

# St Anthony's news



**Edition 13**  
**28 August 2025**



More than 1,450 delegates from across Australia and overseas gathered in Cairns last week for the 2025 Australian Catholic Education Conference, exploring the future of Catholic education through the themes of faith, excellence and access.

In an inspiring first keynote, Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCJ, general undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops in Rome and a global leader in synodality and youth ministry, described Catholic schools as 'networks of relationships' and the 'places where hope is nurtured, where young people learn to walk in faith and diversity with the spirit.' Education, she said, is 'a shared journey, where we walk and listen, foster communication and participation'.

The opening day also featured a beautiful Mass, think Rod Laver but not quite so large. The mass was concelebrated by Bishop Joe Caddy of Cairns, Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane and Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP of Sydney. More than 1,100 students from across the Diocese of Cairns participated, including a 400-voice choir.

In his homily, Bishop Caddy spoke of the dignity at the heart of Catholic education: 'As we gather, we reflect on the awesome responsibility and privilege we share in ... to be instruments of God, create and foster environments where every student's dignity is respected.' He prayed that young people formed in Catholic schools would 'respect human dignity, build bridges and come to know Jesus Christ ... creating a more just and peaceful home for all'.

A panel conversation on *Signs of Hope for Catholic Education*, moderated by Susan Pascoe AM, was an opportunity to hear Sr Nathalie Becquart, Bishop Mark Edwards OMI, Fr Friedrich Bechina, Professor Henrietta Marrie and Professor Renée Kohler-Ryan discuss the themes of authenticity, cultural diversity and formation. 'As we are forming minds, we should also be forming hearts,' Professor Kohler-Ryan said, while Fr Bechina observed that 'Our Catholic faith means embracing every culture ... with unconditional love for everyone.' Bishop Edwards identified the longing for authenticity among young people as presenting a unique opportunity.

The next day opened with a conversation between Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and federal education minister Jason Clare MP, moderated by National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) executive director Jacinta Collins. Both reflected on the important role of Catholic education in shaping Australian society.

This day also featured several international experts. I attended sessions with Prof Dylan Wiliam and Dr Steve Constantino.

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Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



Prof Dylan Wiliam, emeritus professor of educational assessment at the University College London Institute of Education, argued that equity means not only lifting achievement but also narrowing gaps between students. Calling for shifts in the culture of education from performance to learning, from fixed ability to mastery over time, and from linear to adaptive curriculums, he advocated for 'teaching that works for all'.

Family engagement was the focus of Dr Steve Constantino's keynote. He outlined five principles for involving parents and communities: a culture that engages every family; development of relationships through effective communication; building family efficacy; engaging every family in decision-making; and engaging the greater community. Reminding us that family engagement is 'not an event; it's a process, it doesn't 'doesn't mean more work. It's the same energy, same resources, different process, different results.'

On the final day, attention turned to students in a panel moderated by Bishop Joe Caddy. Six students from schools across the Diocese of Cairns spoke candidly about what makes a difference in their education. This reminded me of our students when they lead a school tour, they speak the truth from their heart and lived experience. Their reflections were simple: relationships first, attention to individual learning needs, and openness to technology—including artificial intelligence—as a tool for creativity and preparation for the future.

The conference concluded with a keynote from Dr Simon Breakspear, founder of Strategic Schools, who has been working with MACS schools for the last few years. He stressed that true reform comes from 'patient, intentional and collective action' rather than quick fixes. Catholic schools, he pointed out, are 'deeply human communities built on trust, relationships and shared purpose, and it is through small, steady improvements in daily practice that genuine, system-wide change takes root.'

What an experience! A privilege to spend time with like minded colleagues and renowned speakers, to be given the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be part of the Catholic School system, all in the glorious Cairns setting. I returned refreshed, invigorated and challenged to lead with *Hope Anchored in Faith*. I thank the staff who continued the wonderful work we do, particularly Rosanna Romeo, Rebekah Grenfell and Nick Haddon who allowed me to attend by taking on the shared responsibility of being in charge.

## ***Our Staffing***

This week we welcome Mrs Maria Buttifant, in the Performing Art Teacher Role and Ms Veronica Avgerinos who is completing her Educational Support Certificate placement hours at St Anthony's. We hope they enjoy their time with us.

## ***Our Community***

Joining our community is Birqateh (P/1RG), Amelia (2/3MG) and Christian (5/6BW) and their families. They have already felt very welcomed and we look forward to getting to know them all in the coming weeks,

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months and years.

## **Book Week**

From afar I enjoyed the images and recounts of the wonderful celebrations experienced during Book Week. To see all our students dressed up for the Parade is just brilliant. A love of literature begins in the home and that was evident in the family participation across the week. Next week we will unveil the Which Wally? staff activity results and announce those who identified the most staff correctly. How did you go? If you haven't had a chance, pop into the atrium and try your hand at identifying each staff member based on five facts.

## **First Eucharist**

Congratulations to our Year Four students who received the Eucharist for the first time last Sunday. It truly was a celebration of this wonderful milestone in their faith journey. Fr Shabin was most impressed with their preparation, evident in the reverent way they read and participated.

*Loving God, we ask you to bless them. May they always know your presence in their lives. May they always feel that they belong to our Christian community. May you always be a real presence in their thoughts, words and actions. May they know You are the Bread of Life for all their hunger. Amen*

## **Naplan**

Earlier in Term One our Year 3 and Year 5 students completed NAPLAN. NAPLAN assesses the fundamental literacy and numeracy skills of young Australians in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 to help governments and schools understand student progress, identify areas for improvement, and evaluate the effectiveness of education programs. It provides comparable data for parents to track their child's development against national standards and informs schools on how best to support their students' learning in reading, writing, and numeracy.

Our Year 3s performed exceptionally well with the majority of students above the State standard in all areas; Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation and Numeracy. While the majority of Year 5s were above the State standard in all Reading, Writing and Numeracy, at the State standard in Spelling and below the State standard in Punctuation & Grammar. Also worth noting was the pleasing growth added for each Year 5 student from their Year 3 data.

## **MACSSIS Survey**

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS): 1 September – 19 September 2025

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Throughout each year, we pause to listen to our students, families and staff to gauge how our learning community is travelling. This feedback is invaluable to our progress as effective school communities and is backed by evidence-based research and best practices.

MACSSIS is a set of surveys that have been built specifically for Catholic schools in Melbourne by the Learning Services team at MACS, in partnership with researchers at Learning First and in wide consultation with principals in our schools.

In 2025, students, families and staff are invited to participate in MACSSIS via our secure and purpose-built online platform. The online platform is where our school leaders will access the summary reports that visualise the results of the student, family and staff surveys.

The MACSSIS survey platform is operated by an independent supplier, ORIMA Research Pty Ltd. The platform meets with the high security and privacy standards for handling student and school data. Participating schools are in the process of updating their privacy policy to ensure school communities are fully informed and protected.

Students at our school will be provided with supervised sessions, where teachers are on hand to help and answer any questions. Families and staff can complete the survey anytime over the three-week window via an emailed link and password, which will be received shortly. Surveys can be completed across a range of mobile devices and different web browsers.

Our community's opinions are critical to understanding how our school is performing – MACSSIS is a key data source for guiding the ongoing work to improve our school. All participation is invited, welcomed and 100 per cent voluntary. The surveys are not a test; they are an inclusive way to support the work we are already doing to improve our school. I strongly encourage all families to participate.

## ***Bike and Pedestrian Safety***

In the interest of everyone's safety, bikes are not to be ridden beyond the entrance to the Church carpark when arriving at school or until after the Church carpark when exiting. Likewise dismounting within the school grounds is expected. Thank you for your support in this safety issue.

## ***Fathers Day***

Friday September 5 we celebrate our dads, mentors and dad-like figures in our lives with our annual breakfast and stall organised by the incredible P & F. After the breakfast you are invited to spend some time in your child/children's classroom to experience their learning first hand. We hope to see you there!

## ***Tania Bennett***

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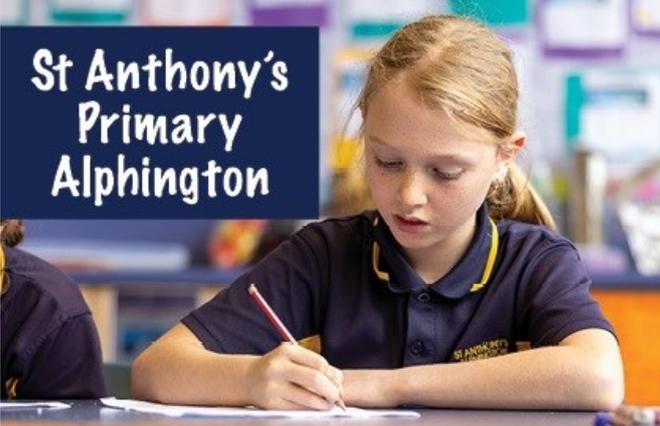
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# 2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Term 3		
Friday 29 August	9.15am	5/6 Year Level Mass
Friday 5 September	7.30am	Fathers Day Breakfast and open classrooms
Friday 5 September		Fathers Day Stall
Friday 12 September	9.15am	Prep/1 RG & 2/3MG Class Mass
Thursday 18 September	5.00— 6.00pm	School Disco Grades Prep—3
Thursday 18 September	6.15- 7.30pm	School Disco Grades 4—6
Friday 19 September		Sports Colours day and activities
Friday 19 September	1.00pm	Term 3 ends

Term 4		
Date	Time	Activity
Monday 6 October	8.50am	Term 4 begins
Tuesday 14 October	7.30pm	School Advisory Council
Tuesday 28 October		<b>NEW</b> School Closure—PD on student engagement and wellbeing
Monday 3 November		School Closure—Assessment and Reporting
Tuesday 4 November		Melbourne Cup public holiday
Tuesday 11 November	7.30pm	School Advisory Council
Wednesday 12 November		Scholastic Book Fair begins
Friday 14 November	2.30pm	Prep Orientation Session 1
Friday 21 November	2.30pm	Prep Orientation Session 2
Friday 28 November	2.30pm	Prep Orientation Session 3
Sunday 30 November	10.30am	Junior 2025 and 2026 Mass and BBQ
Tuesday 9 December		End of year Gratitude Mass—all welcome
Monday 15 December		Step Up into 2026 session
Tuesday 16 December	1pm	Term 4 ends



**St Anthony's  
Primary  
Alphington**

**INTERACTIVE SESSIONS**  
 Tuesday 5 August - Numeracy  
 Wednesday 20 August - Literacy  
 Thursday 4 September - Science  
 Thursday 18 September - Arts

**9:30AM - 10:30AM**  
 Register online at [www.saalphington.catholic.edu.au](http://www.saalphington.catholic.edu.au)



**A SCHOOL FOR EVERY STUDENT**

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**NEW SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY**  
**TUESDAY—28 October 2025**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

# FATHERS DAY BREAKFAST

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September

7:30 to 9am

All fathers, brothers, grandfathers, special people welcome



Children are welcome  
to play outside, and there  
will be some snacks  
provided



The  
Fathers Day  
Stall  
is back!

\$5 and \$10 GIFTS  
CASH ONLY

DON'T FORGET TO BRING A BAG FOR  
YOUR PURCHASES  
ONE-TWO GIFTS PER STUDENT



## Join Our Earthcare Group!

We are thrilled to announce the formation of an Earthcare Group for the four churches of our Mission, approved by the Parish Leadership Team. Earthcare, managed by Caritas under the authority of the Australian Bishops, is dedicated to fostering environmental stewardship in response to Pope Francis' 2015 letter, "Laudato Si: Care of Our Common Home." This inspiring letter emphasizes the importance of caring for our natural environment, supporting the poor and marginalized, and exploring the profound relationship between

God, humans, and the Earth.

Our Earthcare Group will follow the seven goals outlined in the Laudato Si Action Platform, providing clear direction for our parish communities to achieve these meaningful objectives. If you are passionate about protecting our local environment and enjoy hands-on activities, we invite you to join us!

**Information Night:** Thursday, 11th September

**Location:** Holy Spirit Church (back area)

**Time:** 7:00 PM

Speakers from Ivanhoe parish will share their experiences and insights on how their Earthcare Group operates. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved, make a difference, and engage in outdoor activities that your children can also participate in.

Please RSVP to the parish office at 9484 2907. We look forward to seeing you there and working together to care for our common home!

## Come and experience how St Anthony's Alphington stands out from the rest



**Enrolments now open!**

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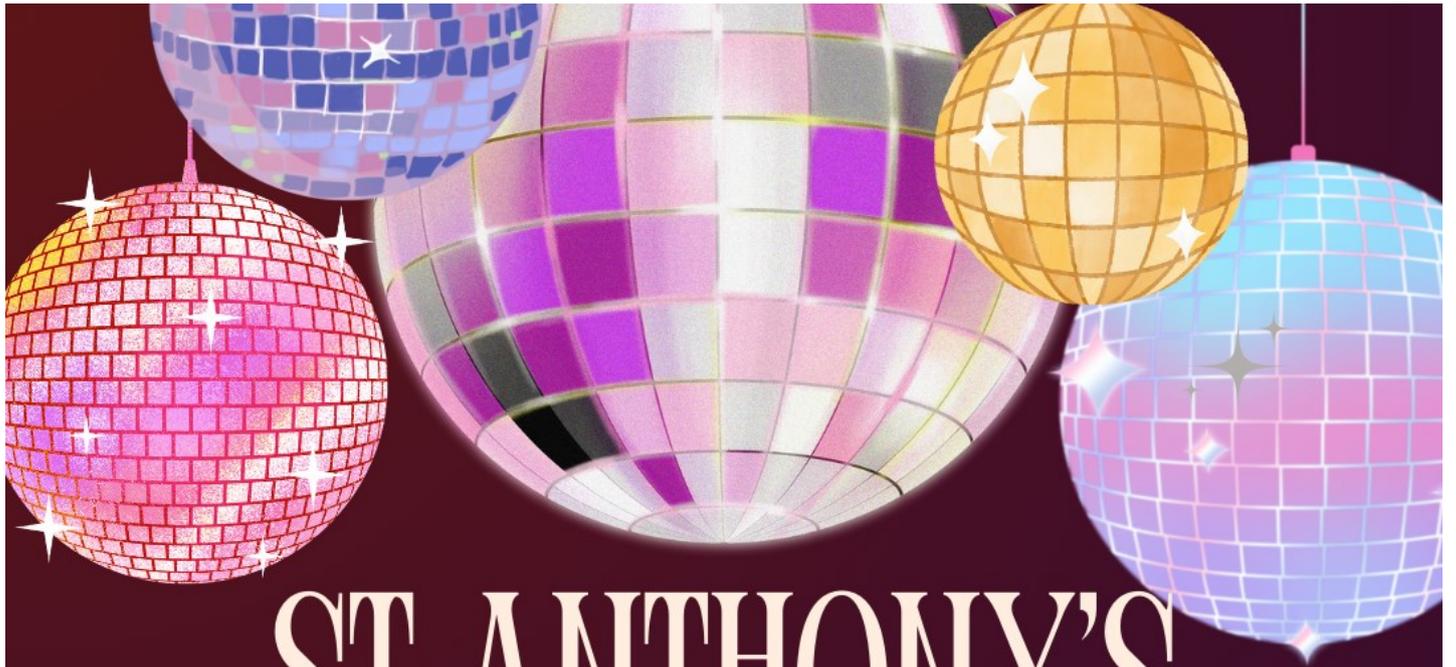
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Book a private tour of our vibrant school  
with our student leaders and Principal.



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# ST ANTHONY'S SCHOOL DISCO

*JUNIOR DISCO*  
*PREP TO GRADE 3 5 - 6PM*

*SENIOR DISCO*  
*GRADE 4 TO 6 6.15 - 7.30PM*

\$5 AT THE DOOR (CASH OR CARD)

FOOD & DRINK WILL BE PROVIDED

# LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY?

 AFTER SCHOOL CLINICS

 SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS

NOW AVAILABLE AT ST ANTHONY'S  
PARISH PRIMARY, ALPHINGTON.

## AFTER SCHOOL CLINICS

- Every Wednesday
- 3:45pm-4:45pm

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP

- Tuesday to Thursday
- Week 1 & 2 of Holidays
- 9:00am to 1:00pm

## TO BOOK A FREE TRIAL OR MORE INFO

Contact Luke Stavrakakis at 0431 217 998

or

email [vic32.football@sportstaracademy.com](mailto:vic32.football@sportstaracademy.com)

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## CRICKET IS BACK

Registrations are open for the 2024/2025 Summer Cricket Season - all ages boys and girls.

We have competition teams from u10s - u18s (and a Blasters program). New and returning players welcome.



Come and join your local club

Scan QR code or visit [nacc.org.au](http://nacc.org.au) or contact: [secretary@nacc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nacc.org.au) for more information or to register



## Come 'n' Try Cricket (indoor program)

Come and try your hand at cricket prior to the summer season in a exciting, introductory indoor program.

We welcome all children aged 5 - 10 to all (or any) of the Come 'n' Try sessions. All equipment supplied.



SCAN ME

[www.nacc.org.au](http://www.nacc.org.au)



Sundays 10 - 11 am  
Northcote Indoor Centre,  
338 Mansfield Street, Thornbury

Four sessions:  
August 11th and 25th  
September 8th and 15th

No costs are involved, however please register your attendance to assist our planning and coaching coordinating. Register here: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/register/063e96>

# ANTHONY



20  
25

FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ALL WEEKEND 29TH-31ST AUGUST



DAREBIN BASKETBALL  
HOME OF THE GIANTS (EDJBA) & PHOENIX (VJBL, BIG V)



# GIANTS BASKETBALL

# SUMMER SEASON

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

STARTS OCTOBER 11

Rego includes 2 FREE Holiday clinics, weekly 1-hour training sessions + 15% sibling discount.

Early-Birds  
\$20 OFF REGO UNTIL AUGUST 19

U08 - U21  
\$370pp



[DAREBINBASKETBALL.COM.AU/DAREBIN-GIANTS](http://DAREBINBASKETBALL.COM.AU/DAREBIN-GIANTS)

# SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS



## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM DATES:

WEEK 1: MON 22 - THU 25 SEPT

WEEK 2: MON 29 SEPT - WED 1 OCT



Alphington Grammar School



8:30am - 3:30pm



EARLY BIRD SALE  
**SAVE 15%**

SALE ENDS 07/09

### ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Nerf War
- Pokémon Hunt
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Footy
- Dodgeball Battle
- Tennis
- Mini Golf
- Capture the Flag
- Lego Masters
- Super Mario



**TAG**  
HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

[www.tagholidayprograms.com.au](http://www.tagholidayprograms.com.au)

0402 711 444

## DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW



[https://www.facebook.com/stanthonysalphington/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/stanthonysalphington/?modal=admin_todo_tour)



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## ENROL NOW YEAR 7 2027

Applications for current Year 5 students are now open

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Courtney & Patterson Ford

GOLD SPONSOR

Courtney & Patterson Ford will donate \$400 to St Anthony's Primary School if a family or staff member mentions St Anthony's Primary School as their referral when making a purchase.



All students attending St Anthony's Primary School have the right to feel safe. The care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a fundamental responsibility of all within our school.