



Week 5, Term 1 2025

Important Dates

Year 3-6 Aquatics Day

Wednesday 26 February 2025

School Clean Up Day - Sculpture Making

Friday 28 February 2025

Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday 4 March 2025

Ash Wednesday / Season of Lent Begins

Wednesday 5 March 2025

District Boys Football Carnival @ Berri Oval

Wednesday 5 March 2025

World Day of Prayer

Friday 7 March 2025

Student Free Day

Friday 7 March 2025

International Womens Day

Saturday 8 March 2025

Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

Monday 10 March 2025

First Lenten Breakfast

Wednesday 12 March 2025

NAPLAN 2025 Begins

Wednesday 12 March 2025

Feast of St Patrick
Monday 17 March 2025

P&F Tuck Day
Monday 17 March 2025

Feast of St Joseph
Wednesday 19 March 2025

Harmony Day
Friday 21 March 2025

House Day
Friday 21 March 2025

Annunciation of the
Lord
Tuesday 25 March 2025

Showcase
Friday 28 March 2025

First Reconciliation
@ St Francis Xaviers
Church
Monday 31 March 2025

Learning Journey
Interviews
Wednesday 2 April 2025

Learning Journey
Interviews
Thursday 3 April 2025

World Health Day
Monday 7 April 2025

Chrim Mass in Port
Pirie
Wednesday 9 April 2025

Last Day of Term 1
Friday 11 April 2025

R-2 'Are We There
Yet' @ Berri Hall
Friday 11 April 2025

Palm Sunday
Sunday 13 April 2025

Holy Week
Sunday 13 April 2025

Good Friday
Friday 18 April 2025

Easter Vigil
Saturday 19 April 2025

Easter Sunday
Sunday 20 April 2025

Easter Monday
Monday 21 April 2025

ANZAC Day
Friday 25 April 2025

First Day of Term 2
Monday 28 April 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that we meet today on Meru Country, and recognise the Ngawait people as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to the earth and waters, and thank them for protecting this land and its ecosystems since time immemorial. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging and extend that respect to all First Nation peoples present here today.



Religious Identity and Mission



This time of year, can be challenging, especially here in the southern hemisphere. While the northern hemisphere experiences sub-zero

temperatures, snowstorms, and long periods of darkness, we face a different set of challenges. The heat can be stifling, and the relentless sun can drain our energy. We long for cooler days and relief from the scorching heat.

Just as the winter blues can affect those in the north, we too can feel overwhelmed by the heat and the monotony of the season. We crave a change, a fresh start, and a renewal of our spirits. This is where Lent comes in.

Lent is a time of transformation, not just spiritually, but also in our surroundings. While the north begins to see signs of new life with budding flowers and green grass, we look forward to relief from the heat and the promise of cooler days. It's a reminder that change is inevitable, and Lent offers us a chance to embrace this change and grow from it.

During Lent, as we focus on prayer, charity, and fasting, we can experience a profound shift within ourselves. It's a time to reflect on our lives, seek forgiveness, and make amends. Just as the seasons change, we too can undergo a transformation if we embrace Lent wholeheartedly. It's an opportunity to heal, grow, and emerge as better versions of ourselves.



Loving Jesus,

As we journey through Lent,
help us to walk in Your footsteps.
Teach us to be kind and gentle,
to share with others, and to pray with open hearts.

When we make mistakes,
help us to say sorry and try again.
When we see someone in need,
fill our hearts with love so we may help them.

Jesus, You gave everything for us.
Help us to give small sacrifices with joy,
to share our blessings, and to grow closer to You.

May this Lent be a time of love,
a time of kindness,
and a time of becoming more like You.

Amen.

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday March 4

Students can enjoy a pancake at lunchtime baked for them by the student leadership team

The pancake will not replace lunch, and students will still require a packed lunch



Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Lead by O'Connor House

Wednesday March 5
10 am at school



Please join us



From the Principal



We have reached the end of Week 5, and what a fantastic start to the year it has been! It has been wonderful to see everyone settling into their new classrooms, forming friendships, and getting to know their teachers. There is a real sense of enthusiasm and energy around the school as students engage in their learning and embrace the opportunities that 2025 has to offer. Thank you to all our families for your ongoing support in making this such a positive beginning to the year.

Next week, we enter the season of Lent, a time for reflection, prayer, and acts of kindness as we prepare for Easter. Lent invites us to deepen our faith, make sacrifices, and look for ways to serve others. It is a season where we pause and consider how we can show love and compassion in our daily lives.

To mark the beginning of Lent, we will celebrate Shrove Tuesday by reflecting on the tradition of using up rich foods before the fasting season begins- perhaps with some delicious pancakes! On Ash Wednesday, our school community will come together for a special liturgy at 10:00 am, led by O'Connor House. During this time, students and staff will receive ashes as a sign of our commitment to living with love and kindness. Families are warmly invited to join us for this important liturgy.

Project Compassion 2025 *Unite Against Poverty*

During Lent, we are called to think of others and consider how we can make a positive difference in the world. As part of our Lenten journey, we are participating in Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. This year's theme, "Unite Against Poverty," reminds us that together, we can create meaningful change.

Each classroom will have a Project Compassion collection box, and we invite students and families to contribute what they can. Even the smallest donations can have a big impact on improving the lives of people experiencing poverty and hardship. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

First House Day & Showcase Afternoon

We celebrated our very first House Day, where students came together in their house teams, Francis, MacKillop, and O'Connor, to strengthen friendships, build teamwork, and showcase house spirit. It was fantastic to see the excitement and enthusiasm as students participated in a range of activities and supported one another.

Another highlight was our Showcase Afternoon, where students proudly shared their mathematics learning with families. It was wonderful

to see their hard work on display and witness their joy in sharing their achievements. Thank you to all families who attended and helped make this event special!

NAPLAN Testing

A reminder that NAPLAN testing will take place in Week 7 and in Week 8 for students in Years 3 and 5. These assessments help track student progress in literacy and numeracy, providing valuable insights to support learning and development.

We encourage students to approach NAPLAN with confidence, knowing it is simply an opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned. If you have any questions about the testing process, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Classroom Pulse Check-In

At St Joseph's, we recognise that school life has its ups and downs, and we are committed to ensuring every student feels supported in their learning and wellbeing.

Each term, during Weeks 5 and 6, students participate in the Classroom Pulse Check-In, an online tool used across Catholic schools in South Australia. This Check-In allows students to express how they are feeling about their school experience and helps teachers provide timely support for any social, emotional, or learning needs.

We value every student's voice and want to ensure they feel heard, understood, and encouraged to thrive in their learning journey.

P&F Easter Fundraisers – Hot Cross Bun Drive & Easter Raffle

Easter is just around the corner, and our P&F Committee is running two fantastic fundraisers to celebrate the season; the Hot Cross Bun Drive and Easter Raffle!

We are currently seeking donations for the Easter Raffle—anything Easter-themed or chocolatey would be greatly appreciated. These donations will help us create prizes for lucky winners! If you'd like to contribute, please drop off your donations at the front office.

Meanwhile, order forms for the Hot Cross Bun Drive will be sent home this Friday. This is a delicious way to support our school while stocking up on a tasty Easter treat!

Board Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the School Board is coming up on Monday, March 17, and we warmly invite all members of our school community to attend. The AGM is an important opportunity to reflect on our school's achievements, discuss future plans, and ensure we continue providing the best learning environment for our students.

This year, the AGM will also be the first opportunity to share the design for our new building! We are excited to showcase the plans and hear your thoughts as we move forward with this important project.

We have room for new faces on the School Board! If you have a passion for our school and would like to contribute, or if you know someone who would be a great addition, we encourage you to consider nominating. Nomination forms are available from the front office.

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Thank you for your ongoing support in making St Joseph's a welcoming and nurturing place for our students.

Nanda de Winter

Principal



The poster features a background of crumpled, light-colored paper with decorative elements at the top and bottom, including a yellow and brown patterned border with a cross. The word "Invitation" is written in a blue cursive font at the top. Below it, the words "SCHOOL BOARD" and "AGM" are written in large, bold, blue capital letters. To the left of the text is a blue line drawing of a megaphone with sound waves, and an arrow points from the megaphone towards the text. The school crest, featuring a shield with a cross at the top, a red flower, and the Latin motto "IN OMNIBUS CARITAS", is located in the top right corner. The text "JOIN US ON" is written in bold blue capital letters, followed by "Tuesday March 17" and "7pm" in a smaller font. Below this, "School Library" and "Nomination forms available from the Front Office" are written in a smaller, blue font.

Invitation

**SCHOOL BOARD
AGM**

JOIN US ON
Tuesday March 17
7pm
School Library
Nomination forms available from the Front Office

THRIVE WITH 5

2. TALK

Talk with your children to build their speaking and language skills. Through conversations they increase word vocabulary, pronounce words better, understand instructions, and develop imagination and knowledge about the world around them. We know that by developing oral language skills we lay strong foundations which help children learn to read.



1. PLAY

2. TALK

3. READ

4. EAT WELL

5. SLEEP

READINESS FOR LEARNING



Australian Primary Principals Association

Why talking with your child is Super Important!

Talking with children helps them learn to understand and use words, which is key for their brain growth and future learning. Here's how you can make it fun and helpful:

- ⊙ **Talk About Everything:** Describe what you're doing and seeing around you, even if it's boring. For example, say, "I'm washing dishes now."
- ⊙ **Show Interest:** Look into their eyes when your child is talking, put away your phone and stop what you are doing.
- ⊙ **Talk About What They Like:** If they play a great game of footy – talk to them about what they did well and ask how they think they went.
- ⊙ **Read Together:** Look at picture books or novels. Ask them about the story, what do they predict will happen next?
- ⊙ **Ask Questions:** Asking questions helps them learn about conversations.

Doing these fun activities helps children to develop conversations, increase their vocabulary to talk and gets their brains ready for learning more as they grow!

Create a Safer Internet

A promotional graphic for Safer Internet Day 2025. The background is a teal gradient. On the left, the text 'We're proudly supporting' is in white, followed by 'Safer Internet Day' in large, bold white letters. Below that, '11 February 2025' is written in white. On the right, there is a 3D illustration of a purple smartphone. On the screen, there is a calendar page showing the number '11', a play button icon, and a pencil. Surrounding the phone are a black graduation cap, a yellow smiling face emoji, and a blue spiral notebook.

We're proudly supporting

Safer Internet Day

11 February 2025

 Australian Government

 **eSafety**
Commissioner

[eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au)

On February 11 we observed Safer Internet Day at St Joseph's School Barmera. As we navigate the challenges and opportunities of raising children in the digital age, we want to highlight an essential topic: internet safety.

Do you know what apps your children are using and what they are accessing online? Many of us would never allow our children to walk to school alone or roam around in the dark unsupervised. Yet, without realising it, we might be allowing them to venture into potentially dangerous online environments without appropriate supervision.

The internet is a powerful tool for learning and connection, but it also contains content that can be harmful to young minds if accessed without proper boundaries. As parents and guardians, it's crucial to ensure our children are safe online just as we ensure their safety in the physical world.

Internet safety goes beyond just protecting our children from harmful content. It also includes guiding them to develop respectful and

responsible online behaviour. Here are a few points to consider and discuss with your children:

1. Anonymity and the Online Persona:

The sense of anonymity that comes with being online can sometimes lead children to say things they wouldn't normally say in person. They might feel the courage to use inappropriate language or engage in conversations that are disrespectful or hurtful.

2. Impact of Words:

It's important for children to understand that words have power, whether spoken in person or typed online. Inappropriate language and negative interactions can have real-world consequences, affecting their own and other's relationships and emotional well-being.

3. Setting Boundaries:

Establish clear rules about the kind of language and behaviour that is acceptable online. Encourage your children to treat their online interactions with the same respect and kindness they would in face-to-face conversations.

4. Monitoring and Guidance:

Regularly check in on your children's online activities. Know what chatgroups they are part of and the kinds of conversations they are having. Open a dialogue about why certain language and behaviours are not appropriate, even in the digital world.

If you find that your child is part of chat groups or social networks where inappropriate language or content is shared, we strongly encourage you to take immediate action:

- **Remove Them from Inappropriate Groups:**

It's essential to prioritise your child's well-being by removing them from any chat groups or social media platforms where inappropriate behaviour or content is prevalent.

- **Report Inappropriate Content:**

You can report harmful or inappropriate content to the E-Safety Commissioner. This is a valuable resource for addressing and mitigating online safety issues.

- **Adhere to Age Restrictions:**

Social media platforms like Facebook, TikTok, Snapchat, and others have age restrictions for a reason. If your children have accounts on these platforms and are under the age of 13, it is a breach of the law. It's crucial to respect these age limits to protect your children's safety and well-being.

Please take a moment to check your child's online activity, review the apps and websites your child is using, engage in conversations about internet safety and set clear rules and guidelines for online behaviour.

The link below takes you to parent resources on the eSafety Commissioner website, where you will find a range of free resources and webinars to help keep your children safe online.

[Parents | eSafety Commissioner](#)

JDRF Fundraiser Walk

Join the world's largest walk towards a future without type 1 diabetes in **Riverland**

Event details

- Date** Sunday 2 March 2025
- Time** 8am (walk start at 9am)
- Location** Barmera Play Space
- Details** walk.jdrf.org.au



R-2 Swimming Lessons

Our R-2 Students has a fantastic time at swimming lessons in week 3! From building their water confidence to practicing important safety skills. Well done to our little swimmers!





House Day #1

Our first House Day was a huge success! Students had a fantastic time learning about the inspiring founders of our school houses, Father Shane O'Connor, St Mary Mackillop and St Francis Xavier. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and teamwork as house members came together to celebrate their history and spirit.

A big thankyou to staff and students for their preparation and energy, what a special day for our school community.



Showcase #1

Learning is a journey best shared! Our students showcased their learning in mathematics, engaging their families with curiosity and confidence. It is fantastic to see their knowledge in action!



Friday Electives





1ST PRIZE \$3,000 • 2ND PRIZE \$1,500 • 3RD PRIZE \$500

OTHER GREAT PRIZES INCLUDE WEEKEND GETAWAYS, KAYAK, FISHING GEAR AND FISHING CHARTERS WITH 'AWESOME SA FISHING CHARTERS'.

ENTRY FEES:

ADULTS: \$25
CHILDREN (U16): \$15

ANYONE CAN WIN!

YOUR REGISTRATION & EVERY CARP CAUGHT
GOES TOWARD YOUR ENTRY TO WIN!





St Francis
of Assisi College
Laudato Si'

2026 ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN!

for Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12

For more Information:

Contact Claire Smith,
Executive Administrator.

8595 4500
info@assisi.catholic.edu.au



The Berri Hotel Riverland

Athletic

Training Day

A fun-filled day of athletics for
children of all abilities!

DATE

Saturday March 8 2025

TIME

9:00am - 3:00pm

LOCATION

Glassey Park - 25 Chiton
Road, Berri

AGE GROUPS

U6 - U16 (6-hour clinic) \$10
per athlete

3-5 year olds (1-hour motor skill
development session - FREE)

SCAN ME



We're coming to town

Give life. Give blood in the Riverland
11 March to 12 March



We're popping up in the Riverland

Riverland Pop-up Donor Centre

Berri Town Hall,
19 Wilson Street,
Berri SA 5343

Book your donation now



 **13 14 95**

 **give blood**

*** ADELAIDE
* FRINGE * 2025**
adelaidefringe.com.au



AN ARTFUL WEEKEND AT THE VILLAGE WITH Julie Noble & Lyn Anstey



We warmly invite you to join us at the
Loxton Historical Village as part of "River Fringe"



Friday 7th March - Official Opening
6 pm – 8 pm

**FREE ENTRY
to the
Opening!**

6.30pm - 6.45pm - Guest Speaker: Trevor Norton, Mayor of Loxton/Waikerie
6.45pm - 7.15pm - Music: "Favourites from the 50s & 60s" by Julie Noble

~ Free finger food, Coffee & Cake, BYO other drinks ~



EACH DAY:
Add a flower to our
weekend -balloon-squish-mural

- **Exhibition open in the Institute Hall:
Sat 8th, Sun 9th & Mon 10th March**
- **Meet the artists, watch them work**
- **Create a piece of art to take home**
- **Enter our Free Lucky Draw to win a free Family Pass
into the Historical Village**

Village Open 10am-4pm each day

Enquiries: Lyn 0412 283 233 or Julie 0431 044 790



Could Saver Plus help with your education costs?

Google

 Saver Plus YouTube

to see our quick explainer video and find out if you're eligible.



Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and social justice organisation the Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL).

It is delivered in partnership with not-for-profit organisations The Smith Family, Berry Street and BSL.

ANZ and the Department of Social Services fund it.

saverplus.org.au

Terms, conditions and eligibility criteria apply.

