

NEWSLETTER

"TO LIVE, TO LOVE, TO GROW IN CHRIST"



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School Prayer

O Holy Spirit,

Help us to make this school a place where we can Live, Love and Grow in Christ.

Give us the Gift of Wisdom so that we may know what is right and wrong.

Give us the gift of Courage to say yes to what you ask of us.

May we see you today, during our time of work and play

Amen.

Dear Families,

At the beginning of the term, I wrote about our Routines of Learning and why they are such an integral part of our school.

Consistent routines help children feel safe, confident, and capable. When children know what to expect, they can focus their energy on learning, building friendships, and trying new things. Our routines are set up to support independence, positive behavior, and a sense of accomplishment throughout the day.

These routines aren't just for the classroom; they extend to our carpark and our daily interactions with parents as well.

Last year, we invested in upgrading our carpark to provide more bays and better traffic flow. However, I am sad to report we have recently experienced several "near misses" due to excessive speed. To assist us in making sure this space is a safe place for everyone, I would like to offer a few important reminders regarding morning drop-off and afternoon dismissal.

Please drive slowly and allow yourself plenty of time. Our duty of care begins at 7:45 am and concludes at 2:50 pm.

To assist with the flow of traffic, please note our drop and go system:

- These bays are strictly Drop & Go and Parent Pick Up only.
- Do not park, wait, or leave your vehicle in these bays at any time.
- If your child requires assistance getting in or out of the vehicle, please use the visitor car park to avoid congestion and reduce the risk of accidents in the Drop & Go and Parent Pick Up zone.



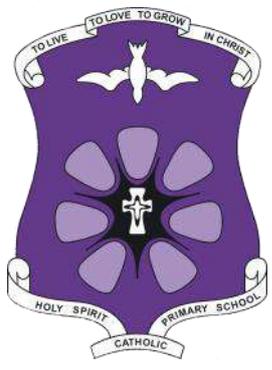
There are two designated Drop & Go and Parent Pick Up areas for afternoon collection:

- Driveway Drop & Go and Parent Pick Up (Blue Zone) – for students with surnames A–L
- Carpark Drop & Go and Parent Pick Up (Green Zone) – for students with surnames M–Z

We understand and take on the feedback around changes to morning drop off, however I remind everyone that these changes have been put into place for the purpose of safety to everyone. These changes have not been taken on lightly or without consultation.

Our newsletter will take a different approach this year with my message around our school culture and routines, along with welcoming new families and staff to our school. I will share with you more about what is happening across all our classes and specialist areas.

I want to thank you for choosing Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School for your child’s education. As we navigate the year ahead, let’s remember our motto: *To Live, To Love, To Grow in Christ*. This is most powerfully demonstrated through our words and actions.



Paula Sellars
 Paula Sellars
Principal
 Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School

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Kindness is Key



PAUSE



PAUSE
BEFORE YOU ACT

EMPATHISE



THINK ABOUT HOW
OTHERS WOULD FEEL

PLAY



ACT IN **KINDNESS**
PLAY IN PEACE

Holy Spirit is Bully-Free!



A Message from the Deputy Principal

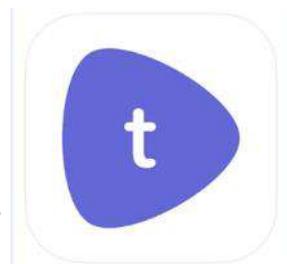
Term 1

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe we are at the pointy end of Term 1 already. So much great learning has occurred, new friendships, goals set and smashed!

Our school reports at the end of each semester, so in place of an interim report, we invite families to meet with their child's classroom teacher/s. See more information on Toddle.

Sharing portfolios is next on our Toddle journey which will work like previous platforms for parents & carers to see learning in the classrooms. You can see these in the app and online. Within Toddle notifications, you can change your settings to alert you as to how you receive information from the platform. Where announcements are made which are important to read, you would have noticed this is emailed to you also. There will be items in the Toddle Family app which will be uploaded and not notified. This is to not encroach further on your busy lives and to leave important information easy to see.



Our new excursions platform is live and you would have received an invitation to set up your child's profile. This allows us to have the most up to date medical and contact information as these items can change and it is not always forefront to advise the school. Once set up, there will be section which highlights the information you have given, and you click confirm or update at that time.

Any issues with Toddle or Consent 2 Go, please get in touch.

CONVERSATIONS FOR LEARNING

Teachers will hold Term 1 Parent/Teacher meetings next week on Tuesday and Wednesday.

This is an opportunity for you to meet with your child's classroom teacher to discuss their progress and achievement thus far. Meetings will be held in person or by phone/Zoom and bookings can be made by using this [link](#) or the links in the Toddle announcements.

Tuesday, 10 March: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm / 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Wednesday, 11 March: 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm / 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Deadline to Book: Friday, 6 March

The families of students with additional learning needs will be invited to take part in more detailed Educational Adjustment Plan (EAP) meetings later in the term and will be contacted directly.

NAPLAN

A reminder that Grade 3 and 5 students will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assessments between March 11th and 23rd. More information about NAPLAN can be found in the previous newsletter or via the website: <https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/for-parents-carers>.

If you have any questions or concerns about NAPLAN or if you would like to submit a withdrawal request for a single test or all of the tests, please contact me by Friday 06 March

CYBERSAFETY

Parents play a key role in keeping children safe online. Knowing how children use technology, recognising potential risks and setting clear boundaries helps families guide children to make responsible digital choices.

To support parents in this important role, Catholic Education Northern Territory is hosting a Cyber Safety Information Evening. The session will explore the positive benefits of technology and highlight what parents need to know to keep their children safe online. Information is on the flyer below

THE ONLINE WORLD IS CHANGING.
Are you ready?

Catholic Education Northern Territory is committed to supporting families in keeping children safe in the digital world.

*We are pleased to offer ****free**** cybersafety information sessions for all parents and carers, presented by leading Australian expert Susan McLean.*

These practical sessions will cover current online risks, emerging trends, legal responsibilities, and real strategies to protect your children.

All welcome. Register now via the link or QR code on the flyer.

Together, we can make a real difference.




Sessions will be held on:

- Monday 23 March 2026**
 St John's Catholic College
 5:30pm – 6:30pm
- Tuesday 24 March 2026**
 O'Loughlin Catholic College
 5:30pm – 6:30pm
- Thursday 26 March 2026**
 MacKillop Catholic College
 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Registration Link: [Register Here](#)



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Religious Education Journey

Term 1

FAITH AT THE HEART OF OUR SCHOOL

At Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School, faith is at the centre of everything we do. We grow, learn and celebrate together as a Christ-centred community, living out Gospel values each day and walking closely with our Parish on our shared faith journey.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS – A JOYFUL BEGINNING

Before reflecting on our Lenten journey, we remember our beautiful Opening School Mass, celebrated on the 13th February. This special celebration brought together students from all year levels, staff, families and friends as we began the school year united in prayer and purpose. It was a joyful occasion celebrating every member of our school community.

We were honoured to welcome our special guests, Director Mr Paul Greaves and RE Education Officer Ms Catherine Moore. We extend our sincere thanks to our Parish Priest, Father Dave, and Deacon Tony, who led the Mass with warmth and reverence. The prayerful spirit and joyful participation of our students made it a proud and uplifting moment. We are truly blessed to have such a strong parish contingency.



ENTERING THE SEASON OF LENT

As we entered Lent, the Church invited us into forty days of prayer, reflection and renewal as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn our hearts back to Christ and grow in compassion, mercy and kindness. Guided by this year's Vatican theme, "One in Christ, United in Mission," we aim to show this in the way we learn, pray and care for one another each day.

At Holy Spirit, Lent encourages our students to live out Jesus' love through forgiveness, generosity and thoughtful choices.

SHROVE TUESDAY – HOW WE PREPARE FOR LENT

On Shrove Tuesday (17th February), we joyfully prepared for Lent as a school community. Traditionally, this day marks preparation before the more reflective season begins. Families historically used simple ingredients such as eggs, milk and flour before Lent commenced—hence the tradition of pancakes.

Our school community embraced this tradition beautifully, with parents, friends and staff arriving early to cook pancakes for all students to enjoy. It was a wonderful example of community spirit and connected meaningfully with our Religious Education lessons exploring its significance.

ASH WEDNESDAY – BEGINNING OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

The following day, our entire school attended the Ash Wednesday Liturgy at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Father Dave and Deacon Tony led us in prayer as we received ashes—a symbol of repentance, renewal and our commitment to grow closer to God.

It was heartening to see families and friends join us once again, strengthening the bond between school, parish and home. The liturgy marked the formal beginning of our Lenten journey and reminded us that



we are called to live each day with humility, compassion and hope.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2026 – UNITE AGAINST POVERTY

This year, our school proudly participated in Project Compassion 2026, Caritas Australia’s annual Lenten appeal. Project Compassion highlights the importance of standing in solidarity with vulnerable communities around the world and reminds us that faith calls us to respond with compassion, justice and hope.



STUDENT LEADERS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Several of our Student Leaders represented Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School at the Project Compassion 2026 Launch and Student Leaders Commissioning Liturgy, held at St Mary’s Star of the Sea Cathedral on Tuesday 17 February (Shrove Tuesday).

Our students were actively involved throughout the Mass and celebration—bringing forward items to the altar, participating in readings, and confidently presenting a shared presentation on the theme: “Unite Against Poverty This Lent.”

Their participation reflected strength of heart and deep understanding of the message of compassion. The Mass was led by Bishop Charles, who played a central role in guiding the celebration and message of the day. We are also sincerely grateful to Sister Jessika, whose organisation and leadership ensured the event was meaningful and well-prepared for all involved.

GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

As we continue through the term, we look forward to walking this faith journey together—students, staff, families and parish—growing as one in Christ and united in mission. “To Live, To Love and Grow in Christ”

Lent & Easter Calendar 2026

Date	Celebration	Meaning & Significance
17 February 2026	Shrove Tuesday	A day of preparation before Lent begins, traditionally marked by sharing simple foods like pancakes as we prepare our hearts for the Lenten season.
18 February 2026	Ash Wednesday	The beginning of Lent; Catholics receive ashes as a sign of repentance and a commitment to grow closer to God.
29 March 2026	Palm Sunday	Commemorates Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and begins Holy Week with the blessing of palms.
2 April 2026	Holy Thursday	Celebrates the Last Supper, when Jesus gave us the Eucharist and the call to love and serve one another.
3 April 2026	Good Friday	A solemn day remembering Jesus’ crucifixion; a time for prayer, reflection and gratitude for His sacrifice.
5 April 2026	Easter Sunday	The celebration of Jesus’ Resurrection and the triumph of hope, new life and joy.

Kind Regards,



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SCHOOL TERM CALENDAR - 2026

TERM 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	ASSEMBLY
Week 6 March 2 nd Sunday of Lent	2	3	4 Newsletter	5	6 Awards Assembly Defence Family Gathering @ 1:30pm, Library	Year 3/4 Room 14 Room 15 Room 17
Week 7 March 3 rd Sunday Lent	9	10	11	12	13 Year 6 excursion – Darwin Military Museum Year 5 excursion – Parliament House Minnie Vinnies Gathering at St Paul's (MLR)	No Assembly
		Parent/Teacher Interviews (1:00 – 5:00pm)		NAPLAN TESTING		
Week 8 March 4 th Sunday in Lent	16	17 St Patrick's Day	18	19 School Board Meeting @ 4:30pm	20 Awards Assembly Harmony Day	Year 1/2 Room 2 Room 4 Room 6
	NAPLAN TESTING					
Week 9 March 5 th Sunday in Lent	23 LAST DAY NAPLAN TESTING	24	25 Newsletter	26 Cricket Gala Day	27 Casual Clothes Day - World's Greatest Shave (Gold coin)	No Assembly
	NAPLAN TESTING					
Week 10 March/April Palm Sunday	30	31	1	2 Awards Assembly World Autism Awareness Day REWARD AFTERNOON	3 Good Friday	Transition Room 8 Room 9

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

- 1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness
- 2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world
- 3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive
- 4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words
- 5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them
- 6 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down
- 7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day
- 8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food
- 9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others
- 10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face
- 11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee
- 12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying
- 13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today
- 14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do
- 15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly
- 16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity
- 17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant
- 18 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels
- 19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today
- 20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today
- 21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else
- 22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult
- 23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them
- 24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do
- 25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted
- 26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today
- 27 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are
- 28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible
- 29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice
- 30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling
- 31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is very important for all our children.

Every day at school counts!

Please refer to the table below as an indicator of how repeated absences can have an impact on student learning.

	<p>Your child's attendance is above 95%</p> <p>They are likely to be a 'Star Performer' as well as an excellent attendee. They will almost certainly achieve the best grades for their ability and have real opportunity in further education, or in the world of work.</p>
	<p>Your child's attendance is 90 – 94%</p> <p>'GREEN for Go' for good attendance, they are likely to achieve grades that will give them real opportunities to continue their studies, or in the world of work.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 days missed = 2 weeks absence</p>
	<p>Your child's attendance is 85 – 89%</p> <p>'AMBER – Take care' as students will be missing up to 20 days each year and this will make it very difficult for them to achieve their best.</p>
	<p>Your child's attendance is 80 – 84%</p> <p>'RED light – Be alert' as students are missing so much school that it will be very difficult for them to keep in touch with lessons or with work.</p>
	<p>Your child's attendance is below 80%</p> <p>'AT RISK – Immediate Action Needed' as students are missing so much time from school that it will be almost impossible for them to keep in touch with lessons or work.</p>

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Planning a Holiday?

If your child will be away during the school term, please notify the Front Office in advance via:

- Email or Phone
- Eform on the [School Website](#)

Is Your Child Sick?

Please notify the office by [email](#), phone, or the [school website eForm](#).

Note: Absences are only recorded as "Notified" if you contact us on the day of the absence or provide a medical certificate.

Late Arrivals (After 8:10 AM)

If your child arrives after the first bell, they must go to the Front Office to be signed in.

- Students not signed in will be recorded as an unexplained absence.

Leaving the School?

If your child is transferring or leaving our school community, please notify the office in writing via:

- [Email](#) the front office with the last date of attendance
- 'Termination of Enrolment' form (found on the [school website](#))

DROP & GO – PARENT PICK UP

Current arrangements in place:

- For everyone's safety, the Gsell Street school gates open at 7:45am.

Drop & Go and Parent Pick Up Zones

To improve traffic flow, the Drop & Go and Parent Pick Up area was extended last year with an additional eight bays.

Please remember:

- These bays are strictly Drop & Go and Parent Pick Up only.
- Do not park, wait, or leave your vehicle in these bays at any time.
- If your child requires assistance getting in or out of the vehicle, please use the visitor car park to avoid congestion and reduce the risk of accidents in the Drop & Go and Parent Pick Up zone.

There are two designated Drop & Go and Parent Pick Up areas for afternoon collection:

- Driveway Drop & Go and Parent Pick Up (Blue Zone) – for students with surnames A–L
- Carpark Drop & Go and Parent Pick Up (Green Zone) – for students with surnames M–Z

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we settle into these updated procedures and thank you for helping us maintain a safe environment for all members of our school community.

SCHOOL STAFF – CONTACT

Executive staff:

Principal - [Paula Sellars](#)

Deputy Principal - [Heidi van Bodegraven](#)

APRE - [Maria La Rocca](#)

Classroom teachers:

Transition Room 8 – [Marina Gomez](#)

Transition, Room 9 – [Georgia Tsikouris](#)

Year 1/2, Room 2 – [Maria La Rocca](#) and [Chloe Ting](#)

Year 1/2, Room 4 – [Sinead McDonnell](#)

Year 1/2, Room 6 – [Valerie Roussos](#)

Year 3/4, Room 14 – [Heather Thompson](#)

Year 3/4, Room 15 – [Kimberley Justice](#)

Year 3/4, Room 17 – [Natalie Baker](#)

Year 5, Room 11 - [Heath Baker](#)

Year 5, Room 13 – [Joshua Hodgson](#)

Year 6, Room 10 – [Nikita Jason](#)

Year 6, Room 12 – [Siobhan Webb](#)

Specialist Teachers:

Indonesian – [Jo Masters](#) and [Putu Warti](#)

The Arts – [Leah Ergos](#)

Physical Education – [Abby Caldwell](#)

Digital Technologies - [Heidi van Bodegraven](#)

Inclusion Support

Coordinator - TBA

Practitioner - [Shinobu Hirahara-Henley](#)

ELC and OSHC

COL Director - [Tanya Dukes](#)

OSHC Coordinator - [Michelle Donnelly](#)

Administration and Finance

Administration—[Yola Gray](#)

Finance Officer—[Tammy Richards](#)

Finance Officer—[Lee Chong](#)

HEALTH REMINDER : WHEN TO STAY HOME

To prevent the spread of illness to classmates and staff, please keep your child home if they are showing signs of being unwell.

The "Stay Home" Checklist

Please keep your child home if they have experienced any of the following in the past 24 hours:

- **Fever:** A temperature of 38° or higher. Children should be fever-free *without* the use of fever-reducing medication for a full day before returning to school
- **Vomiting or Diarrhoea:** Even if they seem to have "bounced back," their system needs time to recover.
- **Persistent Cough:** A cough that is disruptive or productive (phlegm).
- **Unexplained Rash:** Any skin irritation that has not been evaluated by a doctor.
- **Eye Discharge:** Redness, itching, or drainage (signs of conjunctivitis)

Tip: If your child seems unusually lethargic, irritable, or "just not themselves," a rest day now often prevents a longer illness later.

Returning to School

Students are welcome back once they are feeling better and have been symptom-free for at least 24 hours. If they were prescribed antibiotics, please ensure they have completed the first 24 hours of the dose before they return to the classroom.

BACK TO SCHOOL VOUCHER

Have you used your child's Back to School Voucher? It is worth \$200 and can be used against the Book Service Levy within the fees or uniforms (@CSF Gear)

The Back to School Voucher is valid till the end of Term 3, 18th September, 2026

School Community Code of Conduct

Our vision: Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we commit to educational excellence, equity and fullness of life for all.

As a Catholic community, we recognise and honour the inherent dignity of each individual.

We commit to working in partnership with families, and all those supporting our students, to provide a safe and respectful environment.

You are *Invited*:

- to celebrate and worship with us on our school grounds
- to experience an inclusive and supportive school culture
- to share your ideas and feedback in a respectful manner
- to participate in and support the wellbeing and learning opportunities offered in our classrooms and extra-curricular events.

We work in *Partnership*:

- by following directions provided by school staff
- by following the school's procedures for communicating using social media, email, phone and face to face
- by listening to and working with staff to resolve questions and conflicts

We are all *Safe & Respectful*:

- by speaking and acting respectfully towards staff, students, families and other visitors by using appropriate language and tone
- by refraining from taking any pictures, sound recordings or film footage of students or staff without permission from the school
- by remaining in designated areas at all times
- by respecting the need to make appointments or to wait for written replies

Unacceptable Behaviour includes:

- swearing, threatening or racist language
- physically threatening behaviour
- damage to school property
- use of social media, phone or email to intimidate or bring staff or the school into disrepute
- entering school grounds while affected by, or with the intent to supply, alcohol or illicit drugs

Breaches of this code may result in you being asked to leave the school grounds or police being called and your child's enrolment being reviewed.



HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILD SAFE GUARDING OFFICERS

Principal



Miss Heidi



Mrs. Sellars



Deputy Principal

I know I can go to Mrs. Sellars, and Miss Heidi if...

I need help.

I am worried about my safety.

I am worried about a friend.



GOOD CLEAN FUN ALL GIRLS

Jingili Water Gardens
Thursdays 5pm-6pm

Starts March 5th 2026



5-7 years



8-12 years



MINI STORM LEAGUE

14 & 21 MARCH

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

MARRARA HOCKEY STADIUM TURF 3

3 TO 8 YEAR OLDS

Come and Try Outdoor Hockey





LOOKING FOR A SPORT FOR THE DRY SEASON?

COME TRY RUGBY LEAGUE

WITH SOUTH DARWIN

COME AND TRY SESSIONS

2 & 9 APRIL 2026

AGE GROUPS FOR GIRLS
AND BOYS

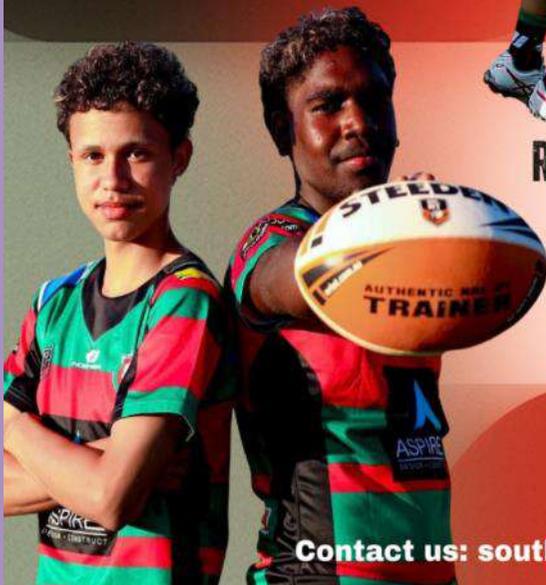
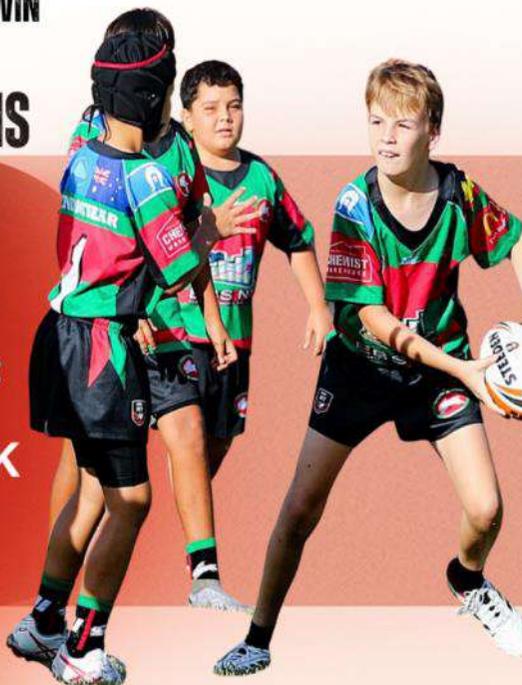
MINI'S LEAGUE TAG (4-7)

MOD'S TACKLE SAFE (8-12)

INTERNATIONALS (13-18)

5PM @ WARREN PARK

EVERYONE WELCOME!



READY TO SIGN UP FOR A TEAM?

EARLY BIRD REGOS
PLAYRUGBYLEAGUE.COM
SCHOOL SPORT VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED

**LOCAL CLUB.
STRONG CULTURE.
BIG FUTURE**

Contact us: southdarwinrabbitohs@gmail.com

Aifreann i Gaelach

St Patrick's Day Mass



Celebrated by Fr Jimmy O'Gara

Mon 23rd March 2026, 5.30pm

*St Paul's Church,
Francis St, Rapid Creek*



Bring a plate to share!

*Everyone welcome.
Please come along and join us.
Meet some old and new faces.*