

st patrick's  
primary school  
parramatta  
patter

20th November 2014 Term 4  
No.7



Dear Parents

*In last week's newsletter I shared with you my reflections on Leadership and the involvement of our Year 5 students in the process of Leadership at St Patrick's.*

*This week my thoughts take me back to my recent visit to Rome, particularly the audience with our Holy Father, Pope Francis, leader of the Catholic Church, at St Peter's Square. For those who have not had the blessing of experiencing a visit to the Vatican it is truly one to look forward to. Keenly anticipated, our coach of pilgrims prepared for this excursion by leaving our hotel very early in the morning. We were soon joined by thousands of pilgrims, young and old, from all over the world waving flags and streamers. Once past security we quickly found our seats in the booked area and settled in for a long but worthwhile wait. There was something truly wonderful when you realize that you are indeed part of a world community of faithful people who share a belief like ours – our Catholic faith. Some of the people next to us were from other parts of Italy and although I could not speak or understand Italian and they could not understand English we tried to communicate as much as we could about the excitement we felt awaiting the arrival of this great man. The atmosphere was indescribable in that it was like a rock concert filled with the sounds of cheers and chants and that of pilgrims gathered saying the rosary. On his arrival the square lifted with the roar of elation and it was at that point we realized that Pope Francis would be travelling around and amongst the people, on top of his 'Pope Mobile'. Now and then he would stop to speak to someone or to lift and bless a baby. People rushed to the barrier fences just to catch a closer glimpse of him, stretching out their hands and calling out his name. All the while he waved and smiled with an expression of genuine care and enjoyment at being amongst us.*

*But what is it about this leader that has renewed the Church in a way that has not been seen to this intensity before. I think the reason this man has had such an impact in such a short time, is that Pope Francis seems to hold his love of people above and beyond all other things. Many stories are told of when Pope Francis has gone out of his way to ensure that others are treated with respect and dignity; the time he asked his driver to stop at the side of the road to give a blessing to a sick child on a bed which had been wheeled out by his family, is but one example of the way he shows God's love in a very human and real way. The saying, "Actions speak louder than words" is one of my favourite sayings and Pope Francis is a leader that epitomizes this sentiment. In striving to be like such a leader one may get the impression that it demands perfection however perfection is both unrealistic and lacks humanness. I think it is authenticity that Pope Francis demonstrates, integrity in a very inclusive and compassionate way.*

*As we head toward the end of the year, let us think and pray for all who find themselves in leadership for 2015, especially for newly appointed Archbishop Anthony; that they may be wise and considerate of all people and that they may demonstrate the same love and dignity Our Lord Jesus Christ taught through His ministry.*

*God Bless you and your family*

*Bernadette Fabri*

## POPE FRANCIS' ADDRESS

The following is a summary of the Holy Father's words on the morning of our visit:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on the church, we now consider our fellow Christians who belong to other traditions. Divisions between Christ's followers are clearly contrary to His will as expressed in his prayer to the Father that all might be one so that the world might believe. Christ desires us to be united in His love and in communion with one another, yet throughout history the church has experienced temptations against this unity leading to tragic divisions. We must not be resigned to these divisions but must join our prayer to that of Jesus in imploring among all His followers, constant openness to dialogue and appreciation of the gifts of others. In loving the Lord and sharing the riches of His love, we will better see what unites us rather than what separates us. By dwelling in the truth and practising forgiveness and charity we will be evermore conformed to Christ's will, reconciled with one another and led closer to the goal of full unity which he wills for all his disciples.

... Upon all of you and your families, I invoke joy and peace in the Lord Jesus. God bless you all.



Happy Birthday to the following children who will celebrate their birthdays in the following week:

Neha Bonigala, Joseph Bechara, Clyde Guatlo, Isabeli Rosal, Arwen-Cady Firmeza, Clovis Batti, Camran Nasrulla, Mariella Maaraoui, Mikayla Shalala, Ethan Bechara, Louis Takchi, Savannah Chiha



### SACRAMENTAL NEWS FROM THE CATHEDRAL

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist has already commenced. The program is now in its fourth week so no new enrolments can be accepted this year. All information regarding the delivery and preparation for sacraments can be found regularly in the Cathedral newsletter. Sr Susan encourages all the children preparing for the sacraments to learn and practise the prayers they are learning. For further information feel free to contact Mrs Jude Kerr (Religious Education Coordinator) through the school office or the parish office on 9639 1115

### Student of the Week and St Patricks Award

As there is NO assembly there will be no Student of the Week and St Patricks Award.

The next assembly will be on Friday 28th November.

## DANCING UNDER THE STARS—ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL DISCO

Our school disco this year will be outside under the stars on the 21st November, from 6pm to 9pm. Gates open at 5pm.

Why not have a night off cooking and grab a delicious sausage sizzle or hot dog from our canteen. We will also have 'Dippin Dots', the Ice cream of the future, on site. Coffee and drinks will also be available.

\$2.50 per person will get you some groovy tunes and some superb dancing from the teachers !!!

Tickets can be purchased at the door.



### School Banking for Term 4

Student banking will cease for 2014 in week 10. Tuesday 9th December will be the final day for banking for 2014. Student banking will commence again Term 1, Week 2, 2015.

## Start of School for 2015

Can you believe we are already talking about next year when we haven't even finished 2014. Such is life! Next year there will be a slight change to the start of the school year with students from Years 1 to 6 officially starting on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015**.

In order to begin the teaching and learning year successfully, it is vital that teachers have the most current data on each student to be able to cater for the specific needs of each child in numeracy. To assist with this data collecting the teachers will be conducting individual Maths Assessments over two days: **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**. You will be asked to book a time online at a later date. Details will be sent home with reports.

Interviews will be scheduled each half hour and you will be required to nominate times that suit you. As each teacher will be doing interviews with their own class families should be able to arrange to have siblings do their interviews around the same time.

We look forward to your continued support as we trial the new online booking system and assessment process, which is a Parramatta Diocesan requirement for all schools. By having the interviews before the children start it will minimise disruption in the first weeks of school.

## Religious Literacy Assessment in 2014.

This week all students in Years 4 & 6 received the results of their Religious Literacy Assessment. As part of a Parramatta Diocesan wide assessment of religious literacy, all Year 4 & 6 students completed an online assessment which related to their learning in Religious Education up to and including 2014.

In addition to the Part A Online Test, Year 4 students chose how they would demonstrate their learning in relation to the *Sharing Our Story* unit, 24C9 Reconciliation: God's Forgiveness and Healing as they undertook the Part B Extended Task. The Part B Task was marked by teachers at St Patrick's.

The Religious Literacy Assessment is just one form of assessment in Religious Education. There are many forms of school-based assessment in Religious Education that take place across the school year.

We continue to delight in the goodness and faith of all our children. Together, we are dedicated to their learning, their wellbeing and their continued growth and development as people made in the image and likeness of God.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or Mrs Jude Kerr, REC.



**St Patrick's Cathedral  
Carols in the Cloister**

**Saturday 6th December 2014 - 7-10pm**

Bring a picnic rug or chair and join us on the Cloister lawn for a night of fun and singing.

BYO Picnic Food and Alcohol.

Desserts and Tea/Coffee/Cordial provided

Santa will visit

Gold coin donation for candles

For catering purposes, please add your name and number of Adults and Children attending to the list in the Cathedral Narthex or email [secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au)

## DIOCESAN WORKS FUND APPEAL - NOVEMBER

During the month of November, we will be joining all schools and parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta to help support the Diocesan Works Fund. Also known as faith@work this fund reaches out to people in our local communities that are not supported by regular parish contributions.

The faith@work appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as one Church family to support ministries and services that no individual parish or school can offer. Please be generous so these good works can continue.

## SYMPATHY & PRAYERS



to the Alarcon family (Christopher 3L) on the recent passing of their grandfather in Peru.



**SCHOOL RESOURCES**  
Diocesan Works Fund Appeal - November 2014

**MASS TIMETABLE FOR  
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL  
PARRAMATTA**

**Weekend Masses**

Saturday	8.00am 6.00pm (Vigil)
Sunday	8.00am 9.30am (Family) 11.00am (Solemn) 6.00pm

**Weekday Masses**

Monday to Friday	6.45am 12.30pm
Public Holidays	8.00am

**Pastoral Team**

Fr Peter Williams elected Diocesan  
Administrator  
Very Rev Fr Robert Bossini  
Rev Fr John Paul Escarlan  
Rev Fr Steven Hyun  
Rev Fr Michael Gitau  
Rev Robertus Kim  
Sr Susan Ward rsj



*sub tuum praesidium*

Our **VISION** is to be a child centred faith community within an innovative, interactive learning environment.

Our **MISSION** is to –

Live out the Gospel Values in a visibly Catholic tradition

Nurture students for Christian Leadership

Create a range of learning experiences which allow children to progress at their own level

Assist our students to develop into independent thinkers with a deep sense of responsibility and justice

Lead each individual towards reaching his/her potential

Generate a sense of community and compassion in which all experience belonging.

**Opportunity for all**

**TERM FOUR – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Week Seven**

Thursday 20th November Footsteps Dance Program  
Friday 21st November NO Assembly  
School Disco

**Week Eight**

**Monday 24th November Staff Development Day—No students**  
Wednesday 26th Nov Swimming Carnival  
Thursday 27th November Footsteps Dance Program  
Friday 28th November Primary Assembly  
Yr 4 - 2.15pm

**Week Nine**

Thursday 4th December Footsteps Dance Program  
Friday 5th December Infants Assembly  
Choir - 2.15pm

**Week Ten**

Wednesday 10th Dec Year 6 Graduation & Liturgy Supper  
7pm  
Thursday 11th December Footsteps Dance program  
Friday 12th December Whole School Assembly  
Year 6 - 2.15pm

**Week Eleven**

Tuesday 16th December School Christmas Concert —1pm  
OLMC Hall  
**Wednesday 17th Dec Last Day of school for students**

*Together with a culture of work, there must be a culture of leisure as gratification. To put it another way: people who work must take the time to relax, to be with their families, to enjoy themselves, read, listen to music, play a sport.*

Pope Francis