



SAINT JOHN  
*the Evangelist*  
—  
CATHOLIC PARISH DAPTO



## ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Parish Priest:** Fr Francis

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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 4, 2024

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.”



**Kohen B (6 years old)**

Interviewed by Giorgia L (Year 6)



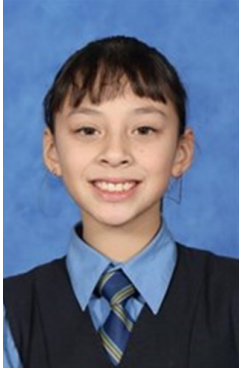
Tell us about your grandparents.	I love my grandparents. I see them on weekends, and I love it when they cook vegetables for me.
Tell us about your family pet, if you have any.	Dad is a teacher, and he loves swimming in the pool with me. I love it when Dad takes me to birthday parties. Mum likes to stay at home and make me chicken noodles. I have an older sister in year two. I don't have any pets yet, but I really want a dog.
What are your hobbies?	I love to jump into my pool every morning and play the Nintendo switch with my Dad. I also love playing soccer at school.
What is your favourite cartoon character?	My favourite cartoon character is the Grinch because he's so cool! I like to watch the Grinch all the time.
What is your favourite meal?	I love chicken noodles because they're so yummy!
What is your happiest memory?	My best memory is when I scored my first ever goal for my soccer team and everyone cheered for me.
What do you want to be when you grow up?	I would love to be a F1 driver when I grow up, so I can own the fastest car in the entire world like my grandpa. I love watching the races with Grandpa because he gets to see how fast the cars are.
What is the best thing about school?	The best thing about school is playing because I get to be with my friends and play my favourite sport, soccer.
Tell us about your best friend at school.	I love to play with my best friend George because he makes up fun games and plays soccer with me.
What is your favourite bible story or story about Jesus and why?	My favourite story from the bible is when Jesus is born, and the three wise men follow the brightest star in the sky to find him and give him gifts. My favourite part of the story is when the animals surround baby Jesus.



**Pippa M (8 years old)** Interviewed by Chloe F & Hannah S (Year 6)

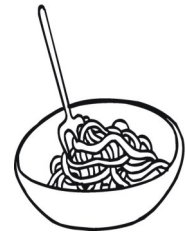


<p>Tell us about your grandparents.</p>	<p>I have four grandparents. I see my grandparents sometimes on the weekends or Wednesdays or Mondays. Two of them live on a farm in Australia, and two live in Dapto. They take me to dancing. They are both in their sixties.</p>
<p>Tell us about your family pet, if you have any.</p>	<p>I have an English staffie whose name is Daisy. She's small but not a puppy. We got Daisy at 5 months old and now she is 4, so we've had her for 3 to 4 years. She sleeps in our backyard and chews her bed, so now there's a hole in it. She likes running around and chasing the rabbits and sometimes she eats them.</p>
<p>What are your hobbies?</p>	<p>I like to dance, and my favourite style of dance is contemporary. I do many types of dancing. They are Jazz, Broadway, Ballet and Contemporary. I go to Vanessa Lee's Dance Academy and have been dancing from the young age of one. I also do swimming on Wednesday and my teacher is Kate. I watch TV as well. I'm watching a movie called 'We Can Be Heroes'. My favourite character is Guppy because she's funny and she builds stuff out of water and liquids.</p>
<p>What is your favourite cartoon character?</p>	<p>I like Bugs Bunny and Stitch because they are funny. I also like SpongeBob because he's also funny, and I like Patrick and Gary. I like Tweety Bird because she's small and she's funny. I like Lilo because she has no teeth and is also funny.</p>
<p>What is your favourite meal?</p>	<p>Pasta. I like spaghetti and ravioli because whenever I eat it, I get it all over my face and it's messy. You twirl it around your fork then it all falls off and it tastes really good!</p>
<p>What is your happiest memory?</p>	<p>Going to Melbourne to see the Penguin Parade. The parade is Fairy Penguins walking around. I saw this parade when I was on holiday with my family. It was my most favourite part of the holiday.</p>
<p>What do you want to be when you grow up?</p>	<p>I want to be a professional dancer! I want to do ballet at the Sydney Opera House. I want to do Broadway around the world. I want to do Wicked. My nanna sometimes takes me to musicals and musicals are better than Broadway. I've seen Cinderella twice and Annie and Mr Grudge.</p>
<p>What is the best thing about school?</p>	<p>My favourite part of school is seeing my friends Lois, Harlow, Sophie, Annabelle and Bailey, because I get to play with them, except Bailey is in Year 1. I don't like anything else about school.</p>
<p>Tell us about your best friend at school.</p>	<p>Sophie is my best friend at school. She was my first friend from preschool, and we are still best friends. We like to play together and do dancing. Sometimes we visit each other after school. Sophie is funny, pretty, smart, and kind.</p>
<p>What is your favourite bible story or story about Jesus and why?</p>	<p>'Jesus Heals the Lepers' because I like how the one leper comes back to say thank you. I also like the story about Moses parting the Red Sea because when he parts the sea everyone gets across. Then when he closes the sea, everyone else gets splashed. The Pharaoh finally let go of the slaves.</p>

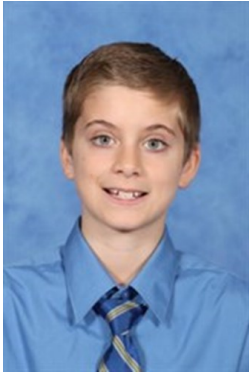


**Elisha K (9 years old)**

Interviewed by  
Riya A and Emily Z (Year 6)



Tell us about your grandparents.	My dad's mum, Lavane, lives with us and is retired. I like it when she teaches me to cook. Lavane spends the day with her mum, my Great Grandma, and she takes care of her. Mum's mum is Eva, and she lives in the Philippines. Eva came to Australia for a couple of months, and she has now gone back to the Philippines. Eva loves playing bingo.
Tell us about your family.	I have three siblings. Tom is 3, Haden is 31 and Adam is 21. I like playing with my little brother on the weekend and I would like to play with my older brothers, but they are always busy working. Haden lives in Ulladulla and Adam lives in a van because he works overnight.
Tell us about your family pet if you have any.	I have a big dog named buddy who is a dark chocolate colour and is three and a half.
What are your hobbies?	My hobbies are gymnastics, dance, tumbling, swimming, and crocheting. I already crocheted some granny squares and now I am making a circle that changes colour with orange, teal, white and purple. Purple is my favourite colour. I take 10 dance classes a week at Vanessa Lee. I am in troupe and learn Jazz, Ballet, Hip Hop and Contemporary.
What is your favourite cartoon character?	My favourite cartoon character is Bluey. I like her because she's really funny. My favourite episode is Grannies.
What is your favourite meal?	My favourite food is spaghetti. I especially like it when my nan makes spaghetti because it tastes so good!
What is your happiest memory?	My happiest memory is meeting my two best friends Ivy and Anna. I met them on my first day of kindergarten. Anna asked me to play with her and asked to be friends. Later on, Anna introduced me to Ivy.
What do you want to be when you grow up?	I want to be a famous dancer when I grow up. I've wanted to be a dancer since I was three. I'm passionate about dancing.
What is the best thing about school?	My favourite thing about school is recess and lunch. My favourite subject is art because it's creative and I like drawing.
Tell us about your best friend at school.	My best friends are Ivy and Anna. They're both older than me and both of their birthdays are in the same month. Both Ivy and Anna are taller than me too. Ivy's favourite colour is purple and Anna's favourite colour is teal.
What is your favourite bible story or story about Jesus and why?	My favourite bible story is David and Goliath because it's one of the first bible stories my Mum read to me, and I like the way it's told.



**Marco B (12 years old)**

Interviewed by

Gabriella B and Jasmine P (Year 6)



<p>Tell us about your grandparents.</p>	<p>My grandma used to live with us, but she died five years ago from cancer. Grandpa is 83 years old, Italian, and is currently in a nursing home. He lived through WW2, and he told stories about war at the dead of night. If they heard a plane go by, they would rush into the fields and have to wake up multiple times in the night. His wife, also Italian, died in 2019 from dementia. My other grandpa, Mum's dad, died when Mum was seven years old in 1990.</p>
<p>Tell us about your family pet.</p>	<p>I have a cat named Lee Lee. She is a scaredy cat. She's scared of people and spends most of the day hiding in a blanket tent.</p>
<p>What are your hobbies?</p>	<p>I like to play soccer. I play piano every Tuesday. Garry has taught me for about 3-4 years.</p>
<p>What is your favourite cartoon character?</p>	<p>My favourite cartoon character is Homer Simpson because he's funny. I like the show because it's based on scenarios, and it teaches you some lessons about life.</p>
<p>What is your favourite meal?</p>	<p>My favourite foods are pizza and pasta. I like the taste and that it is an Italian dish and has different flavours. I also like savoury and salty food.</p>
<p>What is your happiest memory?</p>	<p>My happiest memory is my birthday because I got to see all of my friends and I loved my presents. I played some sports at my house, jumped on the trampoline, and just had fun in general. Another happy memory was when I won 1st place in a talent show. The song I played was called "Thank you for the Music" by ABBA. My grandpa cried in the audience because he was so proud of me and because he thought my performance was magnificent.</p>
<p>What is your favourite holiday destination and why?</p>	<p>My favourite destination was when I went to Fitzroy Island. It is an island off Cairns in Queensland. I was there for a few nights, and I went scuba diving, swimming and tried a lot of different foods. I went on a glass bottom boat, and it went over the sea and I got to see a lot of marine wildlife. First, I took a limousine to Sydney and then spent the night in Sydney. I had to wake up at 4am in the morning. I then went on a flight to Fitzroy Island which took about 3 hours.</p>
<p>What do you want to be when you grow up?</p>	<p>I want to be a project manager or an architect to follow in my dads' footsteps.</p>
<p>What's best about school?</p>	<p>Meeting new friends, getting to do a lot of fun activities, and learning new things.</p>
<p>Tell us about your best friend at school.</p>	<p>My best friends are Jay, Daniel, Blaine and Joel. I like them because they're trustworthy and I enjoy riding my bike with them and having sleepovers.</p>
<p>Who do you admire and why?</p>	<p>My parents because they teach me new things and because they are such great role models. They're very smart and intelligent.</p>
<p>What is your favourite bible story and why?</p>	<p>The story where the woman puts 5 cents into the bucket and a rich dude puts ten dollars in, but Jesus thanks the woman even though the rich guy put in a lot more. The woman put in basically everything she had, and that's why Jesus thanked her. I like this story because I think it's an important message and something I'll always remember.</p>



**Mr Jeff De Battista**

Interviewed by

Isabelle N, Serene T and Evie S (Year 6)



*Living Jesus' Way Of Life*



Where did you grow up or go to school?	I was born in Malta, and I was seven when I came to Australia. I grew up in Gwynneville and went to St Brigid's Catholic Primary School. I went to Edmund Rice College for high school.
What was the best thing about school?	The best thing about school was friends, and teachers who truly valued and invested in their students, both with their learning and wellbeing.
Family members?	My mum and dad had four children of which I am the youngest. I am married to Sue, and we have three daughters, Georgia, Olivia and Sienna.
Tell us about your family pet.	Our family recently got a miniature groodle named Benny.
What is your happiest memory?	The birth of my three daughters.
What are your hobbies or interests?	I enjoy most sports, and I like playing touch. I support the St George-Illawarra Dragons. I also enjoy entertaining and going to restaurants with my wife, family and friends and having a nice glass of wine.
Did you always want to be in the job you have now? Was there another job you wanted to do?	When I was in Year 10, I decided to do my work experience at my primary school, and I really enjoyed it. I then completed voluntary work experience there at the end of Years 10, 11 and 12, and knew that teaching is what I wanted to do.
Do you volunteer anywhere? Please give some details including the importance of service in your life?	I volunteer with the St Vincent de Paul Society at St Therese Parish, West Wollongong. I am also involved in many parish initiatives at St Therese. I believe that we have all been given a variety of gifts and these are meant to be used in service of others for the betterment of the world.
How important is faith and religious beliefs in your life? Add any appropriate information you are willing to share?	I value my faith and believe it to be an integral part of who I am. My faith gives purpose and meaning to my life, the life of others and all things in existence.
Who or what inspires you and why?	What motivates me is helping to make a difference to the lives of others and helping to 'lighten burdens' where I can.
What is your favourite bible passage, story about Jesus or verse, and why?	"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10 I like this passage because it reminds me that Jesus came into the world for all, but for me personally also that by living Jesus' way of life, it will ultimately bring fulfilment and lasting joy to my life and that of others.

St John's Parish: Parishioner



## Mrs Lesley Foy



I was born in Wollongong and had 4 brothers. I attended St. Francis Xavier and St. Mary's College. I have happy memories of school, and I still enjoy attending re-unions at St. Mary's and catching up with school mates from that time.

I married Peter Foy, and we had five boys and one girl. For seven years our family lived in Papua New Guinea. During that time, I was very active in the Catholic Women's League (CWL). The CWL did a lot to promote unity between the local women and involved them in our activities. I taught swimming, started my 29 years of P & F Associations and I was a catechist.

There was no suitable high school for our children there, so we moved back to Australia and Alice Springs became our new home. Life was busy, with the children involved in many sports and activities. Meanwhile, both Peter and I volunteered with St. Vincent De Paul and we also were part of Marriage Encounter, where we supported married couples in their commitment to each other and to God. I continued to be involved in CWL and was the WUCWO state representative for several years. I belonged to a prayer group, participated in bible studies, attended retreats, and sang in several different choirs. Pope John Paul II visited at that time, and we fortunately attended Mass said by him, as well as other ceremonies. We also fostered children, which was very fulfilling, and I am still in touch with three of those we cared for.

My husband's health declined, and I went back into the workforce with an organisation for people with disabilities, where I worked for 18 years. My husband, Peter, passed away in 2001 and I returned to Wollongong to live with and care for my mother. Mum lived to 103 and after she died, I moved to Horsley, which is where I live now.

The Dapto Parish has been my local parish for over 10 years. I continue to be active in parish life and I am involved in many groups including Cursillo, as well as being a Eucharistic Minister and reader at Mass. For me, my faith, the local parish, and participating in various related groups, is and always will be, an important part of who I am.

As Christ spoke so often about charity to others, and care of those suffering loneliness, illness, and hardship; I have taken that as my guide and try to do His will in my life.

## Editor's Note:

My appreciation to everyone who has made this edition possible. A special mention to Jenny Gibson, our Parish Secretary, who generously offered technical support for this issue. Also, thank you to the six individuals who have shared their stories and to the student reporters.

In this edition, Mr Jeff Debatista shared about 'living Jesus' way of life'. This Advent, we should all take time to reflect on, and consider how to apply that in our own lives.

May the last part of 2024 be special and may 2025 bring you a a sense of renewal for your faith journey.

Warmest regards to all.

Liz Negro



## Student Reporters:

Year 6: **Chloe F, Hannah S, Giorgia L, Gabriella B, Jasmine P, Isabelle N, Serene T, Evie S, Riya A, Emily Z**

**St John's School Co-ordinator:** Ms Angela Boyd-Skinner (Middle School Leader)

## Food for thought...and sharing!

**Who** or **what** inspires you, and **why**?

Ask someone who you love this question and then share your answer with them.

This journal is digitally available via the school and parish websites.

Limited paper copies are available at the school and parish offices.