



From the Heart



Newsletter No. 38

26th November, 2025

COMING UP AT OLSH...

Nov 2025

Mon 24th - Fri 28th Year 5/6 Camp

Fri 28th Gym and Swimming

Dec 2025

Mon 1st **Pupil Free Day**—Planning Day

Tues 2nd Advent Liturgy 3pm

Thurs 4th Learning Showcase

Fri 5th Gym & Swimming

Mon 8th Advent Liturgy 3pm

Tues 9th Statewide Transition Day

Thu 11th Thanksgiving: Graduation Mass 6pm

Fri 12th Gym & Swimming

Mon 15th School Mass 9:30am
Advent Liturgy 3pm

Tues 16th **Last Day for students!**
Subway Lunch

Wed 17th Last day for staff—Pupil Free Day

JAN 2026

Fri 30th Students start Term 1 2026

Dear Families and Friends of OLSH,

The school year is rapidly coming to a close with so much to enjoy and plan for.

Just a reminder that this coming **Monday 1st of December** is a **Pupil Free Day** for the teachers to begin planning for 2026.

Swim & Gym Program The children thoroughly enjoyed the first day of our Swim & Gym program, which will continue to run over the next three Fridays.

Just a reminder: Friday, 5 December, is WATER SAFETY DAY—children will need to bring a spare T-shirt and shorts to wear over their bathers on this day.

If your child will not be attending school on Friday, please phone this absence through prior to 9am so the bus can depart on time.

Grades 5 & 6 students left early Monday morning for the Cluster Canberra Camp running from Monday, 24 November, to Friday, 28 November. We are looking forward to hearing all about the students' experiences—it promises to be an exciting and memorable time!

Advent

Advent in 2025 begins on Sunday, November 30, and lasts until Christmas Eve, December 24.

Advent (from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning 'coming') is considered to be the beginning of the Church Year. For us in the Southern Hemisphere, it is a time of waiting for many things: examinations, summer, holidays, and Christmas all rolled into one. Advent is the time we wait in joyful hope for our God to be born in our hearts. The season of Advent recognizes the coming of Jesus, the Son of God, in a special way. God's Son became one of us and one with us to share our human experience fully and completely.

We will pause and reflect together with three planned liturgies. The children have been preparing, practicing readings and prayers to make these celebrations meaningful. (2nd, 8th and 15th Dec)

The junior and middle students received a note outlining their special role in the final Advent Liturgy, which will take place on Monday, 15 December, at 3:00 pm. We warmly invite families to join us and support the students in these important moments of prayer and reflection.

Grade Six Graduation and Liturgy—Thursday 11th December at 6pm, OLSH Church

Farewell to Our Grade Six Students

We warmly invite all families to join us as we farewell our Grade Six students in a liturgy at OLSH church. As part of this special occasion, after farewells, we will share our traditional reflection movie, celebrating their years at OLSH—a presentation that always brings plenty of laughter and a few tears.

Following the movie, we will gather back at the school grounds to enjoy afternoon tea together. This is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of our graduating students and share in their memories before they begin the next chapter of their journey.

At OLSH we acknowledge and pay respect to the Dja Dja Wurrung people, the original custodians of the land on which our parish school is located. We pay our respects to elders past and present and commit to actively work alongside First Nations People for reconciliation and justice for all.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

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School News

Diocese of Sandhurst Mourns Monsignor Frank Marriott

The Diocese of Sandhurst is deeply saddened by the passing of Monsignor Francis (Frank) Marriott on 23 November 2025, after 63 years of priestly ministry and a lifetime of service to the Church and community.

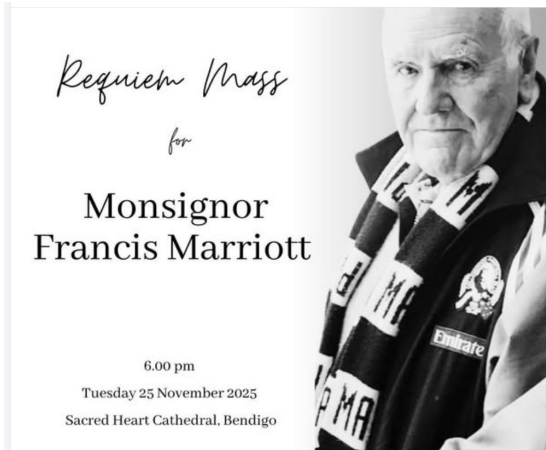
Raised in Elmore after his early years in Bendigo, Monsignor Marriott was ordained in 1962 and served in thirteen parishes, holding key leadership roles including Vicar General and Diocesan Administrator. His influence extended far beyond parish life—championing education, social justice, interfaith dialogue, and community well-being.

He pioneered lay leadership in schools, co-founded the Bendigo Interfaith Council, and played a vital role in civic advocacy, notably opposing a toxic waste dump in Heathcote. Nationally, he chaired the National Council of Priests and supported renewal initiatives for clergy. Even in retirement, he ministered in prisons and continued serving on diocesan boards. His contributions were recognised with the title Protonotary Apostolic in 2012 and an OAM in 2022.

Remembered for his sharp mind, humour, and deep love of history, Monsignor Marriott was truly a “giant of our Diocese.”

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Amen



- Denise Nihill - Religious Education Leader

Congratulations to our OLSH recipients at the inaugural Sandhurst Awards!

To our amazing student recipients, Cooper for Academic Excellence and Ayla for Leadership Excellence, we are so proud of your dedication, hard work and commitment to excellence in academics and leadership. Your achievements reflect the spirit of learning and community that is OLSH

To our wonderful OLSH staff recipients, Ms Denise Nihill – Highly Commended for excellence in Catholic Mission and Formation Leadership Awards and Mrs Sandra Price – Recognised for Excellence as a Learning Support Officer in the Allied Services Awards.

Your dedication and commitment to our students, staff and community truly embody the spirit of OLSH.

PSG Meeting - 2nd - 4th December

PSG meeting will be held at the school between the 2-4th of December. We ask parents who have received communication regarding this to please confirm your meeting time (if you haven't already) by contacting the school.

School Fees 2025

We thank our families for their ongoing support in meeting school fee commitments. As we approach the end of the year, we kindly ask that all school fee accounts be finalised in the coming weeks. If you would like to discuss your account or require assistance, please contact the school office to arrange a time to meet with Lisa.

2026 Charity Ball Fundraiser

Please note the Charity Ball will be held on 21 February 2026. We will once again be looking for volunteers to support this important fundraising opportunity for our school. More information will be shared before the end of the year.

Pupil Free Days Term 4 2025

Monday 1 December – 2026 Planning Day
Wednesday 17 December – Staff Day
Thursday 18 December – Magnify Day
Friday 19 December - Magnify Day

Social Media Restrictions – 10 December 2025

From 10 December 2025, age-restricted social media platforms will have to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under 16 from creating or keeping accounts. Find out how social media age restrictions affect educators and can help you support your students' online safety.

The changes aim to protect under-16s from pressures and risks they can be exposed to while logged in to social media accounts. These come from design features in the platforms that:

School News

- encourage them to spend too much time on screens – for example, by prompting them with “streaks” or streams of notifications and alerts, and pressuring them to view disappearing content

increase the likelihood of exposure to negative, upsetting or manipulative content served up in their feeds by algorithms.

These features have been linked to harms to health and wellbeing – including increased stress levels, and reduced sleep and concentration.

The delay provides under-16s with the time to:

- learn about social media’s benefits and risks
- build digital, social and emotional skills
- understand the importance of reaching out for help if things go wrong.

While the responsibility rests with the platforms themselves to take reasonable steps to prevent under-16s from having accounts, we can all play a part.

This may have impacts for under-16s that have used these platforms as a way of communicating and connecting with others. Please be aware that there is information and support available please access the eSafety Commissioner or contact Lisa for more information.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions/faqs#download-the-shareable-assets>

Subway Tuesday 16 December

Students will be able to enjoy a delicious Subway lunch at OLSH on our last day of the 2025 school year - Tuesday 16 December. Please log on to Canteen Hub to place your orders.

Magnify Sandhurst

There are some great insights into Magnify Sandhurst and Catholic Education on these locally produced podcasts.



LEARNERS OF THE WEEK



Term 4, Week 7: Congratulations to our Learners of the Week!

School News



5/6 Canberra Camp



Catholic Identity

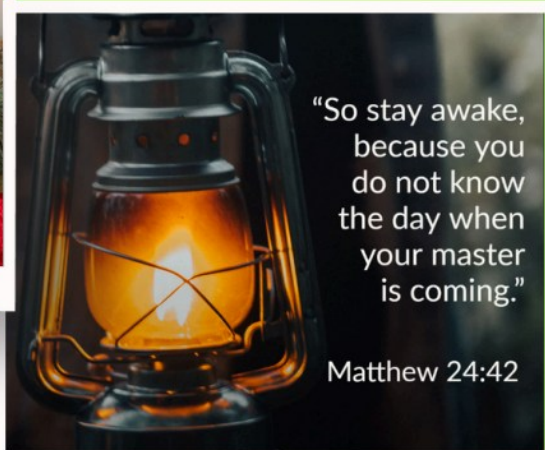
Little Chevies
JOIN US FOR THE
THANKSGIVING
LITURGY AND THE
“HANDING OVER
THE LIGHT
CEREMONY.”

6pm
Thursday 11th
December.
OLSH Church



Advent Invitation

@OLSH



Advent Liturgies Schedule
Tuesday 2 December – 3:00 PM
Monday 8 December – 3:00 PM
Monday 15 December – 3:00 PM

Chevie Centre
All welcome

During the transition to Secondary school

Here are ideas to help with the practical side of the transition to Secondary school:

- Try to arrange for a parent, grandparent, or other close adult to be home before and after school for the first few weeks of transition.
- Find out the name of the teacher responsible for your child's overall care, attendance, and social and academic progress, home-room teacher, year coordinator or wellbeing team. Make personal contact with this person as early as possible to introduce yourself and ask questions.
- Try to make your home as comfortable for study time as possible. For example, make sure your child has a quiet place to study, away from distractions.
- Find out whether there is a buddy system at your child's new school and encourage your child to be involved in it.
- Help your child explore new opportunities. Learning a musical instrument, trying a new sport, or joining a drama class are great ways for your child to meet other kids and get involved in school activities.
- Be prepared for early ups and downs. Adjusting to change takes time, but if things do not stabilise after the first six weeks, talk to your child's home-room teacher in the first instance.
- Remind your child that it is normal to feel nervous about starting something new – for example, you could share how nervous and excited you feel when starting a new job.
- Talk to other parents to check whether your child's experiences and feelings are like those of others. Sporting and school events are a good place to meet other parents.
- Try to make sure your child eats well, gets plenty of physical activity and gets plenty of sleep. The change to secondary school is likely to make your child more tired at first.

Your feelings about your child starting Secondary school

Your child's transition to secondary school is a big change for you too. Your relationship with your child's primary school might be ending, and you are likely to have a different sort of relationship with your child's secondary school.

It is OK for you to have mixed feelings about these changes.

Talking to other parents, particularly those who have gone through high school transition, often helps. It might ease your mind to know that many children find things a little hard at first but settle in during the year.

Also, other parents who are experienced at the school can often answer small questions and give you helpful tips about how things work at your child's new school.

And do not be surprised to find that your child doesn't want you to be as visible at their secondary school as you might have been during the primary years. Remember your child still need your support outside of school, and that it is all part of the way they develop greater independence.

Signs your child might be having difficulty.

- a lack of involvement in the new school
- little or no talk about new friends
- refusal to talk with you about school.
- little or no interest in doing homework.
- low confidence or self-esteem
- no desire to go to school, or refusal to go

If your child is having trouble, do not wait for things to improve on their own.

Try to get your child talking about how they are feeling, let him know that his feelings of worry and discomfort are normal, and see whether you can work out some strategies together.

Also consider speaking with your child's teacher or wellbeing team.




Child Safeguarding

Volunteering at OLSH – Volunteer Applications

At Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, the safety and wellbeing of our students is our highest priority. To uphold our commitment to child safety, **ALL Volunteers** are required to review and acknowledge our Child Safe Code of Conduct, Staff & Students Professional Boundaries Policy and Photography & Video Policy and Procedures. Additionally, Volunteers must complete a Volunteer Registration form and successfully complete the CESL School Volunteer Induction before commencing their role as a Volunteer.

We deeply value the contributions of our Volunteers and appreciate your support in maintaining a culture of care and protection. Thank you to all of our volunteers who have already completed their applications and for the valuable contributions you make to OLSH. Together, we can continue to provide a safe and nurturing space for every child to thrive.

For more information regarding volunteering, contact us or click on the link to complete the Volunteer Registration form. [Volunteer Registration Form](#) or scan the QR Code. 

All Volunteers will be asked to:

- Complete a Volunteer Registration form (including personal details, Working with Children Check (WWCC) and 2 personal referees), please inform your referees they will be contacted by the school in relation to your volunteering.
- Once you have completed the Volunteer Registration form and are approved to Volunteer at the school, you will be sent an email with a link to access the required training: (Please note – Completing this induction replaces the previous onsite induction interview)
- CESL School Volunteer Induction; and
- Read and acknowledge the Child Safe Code of Conduct, Staff & Students Professional Boundaries Policy and Photography & Video Policy and Procedures.

All Volunteers will be required to update details at the start of each year and inform the school of any changes to your circumstances or updates to your WWCC. All Volunteers will need to complete the CESL School Volunteer Induction and read and acknowledge all relevant safeguarding policies at the start of each school year even if an existing Volunteer.

All information received regarding volunteering and providing referee details will be maintained in line with CESL Privacy Policy.

Please direct your referees to complete their initial referee check online using the QR Code below.

If you have any questions, or would like support to complete your application, please contact the school.

Volunteer Application



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School Elmore is a



Child Safe School

we are committed to child safety at all levels
As a child, you have the right

- to tell someone if you are unhappy
- to have fun and do activities you enjoy
- to have a say and be heard
- to be provided with information
- to be allowed to be a child and be treated with respect
- if you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child, to feel proud and strong in your own culture

If you do not feel safe, you can talk to one of our Child Safeguarding Officers.

Mrs Lisa Hitchcock
Ms Denise Nihill
Mrs Kim Portwine
Miss Lizzy Forbes

As a school community we work together to ensure we are child safe and that we empower student voice



Volunteer Referee Check Online Form QR Code



Community News

WEEKLY SWIMMING LESSONS

AT ELMORE POOL THIS SUMMER!

~ From Beginners to Squad Level Classes ~



for more info and to enrol, scan the QR

or go to

<https://tinyurl.com/ElmoreSwim25-26>



EAGLEHAWK CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

FRIDAY
NOV 28, 2025

4.30PM
to 7.30PM
FREE ENTRY



Canterbury Park Gardens, Eaglehawk

EAGLEHAWK CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

FRIDAY
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CANTERBURY PARK GARDENS, EAGLEHAWK

ART AND CRAFT
CHAIR-A-PLANE
JUMPING CASTLE
FACE PAINTING
CIRCUS ACTIVITIES
SPORTS ACTIVITIES

BBQ, MINI HOT DOGS,
SAMOSAS, DRINKS
AND PANCAKES - ALL
\$2 EACH
FREE FRESH FRUIT
GIVEAWAYS + MORE!

For more information visit
www.facebook.com/eaglehawkchildrensfestival



ELMORE BOWLS CLUB

TIME
6.30PM
FOR 7PM

DATES
WED 26th
NOVEMBER
3rd & 10th
DECEMBER

FREE SOCIAL BOWLS NIGHTS

WE'D LOVE TO SEE NEW AND EXPERIENCED BOWLERS

- ✓ Bowls available for you to use
- ✓ Wear flat shoes or try barefoot
- ✓ Sausage sizzle get together after
- ✓ Come and have fun!!!

FOR INFO

KEITH - 0414 851901
IAN - 0493 727582