



SAINT JOHN
the Evangelist
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CATHOLIC PARISH DAPTO



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Priest: Fr Francis

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ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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St John's Journal

Term 4, 2025

A joint school and parish project –
working together to create a thriving Catholic Community.

Matthew 5:16

“...let your light shine...and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Let us pray...

“Heavenly Father, we pray that we may value the journey each of us takes, as we walk together in Christ. May each of our journeys provide nourishment, encouragement and inspiration that help us connect, so that we may strengthen our faith and build a living community, founded in your love for each of us.”

Amen



Harry M
(6 years old)

Interviewed by Grace Z (Year 5)

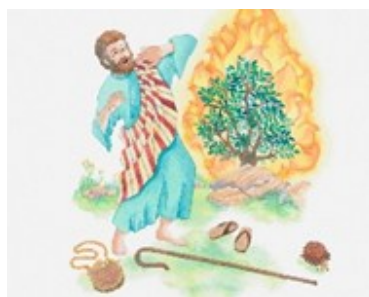


Tell us about your grandparents.	My grandparents sometimes babysit me and take me to the park in Berry. When I go they always give me lots of hugs and lollies. I love when they make roast chicken for me.
Tell us about your family pets, if you have any.	I don't have any pets, but if I did I would want a baby turtle because I like how they swim and they are really cute. I would have it in a tank in my bedroom.
What are your hobbies?	I love playing football, drawing and being in the garden. Sometimes I get to help my dad mow the lawn, which is fun because I love the garden and my dad.
What is your favourite cartoon character?	My favourite cartoon character is Harry Potter. I love how he is so brave and defeats evil. He also has the same name as me.
What is your favourite meal?	I love going to Maccas after I play sport. I normally get medium chips, double cheeseburger and 30 nuggets!
What is your happiest memory?	My happiest memory was when I went to Canberra with my parents and sister, and I saw army trucks and boats in the museum.
What do you want to be when you grow up?	I want to be a policeman or firefighter because I like how they are really brave and they have sirens and big trucks.
What is the best thing about school?	I love recess and lunch when I get to play with my friends. My favourite part about it is playing on the equipment.
Tell us about your best friend at school.	My best friend is Arlo because he plays with me when I am lonely. He is really nice and always makes me laugh and feel better when I am sad.
What is your favourite bible story or story about Jesus and why?	I have a lot, but if I had to choose one it would be David and the Giant because David was really brave. Even though everyone else was scared, David defeated the giant because he had faith that God would help him.



Ethan P
(7 years old)

Interviewed by Allegra B (Year 5)



Tell us about your grandparents.	My grandparents enjoy fishing, cooking and playing with me and my younger brother. They are kind and caring.
Tell us about your family pets, if you have any.	I currently have no pets, but if I did have one I would want a bunny. I want one because they are cute and fluffy and it will help keep me company.
What are your hobbies?	My hobbies consist of playing my drumset and riding around on my hoverboard. I have played on my drumset for 5 months and can already play 3 songs. As for my hoverboard, I like to have fun and get fresh air and I sometimes see my cousin on theirs.
What is your favourite cartoon character?	My favourite character and TV show is Cyborg and Teen Titans. I like Cyborg because he is half robot and can shoot lasers. I also like the series because it's funny and has action.
What is your favourite meal?	My favourite meal is pesto pasta because my older sister helps cook the pasta and it tastes really good. I also really like the flavours.
What is your happiest memory?	My favourite memory is when I went on my hoverboard for the first time. I got it last Christmas and I fell off 3 times when I got it.
What do you want to be when you grow up?	I haven't decided yet but I'm thinking of being a YouTuber because I will have lots of money!
What is the best thing about school?	The best thing about school is Maths because I'm really good at it, and I sometimes do it at home. I also like art a bit too.
Tell us about your best friend at school.	My best friend is Jamison and he likes to play handball with me. He is kind and also likes to play soccer with me.
What is your favourite bible story or story about Jesus and why?	My favourite story is Moses and the Burning Bush because it teaches us about how God will always love us no matter what we do.



Joey W

Interviewed by Marie H (Year 5)

(10 years old)

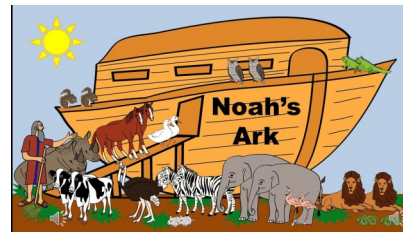


Tell us about your grandparents.	My grandparents live in Unanderra and are very funny. Sometimes my Grandpa lets me water his garden. I call them Avō and Avó. They come to my house for parties.
Tell us about your family pets, if you have any.	I don't have a family pet, but if I did I would definitely want a dog because I could walk it and race it and be active with it too. I would call it Buster.
What are your hobbies?	I like playing soccer with my dad the most because I love my dad and I love soccer too. I also play rep. soccer after school.
What is your favourite cartoon character?	I like Patrick from SpongeBob because he's really funny and sometimes is a bit weird, and he always makes me laugh when I'm watching him!
What is your favourite meal?	I love pizza because the bread tastes really, really nice and the BBQ Meat Lovers are my favorite! They're so good!
What is your happiest memory?	My happiest memory was when my siblings Elijah, Christian and Annabelle were born because that meant I had someone to play with.
What do you want to be when you grow up?	I want to be a professional soccer player because I really want to get famous doing what I love.
What is the best thing about school?	Definitely sports, music and library because it's nice to get a break from class and I get to see other teachers too.
Tell us about your best friend at school.	His name is Aiden. Aiden is ten like me and we like spending time together. He's funny, respectful and responsible and he loves soccer too!
What is your favourite bible story or story about Jesus and why?	My favourite Bible story is when Jesus turns the water to wine at the wedding in Cana because it was Jesus' first miracle and the King said, "Most people serve the best wine first, but this wedding has had the most beautiful wine I've ever had last."



Ruby K
(12 years old)

Interviewed by Filipe W (Year 5)



Tell us about your grandparents.	I have two grandparents from different backgrounds and they all live close by. I call them Baba, Dedo, Nana and Poppy.
Tell us about your family pets, if you have any.	I have one cavoodle and his name is Teddy. He is 6 years old and is brown and beige. I LOVE HAVING TEDDY AS MY PET!
What are your hobbies?	My hobbies are dancing and art and I love doing it because it makes me want to work hard and succeed. Also I love learning about these things.
What is your favourite cartoon character?	My favourite cartoon character is Moana because she's brave and unstoppable. I also enjoy watching the movie.
What is your favourite meal?	My favourite meal is cheese pizza because it's yummy and cheesy. I also like sushi because it's different and cultural.
What is your happiest memory?	My happiest memory is going on holidays with my cousins because it's fun and enjoyable, and I get to have a break from learning.
What is your favourite holiday destination and why?	My favourite destination is Greenwell Point because I love snorkelling and it has plenty of fun activities.
What do you want to be when you grow up?	A school teacher because I want to help others with their education and learn to become a good person.
What is the best thing about school?	That I get to meet lots of new people and have plenty of opportunities to learn new things.
Tell us about your best friend at school.	My best friend is Marni L because she's kind and compassionate to me.
Who is someone you personally know, and you really admire? Why do you admire them?	My Mum, because she's a hardworking person and takes care of others, no matter who they are.
What is your favourite bible story or story about Jesus and why?	Noah's Ark because it reminds me of my Mum and teaches me to listen and be kind to everyone.



St John's Primary School: Staff Member

Sister Narelle

Interviewed by Brody P (Year 5)



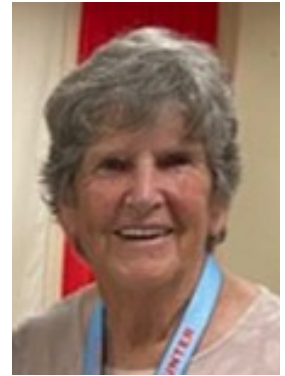
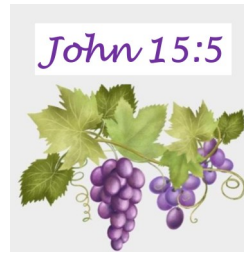
Where did you grow up or go to school?	I was born and raised in Bulli. My primary school was St Joseph's Bulli and my high school was Holy Cross, which is now called Holy Spirit College in Bellambi.
What was the best thing about school?	My favourite thing about school was making friends and learning. I liked learning because without learning I wouldn't be able to do my job.
Family members?	I am in a family of four, I am the second eldest, I had two younger brothers and an older sister.
Tell us about your family pets, if you have any.	I don't have a pet, but my sister has a small white Maltese Shi-zu that I get to see.
What is your happiest memory?	Spending time with my sisters on our Golden Jubilee and biking when I was younger.
What are your hobbies or interests?	I love reading, craft, knitting, crocheting and walking.
Did you always want to be in the job you have now? Was there another job you wanted to do?	I love working with children. In fact, I used to be a school principal before becoming a nun.
Do you volunteer anywhere? Please give some details including the importance of service in your life?	My work as a Josephite and at St John's is actually classified as volunteer work already. My idea of service is to always be available to people.
How important is faith and religious beliefs in your life? Add any appropriate information you are willing to share?	My faith is really important because if I didn't believe in God, it would be bad and my belief keeps me grounded. I believe in God because of my parents.
Who or what inspires you and why?	My parents because they took me to church when I was younger; my brothers who have passed, because they fought all the way; Mary MacKillop and another Josephite.
What is your favourite bible passage, verse or story about Jesus and why?	I have lots of favourites: Psalms, The Book of Isaiah, The Transfiguration and Matthew 28:20 where Jesus promises, "I am with you always, to the very end of age."

St John's Catholic Church: Parishioner



Mrs Elizabeth Gill

faith



I am the eldest of 4. I grew up in Campsie, a suburb of Sydney. I went to school at St Mels, Campsie, but in years 4 & 5 went to boarding school in Campbelltown and year 6 in Liverpool, as my parents were sick. I loved Campbelltown, but hated Liverpool - that was a traumatic year. I left school after doing the intermediate certificate in what was called 3rd year (year 10). I was 14½. I had a holiday job reading telegrams over the phone, then I started work at the MLC insurance company until I was 17. That is when I started my nursing training at the Mater Hospital.

Both my parents and both brothers are now with God. I have an unusual family with 8 children. I gave birth to 5 and 3 of my children were chosen, one being from Sri Lanka. I also have 28 grandchildren, and one of these is with God too. I have 4 great grandsons and a great granddaughter on the way. I also have a stepfamily which gives me great great grandchildren. I am so lucky God has been very good to me. We also hosted overseas students and some have become part of our family. So, that is another 4 U.S kids and 9 grandkids, others are from Ecuador, Panama, Sweden & a Maori from NZ.

Some of my happiest memories are of my first Communion, my wedding and the 55 years we spent together. I also treasure my family times, new babies, and a trip round Australia that I had with my husband and kids. In my spare time, I like to knit and crochet, read travel, go camping and volunteer. I enjoy travelling and my favourite destination would be anywhere in Australia, although I have been to many places overseas. The more I travel, the more it makes me realise what a wonderful country we have on our doorstep.

I worked as a nurse for 40+ years. With children and the aged mostly. I have been involved in many church related activities: Catechist, choir member, reader, altar server and Extraordinary Minister for Holy Communion, both at church, hospitals and home. I was a volunteer at the Sydney Olympics, Melbourne Commonwealth Games, World Triathlon, numerous NSW swimming events and the Lifeline Book Fair. For 30 years I was the airport co-ordinator for the Exchange Student Organisation and was involved in greeting, transferring and farewelling many students.

Service has been a part of my life since childhood, which is when I cared for my cousins, I enjoy helping people and I believe that I need to give back, to serve others in gratitude for all God has given me. It is important to me to serve the church in whatever way I can.

My best friend is Br. Greg McCann MSC, who inspires me because he is like Christ in the way he acts. He doesn't preach...he just loves. He spent 15 years in China as well as times in PNG and India. My Cursillo friends have also helped my faith to grow through the sharing of their faith. My brother-in-law, who is 96, is caring for his 70 year old son with cancer. I am impressed that he can still get down to weed the garden...because I can't!

I have finally learnt to trust that God knows what he is doing. My greatest challenge was watching my husband growing weaker, but determined to keep living until his last day, Then coming to terms with life without him as we had always done things together. I was angry with God for not taking me with him. I was jealous, he was in a good place and I was left behind, and "What for?" I asked - and still do. "Why am I here? What does He want from me?" I accept that God's plans aren't the same as mine, 'cause he keeps changing mine. So in the morning I say, "I know my plans for today. What are yours?"

My faith is my core. The Eucharist is a necessity. From age 7 the Mass has been my nourishment. The Nun teaching me for my First Communion instilled this love in me. As soon as I was able, I attended daily Mass, interrupted by work and family, but now it is the most important time of my day. I need the nourishment of the Eucharist to face the day. My faith has got me through some of the darkest days of my life when only God could help.

Editor's Note:

We are now in the season of Advent, which means Christmas is just around the corner. I pray that during the preparations for Christmas, that you and your family are drawn closer to the love that God has for us.

Thank you to the six people who were interviewed in this edition. Your contributions are enjoyable to read, but also allow us to reflect on our own lives. By reading your responses, each of us can deepen our sense of connection with our parish community and with God. Our student reporters and school co-ordinators who generously give their time, also make this possible. Many thanks to you all.

This is our last edition for the year.
Keep an eye out for our next edition during Term 1, 2026.

Warmest regards to all.

Liz Negro



Student Reporters:

Year 5: **Grace Z, Allegra B, Marie H, Filipe W and Brody P**

St John's School Co-ordinator:

Mrs Catherine Crowley

Food for thought...and sharing!

Family is one of God's greatest gifts to us...no matter what age you are! In this edition we read about grandparents and we give thanks for our own, both past and present. Take time to remember and celebrate these loved ones and share their stories with your own family.

This journal is digitally available via the school and parish websites. Limited paper copies are available at the school and parish offices, and in the church foyer.