



Our Lady of Victories Primary School, SHORTLAND

15 Lovell Parade, SHORTLAND 2307

Principal: Mr Gerry Vandermaat

Phone: 4951 1003 Fax: 4955 8730

Email: admin@shortland.catholic.edu.au

www.shortland.catholic.edu.au

About the Annual School Report

Our Lady of Victories Primary School is registered by the Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES) as a member of the Catholic system in the Diocese of Maitland - Newcastle.

The Annual School Report provides parents and the wider community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. The Report describes achievement of school development in 2015 and gives information about 2016 priorities.

This Report is a legislative requirement under the Schools Assistance Act, 2008.

The information in this Report is complemented by the Catholic Schools Office website and school websites where other publications and newsletters can be viewed or obtained.

Messages from Key School Bodies

Principal's Message

During 2016 the school experienced a major renovation to the classrooms. All classes were gutted and relined with new carpet and wet areas provided. It was a wonderful opportunity to revitalise the layout and incorporate some new learning styles in the delivery of the curriculum. Our Open Day in was a huge success with over 200 people attending the blessing liturgy and exploring the new facilities.

The orientation for Kinder changed slightly this year with guest speakers from the Catholic Schools Office giving some input into the benefits of play in the early learning of their children. The Early Learning Framework is to be explored at OLV in the new year.

Staff attended in-service on Gifted Education and will be exploring how this can be better served in 2017 and beyond. The provision of a Leader of Mathematics with our School Improvement Plan is also able to assist in the delivery of a program which will challenge our Gifted Mathematicians.

This reports highlights some of the many successes experienced by the children and community of Our Lady of Victories.

We acknowledge Awabakal people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we learn.

Gerry Vandermaat - Principal

Parent Body

It has been a very busy year with many events hosted by the P&F including:

- Revision of canteen opening hours and menu
- Cleaning of canteen and purchase of new storage containers
- Appeal to Newcastle City Council to review parking signs and times
- Election BBQ & cake stall
- Easter Parade
- Easter raffle
- Mother's Day Stall
- Father's Day stall
- Mid year raffle
- 2 x Bunnings BBQ's
- Bunnings Cake Stall
- Christmas raffle

The generosity of the parents, grandparents and friends of the school who volunteered their time, made donations and sometimes did both has been appreciated greatly. Without these volunteers we would not have had the successful year that we have had.

Fundraising events hosted by the P&F have meant we could continue to save towards the purchase of another hard surface play area such as a half-court basketball court. A grant application to subsidise the cost of the basketball court was submitted to Sonia Hornery earlier in the year with the result not yet known. I hope to hear good news by early 2017. No matter the result of the grant application, the P&F has committed the monies raised in 2015 and 2016 to the purchase of outdoor equipment.

Initiatives such as Open Day and Grand friends Day showcased the talents of the children, celebrated the

work teachers and children do each day and brought the school and community together to celebrate these achievements. We hope to see a combined event in 2017 which continues to promote all that is great about Our Lady of Victories Primary School.

I would like to thank the P&F executive for their tireless efforts this year in not only the terrific fundraising efforts but also promoting the sense of community and pride in our school. Equally thank you goes to all of the general members of the P&F for your commitment to our school community. To all who have volunteered, baked cakes, donated items, worked in the canteen and much more, without you we would have been unable to achieve all that we have.

Finally I would like to thank everyone for their support and dedication to the P&F during my time as president and wish the incoming P&F executive committee all the best for 2017.

Mel Hole - President P&F Association

Student Body

It is always a pleasure to know when I wake up in the morning, knowing that I'm going to school at Our Lady of Victories to see my friends and learn something new every day. It's always fun and educational at OLV because the way of teaching is always interesting and never boring.. OLV is a great school because, like our motto "Veritas" which means "Truth", all the teachers are truthful in everything they do. -- (*Gemma - School Captain*)

Being a student at OLV is great because we have the best teachers! They are so friendly. On playground is big and we get to be friends with everyone in the school, not just those our own age, -- (*Bailey-School Captain*)

SCHOOL FEATURES

History of the school

Our Lady of Victories Primary School was established by Fr Roley Smyth with three Sisters of Joseph (Mary Cecily, Matthew and Marguerite) originally being named St Joseph's in 1957. It started with an initial enrolment of 81 in a range of classes from Kinder to year 4. It grew steadily over the subsequent years and reached a total of more than 300 in classes Kinder to Year 6 during the sixties.

In 2007 the school celebrated 50 years of Catholic Education in Shortland. In 2011, a community hall was constructed at Our Lady of Victories with Funding from the Federal Government BER program. Major renovations for the classrooms were completed at the end of Term 2 in 2016.

Our Lady of Victories Catholic Primary School will be celebrating 60 years of Catholic Education in 2017.

Location/Drawing Area

Our lady of Victories draws from areas within the Parish of Wallsend/Shortland. children from the suburbs of Shortland, Birmingham Gardens, Wallsend, Fletcher, Maryland and surrounds may be enrolled at Our Lady of Victories. After Year 6, families have a choice of San Clemente High School, Mayfield, or St Pius X High School, Adamstown, to continue their children's Catholic education.

Catholic Identity and Mission

Catholic Imagination and Spirituality

Our Lady of Victories Primary School acknowledges the traditional owners of this land, the Awabakal people, and acknowledges the spiritual relationship they have with this country. Our Lady of Victories has a history built on the traditions of the school's founders, the Sisters of St Joseph. The spirit of the Sisters of St Joseph is still evident in the school's commitment to providing the best education possible for all its students, allowing all to have the opportunity to attain their personal best. Our Lady of Victories School is committed to developing a Catholic Faith Community. The school focuses on the faith formation of young people and promotes and fosters respectful, honest, caring and loving relationships with God, with self and with others. Our Lady of Victories educates its students in the tradition of the Catholic community through the implicit teaching of Religion. Faith experiences are enriched and developed through prayer and liturgy experiences, e.g. daily prayer, Liturgies of the Eucharist, Liturgies of the Word, curriculum units of work, celebrations of Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day, ANZAC Day and Our Lady of Victories Feast Day.

Family, Parish and Diocesan evangelising and catechesis

Our Lady of Victories Primary School values being a part of the wider parish community of Wallsend-Shortland. Fr Dom Carrigan has an active involvement in the liturgies and the spiritual life of the school. A close and committed relationship is maintained between the school and the parish by actively participating in the parish-based Sacramental programs and the school leading Friday parish Masses 3 times each term. In 2016, several special liturgies were held at Our Lady of Victories School for the school and wider community including Shrove Tuesday 'Burning of the Palms', Ash Wednesday, ANZAC Day, Holy Week and Remembrance Day. The school organised Masses to mark the special occasions of the Beginning of the Year, Our Lady of Victories Feast Day, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day and Year 6 Graduation. Children from the school who were enrolled in the Sacramental Program, participated in Sacramental Masses and Liturgies throughout the duration of the program. Diocesan involvement during 2016 included participation in the Called to Serve Mass, Catholic Schools Week Mass, Diocesan Catholic Mission Mass and attendance at various other Diocesan celebrations.

Christian Discipleship

Our Lady of Victories Primary School acknowledges the importance of religious and faith development programs for both staff and students. The school participates actively in prayer to support each other and the families of the school and wider community. Daily prayer is encouraged as a constant expression of the development of the faith journey of all students and staff and is practiced in either formal or informal prayers. Each week begins with the whole school community assembling for a Liturgy of the Word. Each day begins with the school community saying the School Prayer together. The staff gathers one morning each week to pray together. During 2016, the staff continued to update their Faith Education Accreditation. Teachers attended courses to fulfil requirements to meet ongoing accreditation expectations. In September 2016, staff participated in an overnight retreat which focused on 'Building a Christian Community'. The Sacramental Programs were conducted after school and formed part of the school and parish faith development. In Term 4, Year 5 students took part in a 'Buddy' training program and a 'Leadership' course in preparation for their roles as school leaders in 2017.

Religious Education and Curriculum

At Our Lady of Victories Primary School, the teaching of Religion is an essential element of our week. Each week 2½ hours teaching time is allocated to Religious Education. Religion lessons are student centred and permeate all areas of the curriculum. Information technology is recommended and used when and where possible. Teachers implement the Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan K-12 Religious Syllabus. New units of work in all Stages were introduced during 2016 by the Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Schools Office, and implemented in Years K-6. In June 2016, Year 6 students took part in a Religious Education Literacy Assessment, from the Sydney Catholic Schools Diocese, that assesses students' knowledge and understanding in the following Religious Education domains: Church, Scripture, Sacraments, Liturgical Year, Prayer and Beliefs. The purchase of resources to support the teaching and learning of Religion is ongoing.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

At Our Lady of Victories we always seek opportunities to reach out to those in need in both our local and

wider community. Our actions, both at school and the wider community, are central to our school's philosophy and values. Each year we support Project Compassion, Catholic Mission and St Vincent de Paul Society. The generosity and commitment of the students and their families reflect their awareness of the needs of others. We take very seriously our commitment to social justice and are very proud of our efforts in this area.

Student Profile

The table below shows the number of students in each of the categories listed.

LBOTE*	SWD*	Indigenous
22	12	6

*Language Backgrounds Other Than English (LBOTE); Students With Disabilities (SWD)

Enrolment policy

Our Lady of Victories Primary School follows the guidelines provided by the Catholic Schools Office *Enrolment Policy 2013*. This Enrolment Policy has been devised in order to accommodate the needs of families seeking a Catholic education. It aims to set direction for school procedures and practices for enrolling students into Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and to establish a common, consistent approach in enrolment practices and assist the system of Catholic schools to provide schooling, where possible, for all Catholic children who seek enrolment, cater for the individual needs of each child equitably within the constraints of the available teaching and material resources and to encourage parents enrolling their children in Catholic schools to give support to parish and school life, especially in education in faith.

Copies of the Policy are available from the school, or from the Catholic Schools Office website. Parents concerned about school fees should ensure they make contact with the school. Diocesan provisions (including standard discounts for those with a Health Card) exist to help in this area, and the Principal can also exercise discretion where genuine need exists.

Actual Enrolments 2016

Scholastic Year	Number of Students
K	12
Year 1	12
Year 2	16
Year 3	20
Year 4	15
Year 5	18
Year 6	17
Total	110

Student Attendance - K to 6 - PDF

Percentage of student attendance by Year level and school average for 2016

K	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	School Average
94	92	92	93	93	93	94	93

Managing Student Non-attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents and guardians, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. The compulsory years of schooling is age 6 to 17. Principals and school staff, in consultation with students and their parents, will usually be able to resolve issues relating to non-attendance. While parents should be reminded of their legal obligations under the Education Act, (1990), the welfare of the student must be the focus of this consultation. The most effective means of restoring and maintaining regular school attendance includes sound attendance monitoring practices and regular follow-up of unexplained absences by contacting parents promptly. Resolution of attendance difficulties may require a range of additional school based strategies including student and parent interviews, reviewing the appropriateness of the student's educational program, development of a school-based attendance improvement plan, referral to the school counsellor or outside agencies and support from school - based personnel. If a range of school-based interventions has been unsuccessful, support may be requested by referring individual cases of unsatisfactory attendance to the Catholic Schools Office.

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

Student Welfare Policy

An atmosphere of mutual respect, care and understanding is a feature of Our Lady of Victories school life and, student welfare is a high priority at the School.

Our Lady of Victories Pastoral Care worker provides excellent support for students, teachers and families. The students themselves have relished the Pastoral Care worker's presence.

The most popular student welfare programs offered were:

- Kindergarten and Year Six Buddy program;
- Bounce Back which is aimed at building resilience
- Garden Grubs and Chicken Wranglers;
- Lunch play group – once a week;
- Daily Craft Classes at lunch time
- Year Six camp - offering opportunity for personal challenges, group work, leadership skills as well as outdoor fitness activities;
- Pastoral Care Worker – open door policy, supporting all students, families and staff;
- Seasons for Growth Program – to assist children overcome grief experiences;
- Cool for School program which supports the school's strong approach to Anti-Bullying.
- Year Six to Year Seven Transition Program.

All children were encouraged to participate in school activities. The school supported all programs to ensure no child is excluded due to socio-economic or physical constraints.

Discipline Policy

The school Behaviour Management Policy clearly outlines the Rights and Responsibilities of all children at Our Lady of Victories both in the classroom and on the playground. It clearly sets out the consequences of making the right and wrong choices. Corporal punishment is not practised at Our Lady of Victories. Our Lady of Victories does not promote the use of corporal punishment by parents in relation to school discipline.

Copies of the Behaviour Management Policy are given to all new students and are available from the office and the school website. It was last reviewed in 2008. The Student Behaviour Management Policy is available on the School Website by clicking on the Policies Button or by request from the office.

No changes have been made to the policy since 2012 but this policy is to be reviewed in 2017.

The full text of the School's Student Discipline Policy may be accessed on the School's website or at the administration office.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Catholic schools have the responsibility to promote cultures of trust, cooperation and respect in the lived experience of the Catholic Christian setting. Bullying in a school mitigates such a culture and inhibits the development of positive relational outcomes for the common good of students, teachers and caregivers. *Our Lady of Victories Primary School Anti-Bullying Policy* is reviewed regularly and is available on the school website.

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Complaints and Grievances

The school has formal written protocols in place to address complaints and grievances. These protocols are in line with the Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy (2013), developed to provide a consistent approach for all Diocesan schools. This policy aims to address the concerns of Parents / Carers and the wider community. These concerns may include children's learning, behaviour and welfare, school organisation and management, student health and safety issues.

A copy of this policy and the informative parent brochure is available from the school office, school website or is available on the Catholic Schools Office website.

School Improvement

School Improvement Plan

Mathematics was the focus area for 2016. Our School Improvement Plan provided resources and planning opportunities for teacher to improve their Maths teaching and programming. Our target was to improve our Maths scores by 1 Band for the children in Year 3 & Year 5. in two years. Our plan also provided for the inservicing of Executive staff in the area of Gifted Education which will be a focus in our School Improvement Plan for 2017. A pastoral program looking at developing the resilience in children, Bounce Back, was introduced in 2016.

School Academic Priorities

Key improvements achieved this year	Key improvements for next year
Strong results in the 2016 NAPLAN results reflect an improvement in the area of writing and our goal of improving achievement in this area in the NAPLAN was achieved. This was achieved by sustaining a dialogue among teachers about the strategies and tools for assessing writing. These skills were incorporated into their programming and teaching in this area. The provision of a Leader of Maths also enhanced the cooperation and planning in collaboration.	In 2017, we are looking to continue improvement the growth of the children in the Top Band of the Maths NAPLAN. This has been identified as an area of concern and we intend to develop an enrichment class for these children as well as in-servicing staff to better develop differentiation for these children.
The school continued a lead teacher role in Mathematics. Teachers were given opportunities to fully engage with the analysis of NAPLAN Maths to develop Maths programs and Scope and Sequence. Teachers attended Professional Development in the teaching of Maths to develop skills in this area. The Leader of Maths worked closely with teacher to improve their skills. This will be further developed in 2017.	It is intended to deepen the understanding of a Professional Learning Community so as to develop mentoring programs and structures aimed at providing goal setting opportunities for executive and teachers. To achieve this it is intended to in-service the executive in PLC and PP&D strategies. The Lead Teacher in Maths will support teachers by participating in team teaching, planning opportunities and in-service activities.
The school's Catholic Identity has always been a strong focus for the staff and children. Retreats for staff and children were provided. Year 5 attended a leadership retreat to develop and explore the skills required for being leaders of the school the following year. The staff commitment to their vocation was challenged at a one day retreat. These activities have strengthened the Catholic Identity of the school.	In 2017, the area of Gifted Education will be explored in depth. it is intended to provide a support structure to facilitate a "whole of school" approach to Gifted Education. It is intended to investigate suitable programs and liaise with cluster high schools to provide the direction for enriching the Gifted child in a school setting. Staff Inservice will occur to assist them in differentiating their delivery for children with special gifts.

Academic Achievements

Academic excellence is valued at Our Lady of Victories. We encourage children to participate in the University of NSW Competitions in Maths, English, Science and Computers as well as Debating and the Newcastle Permanent Maths Competition. Those children who have a skill in the areas of Art, Maths, English and Science are invited to attend a 4 week enrichment course held at San Clemente High School for Year 6 students. Two children from each Stage participated in the Regional Public Speaking competition held at St Brigid's Raymond Terrace and one child came first in the Stage 3 section.

Cultural achievements

Our Lady of Victories offers weekly music lessons to interested children in piano and guitar. There are a number of children who participate and share their learnt skills with the community at masses, assemblies and special occasions. The school employed a singing/choir teacher to teach A Cappella singing and the children and staff presented a wonderful Christmas Carols night for the community in our new hall using the new stage lights provided from parents fundraising. Other students participated in the weekly dance lesson and performed on various occasions for parents and the wider community. One student participated in the Diocesan ASPIRE production to which the Year 5&6 attended. Several children were also involved in the local production of "Shampoo".

Sporting achievements

In 2016, children from Our Lady of Victories participated in a Soccer Gals, weekly Gymnastics, Swimming and Athletics carnivals and a weekly swimming program. Children from these were selected to represent the North Region of Schools in the Diocesan Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. One girl was selected to represent the Diocese at the Polding Athletics Carnival.

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Student Achievements

Performance in National Testing

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in literacy and numeracy. An analysis of these results assists School planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

The tables below show the percentages of students who achieved particular skill bands in numeracy and the aspects of literacy. The School results shown are compared to students nationally. Literacy is reported in four content strands (aspects): Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation. Numeracy is reported as a single content strand.

NAPLAN RESULTS 2016		% of students in the top 3 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
Year 3	Reading	70.00%	49.40%	15.00%	13.30%
	Writing	45.00%	48.80%	5.00%	8.10%
	Spelling	50.00%	46.40%	0.00%	14.20%
	Grammar	65.00%	52.50%	5.00%	11.40%
	Numeracy	45.00%	35.60%	10.00%	15.20%

NAPLAN RESULTS 2016		% of students in the top 3 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
Year 5	Reading	33.33%	35.30%	16.67%	17.30%
	Writing	11.11%	17.20%	5.56%	19.90%
	Spelling	11.11%	29.80%	0.00%	19.00%
	Grammar	27.78%	36.30%	16.67%	16.80%
	Numeracy	11.11%	28.30%	27.78%	18.30%

Staffing Profile

Staff Qualifications

Qualifications and Experience	Number of Staff
I. Teachers with teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR).	11
II. Teachers with qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by NOOSR but lacking formal teaching qualifications	11

Workforce Composition

Number of Staff	
Total teaching staff	11
Total non-teaching staff	6
Grand total	17
Percentage of teachers who are indigenous	0

Teacher Attendance

96%

Teacher Retention

100% - One teacher returned from Maternity Leave during the year requiring two temporary full time teacher to reduce to part time status.

Professional Learning Undertaken

Two teachers are completing Master's degrees - 1 in Theological Studies and 1 in Educational Leadership.

Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction

The opinions and ideas of parents, students and staff are valued and sought. Their suggestions are incorporated into planning for and achieving improved outcomes for students. This year, the School has used a variety of processes to gain information about the level of satisfaction with the School from parents, students and staff.

Parent Satisfaction

The parents of children at Our Lady of Victories seems very satisfied with the service provided by the school. They often accept invitations to attend celebrations and liturgies with their children and are supportive of school activities. The Parents and Friends Association meets every month and is vital and well attended, considering the small size of the school. Parents seem enthusiastic to support the needs of the school.

Student Satisfaction

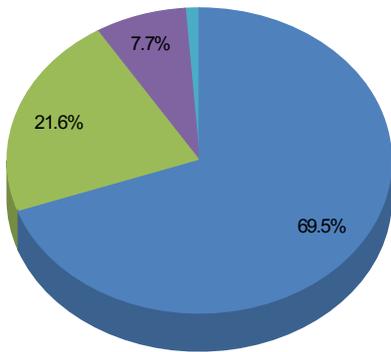
Being a student at OLV gives us the opportunity to learn in a safe and fun place. We have lots of chances to be leaders and be friends to a lot of other students. The Leadership Day for Year 5 in 2015 was a great way to develop teamwork and learn how to be leaders. (*Dyllan - Sports Captain*)

Lunchtime is a great part of the school day because all the kids run around outside in the sunshine and fresh air or some can go to the library to read books by their favourite authors. (*Gemma - Yr 6*)

Staff Satisfaction

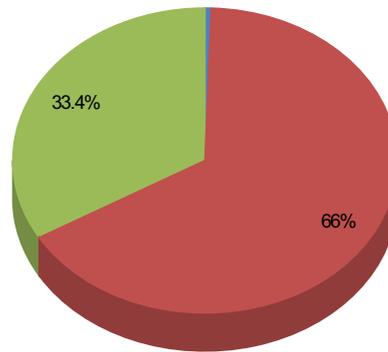
The teachers and staff at Our Lady of Victories work collaboratively in their stages to plan and program their work. They are generous with their time when it comes to meeting with parents and working with the children in their care. Our Lady of Victories encourages open and timely communication between teachers and parents. The teachers work collaboratively to enhance the learning across stages and to ensure the well being of all children.

Income



- Commonwealth Recurrent Grants (69.5%)
- Government Capital Grants (0%)
- State Recurrent Grants (21.6%)
- Fees and Private Income (7.7%)
- Other Capital Income (1.2%)

Expenditure



- Capital Expenditure (0.5%)
- Salaries and Related Expenses (66%)
- Non-Salary Expenses (33.4%)

This School Financial Information is based on the detailed information provided to the Commonwealth Government in the Commonwealth Financial Questionnaire. School Financial Information for the 2016 year is detailed below:

RECURRENT and CAPITAL INCOME	
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants ¹	\$1,570,962
Government Capital Grants ²	\$0
State Recurrent Grants ³	\$487,502
Fees and Private Income ⁴	\$173,815
Other Capital Income ⁵	\$26,669
Total Income	\$2,277,467

RECURRENT and CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	
Capital Expenditure ⁶	\$11,278
Salaries and Related Expenses ⁷	\$1,412,838
Non-Salary Expenses ⁸	\$715,210
Total Expenditure	\$2,139,326

For the 2016 year the Our Lady of Victories Primary School received \$18,519 as Interest Subsidy. Our school community is appreciative of the support it received from the NSW State Government under the Interest Subsidy Scheme

Notes

1. Commonwealth Recurrent Grants includes recurrent per capita grants and special purpose grants.
2. Government Capital Grants includes all capital grants received from the Commonwealth and State Governments.

3. State Recurrent Grants includes recurrent grants per capita, special purpose grants and interest subsidy grants.
4. Fees and Private Income include Archdiocesan and school based fees, excursions and other private income.
5. Other Capital Income includes building levy fees and capital donations used to fund Capital Expenditure.
6. Capital Expenditure includes expenditure on School Buildings, and Furniture and Equipment.
7. Salaries and Related Expenditure includes all salaries, allowances and related expenses such as superannuation and workers compensation insurance.
8. Non-Salary Expenses include all other Non-Salary Recurrent Expenditure covering resources, administration, operational expenses, utilities, repairs and maintenance.

Report Access and Publication

This report is available to members of the school and wider communities. Copies will be supplied to the Catholic Schools Office, The Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards NSW, The Parents and Friends Association, the Parish Priest and to all parents.

Copies of this school's Annual School Report are available to the general public. Persons wishing to access a copy of the report should contact:

Mr Vandermaat Gerry

Our Lady of Victories Primary School

SHORTLAND

Phone: 4951 1003

For further information relating to the Diocesan Policy please refer to: <http://mn.catholic.edu.au>