

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Yesterday, Wednesday 17th February Year 1 to 6 gathered in the Cathedral to celebrate Ash Wednesday. It is marked by the distribution of ashes made from the burning of palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. This was the first time most of the school gathered in the Cathedral since March 2020 and we thank the parish staff for ensuring that COVID safe procedures were in place. We all agreed how much we have missed returning to our school's spiritual home and look forward to continuing to gather for mass in the future.

This year my thinking around Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, focuses on Prayer. I recently read a beautiful reflection about prayer on the website [A Catholic Life](#) which I would like to share with you. What I like most about this reflection is the author's comment that prayer is more than just a recitation of words that we recall but a living of one's life with God within. What an amazing concept! I invite you to read this simple reflection below.

One of the most important parts of true prayer is that it takes place deep in the inner room of your soul. It is there in the inner depths of your being that you will meet God. Saint Teresa of Ávila, one of the greatest spiritual writers in the history of our Church, describes the soul as a castle in which God dwells. Meeting Him, praying to Him and communing with Him requires that we enter into the deepest and innermost chamber within this castle of our soul. It is there, in the innermost dwelling, that the full glory and beauty of God is discovered.

God is not just a God who is "out there" far away in Heaven. He is a God who is closer and more intimate than we could ever imagine. Lent is a time, more than any other time of the year, when we must strive to make that journey inward so as to discover the Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity.

What does God want of you this Lent? It's easy to begin Lent with more superficial commitments, such as giving up a favorite food or doing an extra good deed. Some choose to use Lent as a time to get in better physical shape, and others decide to dedicate more time to spiritual reading or other holy exercises. All of this is good and useful. But you can be certain that the deepest desire of our Lord for you this Lent is that you pray.

Prayer, of course, is much more than saying prayers. It's not only saying the rosary, or meditating upon Scripture, or reciting beautifully composed prayers. Prayer is ultimately a relationship with God. It's an encounter with the Triune God who dwells within you. True prayer is an act of love between you and your Beloved. It's an exchange of persons: your life for God's. Prayer is an act of union and communion by which we become one with God and God becomes one with us.

The great mystics have taught us that there are many levels to prayer. We often begin with the recitation of prayers, such as the beautiful prayer of the rosary. From there we meditate, ponder and reflect deeply upon the mysteries of our Lord and His life. We come to know Him more fully and, little by little, discover that we are no longer just thinking about God, but we are gazing at Him face to face.

As we begin the holy season of Lent, reflect upon your practice of prayer. If the images of prayer presented here intrigue you, then make a commitment to discover more. Commit yourself to the discovery of God in prayer. There is no limit and no end to the depth to which God wants to draw you through prayer. True prayer is never boring. When you discover true prayer, you discover the infinite mystery of God. And this discovery is more glorious than anything you could ever imagine in life.

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri



Today marks the launch of the 200th anniversary of Catholic education in Australia. This is a very special anniversary for the St Patrick's Parramatta community for as you may be aware St Patrick's Parramatta;

An excerpt taken from the media release from [National Catholic Commission](#) states:

*The bicentenary commemorates the anniversary of the first official Catholic school in Australia, founded in October 1820 by Irish Catholic priest Fr John Therry. The school, which Catholic historians believe was located on Hunter Street in Parramatta, taught 31 students. An Irish Catholic convict George Marley (also identified as George Morley), who was sent to the colony, opened the school for Fr Therry and ran it for three years. This school was transferred to the site of the present St Patrick's Cathedral in 1837 and was entrusted to the care of the Marist Brothers in 1875. Parramatta Marist High School, now located in Westmead and **St Patrick's Primary, Parramatta trace their origins back to this first school.***

Over this last week Children and staff from St Patrick's Parramatta have had the privilege of being involved in some of the preparations for this launch which I am hoping to share with you in due time. Our involvement includes a small feature in today Australian newspaper, involvement in a launch video and an invitation to contribute to a project yet to be named.

Please look out for further information this year on how St Patrick's will be celebrating this momentous 200 year anniversary in future communications.



From 'The Learning Pit'

Educational researcher, Lyn Sharratt speaks about the concept called “The Third Teacher”. She acknowledges that *“after parents and teachers, the environment is the third teacher. Thus, careful consideration and co-construction of the Third Teacher with students is extraordinarily important. Classroom walls that become interactive learning spaces and show evidence of use move from being “pretty” to “pretty useful”.* (Lyn Sharratt,(2018),Clarity)

Over the last few years the staff have been digging deeper into the impact of this concept to the way our classrooms look and how the students interact within them. When I began my teaching career the majority of my Christmas holiday time was spent cruising the aisles of educational shops searching for the perfect themed borders, pretty charts and inspirational quotes that I would use to fill the walls of my classroom. They were all professionally printed and looked ‘nice’ on the walls, filling the space, ready for the first day of school. Often these posters would remain up for the whole term, sometimes even longer. However at no stage did the students interact with them or use them to improve their learning, but rather they were often long forgotten dust collectors.

Thankfully our understanding of the impact of the environment as the ‘Third Teacher’ has developed and now we understand the importance of ensuring the learning space assists students with their current learning. As you enter the classrooms next week during the ‘Meet and Greets’ take time to look at the learning environment. Take note of how different it looks from when you were at school. I am sure you will see teachers are focussing on making sure the walls are full of information and exemplars that assist students in their learning by being:

- Relevant to the learning.
- Easy for the students to understand.
- Have been co-constructed with/by the students.
- Promote curiosity and inquiry.
- Show the steps needed for success in learning.
- Clearly state what the students are learning.

Ask your child to tell you about how they use the environment to improve their learning. I would be interested in hearing their response too.

(Leanda Standing - Assistant Principal)



Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday over the next week: Erika Talbot, Georgia-Rose Rizk, Zara Ciampi, Jayden Bounassif, Callum Donaldson, Ysabel Daelo, Estelle Perrett

FEEDBACK and COMPLAINTS

St Patrick’s Parramatta staff always welcome feedback and ideas from the parent community. If you have any feedback, concerns or complaints please do not hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher, Mrs Standing (behaviour) or Miss Fabri through the school office (8832 4600), school email address stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au, or through Skoolbag App. The school follows the CEDP Complaints Handling Policy.

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/About-Us/Policy-Central>

AFTERNOON PICK UP PROCEDURES

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you so much for your cooperation when picking up the children in the afternoons. Just a gentle reminder that if you are entering the school site for pick up, that you enter from the Ross Street double gate, and exit from the Villers St gate so that we can minimize cross over. Schools are still required to monitor effective physical distancing and adjust their procedures accordingly. Thanking you!

Miss Fabri.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the wonderful group of mums who helped Mrs Jones out with the preparation and distribution of pancakes as part of Shrove Tuesday. I know that the children really love 'Treat Days' especially food !! Thank you to Josie Romanos, Kris Sahyoun, Danielle Elias, Nicole Sahyoun, Dianna Perram and Janette Bounassif. Thank you Mrs Jones!



TERM 1 2021 SCHOOL INVOICES

Term 1 2021 Statements have now been mailed to all families. Due date for payment of Term 1 fees is on or before **Wednesday 17th March 2021**.

The Catholic Education Office Flexible Payment Plan Bpoint or Bpay is offered as a convenient option for payment of 2021 fees. The information required for the Flexible Payment Plan is included in the Instalment 1 statement.

Please note:

Flexible Payment Plans (DIRECT DEBIT) are offered as alternative payment options for your School Fees.

BPOINT & BPAY

If you would like to accept this offer please complete the Flexible Payment Direct Debit eForm (Bpoint) by visiting <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/fpp>. If an eForm has not been received prior to the payment due date the Catholic Education Office will assume you do not wish to take up the flexible payment option plan and you will be paying the Term 1 school fees by the 17th March 2021. **BPAY** election requires you to set this up via your bank account by 16th March 2021 so the first payment occurs on 17th March 2021.

If you have not received your invoice, please email pats-parrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au to request a copy be emailed to you.



MEET AND GREET INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

Date: Wednesday 24th February (Various time slots available from 3.30pm)

All Meet and Greets will be held in the classrooms. **Each session will be a gathering of up to five parents and children.** It will give you an opportunity to share your insights about your child as well as seeing your child's learning space as they guide you around their classroom.

A morning session will also be organised.

Status: OPTIONAL

Number: Limited to one adult per child. (It is recommended that the child attends with you to show you around the room and introduce you to their teacher.)

NB The Meet and Greets will replace the Parent Information Nights so as to provide a more individual encounter.

- **Curriculum Newsletters for your child's grade will be available on the night or may have already been sent home.**
- **A short questionnaire has been sent home as a way of capturing some of your insights.**
- **If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school office.**

COVID SAFE GUIDELINES

- Please remember to physically distance.
- Please ensure you demonstrate hygiene practices such as using sanitizer on entering the class spaces
- Please do not mingle in or outside the school
- Please do not attend the Meet and Greet if you have flu like symptoms.
- Please provide your name and contact information on entering the class space.

Understanding School Talk ???

CEDP

Catholic Education Department
Parramatta



Congratulations to the Lahoud Family (Marylyn KA) on the birth of their baby boy, George.



Honour Award

The Honour Award is awarded to the child who demonstrates outstanding behaviour shown in the Student Charter

KA	Joshua Sahyoun	Anthony Youssef	KM	Nicholas Nassif	Maddy Cruz
1C	Lucy Reyes-Mangabat	Elijah Missak	1S	Fareeda Daher	Jayden Bounassif
2M	Scarlett Eid	Samson Sayegh	2Y	Quintus Feng	Chanel Wakim



ST PATRICK'S AWARD

The St Patrick's award is given to the child who lives their life through Faith in Action

KA	Ariana Bousimon	Caterina Boulos	KM	Alexandra Nasr	Anyce Ibrahim
1C	Mahalia Jackson	Daniel Lawrence	1S	Julian Badr	Alessia Agostino
2M	Faith Daniel	Olivia Pijaca	2Y	Ava Khouri	Deon Don

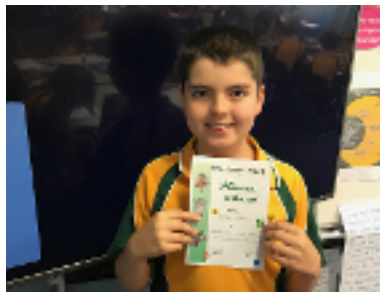




Honour Award

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3L	Daniel Jurisic	Logan Munro	3T	Patrick Katar	Frank Malkoun
4B	Juliette Khoury	Nicholas Reyes-Mangabat	4G	Zachary Aguilera	Annabelle Johnson
5C	Cynthia Daher	Richard Do	5T	Anabelle Tudberry	Marcelino El Halabi
6P	Jubran Sayegh	Raymond Joe Khoury	6W	Amariah Tamaro	Thomas Aguilera



ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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3L	Mia Freifer	Jimmy Sahyoun	3T	Mia Gebrael	Jacinta Malkoun
4B	Edan-Grace El-Chaar	Panayioti Yannakis	4G	Olivia Fayad	Anthony Bracks
5C	Phillip Ayoub	Isaac Loulach	5T	Stephanie Jabbour	James Morson
6P	Jake Doueihy	Alisha Katafono	6W	Nathan Romanos	Tara Di Chio



NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

Signs that your child's online activity may be having a negative impact on them or on your family include:

- less interest in social activities like meeting friends or playing sport
- not doing so well at school
- tiredness, sleep disturbance, headaches, eye strain
- changes in eating patterns
- reduced personal hygiene
- obsession with particular websites or games
- extreme anger when being asked to take a break from online activity
- appearing anxious or irritable when away from the computer
- becoming withdrawn from friends and family

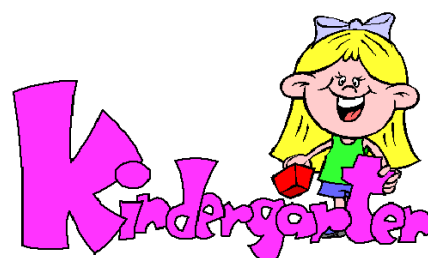
ENROLMENTS FOR 2022 KINDERGARTEN ARE NOW OPEN

Enrolment packs for Kindergarten 2022 are available from the school between the hours of 9am -3pm Monday to Friday or alternatively the enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website

<https://www.stpatsparra.catholic.edu.au>

As we are still working under COVID restrictions you are able to email the application through to us at stpatriksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au , along with any supporting documents. Please retain the original application form as you will be required to submit that at a later date.

Enrolment forms are required to be returned by 31st March 2021.



SCHOOL WELL-BEING COUNSELLING SERVICE

The wellbeing of children and young people in Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta schools is of paramount importance. A sense of well-being and connectedness in schools promotes optimal development of the person and contributes to academic success.

Access to counselling services can be made by contacting your child's classroom teacher or Ms Fabri, who will then put forward a referral. Mrs Ricketts will then contact you for further information. Further details can be found in previous newsletters.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE TAKEN ON:

Wednesday 10 March 2021

ORDER NOW go to www.advancedlife.com.au and enter the code
MKW J3F KMB

Dear Parents,

School photographs are scheduled to be taken by **advancedlife**. Whilst an envelope and flyer will be distributed shortly, if possible it is our preference that ordering be completed online to reduce administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day.

Orders for packages and sibling photographs can be placed securely online at www.advancedlife.com.au using our school's unique 9 digit **advancedorder** code. Portrait and group package orders are due by photography day.

Should you wish to purchase a sibling photograph online, the order must be placed no later than the day before photography day. Sibling photographs will only be taken if an order has been placed.

Should you have any queries concerning school photographs or online ordering, please contact us at www.advancedlife.com.au/contact

Sibling order envelopes can be collected from the school office

*Thus we may hope to get on, taking short, careful steps, not
great strides.*

Catherine McAuley



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

MASS TIMETABLE FOR ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRALPARRAMATTA

Weekend Masses

Saturday 8.00am, 6.00pm (Vigil)

Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am (Family), 11.00am (Solemn), 6.00pm

Weekday Masses

Mon to Fri 6.30am, 12.30pm Public Hol 8.00am

Pastoral Team

Dean & Administrator:

Very Rev Fr Peter Williams

Assistant Priests:

Rev Chris del Rosario, Rev Chadi Ibrahim SDB

Parish Secretary:

Pat Preca

Sacramental Coordinator:

Meg Gale

Office Hours: 9.00am to 4.00pm



OLMC OPEN DAY

Sunday, 7 March 2021

10.00am - 2.00pm

www.olmc.nsw.edu.au

A work of the Sisters of Mercy Parramatta since 1889

Meet the
new College
Principal



Open Day

Sunday 7th March 2021

10.00AM - 2.00PM

423-513 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill NSW 2154
oakhill.nsw.edu.au | 9899 2288

Bookings essential. Check the website for any possible COVID-19 survervices.

Feet on the ground. #Reaching for the stars.