

ST BERNARDINE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Regents Park

To Serve To Challenge

To Serve To Challenge



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A mosaic at St Bernardine’s School of St. Bernardine of Siena. His feast day is celebrated on the 20th of May. A Franciscan Friar and preacher, St. Bernardine is known as ‘the Apostle of Italy’.



Welcome

We are committed to providing strong spiritual, academic, sporting, and cultural diversity of curriculum. Students are supported within a pastoral care network system. Along with the staff and students our community also places a strong emphasis on the partnership between the school and home. This is highlighted by the number of opportunities our parents have to assist their son/daughter in the mission of education.



ST BERNARDINE'S SCHOOL

Vision and Mission



Vision

As a community of learners, we acknowledge the presence of God in each of us and in our world. We commit ourselves to living the Gospel values and accepting the challenges of a changing world.

Mission

We endeavour to:

- Provide** our children with Christ-centred experiences, which acknowledge and celebrate our Catholic heritage, as we accompany them on their faith journey.
- Create** a stimulating learning environment in which our children may acquire attitudes, skills and knowledge to enable them to make appropriate choices in the light of their life experiences.
- Strive** for excellence, whilst being guided and encouraged through the partnership of our professional, dedicated staff and supportive, caring families.
- Build** positive relationships within our school, parish and wider community, whilst embracing compassion, tolerance, justice and respect for all, and support for those in greatest need.

Values

- Unity** is working as part of a team.
- Service** is the action of helping others without wanting something in return.
- Contemplation** is about taking the time to think, pray or be with our thoughts.
- Resilience** is about bouncing back from difficult experiences.
- Respect** is about understanding and treating everyone with fairness.

Patron Saint

St Bernardine was born in small town near Siena called Massa Marittima in Italy. He was born on September the 8th, 1380. He was born in an upper-class family but unfortunately lost his mum at the age of 3 and his father 4 years later. His aunty cared for him after this and guided him to seek consolation by trusting God.

Bernardine has always had a passion for helping the poor. From an early age he would often fast, in order to help someone in greater need. He spent his teenage years studying and this dedication would serve him well in the future as an evangelist. Before becoming a preacher, he spent many years caring for the sick and dying at a hospital in Scala. His time at the hospital was during a plague and his dedication caused him to become ill for a period of 4 months.

In 1403, he chose to join the Franciscans of the Strict Observance embracing an austere life focused on poverty and humility. At this time, Bernardine spent many hours praying before a crucifix. It was at this time that Bernardine heard Christ say to him, "My son, behold me hanging upon a cross. If you love me, or desire to imitate me, be also fastened naked to your cross and follow me. Thus, you will assuredly find me." Bernardine's devotion to God amazed even the strict Franciscans. This made his preaching exceptionally valuable. He promoted devotion to the name of Jesus as a simple way to recall God's love and make peace with one another.

He was held in high regard throughout Italy, and he was offered the office of a bishop on 3 occasions. Each time, however, he turned down the position, to continue his missionary work.



Later in his life he served for 5 years as the Vicar General for the Franciscan order and reinstated the strict rules of life. After 40 years of missionary work, Bernardine became sick. Even through this illness he continued to preach, but soon lost his strength and his voice.

St. Bernardine, of Siena, a Franciscan friar and preacher, died on May 20, 1444. In 1450, just 6 years later, Pope Nicholas V canonized him as a saint. We remember him as 'the Apostle of Italy' for his efforts to strengthen the Catholic Faith and we honour St Bernardine of Siena on the 20th of May.

Our Parish

Prior to 1970, the Regents Park Parish was part of the Beaudesert Parish. In late 1970, Monsignor Steele, whilst visiting parishioners Jim and Margaret Smith, acquired a piece of their land on which he insisted on paying \$10, which ultimately ended up on the collection plate the following Sunday. This is the site in which Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Park Ridge remains today. The land which the St Bernardine's Church and School now stand upon was also acquired by Monsignor Steele. The Archdiocesan authorities at the time thought it was a 'foolish' idea at the time to purchase land in Regents Park and refused to provide the necessary funds. Monsignor Steele was so convinced that this land was essential for the future, he cashed in an insurance policy of his own and bought the land.

In 1976, the Park Ridge Church and this land was transferred to the Sunnybank Parish. Fr Tom Hegarty administered Park Ridge as a separate entity and the Church was serviced by several parishes, including Sunnybank, Acacia Ridge and

Beaudesert. In the later part of 1980, approval was given for the establishment of Browns Plains as a separate parish. Fr John Nee was appointed as the first Parish Priest of Browns Plains on 7 September 1980. The first Mass was celebrated on Monday 8 September 1980 in the Park Ridge Church. Masses were held in a Kindergarten on Estramina Road from October 1980 until January 1982.

The name St Bernardine came from an article in the Catholic Leader, on the weekend the first Browns Plains Mass was celebrated (September 1980). This article was written on the fifth centenary of his birth and spoke of St Bernardine's creation of credit unions for the poor to resist the exorbitant interest rates of usurers. St Bernardine also created his own symbol, which he carried when he was preaching. It is IHS – the first three letters of the Greek spelling of 'Jesus'. Due to similar challenges being faced by the new Parish regarding funding and building and St Bernardine's down to earth approach and his symbol, which would become the parish and school symbol, it was a perfect choice for the Parish Patron.

St Bernardine's Parish Priests:

Fr John Nee	Fr Frank O'Dea
Fr John Fitz-Herbert	Fr Francis Ngyuen
Fr Tony Girvan	Fr John Panamthottam
Fr John Conway	Fr John Nguyen
Fr Onyema Eloagu (Current)	



Church Participation

At St Bernardine's, our main liturgical practice is based around Eucharist/Mass, where the children attend Mass at least once a term. When we all gather at church we do so with the values of respect and reverence and so we refrain from bringing food or drinks into the church. For those receiving communion it is common practice to refrain from eating 1 hour before receiving communion. When we come together for Mass we gather, not as spectators, but as active participants. Therefore, we follow the actions of the assembly, standing and sitting where appropriate. If people who are attending but who aren't practicing Catholics are comfortable with responding to the various acclamations then they are invited to do so. Younger children are always welcome.

Since the Church is seen as one of the most sacred spaces in the Catholic tradition then during the prayers and liturgies we strive to limit non-essential conversations so that we can allow the words, silence and stillness to speak to us. It is great to have memories of your child's participation in various prayer experiences and so, where appropriate, it is acceptable to take photos and videos. However, when this is occurring, please make sure that it does not affect the telling of the story or the participation in the prayer. Remain discreet.

The reception of communion means that the person has been received into the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Therefore, parents who are Catholic are more than welcome to receive communion. If you are not Catholic, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. The common practice of this is to fold your arms across your chest as you approach the priest/Special Minister of the Eucharist who is giving out communion.

At St Bernardine's we are very conscious that our prayer experiences are time-friendly to parents and students. We therefore strive to start on time. We do ask parents, family members and friends attending that they try to be there ahead of time and that they stay for the entire celebration so as to honour all of us with their presence and support. Occasionally, when we have large school prayer celebrations, we use Siena instead of the church. The above guidelines are still maintained when in Siena, as the purpose for the gathering is still the same. Thus, we still maintain the values of respect and reverence. Our aim is that these guidelines assist in ensuring that parents and friends not only feel welcome, but are also comfortable when attending any of our special prayer celebrations.

Sacraments

Sacramental education happens in the school Religious Education program at various times throughout the primary years. Preparation for the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, First Eucharist and Penance happens within the context of the Parish Sacramental Program. For information regarding the Parish Sacramental program, contact the Parish Office on 3884 7600.



653160499. Holy communion on wooden table on church

Our Story

Fr John Hegarty supported the parishioners wish to open a Catholic school in conjunction with the Parish development if they were able to secure 25 enrolments in Year 1. The Parish had to fund the building of the school rooms as it was too late to receive support from the Catholic Education Office for the 1982 school year. CEO declared that if the Parish could get the school 'up and running' for the 1982 school year, they would support an application for a Government Capital Grant to build ready for the 1983 school year. The first building built had the dual purpose of classrooms during the week and Church on weekends. Mr Harry Newman was the first Principal appointed in 1982. The Sisters of Mercy were approached regarding the possibility of sisters coming to the Parish. Sr Joan Mulildorff was appointed as part of the school staff and Sr Margaret Endicott was appointed as a parish worker.

St Bernardine's school opened in 1982 with Years 1, 2 and 3. The school continued to grow rapidly and by 1984 there was a crisis in terms of insufficient buildings. A second building was built by purely volunteer parishioner labour (except for the slab) in time for the start of the 1984 school year. At this time, due to the financial demands, it was decided to stop the growth of the school at two-streams and to enable other aspects of the Parish to be consolidated. By

1989, it was proposed by the Parish and School to become a three-stream school. In 1990, the decision to go ahead with permanent buildings for a three-stream school occurred.

In 2009, due to Federal Government Funding, St Bernardine's was able to build a large multi-purpose hall to accommodate the growing school for full school events, PE, music, and stage productions. This hall was named Siena, after St Bernardine's place of study before preaching in Jesus' name, and was officially opened by the Executive Director of Brisbane Catholic Education, Mr David Hutton and Fr Francis Ngyuen, Parish Priest, in 2010.

In 2011, with the continued growth of the school, the proposal was put to the Parish and Brisbane Catholic Education to become a four-stream school. This was accepted and the first four-stream classes began in 2012.

St Bernardine's School Principals:

Mr Harry Newman (1982-1984)
Mr Terry Giesler (1985-1996)
Mr Richard Grajczonek (1996-2003)
Mr Mike Aspland (2004-2015)
Mr Nick Gallen (2016- 2021)
Mr Peter Griffin (2021 – current)



Motto

The school motto is:

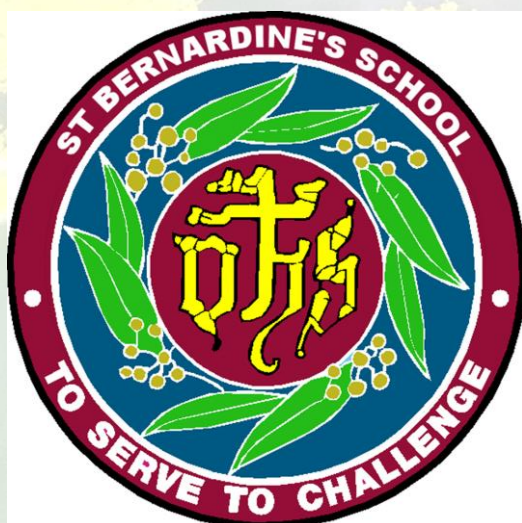
To Serve, To Challenge!

Our motto 'To Serve To Challenge' was submitted by William Allam, a student at the school and calls us to lead and engage through our words and actions the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Logo

Our logo provides a visible articulation of the school connection to the community, and to the school's religious identity.

Sr Joan Mulildorff, a Sister of Mercy and one of the teachers when the school began, designed the IHS, gum, and wattle center of the crest. The significance of the gum leaves and wattle flowers signifies the setting of the Parish. The gum and wattle trees still existing on the property are much older than the school and parish and connect the school and parish to the Indigenous history of the area. The IHS symbol was a core symbol of St Bernardine who preached on the Holy name of Jesus. St Bernardine had a special devotion or respect for the Holy name of Jesus. This symbol, IHS, was often decorated with a blazing sun around it, with a cross coming down through the middle. Therefore, this symbol identifies that Jesus is at the core of our activities and mission.



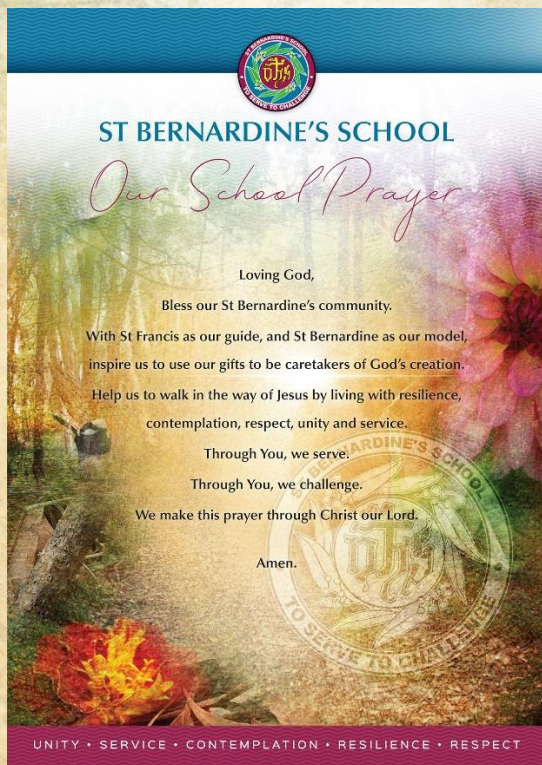
Spiritual Identity

A Catholic Christian school derives its identity and culture from its Catholic Christian character, known as its charism. The word, **charism**, in the tradition of the Church, refers to the spiritual gifts used for the service of the whole community. The central influence on the charism of the school is the person of Christ.

St Bernardine was a Franciscan priest who espoused the values of the Franciscan order. These underpinning values, which are often called the Franciscan Five, are: Service, Humility, Peace-making, Collegiality and Contemplation. St Bernardine has a particular focus on the mercy, compassion and forgiveness of Jesus and the love of Mary.

Our spiritual identity is expressed through our school prayer and song.

School Prayer



Loving God,
Bless our St Bernardine's community. With
St Francis as our guide, and
St Bernardine as our model, inspire us to use our
gifts to be caretakers of God's creation.
Help us to walk in the way of Jesus by living with
resilience, contemplation, respect, unity and
service.
Through You, we serve.
Through You, we challenge.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

School Song

St Bernardine

by Brett Strathearn and Kate Davies

He walked into a hospital to lend a hand
Little did he know that this was just what God had
planned
Through his deeds, God's word soon spread Actions
speaking louder than the words he said.

CHORUS

St Bernardine (oh, oh, oh, oh, oh) Always
there for us in our time of need
You make us all believe, God's gifts we will receive
St Bernardine (oh, oh, oh, oh, oh)

He found his voice and spread Good News in Jesus'
name

Preaching words of love to all, that we may do the
same

Put his faith in prayer, in God his trust

Now we can do the same to find God's path for us

(CHORUS)

St Bernardine, a light to guide us on our way Living as
St Francis did in all we do and say We're called to take
our place, our mission clear Living in the image of the
love you held so dear

(CHORUS)

Repeat (oh, oh, oh, oh, oh x 2)

Bridge (Bm, Em, Am, D)

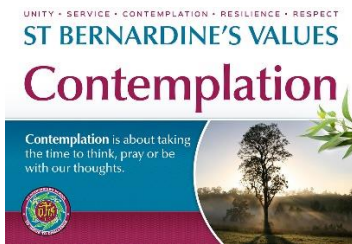
There will be challenges, but because of you I
know I have a choice,

I will serve you Lord and raise up my voice.

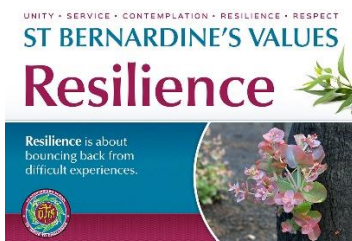
(CHORUS)

Repeat x2 - St Bernardine (oh, oh, oh, oh, oh)

Franciscan Values



Contemplation is the opening of the mind and heart; one's whole being to God. It is a relationship initiated by God and can be viewed as time 'resting in God.' Contemplation can be as simple as a name. Simply say or even whisper the Holy Name of 'Jesus' with your heart and mouth and you will find strength and stability. St Bernardine bore witness to this name by using the IHS symbolic monogram, which is the first three letters of the name Iesous (Greek for Jesus). St Bernardine promoted the monogram so that the people might be continually reminded of the Source of their salvation.



Resilience is the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or significant sources of stress. It means 'bouncing back' from difficult experiences. Research has shown that resilience is ordinary, not extraordinary. Resilience involves behaviours, thoughts and actions that can be learned and developed in anyone.

“Proceed little by little, from good to better... And going forward so, you will drive off many dangers which otherwise might overcome you.”

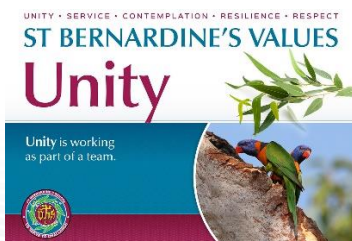
St Bernardine shared these words to draw a comparison between someone who takes on too much and burns out and someone who perceives their goal is to 'do a little good' and then to 'do a little more good'. He says the latter will be much more effective and resilient over the long term.



Service is not just an action of helping others, but an attitude, an approach to life. Jesus teaches us Servant Leadership, where we are called to live in a way that is empowering to others.

“Be always one of those who seek peace, peace with others, peace within your own soul, and peace with God. See to it that every thought of yours, your every act, your every deed, all be directed towards peace.”

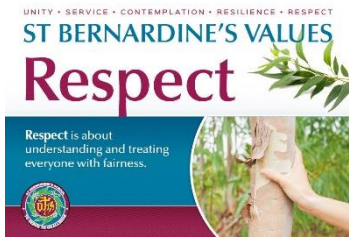
St Bernardine expressed the importance of treating one another as brothers and sisters of the one God. With service we reach our potential through purposeful living, as we bring out the best in others, too.



When there is **unity**, people are in agreement and act together for a particular purpose. It is the state of being one or a oneness of mind, among people. Unity can be found in the word community. As a community we share the common goal of educating the whole child in an environment where the child can reach their potential and live life to the full.

“The last degree of love is when He gave Himself to us to be our Food; because He gave Himself to be united with us in every way.”

St Bernardine calls us to live in harmony and to remember Jesus who united us in every way.



Respect is defined as a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements. The state of being admired or respected, in regard for the feelings, wishes, or rights of others.

“He who truly loves, and loves with his heart, sees the necessity to live in harmony with all”

St Bernardine calls us to be like Jesus. That each person has a God-given inherent dignity and worth. We are compelled to respect each other (and nature), ourselves and God in our deepest-held attitudes and daily approach to life and relationships

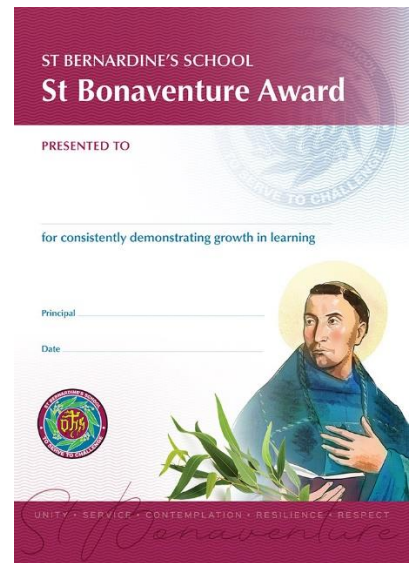
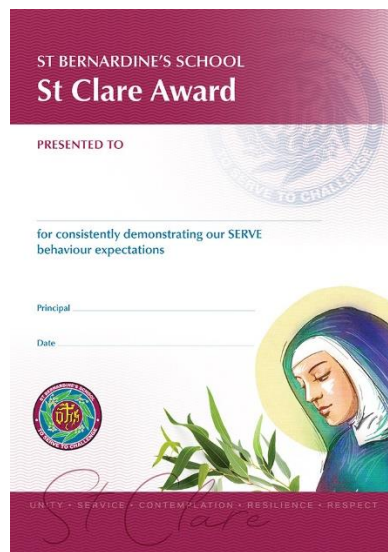
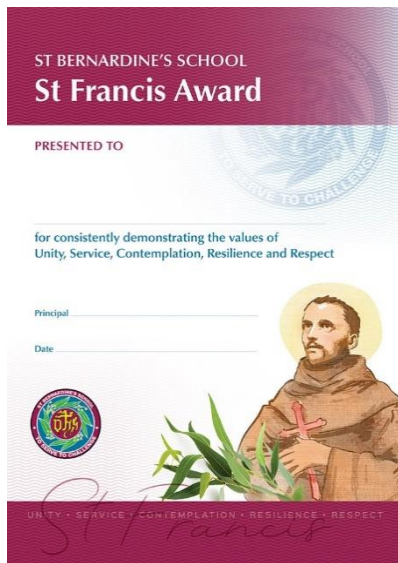
Saint Awards

As a school we acknowledge our students with our Saint Awards.

Francis Award – for consistently demonstrating the values of Respect, Resilience, Unity, Service and Contemplation.

St Clare Award – for consistently demonstrating our SERVE behaviour expectations.

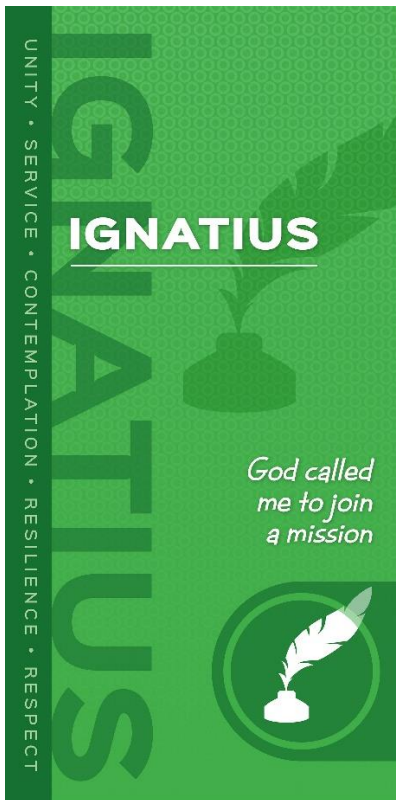
St Bonaventure Award – for consistently demonstrating growth in learning



Each term, teachers will be asked to nominate the recipients of these awards based on how students have demonstrated either of the above consistently. In the last week of each term, the recipients will receive these awards at an afternoon tea with the Leadership Team. They will also be acknowledged on the last assembly of the term.

At the end of the year, we will ask that one student from each class be nominated for each award based on consistency across the entire year in each area

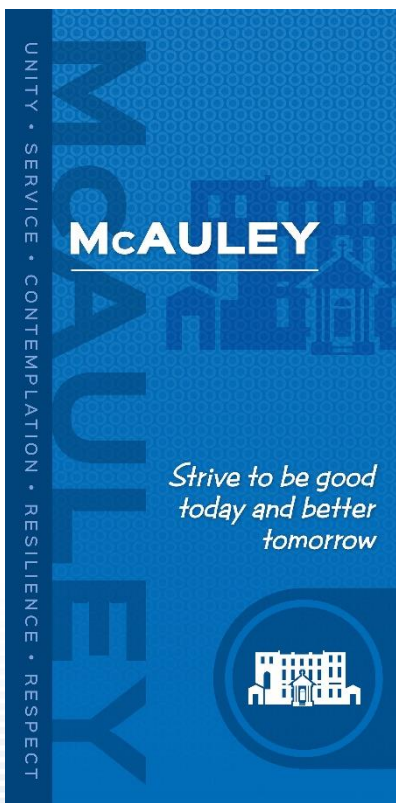
House Names



Ignatius house is named after Elizabeth Hayes, founder of the Missionary of Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. Formerly known as Mother Mary Ignatius. Elizabeth's writings urged her readers to be led into a deeper experience of God's love, and into the following of the example of earlier Franciscan Saints. Elizabeth handed on to her followers' special devotion to saints such as Anthony, Francis, and Clare. Elizabeth's vision was trans-Atlantic. Elizabeth did not lock her sisters into one ministry, but showed by example that a variety of ministries was desirable, so long as they responded to peoples' needs at the time, paving the way for ministries in education, foreign missions, assisting migrants and reaching out to the poor and needy.

"God call me to join a mission"

In Ignatius we strive to hear God's call and show unity when we compete.

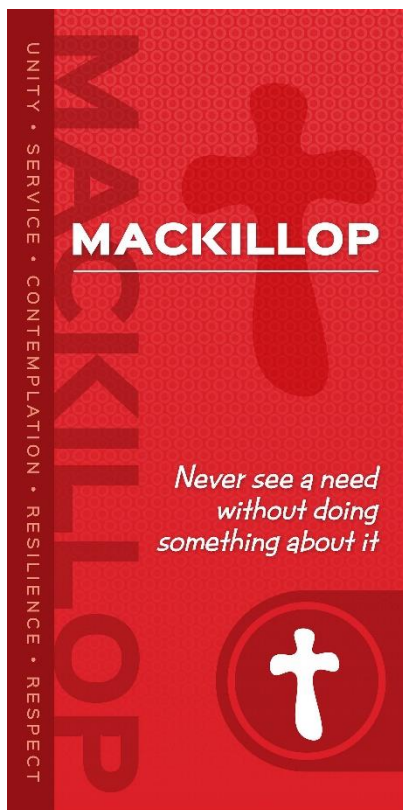


McAuley house is named after Catherine McAuley. She was born on the 28th of September 1778 in Dublin, Republic of Ireland and died on 11th November 1841. She had a brother and a sister; her parents names were James and Ellanor. When Catherine was almost 20 her mother died, and she lived with her brother. Over the years her mother taught her independence and charm. Her great work included building a house for orphans. She founded the Sisters of Mercy where she showed great courage by helping the poorest of the poor. One of Catherine's famous sayings is:

"The simplest and most practical lesson I know is to strive to be good today, but better tomorrow".

In McAuley we strive to show courage when we compete and in all that we do, we always encourage each other and strive to be better tomorrow!

House Names (continued...)

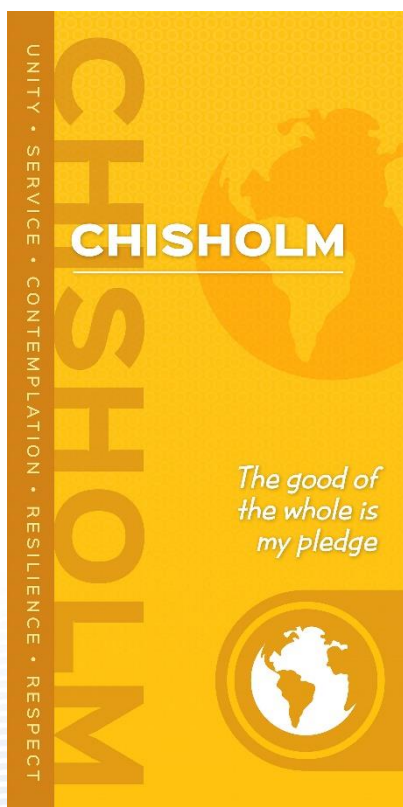


Mackillop house is named after Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop. She was born on January 15th, 1842 and died on the 8th August 1909. Mary grew up in Fitzroy, Melbourne along with 7 younger siblings and her parents, Alexander Mackillop, and Flora nee McDonald. She was educated at private schools by her father and received her first holy communion on the 15th August 1850 at the age of 9. Mary Mackillop made a large difference by founding the Sisters of St Joseph and starting many schools in rural Australia. These were no ordinary schools though as they accepted all children rich or poor and treated them with the same amount of care, love, and respect. Mary believed every child should be treated as equal. Mary Mackillop was a courageous, fair, and caring person who devoted her life to helping others.

She has a famous saying of

“Never see a need without trying to do something about it”.

In Mackillop house we always try our best for our house.




Chisholm house is named after Caroline Chisholm. Caroline Chisholm was born on the 30th May 1808 and died on the 28th March 1877. Caroline Chisholm lived in North Hampton, England. She was the 16th child in her family. Caroline married Archibald Chisholm and together they had 8 children. Together they moved to Australia to start their new life. Rather than staying at home all day Caroline would walk the streets of Sydney and was disheartened by the number of women living on the streets. Caroline Chisholm became known as the emigrants' friend and earned this title for her work with the poor migrants who came to Australia last century. She always campaigned for fairness amongst the community. Caroline Chisholm was a great woman who always tried her best to fight for what was right.

“The good of the whole is my pledge”.

In Chisholm house we try to show these great qualities too. We always try hard; we are courageous and we never give up!


Building Names and Meanings



SAN DAMIANO

Year 1 and 2

The San Damiano Cross is the large cross that St Francis of Assisi was praying at when he received the inspiration to rebuild the church.



The San Damiano Cross is the large cross that St Francis of Assisi was praying before when he received the inspiration to rebuild the church.




PADOVA

Year 3 and 4

The Church of St Francis is situated high on a hill in Padova and it is decorated with pillars of St Francis' story.




Padova is the Italian name for Padua. The Church of St Francis is situated high on a hill in Padova and it is decorated with pillars of St Francis' story. St Anthony of Padua became a follower of St Francis of Assisi.




AQUILA

Year 5 and 6

The Basilica of St Bernardine is in Aquila. Aquila also means "eagle" in Italian and these are the children who are looking over everyone.




The Basilica of St Bernardine is in Aquila. Aquila also means 'eagle' in Italian and these are the children who are looking over everyone as leaders of the school.



ASSISI

Prep

The birth place of St Francis and St Clare.



The birthplace of St Francis and St Clare.



LA VERNA

Library

St Francis often visited La Verna for times of contemplation.



St Francis often visited La Verna for times of contemplation.



PIAZZA

Undercover Area

Gathering place



Italian for meeting place.

Our Environment

Our environment is symbolic of our local area and many projects that have been undertaken have been completed and inspired by our Indigenous heritage. Our school ovals are reflective of the Yugambeh and Jagera language groups.

The junior oval (Year 1 and 2) is named Jimbelung, which means friendship in Yugambeh.

The senior ovals are named Jagera and Gugingin. The Gugingin and Jagera are the 2 clans either side of the Logan River. Gugingin is the area on the bank of the Logan River closest to Greenbank, where our Year 5 and 6 children play while Jagera is on the northern side, where our Year 3 and year 4 children play.



Junior Oval



Senior Oval: Jagera



Senior Oval: Gugingin

Sacred Spaces

Orchard

Our strong connection with the Greenbank RSL is symbolic within our school. The Greenbank RSL Men Shed helped to create a sign for our orchid. The sign reads 'The Orchard' in Italian and helps to continue our Franciscan Charism that is represented through our building names.

Values

The values of Respect, Resilience, Service, Contemplation and Unity are at the heart of all we do and say at St Bernardine's. We have created sacred spaces which incorporate our values for students to pause and reflect.

Unity Garden

The community of St Bernardine's journey together 'To Serve and To Challenge'. Our unity Garden symbolises the uniqueness of everyone within our school community who is part of our journey.

Remembrance Garden

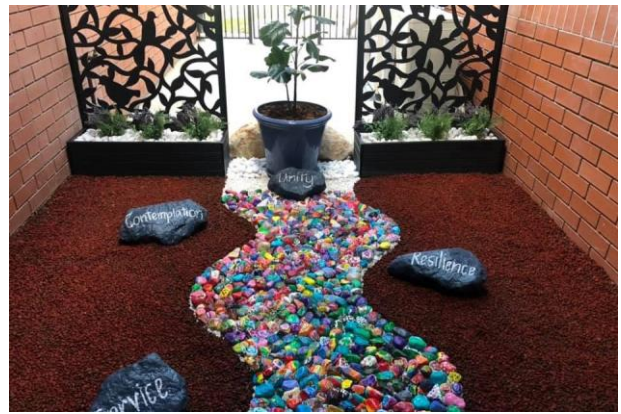
As a school community, to mark ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, we gather in front our Remembrance Garden to remember those whomade great sacrifices so that we could live in freedom. We gather to remember the Australians who have served our nation proudly in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping missions and to honour all our service men and women.



Orchid Sign



Values in Sacred Space



Unity Garden



Remembrance Garden



Message from the Principal

Welcome to St Bernardine's Catholic School, a dynamic co-educational primary school with 750 children from Prep to Year 6. St Bernardine's has been providing quality Catholic Schooling in this area since 1982. Our school is an integral part of the Parish community. In accordance with our Mission Statement, all our endeavours, relationships, decisions and programmes are Christ-centred and child centred. Community is important at St Bernardine's and relationships are promoted and celebrated through positive interactions with students, teachers, parents and the Parish. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive and welcoming faith community.

At St Bernardine's, the importance of tolerance and understanding of difference is promoted. This allows all in our school community the right to work in a safe, productive, and harmonious environment. Our dedicated and caring staff are concerned with the welfare of each child at this school. Parents are invited to work with our staff with openness and mutual respect.

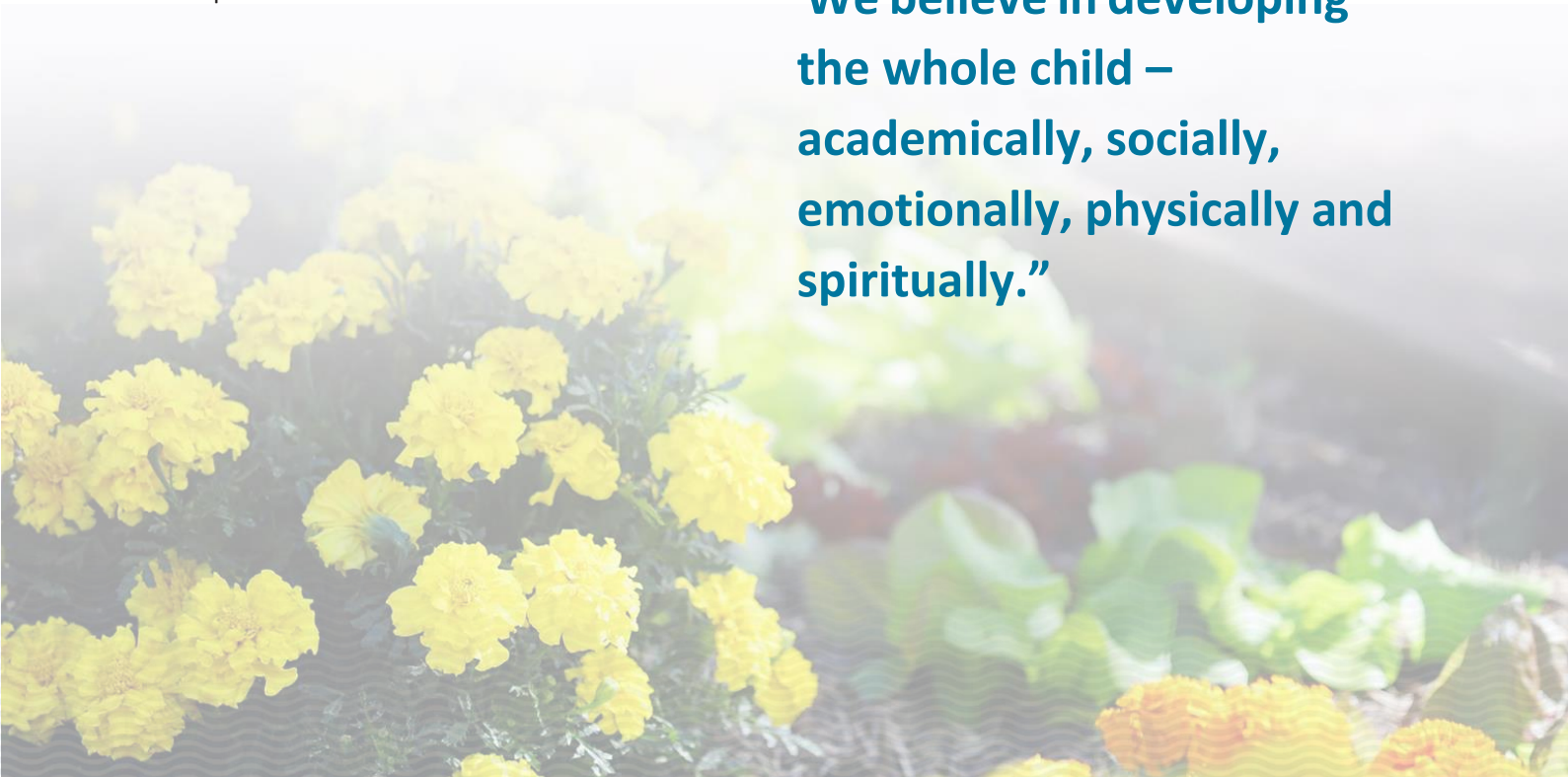
We believe in developing the whole child – academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually. We understand we are a teaching and learning environment, and it is important we focus on a holistic approach for our children, so they have the opportunity to develop into happy, productive and successful members of society and to 'To serve, To challenge'.

Please contact us for any further information you would like to know about St Bernardine's Catholic School.

Kind regards

Peter Griffin

Principal



“We believe in developing the whole child – academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually.”

To Serve To Challenge



