



# St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



*All dreams are within reach. All you have to do is keep moving them forward!* Viola Davis

Term 2 Week 2 – 30th April 2025

Dear community members,

Welcome to term 2. It was a sombre start to the term having received the news on Easter Monday that **Pope Francis** had passed away. Bishop Joseph described Pope Francis as “a champion of the poor” who promoted “care for all creation”. We pray for his eternal rest.

It was a privilege to commemorate **Anzac Day** with students, staff, parents and community members last week. Many gathered for the march and service at Kurrimine Beach. Our Year 6 students led the service paying tribute to the brave men and women who have served and sacrificed for our country. It is vital that younger generations understand the significance of Anzac Day - not just as a historical event, but as a reminder of values like mateship, respect and gratitude. I extend thanks to parents for making the effort to bring their children to this event and staff for their participation. **Lest we forget.**

Excitement is in the air at St John's this week. Tomorrow, following assembly, our **Year 5/6** class will present the story of the Three Saints. This is always a favourite with the students. We hope you can join us. Tomorrow afternoon, Andrew Chinn will visit for a whole school concert. Andrew is a world renowned liturgical musician, performing for thousands of students in Catholic schools across Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada. St Rita's South Johnstone will join us for this concert giving students a wonderful opportunity to form friendships with our sister school. Parents are welcome to join for the concert. See overleaf.

On Friday, selected students will represent St John's at the **Cassowary Coast Cross Country** in Innisfail. Students will run 2km (10 year olds) and 3km (11 & 12 year olds). I wish our students all the best.

Finally, we have the **Feast of the Three Saints** festival on Sunday. A sense of anticipation is building as preparations begin in earnest. The carpark stalls are being erected and the marquees are being set up on our grassed area. These preparations bring the sounds of machinery on the perimeter of the school and the clinking of metal poles. Later in the week, the smell of Italian sausages cooking to feed the workers will fill the air. Our senses are stirred and alert us to the significance of this event. This year is the **75th anniversary** of the feast, a wonderful achievement. The day will be a celebration of religion and culture. A schedule of events can be found overleaf. I look forward to seeing you there. **Viva St Alfio!**

This term, we welcome **Miss Danielle Millard** back to St John's. Miss Millard will be with us for a five week period of professional experience, working in the Prep, Year 1/2 class. We also welcome **Mrs Kristy Curd**. Miss Kristy is completing a Certificate III School Based Education Support. She will work across the school on a Thursday to develop her knowledge and skills. Sadly, we say goodbye to **Miss Jo**, our school counsellor. Jo's support of students at St John's has been invaluable and we will miss her dearly. Fortunately, we have been able to secure **Mrs Jessica Lang** as our new counsellor. Jess comes highly regarded. You can read more about her in Miss Jo's section overleaf.

I look forward to welcoming our mothers, grandmothers and those who are like mothers to us, to our **Mother's Day morning** next Friday, starting at 9:30. Invitations will be sent home separately, and I wish all mothers a Happy Mother's Day!

Peace be with you, Linda Gaia, Principal.



## Diary Dates

### Thursday 1st May

- ◆ Assembly & Three Saints play - 9:00am
- ◆ Andrew Chinn Concert 1:20pm

### Friday 2nd May

- ◆ Cassowary Coast Cross Country Trials

### Sunday 4th May

- ◆ **Viva St Alfio!**

### Friday 9th May

- ◆ Mother's Day Morning Tea - 9:30am

### Wednesday 21st May

- ◆ National Simultaneous Storytime

### Friday 23rd May

- ◆ Under 8s morning at Kindy

### Saturday 7th June

- ◆ Parish School Mass 6:00pm

### Tuesday 10th June

- ◆ Confirmation 6:00pm

**Viva St Alfio!**



## CONTACT DETAILS

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*Always Reaching For New Heights*



[www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au](http://www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au)  
[www.facebook.com/StJohnsSilkwood](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsSilkwood)

## APRE News

The season of Easter extends for 50 days after Easter, ending on **Pentecost Sunday**. Masses of the Easter season are celebrated with festive joy and unlike the rest of the liturgical year, all the readings are taken from the New Testament. The whole season is a time of **deep reflection on the mysteries of faith. Jesus is risen!** Alleluia!



## Feast of the Three Saints

Join us in this wonderful celebration of faith - **Sunday 4th May at Silkwood**. Please also join us for Assembly this Thursday when the 5/6 class will perform a play about The Three Saints.

## Parish School Mass

Please make a note in your diaries that our next Parish School Mass will be held on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> of June at 6:00pm**. All families welcome to attend.

## Sacramental Program

The Sacramental Program continues this term with **Confirmation on 10<sup>th</sup> of June and First Holy Communion on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> of June**. Candidates and their families are reminded that we have a day of preparation for these sacraments on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

## Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge commences 6<sup>th</sup> May, and all student will shortly bring home their reading logs. Please encourage your child to participate in this challenge.



**Deborah Daly, APRE.**

*Leader of Learning & Teaching*

## P&F Raffle

Have you bought tickets in our fabulous Monster Goose Raffle? All proceeds go towards helping our students attend camps, excursions and sporting events. The raffle will be **drawn on Sunday 4th May at the Feast of the Three Saints**. \$2.00 ticket. Prizes include:

- ♦ Boat & Jetski Licensing FNQ – Boat & Jetski License Value \$600
- ♦ Paronella Park Family Pass Value \$174
- ♦ Hartley's Creek Family Pass Value \$118.60
- ♦ Herberton Historic Village Family Pass Value \$106
- ♦ Kuranda Koala Gardens & Birdworld Family Pass Value \$105
- ♦ Mamu Skywalk Family Pass Value \$96
- ♦ Cairns Aquarium 1 adult 1 child pass Value \$91
- ♦ Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas 1 adult 1 child pass Value \$74
- ♦ Crystal Caves Family Pass Value \$65
- ♦ Sapore Di Italia Value \$25 Voucher x 2
- ♦ Mungalli Biodynamic Farmhouse Café Voucher
- ♦ Murdering Point Winery Voucher,
- ♦ The Pocket El Arish Voucher

**Thank you to our wonderful sponsors who donate prizes to our raffle.**



**Join us this weekend** - This year The Feast of the Three Saints will be **celebrating 75 years in Australia on Sunday 4th May** at St John's Parish Church and school grounds.

## Schedule of events on the day:

**10:00am** - Italian Mass co-celebrated by Apostolic Nuncio Balvo & Bishop Joe Caddy & Fr Kerry Crowley. Unveiling of the Three Saints, Eulogy of the Three Saints. Hymns by St Alfio Choir.

**12noon** - Entertainment, BBQ, Italian sausage, ravioli, arancini, grilled fish, pizza, calamari, chestnuts, granita, gelati, Italian biscuits, cannoli, sweets, tea, coffee

**2:00pm** - Three Saints taken from the church and positioned on the Vara, followed by a solemn procession, rosary and hymns accompanied by Cairns Municipal Band

**3:00pm** - English Mass concelebrated by Apostolic Nuncio Balvo, Bishop Joe Caddy & Fr Kerry Crowley, followed by the blessing and veneration of the relics of the Three Saints

**4:00pm** - Cannoli stall, entertainment and festival foods continued

**7:00pm** - P&F raffle drawn, Major prize drawn, **Dynamic fireworks display**, music, and dancing till 9:00pm.

**Join us!**

**A CONCERT WITH Andrew Chinn**

**Composer of:**

- These Hands
- Rainbow
- May God Be In My Heart
- Together As One
- In The Beginning
- An African Blessing
- Umbuto
- Rise Up!
- We Are God's Hands & Holy Spirit Come

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

**Parishioners, Parents and Carers welcome to join us 1:20-2:20 pm in the School Hall**

**Andrew Chin** has visited more than 1200 Catholic primary schools, performing in 4000 concerts across Australia, New Zealand, the USA and Canada





## From your School Counsellor.....Miss Jo.

Welcome to Term 2 and the return to school. I hope you all had time to enjoy the outdoors with your family, feel refreshed and ready to resume the rhythm of school life.

Term 2 starts with exciting changes for St John's school community as we **welcome new school counsellor Miss Jess** who will be replacing me for the remainder of the year. Jess is currently working at St Rita's South Johnstone and is well loved and revered. She is a very experienced school counsellor with Cairns Catholic Education and brings a wealth of wellbeing experience and care to our student and family community, and I wish her all the best. I'll let her introduce herself in the next school newsletter. She will be available Wednesdays and Thursdays at St John's Silkwood.

My time at St John's Silkwood has been a privilege. Thank you to those families who have entrusted me with the care and wellbeing of their children. Each child has left an imprint on my heart and has been a joy to work with. I hope I have imparted compassion, self-development and improved wellbeing for their future years.

**Warm regards, Miss Jo**

*You are  
**BRAVER**  
than you believe,  
**STRONGER**  
than you seem,  
**SMARTER**  
than you think,  
and **LOVED** more  
than you'll ever know.*



## Kindy News

Welcome to Term 2 at Kindergarten. This term we have begun by

exploring Anzac day and working together to create a beautiful wreath which we lay at the Kurrimine Beach Anzac parade. Well done to our Kinder children who were able to attend, complete the march and lay the wreath. We are very proud of you!

As the term progresses, we will explore the Feast of the Three Saints and Reconciliation week, as well as incorporating the interests of the

children into our programming. We would also love to explore the cultures of our children's families so please let us know if you have any special things you could share with the children

based on your family culture. After exploring the 3 Saints, we will start our world explorations in Italy and Sicily, making pasta and learning to say Ciao : )



This term we will again host an Under 8's morning at Kindergarten on the 23rd May from 9am – 11am. Younger siblings and community members are welcome along for a play! We'd love to see you there.

Our Term Calendar has been emailed and uploaded to the OWNA app. Please check in on this to keep informed on all events.

**Mobile: 0439 924 736**

**Email: [kindy.silkwood@cclc.catholic.org.au](mailto:kindy.silkwood@cclc.catholic.org.au)**

**Web: [www.cclc.catholic.org.au/community-kindergarten-silkwood/](http://www.cclc.catholic.org.au/community-kindergarten-silkwood/)**

*Regards, Ms Cheryl and Mrs Greco*



Walk with me, Mummy

Walk alongside me Mum, and hold  
my little hand.

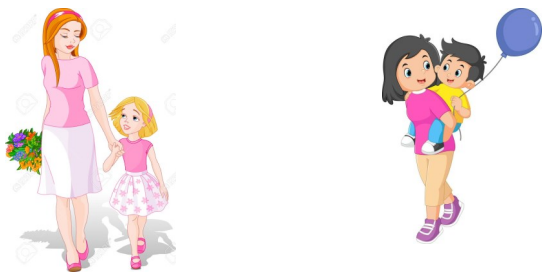
I have so many things to learn that I  
don't understand.

Teach me things to keep me safe  
from the dangers every day.

Show me how to do my best at  
home, at school, at play.

Every child needs a gentle hand to  
guide them as they grow.

So walk alongside me, Mum. We  
have a long way to go.



*Wishing all Mums /Grandmas a very  
Happy Mothers' Day -  
Sunday 10th May*

2025

## Marian Lecture

Pilgrims of Hope: Look Beyond

Professor Stan Grant

13 May

6.00pm - 7.30pm AEST

Stan Grant is a Wiradjuri, Kamilaroi and Dharawal man who has blazed a trail for First Nations journalists in a four-decade career reporting from more than 80 countries. Stan is a three-time winner of Australia's highest journalism honour the Walkley Award, four-time winner of the prestigious Asia TV awards and twice winner of the US Peabody Award. His latest book, *Murriyang: Song of Time*, offers a path to peace and forgiveness, grounded in the Wiradjuri spiritual practice of deep silence and respect.

Topic: Pilgrims of Hope: Look Beyond

Date: Monday 13th May Time: 6pm to 7pm

Location: **Good Counsel College Library**

Format: Online Seminar

RSVP: Wednesday 8 May -

email: [lhodderona@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lhodderona@cns.catholic.edu.au)



**ANZAC Day - Lest We Forget**

Past Students of St John's