



SAINT JOHN  
*the Evangelist*  
—  
CATHOLIC PARISH DAPTO



### ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Parish Priest:** Fr Francis

Phone: 4261 1315

Parish Office Hours: Tues–Fri 9am – 4pm

### ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

**School Principal:** Mrs Michelle Rodwell

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# St John's Journal

## Term 3, 2026

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...

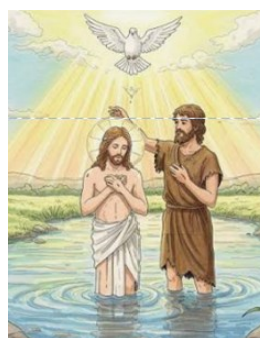
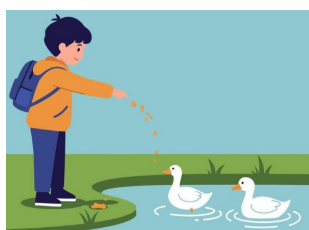
“Heavenly Father, we pray that we may value the journey each of us takes, as we walk together in Christ. May each of our journeys provide nourishment, encouragement and inspiration that help us connect, so that we may strengthen our faith and build a living community, founded in your love for each of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

**Amen**



**Daniel**  
(6 years old)

Interviewed by Aaliyah (Year 5)



|                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tell us about your grandparents.                                 | I really like spending time with my grandparents. One of my favourite things to do with them is feed the ducks at the lake near their house. I like feeding the ducks oats because they come over when they see us. It is fun spending time with my grandparents and watching the ducks. |
| Tell us about your family pets, if you have any.                 | I don't have any family pets at the moment, but I really want to have a cat. If I got a cat, I would name it Socks. I think Socks would be a good name because cats have little paws that look like they are wearing socks. I would love to play with my cat and look after it.          |
| What are your hobbies?                                           | One of my favourite hobbies is playing the piano because I am very good at it. I enjoy learning and playing different songs. I like practising and getting better at playing the piano. It makes me feel proud when I can play a song well.                                              |
| What is your favourite cartoon character?                        | My favourite cartoon character is Captain Haddock from Tintin. I like Captain Haddock because he is funny and has a big personality. He is also one of the characters that makes the Tintin stories interesting and entertaining.                                                        |
| What is your favourite meal?                                     | My favourite meal is sausages with tomato sauce. I really like the taste of sausages, especially when they have lots of tomato sauce on them. It is a simple meal, but it is one of my favourites.                                                                                       |
| What is your happiest memory?                                    | One of my happiest memories is going to Kids Play with my dad. I had lots of fun playing there and spending time with him. I really enjoyed being able to play and have fun together. It is a memory that makes me happy when I think about it.                                          |
| What do you want to be when you grow up?                         | I would like to be a fireman because they help people when there are fires. I think it would be a really important job because firefighters help keep people safe and protect homes and buildings. I would like to be able to help people when they need it.                             |
| What is the best thing about school?                             | The best thing about school is writing sentences. I enjoy putting words together to make sentences and sharing my ideas through my writing. I like being able to create different sentences and see how my writing improves.                                                             |
| Tell us about your best friend at school.                        | My best friend at school is Levi because we have lots of fun together. We like playing tip and running around together at school. I enjoy spending time with Levi because we laugh, play games and always have a good time together.                                                     |
| What is your favourite Bible story or story about Jesus and why? | My favourite Bible story is the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, because Jesus was baptised in the river by John the Baptist. I think it is an important story because it shows an important moment in Jesus' life and his connection with God.                                     |



**Celine**  
(7 years old)

Interviewed by Liana (Year 5)



|                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| Tell us about your grandparents.          | They are from the Philippines, and I really enjoy spending time with them. I like cooking with them and doing arts and crafts together. They are coming to Australia, which I am really excited about, because I will get to spend more time with them. I have only been to the Philippines once to visit them and it was very special to be able to see where they are from and spend time with them.           |
| Tell us about your family pets.           | I have five fish called Panda, Goldie, Caviar, Muchy and Chubby Cheek. They all live together in a big fish tank. I really enjoy watching them swim around, and I make sure I feed them every day. They are fun to look after, and I like having them as my pets.                                                                                                                                                |
| What are your hobbies?                    | One of my favourite hobbies is arts and crafts because I love being creative. I enjoy cutting, gluing and drawing and making different things. I especially like using pink and gold colours and textures in my artwork. I like being able to use my imagination and create something that is my own.                                                                                                            |
| Favourite cartoon character?              | The Minions because they are really cute and funny. I love watching all of the Minions' movies because they always make me laugh. I also love Cinderella because she never gave up on her dream of going to the royal ball. I also like Belle because she is pretty and I love her beautiful dress.                                                                                                              |
| What is your favourite meal?              | Steak with gravy and potatoes because I really like all of the flavours together. I also like pork with soy sauce, especially the crunchy skin. Another favourite of mine is Dubu, which is a Filipino dish made with chicken and pork and a delicious sauce. I enjoy eating foods that my family makes.                                                                                                         |
| What is your happiest memory?             | When I held my baby sister, Isla, for the very first time. It was a really special moment because she was so little and cute. I was very happy and excited to meet her and hold her. I love having a baby sister and being able to watch her grow.                                                                                                                                                               |
| What do you want to be when you grow up?  | An orthodontist because I would get to design and fix people's teeth and help people who have problems with their teeth. I think it would be interesting to help people have healthier and straighter smiles. I would also earn a good amount of money, which would help me pay my bills and look after my family. I would like to be able to give some of my money to my parents and siblings to help them too. |
| What is the best thing about school?      | There are lots of things I love about school. I really enjoy art because it reminds me of my cousins, and I like doing art with my cousin. I also love Maths because I think it is fun and I enjoy solving problems. I like religion because I get to learn about the Bible and different stories about Jesus.                                                                                                   |
| Tell us about your best friend at school. | My best friends are Helena and Louisa, who are both in my class. They are very nice and kind, and I like that they never give up when something is difficult. We have lots of fun together, especially when we use the skipping ropes. I enjoy spending time with them because we can play together, talk and have lots of fun at school.                                                                        |
| Favourite Bible story and why?            | Jesus healing the ten men with leprosy, because one of the men came back to Jesus to say thank you after he was healed. The story teaches us that we should be kind and remember to say thank you when someone helps us. I think it is an important lesson because we should always be grateful for the people who help and care for us.                                                                         |

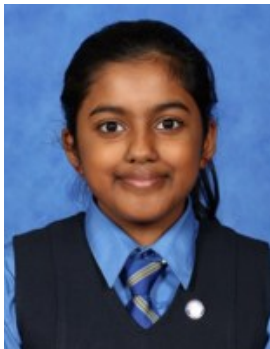


**Lincoln**  
(9 years old)

Interviewed by Ely (Year 5)



|                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| Tell us about your grand-parents.        | My grandparents live in Sydney, and I really enjoy spending time with them and going to different places together. My mum's dad also likes travelling and goes to different countries, so he gets to see lots of interesting places. One of my favourite memories with my grandparents is when they used to pick me up from school. I always enjoyed seeing them at the end of the school day because it was nice to spend time with them. |
| Tell us about your family pets.          | I have two pets, a dog and a cat, and their names are Jazz and Liv. My brother and I like taking them to the park where we can run around and play with them. We enjoy playing ball with them and watching them chase after it. It is fun having pets because we get to spend lots of time playing with them and looking after them.                                                                                                       |
| What are your hobbies?                   | Some of my favourite hobbies are playing footy, riding my bike and playing on my iPad. I especially like riding my bike with my friend who lives really close to me. We ride around the block together and have fun exploring the neighbourhood. I also enjoy playing footy because I like being active and playing games with other people.                                                                                               |
| Favourite cartoon character?             | My favourite cartoon character is Spider-Man because I think he is really cool with lots of cool abilities. I especially like all of his different suits because they look awesome and each one is different.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Favourite meal?                          | My favourite food is tomatoes because I think they taste really good. I like pretty much every type of tomato because they are really juicy and fresh. I enjoy eating them on their own or having them with other foods. They are definitely one of my favourite things to eat.                                                                                                                                                            |
| Happiest memory?                         | One of my happiest memories is when my brother and I used to ride our scooters together all the time. We would have lots of fun riding around together. At the time, I didn't have a bike, but I got one for Christmas, which was really exciting. I was really happy because I could finally ride a bike and go riding with my brother and friends.                                                                                       |
| What do you want to be when you grow up? | When I grow up, I would like to be an electrician like my dad. I think it would be a really good job because you get to climb up and fix things and work on different jobs. I also like the idea of being an electrician because you get to work with other people and can make good friends along the way. It would be cool to have a job that is similar to my dad's.                                                                    |
| Best thing about school?                 | Getting to do sport and having fun with my friends at recess and lunch. I like playing lots of different games with my friends and being active outside. I enjoy having time to run around, play different sports and spend time with my friends.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| School best friend?                      | Francesco because he is really nice and we have lots of fun together. After school we sometimes ride our bikes around the block together. Sometimes he also comes to my house and we hang out or go to the movies. I enjoy spending time with him because we get along really well and always have something fun to do together.                                                                                                           |
| Favourite Bible story and why?           | Noah's Ark because the people were behaving badly, so God told Noah that there was going to be a huge flood. God told Noah to build an ark and take a male and female of every animal onto the ark so they would be safe. I like how Noah listened to God and worked hard to build the ark. I also like the ending because the people and animals were safe after the flood, and Noah was able to start a new life.                        |



# Hannah

(10 years old)

## I ♥ NY

Interviewed by Valentina (Year 5)



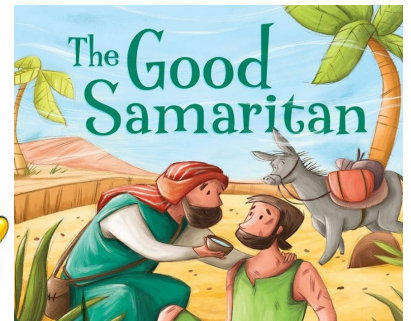
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| Tell us about your grandparents.            | They live in India, and I really enjoy going to visit them. They cook delicious food for me. I also enjoy just hanging out with them, talking, laughing and spending time together. I always look forward to visiting them because I don't get to see them all the time, so it makes our time together really special.                            |
| Tell us about your family pets.             | I don't have a family pet at the moment, but I would really love to get a dog or a cat one day. I think it would be really fun to have a little companion at home. I would love to play with it, look after it and spend time with it. I think having a pet would be nice because I would always have someone to keep me company.                 |
| What are your hobbies?                      | Two of my favourite hobbies are drawing and crocheting. I enjoy drawing because I can be creative and use my imagination to come up with different ideas and pictures. I also really enjoy crocheting because I like making things with my own hands. It can take time and patience, but I feel proud when I finish something I have made myself. |
| Favourite cartoon character?                | My favourite cartoon character is Puco from Swapped. I like Puco because I think the character is funny and entertaining. I enjoy watching the show and seeing what happens to the characters.                                                                                                                                                    |
| What is your favourite meal?                | Egg puffs, especially when my parents or grandparents cook them for me. I love eating them because they are really delicious and they remind me of spending time with my family. I especially enjoy them when my grandparents make them because it makes me think of visiting them and sharing food together.                                     |
| What is your happiest memory?               | When I got to see my grandparents for the first time. I was really excited because I had been looking forward to seeing them. It was special being able to finally spend time with them, talk to them and give them a hug. Seeing them made me feel really happy because my grandparents are very important to me.                                |
| Favourite holiday destination and why?      | New York because there are so many cool and interesting places that I would like to visit. I would love to see the famous buildings and explore the city. I think it would be exciting to experience such a big city and see places that I have only seen in movies and pictures.                                                                 |
| What do you want to be when you grow up?    | A teacher or an author. A teacher would be fun because I would get to help children learn new things and support them at school. I would also like to be an author because I enjoy creating ideas and stories. I think it would be exciting to write my own books and share them with other people.                                               |
| What is the best thing about school?        | Getting to see my friends every day and spending time with them. I enjoy playing different games with my friends at recess and lunch and having fun together. I also like being able to talk and laugh with them throughout the day. Having my friends at school makes school a happy and enjoyable place for me.                                 |
| School best friend?                         | Lianna because we get along really well and I enjoy hanging out and talking with her. We can talk about lots of different things and have fun together. She is someone I can be myself around.                                                                                                                                                    |
| Who do you admire and why?                  | My mum because she is loving and always cares about me and my sister. She makes sure that we are happy and safe. I admire her because she is always there when we need her and she does lots of things to help our family. She is a very important person in my life, and I am grateful for everything she does for me and my sister.             |
| What is your favourite Bible story and why? | My favourite Bible story is Jesus in the Temple because it is interesting and it teaches an important lesson. It reminds me that we should always let our parents or the adults who look after us know where we are going. I think it is important to communicate with our parents and make sure they know that we are safe.                      |



## St John's Primary School: Staff Member

### Mrs Sefton

Interviewed by Logan (Year 5)



|                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| Family members                                                                             | My husband, my daughter and my son.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Tell us about your family pets, if you have any.                                           | I have 3 dogs; 2 Chihuahuas and a Jack Russell that is very old, his name is Buzz Lightyear.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| What is your happiest memory?                                                              | I have a few, but I think it would have to be when my family were travelling through Vietnam and we climbed a mountain together, it was raining and a real challenge, but we made it!                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| What are your hobbies or interests?                                                        | I like to paint and create things. I have a very messy and full craft cupboard at home to prove it.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Did you always want to be in the job you have now? Was there another job you wanted to do? | I would often set my toys up as a class at "school" when I was playing at home and "teach" them, so maybe in the back of my mind I always wanted to be a teacher.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Do you volunteer anywhere?                                                                 | I paint faces and make balloon animals once a year in the children's ward at Wollongong Hospital with the Starlight Foundation. My kids and I volunteer for a lot of Kidswish events each year too.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| How important is faith and religious beliefs in your life?                                 | It is an important part of my life, I go to church weekly and I really enjoy being a part of the community.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Who or what inspires you and why?                                                          | Dolly Parton has been an inspirational person to me for many years, I'm not a big fan of her music to be honest, but I really admire her philanthropy (she has a foundation that give out education scholarships and free books to children and I think that's wonderful). She is an advocate for many people, and I admire how humble she is with her successes. I even have a "What Would Dolly Do?" t-shirt! |
| What is your favourite Bible passage, verse or story about Jesus and why?                  | The Good Samaritan is a favourite story of mine. I believe it sends us an important message about being kind to others, regardless of who they are. We need to support other people and show compassion, we never know what people are facing, so we need to be kind.                                                                                                                                           |

# St John's Catholic Church: Parishioner

## Mr Kevin Brennan



|                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Younger years                                                                                         | Born at Bulli Hospital in 1957 and grew up in Balgownie. I went to St John Vianny's in Fairy Meadow for primary school, and I went to Edmund Rice in Wollongong for high school.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Family details                                                                                        | I am the second oldest sibling, with two other brothers, and three sisters. Important to mention here though, that we lost our sister, through a terrible car accident, some years back.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Happiest memory                                                                                       | Marrying my beautiful wife, and the birth of our two sons.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Hobbies and interests                                                                                 | Motorbikes, kayaking, singing both at church and in male choirs. Other interests: gardening and playing snooker.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Favourite holiday destination and why?                                                                | Family holidays on the North Coast when I was young and also my honeymoon at Fiji. They were lots of fun and with people I love.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Work                                                                                                  | I have worked in disability support, aged care, with homeless men (SVDP) and nursing. In my younger years I was in butchery and the sales of vacuum cleaners, as well as store duties.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Do you volunteer anywhere? Please give some details including the importance of service in your life? | Both my mum and dad were volunteers in the community and great examples for me, which lead to me being a volunteer throughout my life. In my younger year I was in Rotaract Youth Club. Later, I volunteered in many special events, such as Olympics, World Youth, Commonwealth Games, FIFA World Cup, as well as others. I also spent 20 years as a Cub Scout Leader in Dapto as well as being an assisted camp warden at Mt Keira Scout Camp. I am currently a Catechist, teaching scripture in state schools and have done so for over 25 years. I am also a member of St Vincent de Paul. |
| How important is faith and religious beliefs in your life?                                            | I think, for me, when I was roughly 21 to 24 years of age, I did live the life of "The Prodigal Son", rebelling about everything, that my parents had taught me. Had it not been for God visiting me every night, in my dreams, and my parents welcoming me back, I wouldn't be here today. With God as my guiding light, I know I'm a better man.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Who or what inspires you and why?                                                                     | I have always been inspired by my wonderful parents, who instilled in me strong Christian ethics. It was they, who also inspired me, by their lifelong commitment to the church (with mum being involved in the Legion Of Mary and also a Catechist, and Dad being a Vinnies man.) I like to think, my love of song, came from mum, who in her younger years, was an accomplished soprano, and my dad, who was a wonderful baritone, both well known, in our local community.                                                                                                                  |
| Favourite Bible passage, verse or story about Jesus and why?                                          | Clearly...the parable of the Prodigal Son, because I very much relate to it in my own life.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## Editor's Note:

What a great term this is...both moving into Spring and celebrating Father's Day!

With beautiful weather, we tend to venture outdoors and enjoy a variety of activities. May we always see the beauty in nature that God has given us.



Hopefully on Father's Day, all families got to spend some very special time together, and all Fathers felt the love of their family on their special day. We should make sure we cherish our Fathers, each and every day, and give thanks for having them in our lives.

Thank you to our reporters and interviewees for contributing to this edition.

Warmest regards to all.

Liz Negro



## Student Reporters:

Year 5: **Aaliyah, Liana, Ely, Valentina and Logan**

## St John's School Co-ordinators:

Mrs Catherine Crowley and Mrs Alana Stroligo

## Food for thought...and sharing!

Jesus viewed service not as an optional task, but as a core part of a faithful life, setting the example by washing his disciples' feet and stating he came "not to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45). Reading through any of our journal editions it is evident that volunteering plays an important part in many people's lives. Many would say that it enhances their life. If you are a volunteer, know that you also set a good example for your family and are following in Jesus' footsteps.

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.