

TERM 4: WEEK 11: Monday 16th December, 2024

**SCHOOL WILL FINISH FOR 2024 TOMORROW, TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER AT 1.00PM
CHILDREN CAN WEAR PLAIN CLOTHES. THERE WILL BE A SHORT ASSEMBLY
AT 12.50PM IN THE YARD.**

***ONLINE BOOKINGS FOR LEARNING CONVERSATIONS ARE NOW OPENED –
SEE INFORMATION IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND SENT OUT PREVIOUSLY***

Dear Parents/Carers,

In some sad news, Leah Doran, sister of Ms Cathy Doran, our Deputy Principal, passed away last Wednesday. Please keep Cathy, her father Jim, her brothers John and Michael and their families in your thoughts and prayers at this very sad time.

As I write this final newsletter for the 2024 school year, I can't believe how quickly the year has passed. It has been a very exciting year for all in the school community. The year began with us welcoming approximately 70 new students to St. Paul's. So much has happened this year. The Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist, Masses, the Art Show, camps, excursions, incursions, fundraising events – there always seemed to be something happening. And on top of all these events, our building renovations were completed on time. Many thanks to all staff and families for your patience during the building works.

I would like to thank Father Rene, Father Joseph and Father Rowan for their support of St. Paul's during 2024. We thank them for continuing to visit our school, celebrating Mass with us and praying with the children.

I would like to thank the teachers for their dedication and professionalism this year. As always, they gave 100% throughout the year to ensure your children had the best opportunities to become 'the best that they can be'. I hope they enjoy their well-earned break. Special thanks to Cathy Doran and Louise Collison – as Deputy Principals, they have been a great support to me, as have all in the Leadership Team - Lisa Peplow, Rebeca Gernon, Kara Brizzi and Libby Morganti. I would also like to thank the administrative staff who ensure that the school runs smoothly and efficiently and the learning support officers who support your children in so many ways.

I would like to thank the parents, families and friends who do so much to support the school. I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by the School Advisory Council and all those who have worked in the canteen.

Finally, the people we are all here for, the children. The children at St. Paul's are friendly, welcoming and care for each other. We often receive feedback about how polite and well behaved the children are when they are out of the school on various activities. They have represented St. Paul's very well in so many ways this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Year Six students who are graduating this year. I wish them every success in the future. I would like to farewell all the families who are leaving St. Paul's and thank them for the contribution they have made to our school.

I would also like to say 'thank you' and farewell Miss Rebecca Calleja who will be leaving St Paul's at the end of the year. We wish her all the best for the future. We wish Mrs Jan Quinn all the best as she will be on long service leave until September next year. Miss Melissa Dvorscak will continue to be on leave in 2025.

As you are aware, Mrs Teagan Desmond and her husband Dave are expecting their third child in March next year. Teagan will commence Maternity Leave next year. We wish them both all the best.

I hope that over the next week as you prepare for Christmas, that you can take time to remember the most important thing about Christmas – Jesus was born. As we prepare for this special celebration, we hope all families will have a happy Christmas and a relaxing holiday break. We look forward to seeing you in 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Casamento
Principal

WEEK 4 OF ADVENT

This Sunday we light the fourth Advent Candle - the third purple candle, which is the candle of Joy.

This week we focus on Mary's open heart as she prepares to receive the gift of Emmanuel ~ God-with-us. We light the fourth candle as a sign of our faith in God's redeeming love. God's promised Messiah is coming. He brings good news for the poor and oppressed. He will bind up broken hearts. He will proclaim release to those who are held captive.

Please pray the following Advent prayer with your family:

Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love - shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless us in our prayer. Help us to hear and do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. Amen

DATES TO REMEMBER - 2025

Monday 27th January:	Bookings for Learning Conversations close at 4pm
Wednesday 29th January:	Learning Conversations 8.45am – 6.30pm (No school for students)
Thursday 30th January:	School Resumes Years 1 – 6 at 8.40am Preps Begin at 9.00am - conclude at 1.00pm. Before and After School Care will commence. Canteen opens for lunch orders.
Friday 31st January:	Preps Begin at 9.00am - conclude at 1.00pm
Monday 3rd February:	Preps begin at 8.40am – conclude at 3.00pm from now on – no school on Wednesdays until March 12 th
Friday 7th February:	Beginning of the Year Mass 10.00am St. Paul's Church (Please note that most school Masses will be commencing at 10.00am in 2025.)

SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2025

The dates for the celebration of the Sacraments and the Family nights in 2025 are:

Sacrament of Penance Family Night (Year 3)	Thursday, February 13 th at 6.30pm – St. Paul's School
Sacrament of Penance (Year 3)	Wednesday, February 26 th at 6.30pm – St. Paul's Church
Sacrament of Eucharist Family Night (Year 3)	Thursday, March 27 th at 6.30pm - St. Paul's School
Sacrament of Eucharist (Year 3)	Friday, May 2 nd at 6.30pm – St. Paul's Church
Sacrament of Confirmation Family Night (Year 5 and 6)	Thursday, May 8 th at 6.30pm - St. Paul's School
Sacrament of Confirmation (Year 5 and 6)	Thursday, May 22 nd at 6.30pm – St. Paul's Church

URGENT NOTICE – SCHOOL FEES FOR 2024 – URGENT NOTICE

It is most important that outstanding school fees for 2024 are paid by 12.30pm **tomorrow**, Tuesday, 17th December.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2025

The following dates are very important for **ALL** students who will be attending secondary school in 2027 – our current Year 4 students. If applications for Catholic Secondary School are not in by Friday 15th August, 2025 your child will not be enrolled in your school of choice.

15th August 2025: Applications close for 2027 Year 7 students in Catholic Secondary Colleges – our current Year 4 Students

17th October 2025: Offers posted to prospective 2027 Year 7 applicants

7th November 2025: Final date for families to accept offers made by the Secondary School

ADVENT LITURGIES

Thanks to our Preps, JMA, MMA and SMA students for presenting reflections on the 4 weeks of Advent recently. The assemblies gave us an opportunity to think about the real message of Christmas.

YEAR 6 GRATUATION CEREMONY – COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Thankyou to Ms Lisa Peplow and all the SMA teachers for organising such a beautiful Graduation Mass last Tuesday. Thanks to all the families for their attendance and participating reverently in the celebration. Thanks also to all the staff for their attendance at the Mass and supporting our 2024 Graduates.

The Lions Club of Sunshine has made donations to our school to help support our Graduation with two \$100 gift cards. We appreciate their support of our school and thank them for all the work they do for the underprivileged in our community.

MIDDLE AND SENIOR CHOIR – THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

Thanks to our Middle and Senior Choir who represent St. Paul's so well and give up so much of their own time. They worked very hard during all the rehearsals and sang so beautifully at the school Masses and also at the Graduation Mass last week. Thanks to the parents/carers who have supported your child/ren to be in the choir.

Many thanks to Ms Michele Micallef and Ms Lynette Gixti for leading the choir. We are all very proud of the choir. Thanks to all of them for another great year - very well done!

PREP – 4 SWIMMING

Thanks to Mr. Chris for his organisation of the swimming program and to all the Year Prep - Four teachers, and the support staff, for their assistance with the swimming program. Thanks also to the family and friends who have assisted at the swimming pool. It was wonderful to see so many families and friends at the pool.

SCHOOL RESUMES – 2025

Learning Conversations will be held on Wednesday, 29th January, 2025 from 8.45am – 6.30pm – they will run for 15 minutes each. There will be no school for children on this day. A reminder note was sent home last Monday to show you how to go online and book your time. You can book your school interviews for the times that suit your family as bookings have opened. Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow the instructions. Simply enter the code **e7ca8** and press "Go". Please ring the Office on 9363 1568 if you need help with online bookings. Thank you to the 170 families who have already booked a time.

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until the bookings close on Monday 27th January, 2025 at 4.00pm. You will be allocated a time after this date if you have not chosen a time.

All children from Years 1 – 6 will attend school on Thursday 30th January, 2025 at 8.40am. Preps will also commence at 9.00am on January 30th and 31st. The Preps will finish at 1.00pm on these days. From Monday, 3rd February they will commence full time and will start school at 8.40am and conclude at 3.00pm. However, there will be **no school for Prep students on Wednesday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th February and 5th March.**

Please note that Before and After School Care will commence on Thursday 30th January, 2025 and the canteen will open on Thursday 30th January. CDFpay will be open from January 30th, 2025 to order lunches online.

Good News: New CDFpay mobile app available to download



St Paul's Primary School will be using the new CDFpay mobile app for online canteen ordering at our school from the start of Term 1 2025.

How to register for a new CDFpay account

1. Download the CDFpay mobile app on the [Apple](#) or [Google](#) store, then click 'Sign up now'.

No app? [Register here](https://user.cdfpay.flexischools.com.au/register) (<https://user.cdfpay.flexischools.com.au/register>)

Important:

- You will not be able to use your existing CDFpay credentials to log in to the new CDFpay mobile app. You will need to follow these steps to create a new CDFpay account (you can use the same email address if desired).
 - Register for a new CDFpay account before the start of Term 1 2025 and we will transfer any remaining balance on your account before the end of March 2025.
2. Enter and confirm your email address, then click 'Sign up'.
 3. Check your email inbox and follow the prompts to complete your account registration (check junk/spam if lost).

After you have registered and entered your child's details, you can:

- Order and pay in seconds!

Have questions? Please call the CDFpay powered by Flexischools Parent Support Line 1300 361 769 or complete the online [Contact Form](https://flexischools.zendesk.com/hc/en-au/requests/new) (<https://flexischools.zendesk.com/hc/en-au/requests/new>) and Flexischools will get back to you directly.

SCHOOL'S APP "AUDIRI"

Please make sure you have the Audiri App installed into your phone. This app can be found via the Apple App Store or Google Play. Our school uses this app to regularly update the families with all important information and families can also communicate with the school during the holidays.



*Wishing you all
a very happy, safe
and holy festive
season.*

2025 STUDENT LEADERS

At today's End of Year Mass the Student Leaders for 2025 were announced.

Congratulations to the following students who will hold Leadership positions in 2025.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Alexia Apostolikas (SAS)
Robert Greto (SCC)

SCHOOL VICE CAPTAINS

Valentina Luong (SCC)
Aiden Rodriguez (SAS)

BRIGIDINE HOUSE CAPTAINS

Chin Chin Cenhrang (SHG)
Elnathan Bongwa (SAS)

MARIST HOUSE CAPTAINS

Gabriella Del Cid (SHG)
Amanuel Petros (SCC)

HARVESTER HOUSE CAPTAINS

Athena Rigor (SHG)
Riley Scott (SAS)

MARIN BALLUK HOUSE CAPTAINS

Giulietta Matina (SAS)
Alex Briffa (SCC)



The St Paul's Community acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we teach, learn and pray. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait people have to Country and pay our respects to Elders, past and present as we commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

