

Learning, Respect, Community and Faith

ST RITA'S SCHOOL
BABINDA



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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.

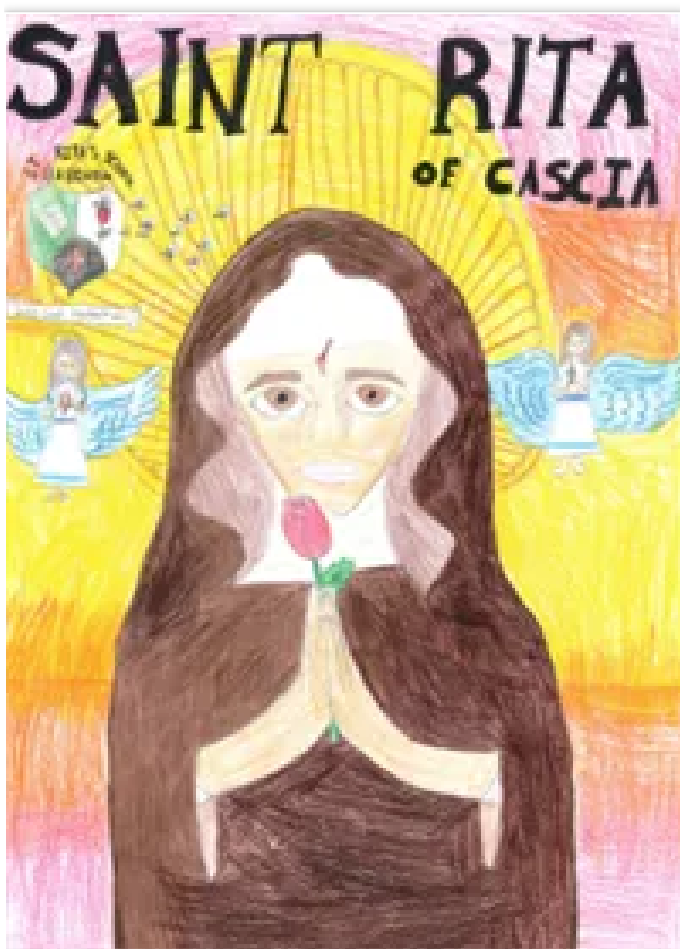
PRINCIPAL'S PEN



Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week we officially began the season of Lent, a tradition practised by millions of Christians throughout the world.

Lent is a significant period in the Christian calendar—the forty days leading up to Easter—when Christians remember the time Jesus spent in the



desert, fasting, praying, and preparing for his ministry. Traditionally, it is a time marked by simplicity, reflection, and intentional acts of self-denial.

As is tradition in my household, each member chooses something they will deny themselves during this Lenten period. Each of my children has chosen something different, as they each have their own vices: PlayStation, YouTube, a commitment to drink nothing but water, reduced smartphone use, and eliminating flavoured drinks made their lists. For me, it is the denial of some of my less healthy food habits—chocolate, lollies, and fizzy drinks—while also committing to daily prayer and exercise.

While the word *denial* can sound heavy, Lent invites us to consider it in a gentle yet purposeful way. Self-denial is not about punishment or hardship; it is about making space. When we consciously give something up—whether that's a treat, a habit, or even a distraction—we create room for something more meaningful to grow. For children, this can be as simple as choosing kindness when it's difficult, taking time to help at home without being asked, or setting aside a few quiet minutes to think about how they can be their best selves.

In a busy modern world, especially within the life of a school, Lent offers something deeply refreshing: an opportunity to slow down and pay attention. It reminds us that growth often happens in the small, consistent choices we make. It encourages gratitude, empathy, and prayer—qualities we nurture in our students every day.

For families who observe Lent, and for those who simply appreciate its universal themes, this season is a chance to reflect on how we can bring more compassion, patience, and intentionality into our daily lives. As a school community, it is an opportunity to support one another in these efforts and to model the values that help our children flourish.

May this Lenten season bring calm, clarity, and renewal to you and your families.

Graduate Outcomes

Thank you to our parents who were able to attend our parent forum before the Shrove Tuesday pancakes last week. During this session I asked for parental input into our proposed graduate outcomes.

What are graduate outcomes?

Graduate outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, and qualities that students are expected to have developed by the time they complete a particular stage of schooling. In schools—especially in Australian primary and secondary settings—they outline the kind of young person a school aims to develop. They guide teaching, learning, wellbeing, and school culture.

By developing these outcomes at our school, St Rita's now has a clear and shared goal for what we hope each of our students will achieve by the time they graduate.

So far, we have developed the following:

At St Rita's, we are committed to nurturing graduates who live out our core values of learning, respect, community, and faith.

- **Learning** – We are lifelong, active learners who are committed to reaching our full academic potential.
- **Respect** – We build positive and safe relationships with ourselves, others, and place. We are accountable for our choices.
- **Community** – We are connected to and compassionate toward the needs of our local community.
- **Faith** – We are living witnesses of faith, inspired by the teachings of Jesus.

Under each heading, we will develop a list of specific behaviours that will ultimately be reflected in each semester's report. This will allow you to track how your child is progressing in relation to the graduate outcomes, and it will also form part of the discussion during Student/Parent/Teacher interviews.

As I have long said, academic grades are important, but not as important as character. By embedding these graduate outcomes throughout our school community, we believe we are giving St Rita's students the best chance to grow into fine Christian citizens and the future leaders of the next generation.

P&F AGM

We recently held our Parents and Friends AGM in the school library, with a great turnout from people eager to support our school going forward.

Congratulations to the following members elected into formal positions:

- **President:** Matt Owens
- **Vice-President:** Angela Owens
- **Secretary:** Sam Benvenuti
- **Treasurer:** Debbie Kurucz

Matt, Angela, and Sam are all new to their positions, and we thank them for their commitment to this group.

I would also like to thank our previous President, Cyndel Tanner, and previous Secretary, Maryjane Masina, for their leadership of the P&F over the past few years. It has been pleasing to see how much this small school has achieved with the support of our P&F.

Special Thanks

A big thank you to **Sam Moody** for pressure-cleaning the front entrance of our school. It has made a remarkable difference and has been noted by many. We truly appreciate the help.

A special thanks also to **Gavin and Matt**, who continuously volunteer their time to maintain our lawns and gardens. It is a huge job, and they undertake it with great skill and dedication. Their ongoing support is genuinely appreciated.

Cross-Country

This year our Combined Schools Cross-Country will involve all of our students. It will be held on **18 March** at **Mirriwinni State School**, beginning at **9:30am**.

Distances:

- **5–6 years** – 300m (1 lap of the oval)
- **7–8 years** – 600m (2 laps)
- **9–10 years** – 2km
- **11–12 years** – 3km

Students in the 9–12 age groups can qualify for the Cassowary Coast Cross Country by finishing in the top two of their race.

The event will finish at 11am with morning tea/lunch. Please note that Mirriwinni SS will also be offering some tuckshop items for students if you wish to purchase.

Order details will be included in the form that will be emailed out.

Michael Rowe
Principal

COUNSELLORS CORNER



TEACHING KIDS ANGER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES by WholeHearted School Counseling

1. Walk away and cool down.	
2. Take Steady Breaths and focus on exhaling slowly.	
3. Count to 20 or more until you feel calmer.	
4. Stretch or do yoga.	
5. Use I-Statements & say how you feel, what you need & how you want to be treated.	
6. Take a break and use a calming tool like a stress ball.	
7. Exercise or play a sport.	
8. Squeeze then relax your muscles.	
9. Push against the wall or floor and then relax.	
10. Scribble on paper or write about what's bugging you.	

***Yours in Counselling,
Kind regards,
Carmel***

DATE CLAIMERS

TERM 1 2026	
Wednesday 25 th February	· Newsletter Issue 2
Thursday 26 th February	· Good Counsel College 12:15-1:00pm Year 7 2027 information
Friday 27 th February	· CENSUS DAY
Monday 2 nd March	· Pit Stop 8:35 am
Tuesday 3 rd March	· Music with Miss Jenni
Monday 9 th March	· Pit Stop 8:35 am · P&F meeting in Library 3:15 pm
Wednesday 11 th March	· NAPLAN commences
Friday 13 th March	· P123 Excursion to CPAC Where is the green sheep performance
Wednesday 18 th March	· Cross Country at Mirriwinni State School by bus. All students 9:00am to 11:00am

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

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Assembly	9 th February	
Prep	Olivia Owens	Olivia I have loved seeing you grow in confidence each day. You are becoming confident with your number and phonemes/letters giving every learning opportunity a go.
Year 4	Daniel Logan	Daniel, keep up the great focus and attention in morning routine. Well done for transferring your knowledge into other subjects.



Assembly	23 rd February	
Year 2	Roselee Shaw	Rosie shows persistence by trying hard to do her best, even when learning new things is sometimes difficult. Her 'love of learning' is inspiring.
Year 3	Danny Ballarino	I have seen you giving effort and working tough through science lessons. You are learning to extend your knowledge and share ideas. Keep it up!
Year 4	Madeline Rowe	Thank you for offering to help with the bins on Friday, and supporting the Lower Years during lunchtime activities. Your kindness and willingness to help others make a real difference. Keep it up!
Year 5	Eyvi Tanner	Thank you for offering to help with the bins and supporting Lower Years during lunchtime activities. Your kindness and willingness to help others make a real difference. Keep it up!



BIRTHDAY WISHES



Congratulations to Ayden, Ryley, Daniel, Izaac, Jessie, Rosie and Stanley who recently celebrated their birthdays. St Rita's hopes you all had wonderful birthday celebrations.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK



MUNRO THEATRE

VPG CLASSROOM CHAMPIONS OPPORTUNITY



CASSOWARY COAST TENNIS COACHING

