

Learning, Respect, Community and Faith

ST RITA'S SCHOOL
BABINDA



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Babinda QLD 4861

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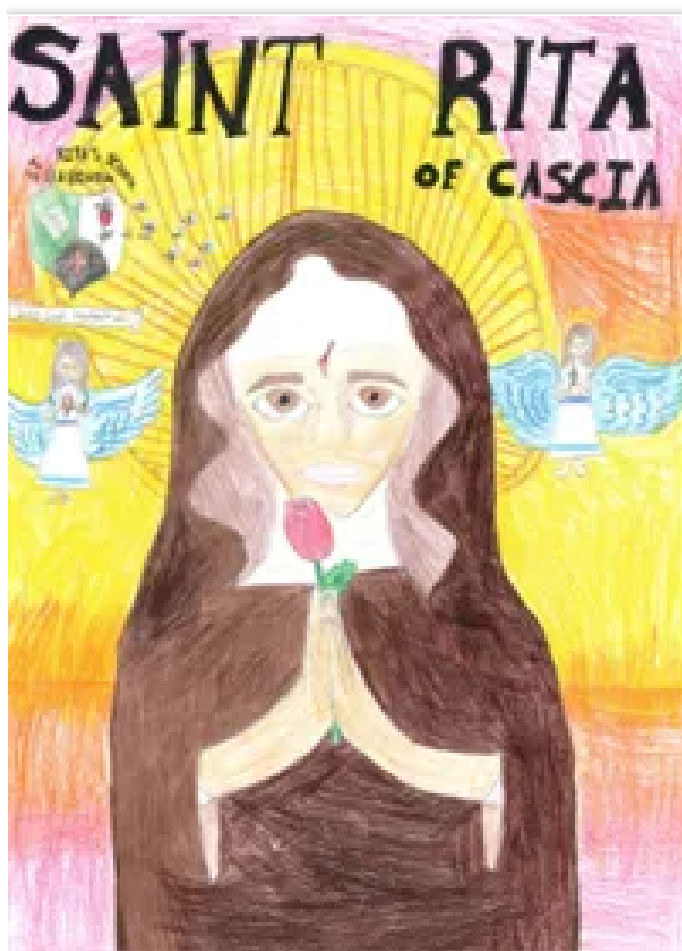


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29 May 2026

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,

Celebrating Evidence-Based Teaching at Our School

We are proud to acknowledge the influential work of Australian educator and researcher Dr Shiralee Poed, whose leadership in *Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)* continues to shape how schools across the country support every learner to thrive.

At its heart, MTSS is about proactive, inclusive teaching—putting in place high-quality, evidence-based strategies for all students (Tier 1), while ensuring additional layers of support are available when needed. Inspired by this work, our class-

rooms are focused on creating environments where students feel engaged, supported, and successful every day.

What does this look like for your child?

- Clear expectations and structured routines help students feel safe and ready to learn.
- Strong relationships and a sense of belonging are intentionally fostered through daily interactions, collaboration, and inclusive classroom practices.
- Active, meaningful learning experiences encourage students to take ownership, reflect on their progress, and develop confidence in their abilities.

Through this approach, we are not only supporting academic growth, but also nurturing resilience, wellbeing, and positive learner identities in every child.

We commend Dr Poed's contribution to education and are excited to continue embedding these practices across our school to ensure every student is known, supported, and challenged to succeed.

Sam Benvenuti

Acting Principal

Mr Rowe will be returning on Monday 1st of June. We hope you have enjoyed your trip in Italy - safe to say Mr Rowe is now a coffee drinker! Here is an update from him

Saturday 23rd

Today we woke up in Cascia and packed our bags, ready to head to Cassino. Before leaving our new favourite place, we drove into Roccaporena, the village where St Rita lived, and walked up the steep mountain path she would climb to pray. At the top sits a small chapel built in her honour. We were almost the only people there, but we timed it perfectly because as we descended, hundreds of pilgrims were making the trek up.

We drove back into Cascia one final time and were surprised to see it even busier than the Feast Day itself. We then began the drive towards Cassino. Along the way we stopped so Bek could take a photo amongst the wild poppies growing beside the road. They are everywhere here and make the countryside look beautiful.

We arrived in Cassino at about 3pm and I was really tired. We grabbed an early dinner, checked into our accommodation, and spent the rest of the afternoon resting.

Sunday 24th

Today is Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Catholic Church. I was woken at 3am by a series of phone calls, which was about 11am back in Australia. After initially ignoring them, I thought I had better answer when Mum called again. She told me that Jude had been injured playing footy and needed my Medicare card details because she was taking him to the emergency department at the hospital in Cairns.

I could not get back to sleep afterwards because I was worried about Jude. At about 7am Mum called back and said that Jude had fractured his collarbone and would need to wear a sling for a while.

That was when I woke Bek and told her the news. We felt really sad for Jude but were relieved that he was otherwise okay.

After getting ready, we headed to our destination for the day: Monte Cassino. The monastery was founded by Saint Benedict of Nursia in the 6th century and is considered the birthplace of Western monasticism. St Benedict was born in Nursia around 480 AD and dedicated his life to prayer, simplicity, and devotion to God. He eventually founded a number of monasteries and wrote the famous "Rule of St Benedict," which taught monks to live balanced lives of prayer and work. His teachings became the foundation of monastic life throughout Europe, earning him the title "Father of Western Monasticism."

His twin sister, Saint Scholastica, also devoted her life to God from a young age. She founded religious communities for women and lived a life of prayer and holiness not far from her brother. Tradition says that Benedict and Scholastica would meet once a year for spiritual conversation and encouragement. St Scholastica is remembered for her deep faith and is considered the patron saint of Benedictine nuns. Both saints are buried in the monastery's crypt.

The monastery itself was incredible. Sitting high on the mountain overlooking the valleys below, the views were breathtaking. The building is surrounded by rolling hills, rocky mountains, forests, and winding roads. Although the abbey was almost completely destroyed during World War II, it was rebuilt beautifully and now stands as both a monastery and a memorial to peace.

We attended Sunday Mass there before exploring the underground tombs of St Benedict and St Scholastica. Afterwards we wandered through the

monastery, admiring its massive courtyards, marble staircases, peaceful cloisters, and impressive artwork.

After lunch we hopped back in the car and drove to our final destination before Rome: Anagni. The town is known as the “City of Popes” because four popes were born there during the Middle Ages. It is also famous for the “Slap of Anagni,” a major historical event in 1303 when agents of the French King Philip IV attacked and humiliated Pope Boniface VIII during a dispute over the authority of the Church. Although the Pope was rescued shortly afterwards, the incident weakened the power of the papacy and became an important turning point in Church history.

After having a short rest, we spent the evening walking around the town and taking in its incredible medieval history and atmosphere.

Tomorrow we head to our final destination of Rome before flying back to Australia on Thursday. Can’t wait to see everyone again.

Mr Rowe



On Friday we were lucky enough to have local rangers give a talk to our 4-6 students. The rangers work on Country every day, combining ancient knowledge with modern science to care for the environment and protect cultural heritage.

Their work is both practical and powerful:

- Restoring local waterways and wetlands to keep them healthy for future generations

- Planting thousands of native trees and removing invasive weeds
- Monitoring water quality and protecting wildlife habitats
- Preserving important cultural sites and sharing knowledge with younger generations

Through these efforts, the Madjandji Rangers are not only improving the health of our environment, but also strengthening cultural identity, community pride, and opportunities for young people to learn and connect with Country.

Their work reminds us all of the importance of respecting the land, learning from Traditional Owners, and working together to care for our shared environment.

We acknowledge and celebrate the Madjandji Rangers for the vital role they play in protecting and sustaining the beautiful Babinda region we call home.



porting student learning. Her dedication in the classroom, along with her warm and engaging approach, has had a positive impact on both students and staff.

We are grateful for the energy and commitment she has brought to her placement and wish her every success as she moves forward in her teaching career. Well done, Miss Sultana!



Kind regards,

Sam Benvenuti

Deputy Principal

COUNSELLORS CORNER

Congratulations to Mrs Masina

We are proud to congratulate Mrs Masina on her well-deserved nomination for a Spirit of Catholic Education award! This recognition reflects her ongoing commitment to excellence in teaching, her dedication to her students, and the positive impact she makes within our school community each and every day. Her passion, professionalism, and care for students truly embody the spirit of this award.

Well done, Mrs Masina. This is a fantastic achievement and one that we celebrate with you!

A Big Thank You to Miss Sultana

We would like to extend our sincere thanks and congratulations to **Miss Sultana**, who is completing her fourth-year practicum with us.

Miss Sultana has made a wonderful contribution to our school community, demonstrating professionalism, enthusiasm, and a genuine passion for sup-



Common grief responses in children

Grief can affect children:



Cognitively

They might have trouble concentrating, making decisions or get easily confused. You might see nightmares, lack of motivation, or a decline in school performance and self-esteem.



Emotionally

Children tend to go in and out of the grief process - crying one minute, then playing the next. They may also be unsettled, express anxiety about the safety of others or feel responsible for their parents.



Physically

Children may feel sick more often, experience headaches, stomach aches, tiredness, lack of energy or hyperactivity. You may also notice changes in their eating habits and sleeping patterns.



Spiritually

Children will be curious about death and dying and may ask a lot of questions. They may start to question why this happened and where the person might be now.



Socially

It's common for children to either withdraw from family and friends, or become more dependent or clingy. They might also attempt to take on the role of an older sibling or adult who has died.



Behaviourally

They might show more challenging or demanding behaviour as they try to get care or reassurance from you. Themes of death may show up in their drawings or play. Behaviour may also regress like wetting the bed.

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

DATE CLAIMERS

TERM 2 2026

Monday 1 st June	· Welcome back Mr Rowe
Tuesday 2 nd June	· Miss Jenni - Music
Friday 5 th June	· Tennis coaching · St Rita's P&F Barn Dance
Tuesday 9 th June	· Miss Jenni - Music
Wednesday 10 th June	· Combined Schools Sports Day at Babinda State School.
Friday 12 th June	· Tennis coaching
Friday 26 th June	· Last day of Term 2

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
TERM 4	Tuesday 6 th October – Friday 4 th December 2026

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Assembly	18 th May	
Year 1	Ruby Moody	Ruby, I consistently see you being prepared for lessons. You follow the teacher's instructions and make sure you have all equipment ready.
Year 6	Ryley Lock	Thank you for always doing your best and not giving up when something is too difficult or boring Keep it up!

CASSOWARY COAST TENNIS COACHING



NNISFAIL TIGERS SOCCER CLUB – BABINDA TRAINING



CIRCLE OF SECURITY PARENTING WORKSHOP



THOUGHT OF THE WEEK



ST RITA'S BARN DANCE

MUNRO THEATRE

