

Term 1 Week 7 13 March 2025

COMING EVENTS

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| <p>MARCH 10-21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAPLAN, Year 3, 5 7 & 9 <p>TUESDAY MARCH 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGM at Saint John's Campus, 7pm in the Saint John's Centre - upstairs via main doors <p>MARCH 31 - APRIL 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 12 Retreat | <p>APRIL 8-9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diocesan Assembly <p>FRIDAY APRIL 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last day of Term 1 <p>MONDAY APRIL 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupil Free Day - Staff Formation <p>TUESDAY APRIL 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term 2 starts | <p>APRIL 28 - 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7 camp (group 1) <p>APRIL 30 - MAY 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7 camp (group 2) <p>For more events, please check the calendar on our website</p> |
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PO Box 351, Whyalla, SA 5600
 info@samaritan.catholic.edu.au
 www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au

St Teresa's Campus

Telephone (08) 8645 8381
 Facsimile (08) 8645 1129

Our Lady Help

of Christians Campus
 Telephone (08) 8649 2077
 Facsimile (08) 8649 1911

Saint John's Campus

Telephone (08) 8645 8568
 Facsimile (08) 8645 8186

Uniform Shop

Toal Street, Whyalla Stuart
 Telephone (08) 8649 3168
 Wednesday 8:00 - 10:00am
 Thursday 1:00 - 4:30pm

Key Points

- NAPLAN
- New Positions
- 2026 Enrolments
- Trees
- Sacraments
- Bike Racks
- Parent Parking and School Zones
- Student Devices
- Doorways 2 Construction
- Jewellery
- SRC Induction

A great privilege of my role is that our 'head office' often arranges guest speakers or people of note, to speak at our Principal Meetings. At times, this list also includes either our Bishop Karol or Archbishop Patrick O'Regan. Recently Archbishop Patrick gave a talk to Principals about their roles. This message, condensed below, applies to all of us who work in Catholic Education:

Embrace Challenges with Faith: When difficulties arise, remember that God's refining and strengthening process aligns with His promise in Sirach.

Lead with Humility: Regardless of our roles as teachers, administrators, or policymakers, let us emulate Christ's leadership by serving others.

See Christ in Every Student: Every child is a divine gift, deserving of unconditional love, patience, and guidance.

Make Catholic Education a Beacon of Light: Let our schools serve as places where faith is not merely imparted but lived out authentically.

Archbishop Patrick O'Regan

NAPLAN

NAPLAN is all underway already for our Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. It is an important checkpoint for students and schools to see where those students are in terms of achievement of the Australian Curriculum. It helps schools to plan for areas of improvement and to help specific students with targeted help i.e. case manage.

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Damien
 Damien Judd

PRINCIPAL

Secondary Sports Day

What a great day and event Sports Day was last Friday. As Mr Daw said in his final words on Friday, we are blessed and grateful to have such a helpful and sensible cohort of students to be able to run such a large event, off site, on a warm day, with little to no issues to worry about. Our students and their families need to be congratulated on the way they came in numbers, competed, danced, cheered, helped, cleaned up and in general had a fun and safe athletic day. Thank you to all staff and especially Mr Daw for his leadership on Friday. Well done to all students and especially to those who set records or won age group medals. Primary have their turn in Term 3.

New Positions

We are currently advertising for new teachers – these roles have come about due to our increased numbers or staff moving away or having babies!! Some are for immediate start or Term 3 start, or even a 2026 start. Please visit our website for more information and/or to pass on this information to someone you know who may be interested in applying.

2026 Enrolments

2026 enrolments are filling up very fast. If you know of someone who is intending to enrol their child for 2026 (or Mid Year Reception 2025), they need to collect/download an enrolment form **immediately** and book a time to enrol through the relevant Front Office. Whilst siblings of current students have a spot waiting for them, they still need to complete an enrolment form and have an enrolment interview.

Trees

The college undertakes regular checks of all its trees (we have a lot of them) using a qualified arborist. They make recommendations and we adhere to those recommendations i.e. trim branches or even completely cut down some trees. Unfortunately, there will be unexpected incidents especially during or after extreme weather and when we have times of low rainfall.

The Samaritan Way

St Oscar Romero is a modern-day saint. One of my favourite quotes from St Oscar Romero is...

“Aspire not to have more but to be more”

Oscar Romero was born in Ciudad Barrios, a town in the mountainous east of El Salvador, on 15 August 1917. One of seven children he grew up to become a priest. In February 1977, Oscar Romero became Archbishop of San Salvador.

As Archbishop, Father Romero was a source of strength and hope for the poor and oppressed of his country. St Oscar Romero used his position to speak out for the oppressed and the vulnerable. He challenged the unjust government of his country. After calling for international intervention and as a consequence of his actions, including his pursuit for justice and peace for his people, St Oscar Romero was assassinated on 24 March 1980 as he was saying Mass in his home town. Pope Francis canonized Oscar Romero as a saint on 14 October 2018.

During this Lenten time, it is important to look at our own lives and to examine whether we are living a life that reflects our faith in Jesus. The prophet Jeremiah said "For I know the plans I have for you," declares

the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Are we planting 'Seeds of Hope' around us? Are we looking out for everyone in our community: the poor, the vulnerable, the sick and the lonely? Are we treating the people in our community and in our world with dignity and respect? How can we give 'hope and a future' to those in our community, nation and worlds?

It helps to remember that Jesus has inspired many people to follow in his footsteps. One person who modelled his life on Jesus was Saint Oscar Romero.

Caritas Australia works to bring justice, peace and hope to those in the world who are struggling and living in poverty. Jesus asks us to come into the light of his love. We can be someone who 'Unites Against Poverty' by donating to Caritas Australia through Project Compassion this Lent.

Rebecca Sinclair
APRIM

This Lent, we're invited to Unite Against Poverty with Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. This year is especially significant as we celebrate the Jubilee Year - a time of renewal and solidarity.

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet Toefuata'iga - (Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah) a young student from Samoa who faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her school now has a 10,000 L water tank improving hygiene and allowing the teachers to prioritise education.

We'll get to know Lam from Vietnam, born with short stature, Lam faced social exclusion and limited employment opportunities – through the I-SHINE program, Lam is now a freelance graphic designer.

And we'll meet Irene from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.

Watch our Introduction to Project Compassion film [HERE](#) - be inspired by 3 powerful stories of resilience and strength, and learn the impact that your support can have on vulnerable communities around the world.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty *this* Lent

Hop to it! The **Easter Raffle** is coming! It's not **bunny!!**

The annual **Eggtraordinary Samaritan College Easter Raffle** is about to get under way.

Please donate a chocolate egg or a chocolate bunny or two to the Easter Raffle. All donations are gratefully accepted.

Sadly, many eggs are made using slave and child labour or are sold through companies that use slave labour or unfair trading methods. As part of our Easter Raffle this year, we would like to promote the buying of Fair Trade and 'slave free' eggs. Please consider buying eggs with the logos featured below.



Our Lady Help of Christians Campus and St Teresa's Campus

Please send your donations to your child's classroom teacher or to the office of both Primary Campuses.

Saint John's Campus

Please take your donation to the office.

Chick it out!! Primary tickets are on sale now and Saint John's Campus tickets will be available from caregroups soon. The cost is 50 cents

Our Easter raffle is no yolk—grab a ticket for your chance to win!

We are not going to put all our eggs in one basket.

There will be a number of great prizes. The Easter raffle will be drawn on Thursday April 10 (Week 11), with proceeds going to Project Compassion.

Some 'bunny' will win big—will it be you?

I'm so eggcited I could eggsplode!!



Dear Parents and Carers,

Advocating for Safe and Respectful School Communities

Catholic School Parents South Australia (CSPSA) is committed to ensuring all students learn in safe, inclusive environments. While recent media coverage has highlighted concerns about bullying and harassment, it has also reminded us of the importance of appropriate parent and community conduct in fostering a respectful school environment. Such conduct is crucial for safeguarding the well-being of both students and staff.

While schools work within clear policies and legal frameworks, it is essential for families to lead by example, shaping positive behaviours both in person and online. Schools, families, and the broader community share the responsibility of promoting respectful relationships.

Families play a key role in shaping positive behaviours to ensure all staff and students can teach and learn in safe, supportive environments.

Addressing Bullying: Collaboration and Legislative Action

CSPSA welcomes the Federal Government's national review into bullying and will actively contribute to ensure parents' voices are heard, advocating for thoughtful, solutions-focused approaches. We also commend the South Australian Government for signing the Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement with New South Wales, reinforcing the joint commitment to tackling bullying through shared policies, frameworks, and innovative solutions.

Strengthening Protections for Students and Staff

We fully support the **Education and Children's Services (Barring Notices and Other Protections) Amendment Bill 2024**, which strengthens protections for students, staff, and families in school communities.

While some parents may feel more should be done, school leaders must navigate legal and privacy constraints when addressing incidents. Families with concerns are encouraged to engage directly with school leadership to seek resolution.

Supporting Families and Schools

CSPSA is here to support families by providing guidance on navigating school grievance processes and advocating for constructive resolutions. Through resources, tools, and educational seminars, we aim to empower families to understand their rights and responsibilities within the school system. Our goal is to help families address challenges effectively and promote positive school experiences for all students.

As we work through these important issues, we remain focused on collaborating with schools, policymakers, and families to create safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environments.

By encouraging open communication and offering expert support, we strive to ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive in a supportive and productive educational setting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Trish Jarvis".

Trish Jarvis
Executive Officer

04 March 2025

Primary Campus News

Welcome

We welcome Bec Marks to our Centacare School Counselling Team at Samaritan College.

Bec has been with Centacare since 2022, commencing in Residential Care as House Supervisor and then beginning her journey as a School Counsellor in 2023 at Cowell Area school and Whyalla Secondary College. Bec is in the final year of her Social Work degree and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from previous roles.

Bec will be based onsite at Our Lady Help of Christians Campus on Monday and Wednesday each week.



Sacraments

This year our Parish will be more involved in delivering our Sacramental program.

Last week at our Ash Wednesday Parish Mass students were welcomed and asked to enrol for Reconciliation and First Eucharist in Year 4 and Confirmation in Year 6.

If you wish to enrol your child in the Sacramental program and were unable to attend last week, please pick up an enrolment form and pack from the Parish office (8 Nicolson Avenue).

Completed enrolment forms need to be returned to the Parish office ASAP.

It is an exciting time for these young students, our prayers go with them as they begin their Sacramental journey.

Rebecca Sinclair
APRIM

The Arts – St Teresa's Campus



Shrove Tuesday

Pancakes and huge smiles on Tuesday can only mean one thing.....

It was Shrove Tuesday!!! – Week 6

Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day is traditionally a day we prepare for the season of Lent. Lent is a time of fasting and reflection in the lead up to Easter.

A huge thank you to our helpers on Tuesday at both Primary Campuses.

Matt Quist & Jenna Edwards
HEAD OF PRIMARY CAMPUSES



The Arts – Our Lady Help of Christians Campus

This term in Art with Miss Coad, we are learning about music. We are learning about the technical elements of music, how to compose music and about the emotions embedded in music.

Students in Year 5/6 have been working hard on rewriting a nursery rhyme by changing the lyrics, tempo, pitch and emotion. Students have created some really great “new” nursery rhymes. They have just started using some instruments to help develop their piece further.

Students in Year 3/4 have been learning how to follow and create body percussion and rhythm stick patterns. They have learnt that a bar of music is made up of four notes and have worked hard to make their own.



International Women’s Day

Last Saturday, March 8 was International Women's Day!

We are privileged to watch our girls grow into faithful, wise and compassionate young women every day.

Let's celebrate all women in our lives.

We are so lucky to have many women in all our lives to help us all be the best version of ourselves!

Bike Racks

At both primary sites we have Bike Racks to store bikes and scooters that children ride to school. We strongly encourage children to bring a suitable lock to make sure they cannot be taken by people who are not their owners, particularly at St Teresa’s Campus where bikes can be seen from the street.

Parent Parking and School Zones

Just a friendly reminder when travelling around St Teresa's Campus to adhere to the 25 kmph school zones, particularly during pick up and drop off times. We also ask that our families at Our Lady Help of Christians Campus to use the parent carpark off McRitchie Crescent so that the visitor spaces next to the front office can be used for appointments in the front office.

Clean Up Australia Day

Last week the House Captains at Our Lady Help of Christians Campus hosted a Clean Up Australia Day event. All week, students earned Guidera Cup Points for acting sustainably (picking up rubbish, bringing reusable cups for slushies, bringing plastic free lunch boxes, or making posters to encourage sustainable actions). On Friday, the House Captains introduced a new classroom clean up areas initiative that will be rolled out starting next week, to encourage each class to take responsibility for keeping a specific area of our school yard tidy. After this, the House Teams did a huge clean-up of our school yard and so much rubbish was collected! Well done everyone!!

Matt Quist and Jenna Edwards
HEAD OF PRIMARY CAMPUSES



Secondary Campus News

Secondary attendance hotline: 0473 989 587 - TEXT messages only, otherwise please phone 8645 8568.

Student Devices

We have had a 'bring your own device' policy on this campus for several years now. As part of this program, we have reduced the number of laptops available for student loan from the library. These devices are reserved for students whose own device goes flat during the day – they are not for students who do not have their own laptop. We understand that for some families, laptops are a burdensome expense which is why we have payment plans available. Families who are yet to purchase devices for their child(ren) are asked to check out the BYOD Order Portal. Samaritan College has partnered with Learning and Technologies to provide an online purchasing portal to assist families with purchasing a laptop. This will provide families with access to:

- Devices selected by the College for school use
- Education pricing from the largest education supplier
- Multiple warranty and additional cover options
- Lay by and Interest-free financing options

More information and a link to the portal can be accessed via <https://www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au/secondary/byod-and-stationery>

Doorways2Construction

Mr Matt Thursby and our budding tradies spent their first day at our Doorways house last Friday. The building, generously provided by Housing SA, will be renovated by the Doorways team with help from local tradespeople and TAFE. The students spent the day demolishing structures in readiness to install a new kitchen and bathroom in the coming weeks and months. This program is unique to Samaritan College and during the more than 20 years it has run has helped countless students gain apprenticeships.

Jewellery

The college's grooming expectations are very clear and are agreed to by families and students upon enrolling at Samaritan. Our current uniform code states that jewellery, in general, should not be worn to school; however, the following basic items are permitted:

- A watch (no other items, including bracelets and rings, should be worn)
- One pair of earrings in each lobe. Earrings are restricted to studs, sleepers or 'huggies'. Hoops and 'dangling' earrings are not permitted.
- One crucifix or affiliated religious medal on a plain chain, worn beneath clothing

Students who regularly breach this code could have their jewellery confiscated and kept in the Front Office (to be returned at the end of the school day).

SRC Induction

Last week it was my pleasure to preside over our Year 7 – 11 SRC induction assembly. Run by our Year 12 student leaders and attended by a pleasing number of parents, this event saw the following young men and women sworn onto the 2025 Student Representative Council.

Benedict	
Year 7	Jessica Kelsey and Raennielle Williams
Year 8	Rachelle Williams and Ava Perry
Year 9	Declan Sturt and Unathi Dube
Year 10	Raffielle Williams and Peyton Kimberley
Year 11	Charley O'Brien and Maddelyn Ravanelli

MacKillop	
Year 7	Hunter Robert and Fletcher Owens
Year 8	Xavier Wright and Miya Meredith
Year 9	Lyla Phillips and Alana Smith
Year 10	Libby Smith and Tadhg Kelly
Year 11	Dana Free and Bohdi Hughes

Rice	
Year 7	Fletcher Travers and Ayesha Mata
Year 8	Max Wakelin and Felix Klippel
Year 9	Curtis Rodgers and Ayeisha Korov-Collison
Year 10	Roland Alejo and Maria Mata
Year 11	Dylan Matsapa and Lachlan Miller

Tanya Gibson
HEAD OF CAMPUS

Pancake Tuesday



Community News

"The services and events contained in this section are in no way connected with the school and are included in this newsletter for your information only. Parents and caregivers need to make their own enquiries and assessments about the suitability of these events and services for their needs and those of their children."



Legal Help?

Legal Services is increasing its legal assistance capacity in the Upper Spencer Gulf to better support the region.

Free Legal Helpline on 1300 366 424 (Monday – Friday, 9am – 4:30pm) and/or visit our Whyalla Office at 17A Forsyth Street.

Four lawyers available in Whyalla every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the coming weeks, to assist the Whyalla community with any legal issues that may arise.

Individuals are able to drop into our Whyalla Office to receive free legal advice from Tuesday – Thursday, 9am – 4:30pm.

It is important to seek early legal advice and information to alleviate the ongoing anxieties that accompany financial and legal challenges.

The team in Whyalla are here to provide general advice on employment, debt recovery and other related legal issues. In-person advice appointments are also available in Whyalla in addition to our drop in service.



WHYALLA TRIATHLON

30 MARCH 2025

Individuals or teams

Distances for all ages and abilities

- Sprint - 750m Swim 20k Bike 5k Run
- Enticer - 300m Swim 10k Bike 2k Run
- Challenge - 100m Swim 4K Bike 1k Run
- Kids - 30m Swim 2k Ride 500m Run

This is your year so enter now!

whyallatriathlon.weebly.com



Women's Information Service



Women's Walking Group

- ✓ Every Friday at 10:30am
- ✓ Come for a leisurely walk & chat (up to 30mins)
- ✓ Subject to weather conditions

🏠 67 McRitchie Cres, Whyalla Stuart

✉ whyallahaven@cccsa.org.au

☎ 0477 219 410



Government of South Australia
Office for Women