



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

Phone: 4261 4611

E: [info@sjddow.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@sjddow.catholic.edu.au)

# St John's Journal

## Term 3, 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.”

Amen



Name	Kyan Williams
Age	6
Interviewed and written by	Gabby Balangon & Millicent Wagstaff

<i>Tell us about your best friend at school.</i>	<i>I play with Owen, Vinny and Hudson.</i>
<i>Tell us about your family pet.</i>	<i>I don't have pets.</i>
<i>Tell us about your grandparents.</i>	<i>I don't really know about them.</i>
<i>What are your hobbies?</i>	<i>Soccer, reading, playing video games on the tablet.</i>
<i>What is your favourite bible story and why?</i>	<i>The story of Creation, because if I didn't know that story, I wouldn't know how the world was made.</i>
<i>What do you want to be when you grow up?</i>	<i>A soccer player because I love playing soccer.</i>
<i>What is the best thing about school?</i>	<i>I get to read.</i>
<i>What is your favourite cartoon character?</i>	<i>Knuckles from Sonic, because he's cool and very strong.</i>
<i>What is your happiest memory?</i>	<i>When I started swimming lessons because I was happy, and I didn't know much about swimming.</i>
<i>What is your favourite meal?</i>	<i>Lasagna, because it's yummy.</i>

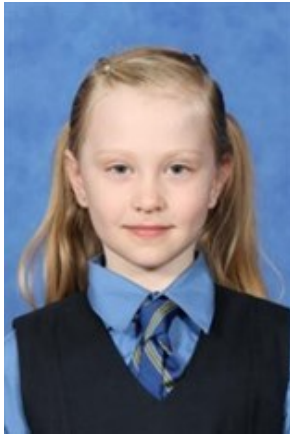




Name	Allara Roddam
Age	7
Interviewed and written by	Evie Silva & Chloe Fletcher

Tell us about your best friend at school.	Quinn is my best friend. She is pretty and always fun to play with.
Tell us about your family pet.	I have 6 fish. 2 of them are black , 1 is brown, 1 is gold, 1 is silver, and 1 is light blue .
Tell us about your grandparents.	I don't really know anything about my grandparents I've only seen 1 and that was my grandma. She was kind and had black hair and is my dad's mum.
What are your hobbies?	I like doing art, but I'm not exactly good at it.
What is your favourite bible story and why?	Noah's Ark is my favourite. I love the story of Noah's Ark because it talks about how clever Noah was building the ark and saving all the animals from the flood.
What do you want to be when you grow up?	I want to be a teacher so I can write on the whiteboard and teach kids. Because I like my teacher Mrs. S.
What is the best thing about school?	My favourite thing about school is art because I like painting.
What is your favourite cartoon character?	Bingo and Chilli from Bluey.
What is your happiest memory?	When I was a baby swimming at the beach.
What is your favourite meal?	McDonald's chips and a cheeseburger.





Name	Bronte McCrimmon
Age	8
Interviewed and written by	Riya Angadi & Emily Zhao

Tell us about your best friend at school.	Zoe and Inara. We hang out a lot. We play handball together. They're nice.
Tell us about your family pet.	Brown Cocker Spaniel
Tell us about your grandparents.	I like going for a sleepover at Nan and Pop's house and going out to dinner with them. I like walking their dog. I also like going to Grandma's house and one of my favourite times is when we celebrate Christmas at her house. I love visiting my Grandad in Sydney and having hot chocolates with him.
What are your hobbies?	Swimming, handball, art
What is your favourite bible story and why?	I love the Wedding at Cana because this was Jesus' first miracle when he turned water into wine. I like listening to this story and learning about how special Jesus was.
What do you want to be when you grow up?	Singer or vet (foster animals)
What is the best thing about school?	Art lessons
What is your favourite cartoon character?	Ladybug (Miraculous)
What is your happiest memory?	Camping with family and friends (Fosters, Murray's)
What is your favourite meal?	Creamy Cheese Pasta





Name	Molly Clifton
Age	10, turning 11
Interviewed and written by	Isabelle Nyers, Serene Rose Thiruthanathi & Hannah Shinto

<i>Tell us about your best friend at school.</i>	<i>My best friend is Imogen Cheeseman. She is very nice, tall and friendly.</i>
<i>Tell us about your family pet.</i>	<i>I have a dog called Husky, and a bird called Cheeky.</i>
<i>Tell us about your grandparents.</i>	<i>My grandparents live in the Blue Mountains and in Newcastle. They are kind, always bring me snacks and are always there for me.</i>
<i>What are your hobbies?</i>	<i>Netball, playing with Imogen and walking my dog.</i>
<i>What is your favourite bible story and why?</i>	<i>Noah's Ark is my favourite bible story because it involves a lot of animals. Noah's Ark is an inspirational bible story because it shows how faith and determination can lead to survival and renewal even in the darkest times.</i>
<i>What do you want to be when you grow up?</i>	<i>Teacher or vet. I would love to do something involving animals.</i>
<i>What is the best thing about school?</i>	<i>I like seeing my friends every day and learning new things.</i>
<i>What is your favourite cartoon character?</i>	<i>Olaf</i>
<i>What is your happiest memory?</i>	<i>Going to the snow for the first time at Mount Kosciuszko.</i>
<i>What is your favourite meal?</i>	<i>Sushi and Nutella, but definitely not together.</i>
<i>What is your favourite holiday destination and why?</i>	<i>Huskisson, because I go fishing and get to see seals. I love going to the restaurant there and especially the pasta. I named my dog 'Husky' after this destination.</i>
<i>What is your favourite story about Jesus and why?</i>	<i>My favourite story about Jesus is the Christmas Story because it is my favourite holiday. I get to see my family who live far away.</i>
<i>Who is someone you personally know, and you really admire? Why do you admire them?</i>	<i>My Mum because she's the best. She is kind, funny, caring and always there for me.</i>



## St John's Primary School: Staff Member

Name	Ms Stephens
Interviewed and written by	Giorgio Lico & Jasmine Pham

Kylie Stephens was born on the 21st of September 1973 and is a religious educator at St John's Primary School. She was born in Sydney and later moved to Wollongong when she was in primary school.

Faith is an important aspect in Ms Stephens' life, and she believes talking to God is one of the most important parts of someone's life.

Some things Ms Stephens enjoys are rock climbing and abseiling, as well as swimming at the beach.

The two people who inspire her the most are her two sons, Declan and Jarlath. They are also her best friends. Ms Stephens says that everything about them motivates her to be the best person she can be.

Ms Stephens enjoys organising the Minnie Vinnies program, school liturgies and masses, for the school to engage in.

Two of Ms Stephens' most precious memories were when she went to visit the Cook Islands with her family, and when she went abseiling down a waterfall! Her dream holiday is going to Borneo with her family, to see the orangutans.

Some challenges in her life are making time for herself whilst getting everything done. Ms Stephens has a busy schedule, yet she is committed to making the community a better place.

# Faith



## St John's Parishioner

Name	Mr Tony Villa
Text provided by	Patti Pickering (nee Villa)



### **Anthony Michael Villa – Tony (1931 – 2024)**

Tony was born in Mudgee on November 14, 1931. He lived in Mudgee his whole childhood, attending St Matthews convent School for the entirety of his education.

He was employed as a Telegram Boy at the Sydney GPO, which was the start of a career spanning 50 years with Australia Post.

In the mid 1950's Tony also did a stint in the Royal Australian Navy Reserve.

He married Beverley Burge in 1958 and they had 4 children: Michael, Timmy, Therese and Patti. They were married 27 years until Beverley passed in 1985.

A few years later, Tony met Pam, and they were married in 1990. Tony became stepfather to Michael and Jay-Ann.

Tony was Pop and Poppy to his many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

During his time in Dapto, Tony dedicated most of his energies to St Vincent de Paul, the Illawarra Rugby League, St John's Church and Parish.

Tony was one of the founding members of Dapto St Vincent de Paul. He later went on to become the President of the local St Vincent de Paul Society and worked tirelessly to support others. In 2013, Pope Francis bestowed an Apostolic Blessing on him for his then **50 year** involvement with the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Tony was also a fundamental part of the Illawarra Rugby League as both a referee and an administrator and was a member of the Steering Committee that put forward the case to have an Illawarra team included in the Sydney Competition. It was a highlight for Tony, when the Illawarra Steelers were admitted to the Sydney League in 1980. After 11 years on the Steelers Board of Directors, Tony was given the honour of being elected as The Steelers inaugural Life Member in 1991.

After Tony retired he was not one to sit still and he was always out, involved somewhere in the community. He was a volunteer driver during the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

All his years of community service were recognised in 2016, with an Order of Australia medal.

Tony has left a legacy of kindness and commitment. He loved and inspired many and will be sadly missed.

## **Editor's Note:**

Thank you to everyone who has made this edition possible, especially the six individuals who have shared their stories. This is a 'snapshot' of who we are in our St John's Parish.

Thank you to our St John's Primary School Principal, Mrs Michelle Rodwell, and our Parish Priest, Fr Francis, for their support and approval of this journal.

The idea for this journal came from Mr Steve Leonard (a former teacher at St John's Primary School) and current St John's Parish Council Member. Steve was inspired by people within the parish, in particular Tony Villa, who is featured in this edition. Sadly, Tony passed away before this edition was printed. May he rest in peace.

Warmest regards to all,  
Liz Negro

**Student Reporters:** Gabby Balangon, Millicent Wagstaff, Evie Silva, Chloe Fletcher, Riya Angadi, Emily Zhao, Isabelle Nyers, Serene Rose Thiruthanathi, Hannah Shinto, Giorgia Lico and Jasmine Pham

**St John's School Co-ordinator:**

Ms Angela Boyd-Skinner (Middle School Leader)

## **Food for thought...and sharing!**

What is YOUR favourite bible verse or story and why?  
Share your answer with someone you love.

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.