



## Upcoming Events

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### Last day of school for the year.

Date: Wednesday 11  
December

Venue: St Raphael's School  
- Parkside

### Pupil Free Day

Date: Thursday 12  
December

Venue: Venue is N/A -

### Pupil Free Day

Date: Friday 13 December

Venue: Venue is N/A -

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## From the Principal - A Year of Inspired Growth, A Future with a Bright Promise: St Raphael's 2024 Wrap-Up

As the school year draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on the wonderful experiences we've shared and look ahead to the exciting opportunities the new year will bring. This time of year also offers us the chance to celebrate the contributions of staff who are moving on and warmly welcome new members into our community.

## First, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to the staff who will be leaving us:

**Tom Baxter:** Tom has been a dedicated and inspiring member of our team. He will be stepping into a permanent team leader role at St Francis De Sales.

**Chris Uzzell:** Chris will be continuing his excellent work in education in a permanent position at McAuley Community School.

**Jodie Hamilton:** Jodie will be taking a break from the classroom and embracing a new client-focused role.

**Tristan Sharrock:** Tristan, who was filling in for **Hannah Reid** whilst she was on maternity leave has also successfully won a permanent PE role at St Mary Memorial at Glenelg.

**Anna Terminello:** Anna will be retiring after a remarkable career as an EALD Teacher. Her care, wisdom, and kindness have left an indelible mark on our community. **Jo Piantadosi** will also be moving into the role of EALD at St Raphael's.

**Clare Deverson:** After 23 years of service to Catholic Education in South Australia, 20 of those which were here at St Raphael's, Clare, too, is retiring from education. Her passion for nurturing young minds has been a true gift to St Raphael's.

**Kelly Davies:** Kelly who also spent 22 Years teaching here at St Raphael's and who had taken 12 months leave to explore new opportunities will be taking up a permanent role at St Joseph's Tranmere.

We wish each of these remarkable individuals every success in their next chapters.

We also want to acknowledge **Tia Della Pace**, who will be venturing to England for an exciting journey. Tia, we look forward to welcoming you back to St Raphael's in the near future but wish you safe travels as you spread your wings. We can't wait for all you bring back with you to our community.

## Looking ahead, we are delighted to introduce several new members to our school community in 2025:

- **Cassandra Pulizzi**, who will join our Year 5/6 team.
- **Hannah Walton**, who will teach Year 4/5.
- **Alicia Woods**, who will be with our Year 3 students.
- **Minami Sekiya**, who will guide our Reception children.
- **Gia Terranova**, will be starting as an ESO

We also warmly welcome back Mrs **Hannah Reid**, who is returning from maternity leave.

## 2025

As we prepare for the new year, a reminder that school will resume on Tuesday, 28th January 2025. If your child requires an additional transition visit, their class teacher will be in touch to arrange a time during the week before school begins.

May the holiday season bring your family joy, rest, and the peace of Christ. Thank you for being part of this vibrant community and for the trust you place in us every day. We look forward to the adventures and blessings of 2025.

Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas break,

With thanks,

Emma Fowler

Principal

# A Bright and Inspired Start: Celebrating Our Academic Success

## Academic success a triumph at St Raphael's School



We are so proud!

At St Raphael's, we pride ourselves on delivering a "bright and inspired start" for every child. This promise reflects our commitment to nurturing strong foundations for lifelong learning. In 2024, two key assessments highlighted just how well our students are thriving academically: the Phonics Screening Check and the newly introduced Number Check by Catholic Education South Australia (CESA).

The Phonics Screening Check, conducted across the state each year, is a vital tool that evaluates how well children are grasping foundational literacy skills. Strong results in phonics often correlate with future academic success, as these skills underpin reading and writing development. **We are thrilled to share that 100% of St Raphael's students exceeded the desired benchmark.** We also outperformed the state, CESA and Eastern Region with our school average being significantly higher. This extraordinary achievement is a testament to the dedication of our teachers, the strength of our literacy programs, and the active support of our parent community.

In 2024, CESA expanded its focus on early learning with the rollout of a Number Check. Designed to assess foundational numeracy skills, this initiative ensures children build confidence and competence in mathematics from the very beginning of their educational journey. **Once again, St Raphael's students shone brightly, achieving results well above** the state, CESA, and Eastern Region averages.

These outstanding outcomes reflect the quality of education at St Raphael's and underscore our unwavering commitment to academic rigour. Every child is encouraged and supported to achieve their best, with a curriculum tailored to foster curiosity, resilience, and excellence.

We celebrate these results with immense gratitude for the partnership between our skilled educators and our engaged families. Together, we are shaping confident learners who are ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the future. Thank you for being part of the St Raphael's community, where every child truly begins their journey with a bright and inspired start.

With thanks,

Emma Fowler

Principal



# End of Year Mass

Thank you to all the wonderful students speakers and family members who attended. Our Father told us an important story we'd like to paraphrase and share with you here:

*"When I was about to transition from Year 2 to Year 3," he began, "I was eagerly anticipating joining an all-boys school. However, my parents decided I wasn't quite ready and held me back. I found myself in a class with just one other boy and seventy girls."*

He continued, *"At the end of that year, our school organised a grand fete. The excitement was palpable among all the students, including myself. However, my anticipation quickly turned to disappointment when my parents handed me just \$1 to spend at the fete."*

*"As I arrived at the school grounds, the air filled with the scent of popcorn and the sound of cheerful chatter, I noticed one of my classmates, a girl, bouncing with excitement. Curious, I approached her and asked, 'How much money did your parents give you for the fete?'"*

*"Ten cents!" she replied, her eyes sparkling with joy."*

The Father's voice softened as he recalled his reaction. *"I remember feeling a mix of pity and superiority. 'How sad,' I thought, 'such a small amount.' Then, a fleeting idea crossed my mind – perhaps I should share half of my money with her. But my selfish side quickly squashed that thought. 'If I give her half, she'll end up with more than me. That's not fair!'"*

*"So, I kept all my money," he admitted. "But you know what? I had a terrible time at the fete. I was so focused on my grumpiness and what I couldn't afford that I couldn't enjoy anything."*

*"Later, I spotted the same girl, laughing and chatting with her friends. She seemed to be having the time of her life. Puzzled, I approached her again."*

*"What did you buy with your ten cents?" I asked, genuinely curious."*

*"She smiled brightly and replied, 'I bought two lollies. Would you like one?'"*

*"How do you think I felt?"*



## Congratulations to the class of 2024!

Our Year 6 students have been an amazing cohort this year, and it is with pride, hope, and a little sadness that we send them on to the



next phase of their schooling lives. We hope they prosper, find their feet early on, and flourish as we know they all are capable of.

Our graduation event was amazing, and we want to thank all the Year 6 staff and helpers who made it possible.

Special congratulations must also go to our award-winning Year 6 graduates and valedictorian, who were recognised at the graduation and again at our end-of-year mass for their honours:

- Valedictorian: Amy
- Catherine McAuley Award: Isla & Caroline
- Learning Improvement Award: Ebony
- Academic Excellence Award: Lucas

*To quote Amy from her speech:*

"I have had a great year with lots of ups and downs. I took some big steps in life preparing to go to high school." and "As Helen Keller said 'walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light.'"

"In conclusion I would like to thank everyone who helped me on my schooling journey from reception to year six, my teachers, my family, my friends and everyone I knew."





## Congratulations to our 2025 School Ambassadors Leo and Miller.

A huge congratulations to all our Year 6 students for taking on their leadership roles that allow them to lead in a particular area of interest throughout their senior year at primary school.

We also want to acknowledge the graduation of our 2024 Year 6 students and the traditional passing of the flame of leadership from them to the current Year 5 students, who will soon become the senior students at St Raphael's School. This important ritual was held as part of our final end of year mass this week. It is always a special moment honoring the transition to senior status for our primary school students.



## Year One Highlights: A Year to Remember!

Our Year One students have been busy reflecting on their favorite moments from 2024, and what a year it's been! From cozy pajama days to exciting excursions, our little learners have experienced a wealth of memorable events.

## Top Highlights:



- PJ Day
- Self-portraits, paintings for the monastery, and community fair artwork.
- Zoo Excursion
- Celebrating 100 days of learning with 100 Days Brighter.
- Moving into a fresh, inspiring new classroom space
- Mercy Day special visit to the monastery
- Sports Day and swimming week

Through it all, our Year Ones have embraced every opportunity to learn and grow. Well done Year 1 and thank you teacher Meeyng Lee.





## Year 2 enjoyed 2024



## Our trip to the Zoo

With the Reception and Year 1 students was a roaring success! Our young explorers had an amazing time:

- They saw a wide variety of animals and learned about their habitats.
- The pandas were a huge hit with everyone!
- Paul Kwon's mum joined us, making the day even more special.
- Ethan found the snake exhibit particularly thrilling.

## Sports

Our students showed great enthusiasm for physical activities this year participating in the Sports Clinics with Mr Tucker and Mr Sharrock.

## Swimming Week

Was a highlight for many, with students conquering new challenges:

- Students ventured into the deep pool wearing life jackets.
- We learned the "chicken-star-soldier" technique.
- Wearing life jackets and jumping into the deep pool boosted everyone's confidence.

We're incredibly proud of all the growth and achievements our Year 2 students have made this year. Here's to another year of learning and adventure in 2025!

Best wishes,

## Physical Education and Sports Wrap: A Year of Active Achievement!

As we close out another exciting year at St Raphael's School Parkside, we're thrilled to highlight the vibrant Physical Education and Sports program that has kept our students moving, competing, and growing throughout 2024. Weekly Specialist PE Program

Our commitment to physical well-being remained strong with regular weekly specialist Physical Education classes for all year levels, ensuring every student had the opportunity to develop fundamental movement skills and enjoy the benefits of regular exercise.

### Annual Highlights

The school calendar was punctuated by several standout events:

- Our action-packed whole school Sports Day
- The ever-popular P.E. Week, filled with diverse activities
- Participation in the prestigious SACPASSA Athletics Carnival

### Extracurricular Sports Bonanza

Beyond the curriculum, our students enthusiastically engaged in a wide array of sporting activities:

- Out-of-school hours seasonal sport competitions
- Skill-enhancing clinics across various disciplines

### Inter-school sporting carnivals, where St Raphael's proudly competed in:

- Athletics
- Swimming
- Cross-country
- Lacrosse
- Touch football

The dedication of our students, combined with the unwavering support of staff and parents, has made 2024 a banner year for sports at St Raphael's. Our strong emphasis on physical education and sports continues to be an integral part of our school's identity, fostering not just physical prowess but also teamwork, resilience, and a lifelong love for active living. As we look forward to 2025, we're excited to build on this year's successes and create even more opportunities for our students to shine in the sporting arena. Go St Raphael's!

On the winning podium we applaud Mr Tucker and Mr Sharrock for a keeping us active this year!







## Performing Arts 2024

The 2024 academic year at St Raphael's School has been filled with vibrant and diverse performing arts activities, showcasing the talents and creativity of our students across various year levels.

### Music Education

Our music program began with an exciting focus on Indigenous Australian instruments and First Nations artists for the Year 3/4 students. This culturally rich unit allowed students to explore and appreciate the musical heritage of Australia's Indigenous peoples. Later in the year, the same cohort delved into a broader study of music genres. Students engaged in a creative project designing music genre posters, demonstrating their understanding of different musical styles and their characteristics. The Ukulele Club was a highlight, with enthusiastic participation from students like Emily in Year 3/4. This provided students with the opportunity to learn a fun and accessible instrument.

### Choir and Performances

The Catholic Schools Music Festival (CSMF) Choir was a significant part of our musical offerings this year. Students dedicated time to rehearsals, preparing for their performances with commitment and enthusiasm. One of the standout events was the 'Puttin' on the Ritz' performance, where our choir showcased their vocal talents and stage presence. This event allowed students to experience the excitement of live performance and develop their confidence in front of an audience. A particularly proud moment for St Raphael's was Mila's representation of our school at the CSM Performance night, where she sang 'Advance Australia Fair'. This performance not only highlighted individual talent but also brought honor to our school community.

### Drama and Theatre

The Drama Club has been a hub of creativity and expression throughout the year. Students participated in engaging acting games like 'Alien Space Ship', which helped develop their improvisational skills and imagination. The club's hard work culminated in a performance during Week 6 of the final term, showcasing the students' theatrical abilities and the progress they've made throughout the year. The final Drama Club session for 2024 was a bittersweet moment, marking the end of a successful and enjoyable year in theatre arts. Earlier in the year, our Year 1/2 students explored the art of mime and tableaux, developing their non-verbal communication skills and physical expression in storytelling.

### Special Performances

The school year also included special performances that brought our community together. The Nativity Easter Performance was a touching display of our students' talents, combining drama and music to tell an important story. Not to forget of course our Aisle be Home for Christmas Concert or our Celebrating the Arts evening, both this term.



# Extracurricular Activities

Beyond formal classes and performances, our students found joy in music and movement during their free time. The photo of Anna, Reggie, and Maria from Year 5/6 enjoying playground fun at recess exemplifies how the arts have become an integral part of our students' daily lives.

In conclusion, 2024 has been a year of growth, creativity, and achievement in the performing arts at St Raphael's School. From exploring Indigenous music to staging polished performances, our students have embraced the arts with enthusiasm and dedication, setting the stage for even greater accomplishments in the years to come.

Encore to our Performign arts Teacher Mandy Flynn.





# Reflecting on an Incredible Year at OSHC

As 2024 comes to a close, we're excited to reflect on the many achievements and memorable moments from this year at OSHC.

## Vaction Care

This year marked the successful introduction of Vacation Care, providing children with engaging and fun activities during the school holidays. Highlights included exciting excursions like Adelaide Oval and mini putt-putt, as well as popular incursions such as Games 2 U. The joy and laughter shared during these programs have made Vacation Care an instant success.

## Pupil Free Days

Our Pupil Free Days (PFDs) have also been a great hit, offering children opportunities to engage in carefully planned activities that are both creative and entertaining.

## Hands-on Sensory-Rich Experiences.

We placed a strong focus on hands-on and sensory-rich experiences throughout the year. Activities such as Boomwhackers, messy art, hand painting, and nature play fostered creativity and exploration while supporting children's sensory and motor development. Special themed days like Mini Masterchef and Detective/Spy Day added even more excitement, with highlights including pizza-making, blindfolded taste tests, and obstacle courses.

## Vacation Care Ahead

While the year has been filled with accomplishments, the fun isn't over yet! We are gearing up for our next Vacation Care program, featuring another incredible lineup of activities, excursions, and creative projects. Book now via FullyBooked and get ready for an unforgettable summer!

## Thank You

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the families, children, and educators who have made this year so special. Your support and participation have helped us create a vibrant and inclusive community at OSHC. We can't wait to see what 2025 has in store!

The team at your OSHC - be a young explorer.



# Book Club Playgroup

Dear Book Club Playgroup Families,

As we wrap up this wonderful year, we wanted to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your participation in our weekly Book Club Playgroup sessions. It has been an absolute joy to see our library come alive every Wednesday morning with the laughter, curiosity, and creativity of our youngest learners from babies to pre-schoolers.

Our inaugural year of the Book Club Playgroup has been a resounding success. Together, we've embarked on countless adventures through the pages of picture books, engaged in craft activities, and watched as our little ones developed their love for learning through play. From acting out stories like "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" to exploring sensory activities with oats and creating colorful Lego rainbows, each session has been a unique and enriching experience.

Your commitment to fostering early childhood development has been truly inspiring. As we know, up to 85% of a baby's brain development occurs in the first three years, and your dedication to engaging your children in these formative activities is commendable.

Our Book Club Playgroup will continue in the new year, kicking off on Wednesday, January 29, at 9:15 am. We look forward to welcoming back our regular attendees and greeting new faces as we embark on another year of learning, growth, and fun.

Thank you for being part of our community. Your presence has made our playgroup a vibrant space for socialisation, friendship-building, and early education. We can't wait to see what new stories and adventures await us in the coming year.

Wishing you and your families a joyous holiday season and a happy new year. See you in 2025!

Warm regards,

Jacinta Nye and Amy Pellegrini

Book Club Playgroup Coordinators





**BRIGHT &  
INSPIRED**



**Take some time to rest and  
relax before school starts  
again -  
you deserve it!**





# Coding


It's after-school fun at your school!



Get creative using design, code and logic to build your own games!

 Thursday 6 Feb - 27 Mar  
3:25PM - 4:40PM

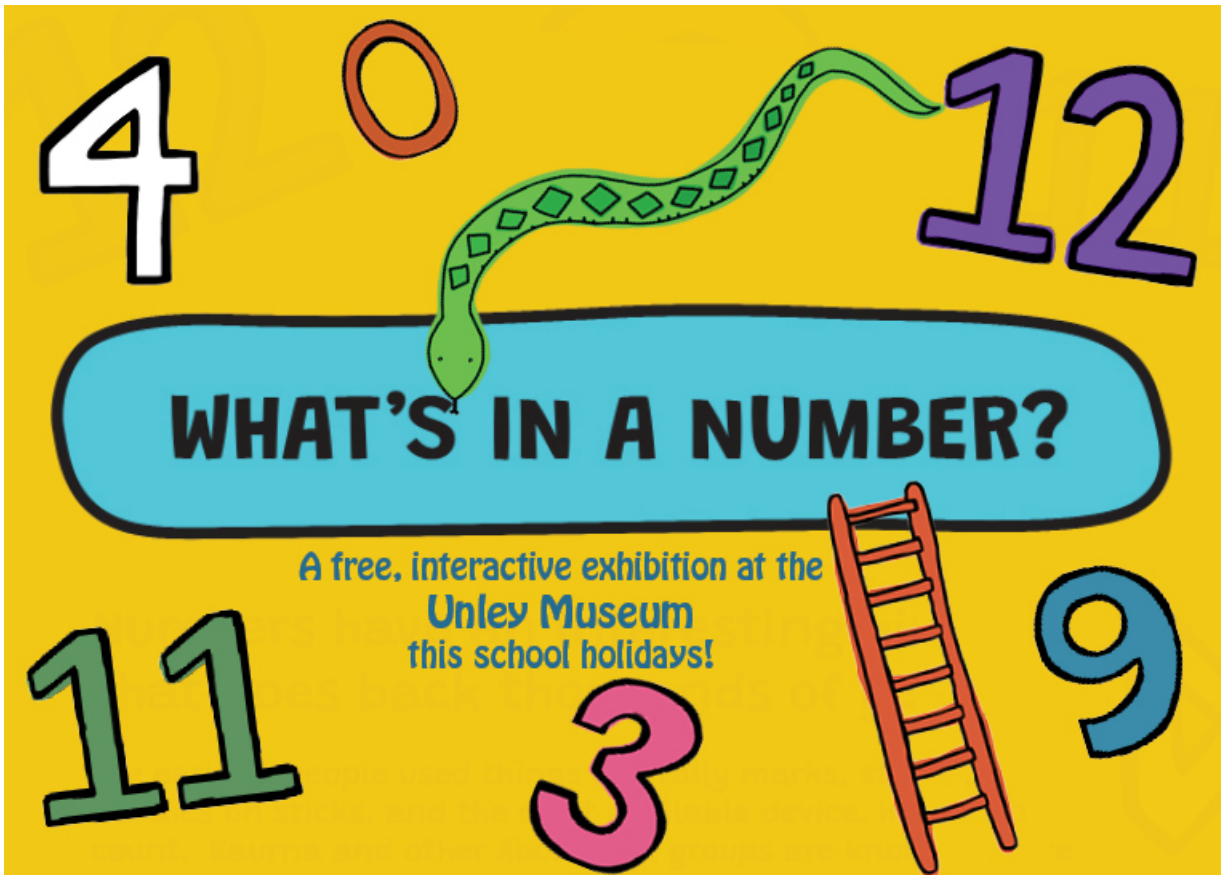
 St Raphael's School

 Grades 2 - 6

[www.codecamp.com.au/straph](http://www.codecamp.com.au/straph)

Get in touch at [hello@codecamp.com.au](mailto:hello@codecamp.com.au)

Rated **4.9** on  **PRODUCT REVIEW** with over +1110  reviews



What's In A Number? | City of Unley



## 🌟 Exciting School Holiday Programs for January 2025 at Eastwood Community Centre! 🌟

Looking for fun and engaging activities to keep the kids entertained these school holidays? The Eastwood Community Centre has a fantastic lineup of workshops and adventures for all interests! 🎉

📅 Here's what's on:

🍕 14th January – Pizza Making

🥪 15th January – Cheddar, Chives, and Olives Bagel Sandwiches

🏴‍☠️ 16th January – Pirate Treasure Hunt

🥯 21st January – Easy Almond Croissants

🎪 21st January – Circus Stars

🌮 22nd January – Smashed Falafel Tacos

🏺 23rd January – Ancient Egypt Adventure

Each session is designed to inspire creativity, learning, and heaps of fun! Whether your child is a budding chef, an aspiring performer, or an adventurer, we've got something for them.

📱 Book your tickets now at: [www.eastwood.events](http://www.eastwood.events)

Spaces are limited, so don't wait—secure your spot today!

Let's make January 2025 an unforgettable holiday season! 🌟🌟

HILLS YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS...

# TREASURY ISLAND

WRITTEN BY BEN CROCKER DIRECTED BY BEN PROEVE ASSISTED BY JAMITH WILSON



## January 2025

Tuesday 14th @ 7PM Wednesday 15th @ 6PM  
Thursday 16th @ 1PM Friday 17th @ 7PM  
Saturday 18th @ 6PM Sunday 19th @ 1PM

Adults: \$27 Child: \$20

Consession: \$20 Family: \$85

Tickets - <https://www.trybooking.com/CVJXX>







Your family is invited by  
St Paul of the Cross Parish  
Glen Osmond/Parkside  
to attend

Christmas Eve Mass

at either

St. Raphael's (both indoors)

6.30pm Children & family or

Midnight Mass (Carols 11.45pm)

or

St Paul Of the Cross (both indoors)

4.00pm Children & Family Mass

6.00pm Children & Family Mass

8.00pm Candlelight Mass (Carols 7.45pm)

Children are invited to come dressed as a  
Christmas Character.

Please contact the Parish Office with any questions on  
83381277.



### Retreat Morning

Saturday 7th Dec Advent Retreat Morning 9.00am-12.00pm

### Anointing Masses

Wednesday 11th Dec St Paul's

9.30am



Friday 20th Dec St Raphael's 9.30am

### Reconciliation

Saturday 14th Dec St. Raphael's available from 4.00pm-5.00pm

Tuesday 17th Dec St. Paul's available from 7.00pm-8.00pm

### Christmas Eve Masses Tuesday 24th

St. Raphael's Both indoors

6.30pm Children & family

12pm Midnight Mass (Carols 11.45pm)

St Paul's All indoors

4.00pm Children & family s Mass

6.00pm Children & family Mass

8.00pm Candlelight Mass (Carols 7.45pm)



Children are invited to come dressed as a Christmas character at the Masses.

### Wednesday 25th (Christmas Day Masses)

St. Raphael's 9.30am

St. Paul's 10.30am



Thursday 26th Public Holiday No Mass

Friday 27th 9.30am St. Raphael's

### Saturday 28th December

St Raphael's 5.30pm

St Paul's 6.00pm

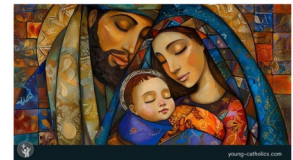
### Sunday 29th December

Feast of the Holy Family

St Paul's 8.00am, 10.30am and 5pm

St Raphael's 9.30am

A special blessing will be offered to those who were Baptised in the past year.



### Wednesday 1st January New Year's Day

### Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

St. Paul's 9.30am

St Raphael's 9.30am



### Normal Schedule resumes from Thursday 2nd of January

If anyone would like to have their house blessed for the New Year then please contact the Parish Office.



On behalf of the Passionist Community, Parish Team and Conference Centre Staff we wish you all a joyous Christmas with peace, love and joy in the New Year.

The Monastery and Parish Office will be closed from 12pm on Friday the 20th of December and reopening on Tuesday the 7th of January.

Conference Centre Office closes from the 20th of December until the 13th of January.

**ONLY IN A CASE OF AN EMERGENCY  
PLEASE PHONE 8338 1277.**

### St Paul of the Cross Parish Glen Osmond/ Parkside



Invites you to celebrate with us  
the birth of Christ  
this Advent & Christmas

2024

### "Preparing for the Emmanuel"

St. Paul of the Cross (The Monastery) 15 Cross Rd. Urrbrae  
St. Raphael's, 11 Young St., Parkside

(08) 8338 1277

Parish Office hours: 9am – 5pm Tuesday to Friday

Email: parish@themonastery.net.au

Website: themonastery.net.au



