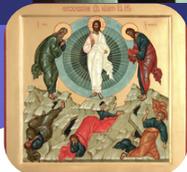




MARCH 2026 EDITION 3

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS NEWS

Ignite, Innovate & Include in the Spirit of Mercy



“RISE AND DO NOT BE AFRAID.”

MT 17:7

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MARCO IANNI PRINCIPAL

Community connections are now up and running for 2026 with our Grade Parents positions almost complete (we are just looking for one more Year 1 parent) and an amazing group of volunteers forming our Events Committee. I thank all those that have stepped up to volunteer this year in a variety of capacities.

It was wonderful welcoming new families into the school last week for our annual Open Day, we have now begun processing enrolments and enrolment meetings for 2027 to begin in the coming weeks. If you have a sibling at home who will be ready for school in 2027 please contact the school office to access your application for enrolment form.

The second half of the term will be busy with our Year 3 and Year 5 students sitting NAPLAN, Harmony Day celebrations, our parent Welcome Function and school preparation for Easter during Holy Week. We hope you are able to join us for our community events.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 11 March
NAPLAN commences

Sunday 15 March
Kindy Blessing Mass

Friday 20 March
Harmony Day Liturgy
9am

Monday 23 March
Student Retreat

Monday 30 March
Holy Week Liturgy
8.45am Parent Connect Corner
9am Liturgy OLD Parish Church

Thursday 2 April
Last Day for Term 1

Enrolling now for 2027



FROM THE REC

Project Compassion 2026

This Lent, our school community is proudly supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion, joining schools and parishes across the country to Unite Against Poverty. Project Compassion invites us to learn about global communities and take meaningful action through prayer, awareness and fundraising.

Project Compassion boxes have now gone home with students. Families are encouraged to place the box in a central spot at home and use it as a reminder of our shared mission of compassion and generosity throughout the Lenten season.

As part of our launch, Year 5 and Year 6 took part in an online Zoom lesson exploring the Caritas and Project Compassion Mission. Students heard Sisilia's Story from Tanzania and learned how Project Compassion funds support education, health and long-term community development.

Together, let's make a difference this Lent!



Beginning of School Liturgy & Mercy Values

Last week we gathered as a school community for our Beginning of School Liturgy. We congratulate our Year 6 leaders who received their leadership badges and wish them well as they begin their year of service. We know they will lead with integrity, kindness and the spirit of Mercy. We also warmly welcome our new Kindergarten students, along with all new families, students and staff who have joined us this year.

Our focus for the liturgy was the Gospel of the Good Samaritan, where Jesus answers the question: "Who is my neighbour?" In this story, a man is hurt on the road, and while some walk by, it is the Samaritan, someone least expected, who stops, cares for him and shows great mercy. Jesus teaches us that being a neighbour means seeing the need before us and responding with compassion.

Each class reflected on one of our Mercy Values, linking them to the actions of the Good Samaritan. This message is lived out beautifully in our school through our class Mercy Values:

- Kindergarten – Love: like the Good Samaritan, we show love by helping others.
- Year 1 – Forgiveness: we forgive others, even when it is hard, choosing peace over hurt.
- Year 2 – Respect: we treat everyone kindly, modelling our school prayer words: "with respect and kindness."
- Year 3 – Compassion: we notice when someone needs help and act because it is the right and loving thing to do.
- Year 4 – Excellence: we give our best effort not only in learning but in how we support and uplift others.
- Year 5 – Hospitality: we welcome others warmly and help them feel safe and included.
- Year 6 – Integrity and Inclusion: we do what is right, even when no one is watching, and we include everyone.

Jesus finishes the story with the words: "Go and do likewise." As we begin 2026, may we carry these Mercy Values into our learning, our relationships and the way we care for one another.



OPEN DAY



It was wonderful to welcome our prospective families for 2027 and beyond to experience all that we have to offer at OLD at our recent Open Day. Enrolments for 2027 are looking very strong and we are excited to begin the enrolment process with our new families. If you have a sibling at home that will be ready for school in 2027 applications are now being processed, please contact the school office - old@dbb.catholic.edu.au - or [click here to access enrolment application forms](#).

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our OLD School Advisory Council met for the first time this year to welcome our new members, and continue the important discussions carried over from last year regarding our school's current goals and future plans.

Our council prioritised the following key items as our focus for the year ahead:

We continue with collaborative teaching and learning practices with a special focus on the diverse learning needs across all the members of our school community. There has been significant learning around the new syllabuses in Creative Arts, HSIE, PDHPE and Science and Technology, in preparation for full implementation in 2027.

Our school has worked hard to promote our values in the community and through this, we have enjoyed strong enrolment numbers for 2026.

We have also been lucky to retain the experienced teaching and admin team, who provide a solid backbone for our school's continued success. Following several years of planning, we are so pleased to have successfully implemented a complete uniform change this year. We appreciate the ongoing support from teachers and parents; our students are now wearing the new uniform with pride, comfort, and confidence.

Our council also addressed parent-raised ideas, such as language classes. More information to be discussed at our Parent Engagement Group Meeting to determine if this can be a feasible addition to OLD's extra curricular offerings. We also discussed the various fundraising opportunities coming up this year and we welcome new suggestions from our OLD families that could benefit our school.

As a new member of the School Advisory Council, I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing how enthusiastic our OLD team is about providing our children with the best start to their school journey. Our connection with Our Lady of Dolours Parish is also of utmost importance to our family. Seeing our Parish represented on the Council and hearing the church's plans for supporting student's faith journeys has also been heart-warming and encouraging.

It has been a real privilege to gain this insight into how our school runs, and to see and appreciate the hard work of our school community. I sincerely hope that my contributions to the school will help all of our children grow and thrive.

CherylN (Emma K, Jonathan Yr 3)

SPORTS NEWS

Cross Country



Well done to all our students who participated in our recent cross country carnival and to Mr C for organising such a fabulous event. Best of luck to the students that will now move on to represent OLD at the upcoming cluster carnival. We would also like to thank our amazing community of parent volunteers who assisted us on the day, without your help these events would not be possible.





Our Lady of Dolours Preparing for school Information Evening



Getting ready for school doesn't need to be hard, but it can be daunting for both children and their parents.

Join us for an evening with our Principal, Leadership team and Kindergarten teachers to learn how you can make the transition from preschool to Primary school as seamless as possible for your child and your family.

When: Wednesday 18 March

Where: Our Lady of Dolours Primary School

Time: 6pm

Please note this evening is open to all parents of children commencing school in 2027



Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Primary School
94A Archer Street, Chatswood 2067
(02) 7256 2118
old@dbb.catholic.edu.au

[Register your attendance here](#)





KINDY Blessing Mass

9am
15

MARCH

Our Lady of Dolours
Church

94 Archer St Chatswood

Please bring a plate of food to share
and join us after Mass in the school playground
for morning tea.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Palm
Sunday

Maundy
Thursday

Good
Friday

Easter
Sunday

Holy Week Liturgy

Please join us as we come
together to celebrate Holy week.
Students will be leading our Holy
week liturgy on Monday March 30
at 9.30am in the Parish Church.

We look forward to our
community coming together at
this special time.

Parent Connect Corner

Monday 30th March
8.45am

Meet at the Growers Corner
for a cup of tea and a chat with
Rebecca, our Parent Engagement
Co-ordinator



Our Lady of Dolours
School Retreat Day

Monday 23rd March 2026

Purpose

To nurture the spiritual faith formation and sacramental
journey of our students and to build stronger connections
with the parish.

Theme

St Francis of Assisi Jubilee Year

Dress Code

Students are to wear School Uniform.

Workshops

The students throughout the day will be learning about St
Francis of Assisi with their teachers and assisted by parish
members.

Children's Mass

Students will be attending a special children's mass after
lunch, led by Father David. The mass will feature simplified
language, interactive elements and educational
explanations to help students appreciate the beauty of the
celebration.

PARENT WELCOME
NIGHT

FRIDAY 27 MARCH
FROM 7PM

**THE ORCHARD
HIDEAWAY ROOM
455 VICTORIA AVENUE CHATSWOOD**

\$20PP INCLUDES FINGER FOOD
TICKETS ON SALE NOW VIA QKR!



20 March 2026
**Celebrate Australia's cultural
diversity**



Please join us as we celebrate Harmony Day 2026 and the wonderful cultural diversity amongst our community at OLD.

When: Friday 20 March 9am - Liturgy in the HALL, song club will be singing followed by Morning Tea please bring a plate from your country to share (must be nut free). If you are able to assist with morning tea please let Rebecca know via the office - old@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Students are encouraged to come to school in traditional dress or wearing a touch of orange

Disney
FROZEN
IN CONCERT
FILM WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA
The Concourse
21 – 22 MARCH 2026

Tickets from \$52
BOOK NOW
willoughbysymphony.com.au

IB CULTURE
THE CONCOURSE
WILLOUGHBY SYMPHONY
MELBOURNE CITY SINGERS



OPEN DAY SAT 28 MAR 10-1PM TUE 25 AUG 9-11AM

Discover a Catholic education for girls in Years 7-12

- RANKED 6TH IN NSW** | Top Performing Affordable Schools* by The Daily Telegraph, Year 7 fees starting from just \$8,080**
- QUALITY EDUCATION** | Established for more than 135 years, we set the standard for quality education with outstanding academic results - **Ranked 101 in SMH HSC Ranking 2025**
- OVERALL WELLBEING** | Safe, supportive environment with structured Pastoral Care and Wellbeing programs
- SUBJECT CHOICE** | A broad selection of electives from Year 7 through to HSC supported by a dynamic, responsive, and diverse approach to learning
- CO-CURRICULAR** | Over 30 programs, including Creative Arts, Debating & Public Speaking, special interest clubs, Sport programs extended to weekend sport with specialised coaches and academies
- TRANSPORT** | Centrally located in Chatswood, minutes from Chatswood Interchange (Bus, Train & Metro)
- CATHOLIC COMMUNITY** | As part of Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) families benefit from sibling discounts

mercychatswood.nsw.edu.au



REGISTER NOW

101ST IN NSW, HSC 2025 Discover how Mercy Catholic College could shape your daughter's future

- 10TH** 10TH IN STATE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY MULTIMEDIA
- 13TH** 13TH IN STATE ENGLISH STANDARD
- 98.7** HIGHEST ATAR
- 1** 22 FIRST PLACES WITHIN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BROKEN BAY DIOCESE
- 80%** EARLY ENTRY INTO UNIVERSITY
- 87%** RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE BAND 5 OR 6 IN A SUBJECT
- 1** ALL ROUNDER
- 2** TOP ACHIEVERS
- 56** DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVERS
- 126** DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVERS LIST MENTIONS (BAND 6 IN SUBJECT/S)
- 1** SELECTED FROM 2 NOMINATED FOR ARTEXPRESS
- NOMINATED FOR ONSTAGE**
- NOMINATED FOR SHAPE**

DISCOVER EXCELLENCE



SIENA CATHOLIC COLLEGE OPEN DAYS



Senior Campus Pymble

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH

• 4:00PM-7:00PM

TUESDAY 24 MARCH

• 9:00AM-10:30AM

ENROLLING FOR
Year 7 2027 & Year 7 2028

CSBB primary school students benefit from a direct pathway and priority enrolment into Year 7 at Siena College.

Discover Siena

A new Kindergarten to Year 12 co-educational, multi-campus Catholic college in Sydney.

DON'T MISS OUT - REGISTER TODAY TO JOIN OUR MARCH OPEN DAYS

REGISTER TODAY TO ATTEND

NorthShoreOpenDays.com.au



St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga

Open Evening & Expo Wednesday, 25 March, 3.30-7pm

Register Now!

What's on:

- Guided tours of our extensive campus & facilities
- Hear from the Principal - hourly addresses (4, 5 & 6pm)
- Speak with our staff & students
- 20+ Information stands, displays & demonstrations
- Performances, activities & the Leo's Stamp Safari
- Gain a real feel for our community by seeing us in action

Find out for yourself everything St Leo's has to offer!

Our innovative co-ed learning environment, strong academic results, focus on student wellbeing, caring community & personalised approach make St Leo's an exceptional place to learn - that's in high demand!

Scan to register or find out more:



See full event details incl. map, schedule & parking information on our website



Did you know... **Priority Feeder School**
As a CSBB Priority Feeder School, OLOD students receive priority entry to St Leo's.*
*Some conditions apply.



stlens.nsw.edu.au