and connection. And we build that future together; one classroom, one conversation, one ordinary, brave day at a time.

Kind regards,

Sam Benvenuti

Deputy Principal

COUNSELLORS CORNER

Grief and Loss

What are the five stages of grief?

Denial

Feeling numb is common in the early days after a bereavement. Some people at first carry on as if nothing has happened. Even if we know with our heads that someone has died it can be hard to believe that someone important is not coming back. It's also very common to feel the presence of someone who has died, hear their voice or even see them.

Anger

Anger is a completely natural emotion, and very natural after someone dies. Death can seem cruel and unfair, especially when you feel someone has died before their time or you had plans for the future together. It's also common to feel angry to-

wards the person who has died, or angry at ourselves for things we did or didn't do before their death.

Bargaining

When we are in pain, it's sometimes hard to accept that there's nothing we can do to change things.

Bargaining is when we start to make deals with ourselves, or perhaps with God if we're religious.

We want to believe that if we act in particular ways we will feel better. It's also common to find ourselves going over and over things that happened in the past and asking a lot of 'what if' questions, wishing we could go back and change things in the hope things could have turned out differently.

Depression

Sadness and longing are what we think of most often when we think about grief. This pain can be very intense and come in waves over many months or years. Life can feel like it no longer holds any meaning which can be very scary.

Acceptance

Grief comes in waves and it can feel like nothing will ever be right again. But gradually most people find that the pain eases, and it is possible to accept what has happened. We may never 'get over' the death of someone precious, but we can learn to live again, while keeping the memories of those we have lost close to us.

Do the five stages happen in order?

The five stages – denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance – are often talked about as if they happen in order, moving from one stage to the other. You might hear people say things like 'Oh I've moved on from denial and now I think I'm entering the angry stage'. But this isn't often the case.

In fact, Kübler-Ross, in her writing, makes it clear that the stages are non-linear – people can experience these aspects of grief at different times, and they do not happen in one particular order. You might not experience all the stages, and you might find feelings are quite different with different bereavements.

(From Cruse Bereavement Support)

Yours in Counselling,

Kind regards,

Carmel

DATE CLAIMERS

TERM 2 2026

Friday 1st May	- Alana VPG – Anxiety and routines challenges 9:15am – 10:30am in our Library - Tennis program begins – every Friday
Monday 4th May	Labour Day holiday
Friday 8th May	- Mother's Day afternoon tea 2pm - Cassowary Coast Cross Country for Selected students 9 – 11am Warina Lakes
Sunday 10th May	Mother's Day
Monday 11th May	Years 4/5/6 Project Showcase
Wednesday 13th May	P&F Meeting 3pm
Monday 18th May – Friday 22nd May	"Book Fair" in our library all week.
Tuesday 19th May	St Rita's Feast Day. Whole school bus to South Johnstone St Rita's
Wednesday 27th May	National Simultaneous Storytime
Friday 5th June	St Rita's P&F Barn Dance

2026 TERM DATES

TERM 1	Wednesday 28 th January – Thursday 2 nd April 2026
TERM 2	Monday 20 th April – Friday 26 th June 2026
TERM 3	Monday 13 th July – Friday 18 th September 2026

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Congratulations to Charlie who celebrated his birthday during the school holidays. St Rita's hopes you had a wonderful birthday celebration.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK



MUNRO THEATRE



CASSOWARY COAST TENNIS COACHING



PG Workshop 'Anxiety and Routine challenges'



MOTHER'S OF NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP

