

St Stephen's  
Catholic College



# St Stephen's News

Issue 13 - Friday 20 August 2021

**Principal:** Ms Kerry Manders  
**Deputy Principal:** Mr Simon Vaughan  
**Assistant Principal Religious Education:** Ms Janai Sugars  
**Assistant Principal Students:** Mrs Jayarani Salerno  
**Business Manager:** Mr Hadyn Flynn



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Queensland  
Association of  
Mathematics  
Teachers

## QAMT Maths Quiz First and Second Place for St Stephen's!



The St Stephen's teams got the quinella at Round 1 of the Year 7 and 8 QAMT Maths Quiz which was held at Atherton recently. The boys team (Eli Smith, Thomas Fenner and King Dang) won the night on 24.5 points and the girls team (Rose Easton, Charlotte Agnew and Lilly Lennon) finished in second place on 19.5 points.

Both teams will progress to Round 2 in Cairns in a couple of weeks time (COVID-19 pending).

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# NOTICES

## UPCOMING EVENTS:



**Wednesday 25 August to Friday 27 August**  
Year 9 Maths Camp

**Thursday 26 August**  
Year 10 BLA Cairns Careers Expo  
Shake and Stir Performances

**Friday 27 August**  
Fowlers Cup Netball

**Friday 2 September**  
Year 12 Mock Exams commence  
Father's Day Breakfast

**Friday 3 September**  
Student Free Day

**Thursday 9 September**  
R U OK Day

## TERM DATES 2021

**Term 1: 27-1-2021 to 1-4-2021**

**Term 2: 19-4-2021 to 25-6-2021**

**Term 3: 12-7-2021 to 17-9-2021**

**Term 4: 5-10-2021 to 26-11-2021**

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS!

Please inform the college if your child has achieved success in an extra-curricular activity not directly related to school, so that the college community can celebrate these achievements. Please email the principal ([ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au)) with any information and photos.

## Change of Details

To ensure communication is received, please advise the college if you have changed your email address. Please email the office: [ssm.office@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ssm.office@cns.catholic.edu.au) or telephone: 4086 2500. This also applies to any other contact details.

## ABSENTEE EMAIL

If your child is absent, please email:  
[ssm.absentee@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ssm.absentee@cns.catholic.edu.au)

## Maths Tutoring Available

**Tuesday and Thursday**

Recess 2 - MCR

(all students welcome)

**Wednesday**

3.00 pm - 4.00 pm - Library

Years 10 -12 only

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers



Last Sunday we celebrated the Feast day of the Assumption of Mary. This day recognises the assumption of Mary's body and soul into heaven by the power of Jesus and reflects the significance of Mary's role as the mother of Christ. Mary was the first follower of Christ. She was a model of faith, service and courage. We know that she said yes to an unknown difficult path and we know that she walked this path with Jesus. I cannot imagine the faith and courage it took for Mary and the love she must have demonstrated. The marriage at Cana story (John 2 1:5) shows us that Mary was a trusted advisor, who prompted Jesus. I see this action as a profound model for us in our community. Mary's concern for those at the wedding in Cana impelled her to take initiative and to prompt Jesus to help out. This is our calling at St Stephen's; we are called to see a need, feel compassion towards others and take action. As Mary used her voice in conversation with Jesus, so too, we are called to use our voice for good of the community. This is the process we have been encouraging our students to follow this year, we have called it 'student voice'. Our current student leaders have been actively seeking to identify the voice of students and their beliefs about actions that will make a difference in student lives here at the College and as such increase their learning.

The Student Representative Council Executive of Olivia Soncin, Paige Kolijn and Isaac Williams offered the student representatives an opportunity to 'use their voice' and propose ways in which improvements could be made. This was not an opportunity to complain, this was an opportunity to take positive action, students identified an issue and raised the solution with the Council. Students made four major solution-focussed requests. Firstly, students in some College areas had no access to cold water, solution was suggested, add additional cold bubbler for the tuckshop area. Action completed, this bubbler is on its way. Secondly, students in the junior school identified congestion after bell times at lockers as students prepared for class. Solution, a request for larger lockers with less lockers in a stack. These lockers are on the way and will be ready for the next school year. Thirdly, students identified a need to promote more inclusion between the Year levels. Solution, an opportunity to be free to roam around any part of the school at recess time, this opportunity was delivered in Catholic Education Week. Finally, students identified the importance of feeling connected and belonging at Recess time. Solution, a request for an opportunity to play basketball games between each house at Recess 2. I am pleased to say over the last three weeks the Student Representative Council with Mr MacDonald, have provided the opportunity to play in the Holy Spirit Centre at lunchtime. It has been a privilege for me to watch our students learn how to use their voice to make a difference at the College.

In addition to the SRC actions, Joseph Montagner, one of our College Captains, had some concerns for students using the tuckshop and some ideas on how to improve. Joseph submitted a proposal outlining the concerns and ideas, met with members of the leadership team and we're very pleased to say we were able to act on his suggestions. Further opportunities for student voice came from a group of Year 12 students, who have worked with Mrs Salerno and Ms Barnes over the last few months on a girl's perspective of growing up at St Stephen's. The girls presented to staff at a recent staff meeting providing these insights and some actions that will grow a more inclusive College community. Whilst each of these may not seem like ground-breaking causes, each time a student acts on a concern in an appropriate way and follows through with the solution and vision required to make a change, then we have grown an influential student leader.



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our young people are learning how to go out into our world and make a difference! As one of our favourite hymns says:

*Go make a difference.  
We can make a difference.  
Go make a difference in the world.  
We are the hands of Christ reaching out to those in need, the face of God for all to see.  
We are the spirit of hope; we are the voice of peace.  
Go make a difference in the world.*

My challenge to all students is use your voice to go make a difference. Making a difference doesn't have to be a big action, making a difference is simply making the world a better place for everyone not just for yourself. This idea of caring for others is central to our College value of service and our College Student Leadership program.

The 2022 school year will see an implementation of our reinvigorated student leadership program which aligns to our change in Pastoral Care Leadership on a staff level. From the beginning of 2022 our Middle Leaders Pastoral will take responsibility for a house of students from Year 7 to 12. This will mean the Middle Leader Pastoral will be able to "journey" across the years with a student and their family. It will mean the development of strong relationships and a culture of care for each student as an individual. This will also provide opportunities for increased student leadership and peer mentoring. Year level activities such as Year 7 camp or Year 12 Formal will be shared between the Pastoral Middle Leader.

We are looking forward to providing more opportunities for our students to grow in faith, service and courage and to go out and make a difference in the world.

May the courage and peace of Christ be with you.

God Bless

**Ms Kerry Manders | Principal**

Email: [ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au)



**St Stephen's Catholic College**

**- Student Free Day -**

**Friday 3 September 2021**

**The college office will not be open on this day.**

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Feast of the Assumption

On Sunday the Church celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven, a holy day to venerate Mary, the Mother of God. We hold Mary in a special place in our hearts as her life illustrates to Catholics how God works in us. She was called to fulfil an extraordinary role in becoming the mother of Jesus despite her ordinary background. For her willingness to say 'yes', she continues to be a symbol of faith, an example of service and a model of courage. What invitations could lead to extraordinary purpose if only we said 'yes'?



### Countdown to St Stephen's Day

Less than five weeks remain until our annual celebration of St Stephen's Day. Usually commemorated on the 26th of December, it's a tradition at St Stephen's to spend the last day of term three together to mark the occasion. It begins in the morning with a celebration of our faith by way of a liturgy. We hear the scripture describing Stephen as man filled with the spirit who spoke wisely and showed courage to the point of his death. We then are delighted by then students who said 'yes' to performing in the Talent Quest. After the show is the fete where each home form prepares a stall of activities or food- all proceeds are raised in service of Mareeba Rosies. The afternoon sees the senior students face off against the teachers in the battle for the Koala Cup in a tense game of netball. If the staff versus students basketball game last term is any indicator, this game is sure to be unmissable!



### Student Leadership

The College is in the process of appointing student leaders for 2022. More than 25 year 11 students have said 'yes' to the call of leadership and applied for a position. I am encouraged by the thoughtfulness of the applications and clear desire to serve their peers. Interviews will be held in the coming weeks.

**Ms Janai Sugars**

**Assistant Principal Religious Education**

Email: [jsugars2@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jsugars2@cns.catholic.edu.au)



**Faith - Service - Courage**







R U OK? Day is coming up on Thursday 9 September. R U OK?'s vision is a world where we're all connected and protected from suicide. The mission of R U OK? is to inspire and empower everyone to meaningfully connect with people around them and support anyone struggling with life. The goals of this day are to:

1. Boost people's confidence to meaningfully connect and ask about life's ups and downs
2. Nurture people's sense of responsibility to regularly connect and support others and
3. Strengthen people's sense of belonging by knowing people are there for us

In home form that day students will be provided with flyers explaining how to ask if someone is ok and how to listen and seek help. Home form teachers will also show short videos to further model this process. We are also running a colouring competition for R U OK? Day. There are three categories – Years 7-8, Years 9-10 and Years 11-12. Students should see Ms Murat if they would like to enter. Interested students will be able to attend a Glitter Jar making activity in the HSC kitchen on 09 September. Students should email or see Ms Murat if they would like to participate.

### COVID-19 Tips

With the pandemic still causing lockdowns across the country and impacting on students mental and emotional wellbeing, here are tips to help young people stay motivated and engaged during lockdowns:

#### Get Creative

- With more time on your hands, what have you always wanted to learn to do?
- Train your dog or other pet. Go online for tips and tricks.
- Learn a new art skill. Consider trying a free app, such as making pixel art. Tell other friends or family members about this and try making a similar picture and compare or post your creations on social media.
- Learn how to create different hair styles or manicure/pedicure designs. Practice your new skills on those within your household.

#### Get Closer with Family Members or Friends

- Now's the perfect time to build those relationships.
- Learn how to cook or bake -- and make food for your family. Consider calling a grandparent or other older relative whose creations you've always loved. Ask if they will talk you through making some of their recipes.
- Binge watch a series with someone else. Find one or more family members and agree on a show that you can all enjoy together.
- Figure out some games to keep your younger siblings or relatives entertained -- in person or virtually. Play hide and seek -- or hide a toy/stuffed animal in a room and take turns finding it.
- Get out the arts and crafts. Make stuff together.

### Support Others Sheltering Around You

- Think about friends and others around you. What can you do to help them?
- Be available to talk or joke with friends and family members virtually. Stay in touch through FaceTime, Snapchat, Skype, video chat, etc.
- Share: music, recipes, pictures of pets, workout videos.
- Offer to help younger relatives or friends. You could help with school work that might be challenging; maybe their parents are working or busy doing something else.

### Give Yourself a Break

- You are doing your best to get through this. Remember that everyone is doing what they can.
- Pay attention to even small achievements. Notice when you're being kind to someone, talking to someone who may be feeling worried or lonely, helping clean up something, pitching in to help out others.

### Look Toward the Future

This situation -- the COVID-19 pandemic -- will be over eventually, so what are you really looking forward to doing?

- Is there a special place you're looking forward to hanging out with your friends?
- Is there somewhere you'd love to travel to?
- What about going to outdoor festivals, carnivals or amusement parks?

No matter what your preferences are, you can remind yourself that you will be able to enjoy even more activities in the future, and you will appreciate them more than ever.

*(UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital's Division of Developmental/Behavioural Paediatrics and Psychology).*

### Mrs Havva Murat-Maksuti

#### Counsellor

Email: [hmuratmaks@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:hmuratmaks@cns.catholic.edu.au)





Although life is always filled with uncertainty, the levels we are currently experiencing are unprecedented and it is becoming evident that this is taking a toll on our young people. The most recent research from Mission Australia makes clear the breadth and depth the pandemic is having on our youth across the nation.

It appears that lockdowns and tighter restrictions will be with us for some time, but it is important in such times of uncertainty to instil hope and remain optimistic. Adult carers can play a vital role in helping young people reframe their worries, encouraging them to see life as it is and getting them to focus more on the things they can control, rather than those they can't.

It's important young people remain connected with their social networks during these times as often their natural response to uncertainty is to exhibit varying degrees of fear and anxiety. With the continued disruptions, mental health concerns are on the rise and it is evident that many students may need some extra support to achieve their goals. Parents can help their kids focus more on the good things in their life, rather than fill in the blanks with catastrophic narratives.

This Special Report outlines how adult carers can help instil hope and offer support in such times of uncertainty. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

If this Special Report raises any concerns for you, a loved one or the wellbeing of your child, please seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to your special report [https://sscc.qld.schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/special-report-instilling-hope-uncertain-times](https://sscc.qld.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-instilling-hope-uncertain-times)



## DR BESTMANN CRICKET SHIELD



Staff and students from St Stephen's Catholic College were fortunate to participate in the annual Dr Mark Bestmann Memorial Cricket Match. Congratulations to Mareeba State High School for winning both the Male and Female Competitions. Thank you to Mareeba Cricket for preparing a wonderful wicket for the teams and to Trish from Queensland Cricket - Community and Pathways for her commitment to cricket in the region.





## YEAR 8 AND 9 UPDATES WITH MRS NUNES

*Can you believe that we are in the second half of term 3 already?*

The year eights and nines are already in the midst of assessment and as usual, in the second half of each term, due dates loom nearer and the pressure is starting to mount. Students need to continue to work hard, apply themselves to their studies and most of all keep organised. Organisation keeps students on track so that they can achieve the results they deserve. It is also an extremely important life skill, one most often learnt in the schooling years.



*Organisation:*

How can our students be better organised?

- Are students writing down assessment due dates and homework in their SRB's (Student Record Diaries) and are parents checking these weekly?
- Have students accessed the assessment calendar on our school website and know when their assessments are due and when exams are scheduled? Print the schedule out and have a copy at home too.
- In the second half of the year stationery supplies are often diminished. Have students' stationery been replenished in order for them to come to each lesson adequately prepared?
- Have laptops been charged overnight and batteries full each morning? Flat batteries and students needed to recharge are a common issue in many classes. It's disruptive and wastes learning time.
- If there is a laptop issue, has it been reported? (Go to our school website – links – student 1 to 1 support request)
- If a student has been away – have they made contact with their teachers to catch up on work or have they checked on Canvas to see what they've missed?

If students are struggling with organisation or if you have concerns, please let us know.

*Student Achievement:*

A number of year eight and nine students have recently received recognition for excellent academic achievement and displaying an excellent work ethic. In year 8, six students achieved top academic results and forty-six students demonstrated an excellent work ethic. In year nine, six students achieved top academic results and thirty-two students demonstrated an excellent work ethic. All of these students were awarded a certificate of merit and a tuckshop voucher to enjoy in recognition and in testament of their conscientious attitude towards learning. Well done to each of them for such a fantastic achievement!

*Subject Selection:*

All of year eight and Year nine students have recently had the opportunity to nominate their elective subjects for 2022. Unfortunately, our subject selection evening was moved to an online event due to some precautions regarding a positive COVID-19 case in the community. Students were still able to access the subject displays during recess and ask questions to gain a more thorough understanding of their subject choices. When making these decisions, it was great to see students considering their interests, what they're good at, their past performance and future career options. If there was an issue with selecting subjects, please contact the school for assistance.

*A pilgrimage first for years eight and nine:*

During Catholic Education Week in week three this term, both year eight and year nine took part in a first for St Stephen's – a pilgrimage experience – walking 6.9 kilometres from the Mareeba aerodrome back home to our college. Students reflected on the themes of spirit, hope, thanks, and stillness along the way. It was a wonderful experience for many and those who attended are to be commended for their participation and behaviour.

I'd like to take this opportunity to leave each year eight and year nine student with this message for the rest of this term: Be organised, apply yourself to your work, stay on track and get those results you deserve!

**Mrs Nola Nunes**

**Middle Leader - Years 8 and 9**

**Email:** [nnunes@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:nnunes@cns.catholic.edu.au)

## YEAR 8 AND 9 UPDATES WITH MRS NUNES

*Year 8 Academic Award Recognition:*

Harley Cek  
Rose Easton  
Gianna Ferraro  
Hazel Hobden  
Amelia Sciani  
Isabella Teasdale

*Year 8 Work Ethic Award Recognition:*

Bradley Ah Gum  
Samantha Bauer  
Katie Bolton  
Henry Brammer  
Abbie Buchgraber  
Paige Carey  
Harley Cek  
Micala Costas  
Alexandra Cuda  
Brylee Cummings  
Chloe Donovan  
Rose Easton  
Archie Evans  
Gianna Ferraro  
Sienna Ferraro  
Tahli Flinn  
Ewan Hall-Matthews  
Ryan Harrison  
Skye Heath  
Hazel Hobden  
Giulia Hughes  
Sophia Jaques  
Grace Joslin  
Emily Krummel  
Xavier Lea'Uanae  
Elly Martin  
Lily McKay  
Brock McMillan  
Azali Mitchell  
Chelsea Morrison  
Emmason Nagy  
Ellen (Ella) Newton  
Ella Oberholzer  
Ryan Pearce  
Bailie Ryan  
Rani Salerno  
Claire Schrale  
Amelia Sciani  
Hayden So Choy  
Tyler Srhoj

*Year 8 Work Ethic Award Recognition:*

Alexa Szerstuk  
Isabella Teasdale  
Emily Walker  
Seth Walmsley  
Georgina Weiss  
Kip Williams

*Year 9 Academic Award Recognition:*

Ella Daven  
Saifreen Kaur  
Layla Kerswell  
Ursula Rose  
Tully Smith  
Hannah Steele

*Year 9 Work Ethic Award Recognition:*

Georgina Battistin  
Isabella Battistin  
Neesha Bayne  
Elora Beikoff-Day  
Marlon Bellerio  
Saskia Booth  
Harley Cabatingan  
Nikki Cauche  
Nimala Clarke  
Willow Cole  
Ella Daven  
Thomas Doyle  
Emalina Fogale  
James Fowler  
Lochlan Gannon  
Benedicta Gautam  
Alexis Hahn  
Emily Howard  
Hayley Iacovella  
Ashlee Jones  
Manvir Kaur  
Layla Kerswell  
Riley Lennon  
Michael Liu  
Ashlee Menniti  
Karissa Mulla  
Tayla Nastasi  
Juliet Radke  
Ursula Rose  
Tully Smith  
Hannah Steele  
Anne Vermaak



## YEAR 8 AND 9 UPDATES WITH MRS NUNES

*Year 8 and 9 Students completing their Student Well-being Survey on Monday 16/08/21*

9.1 Augustine



9.2 Deacon



9.3 McAuley



9.4 Muluridji



8.1 Augustine



8.2 Deacon



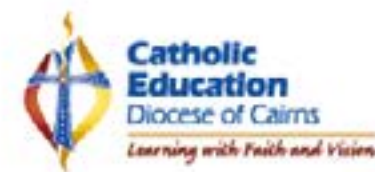
8.3 McAuley



8.4 Muluridji



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

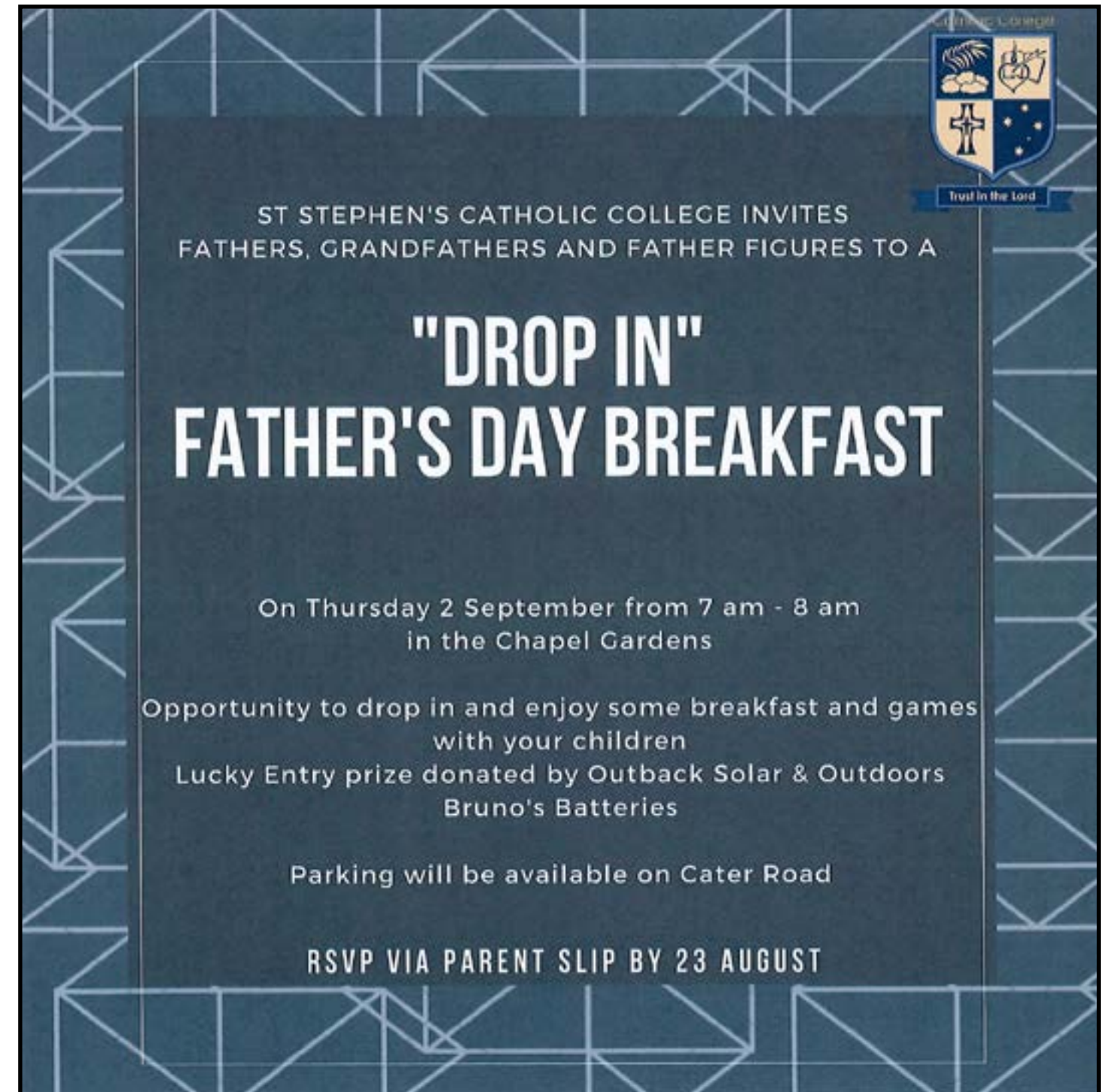


**1 or 2  
days a week  
doesn't seem  
like much but...**

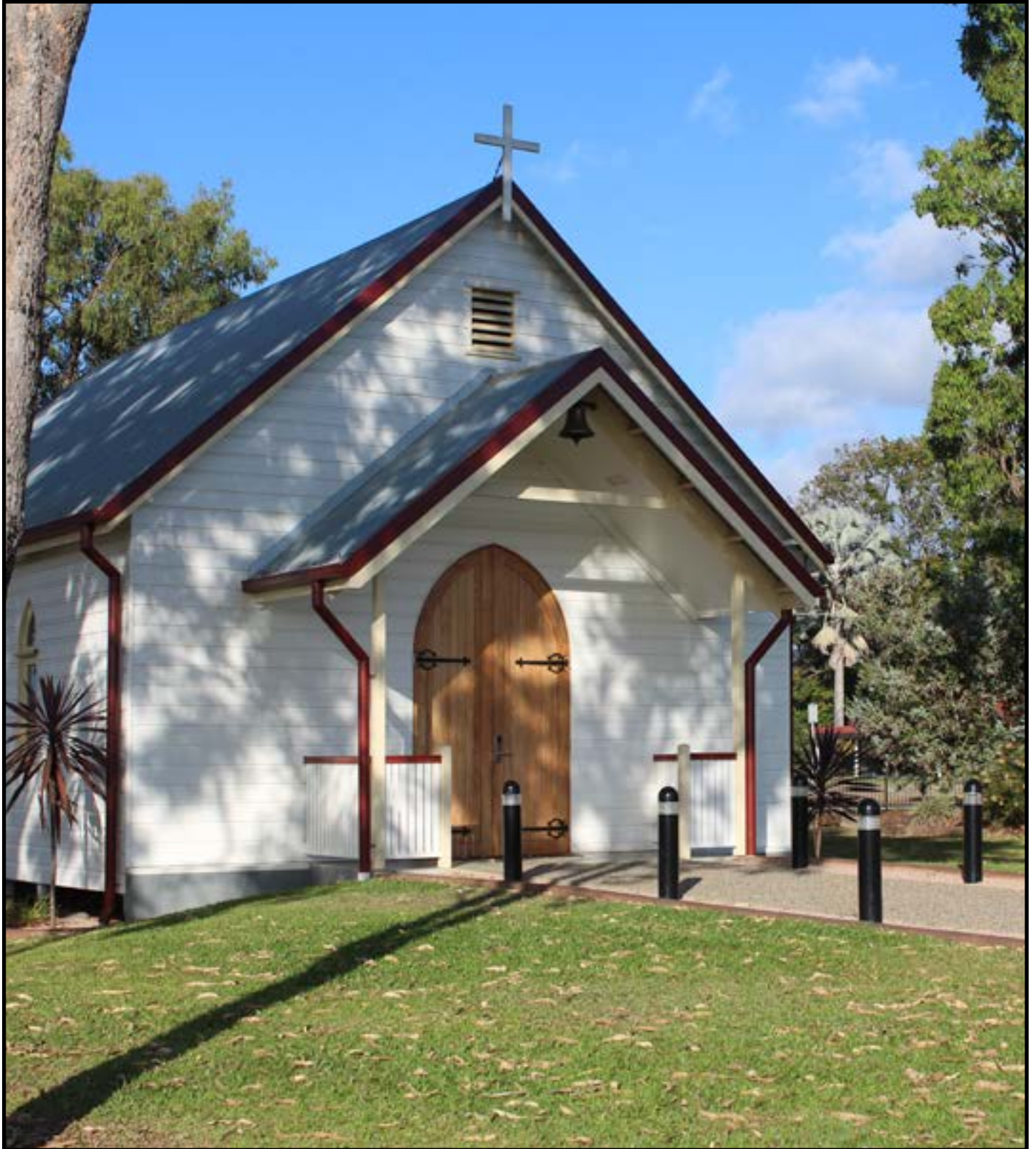


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