Dear Parents

This Sunday is Mother’s Day and a time when the family can show gratitude and love to one of the most influential people in our lives, our mothers. For most of us, many of our formative years have been spent with our mothers. We share our joys, worries and sometimes even our sorrows with them.

These often selfless women put to the side their own wants and needs for the family. Physically, emotionally, financially, they seem to have learned the true meaning of the word resilience and sacrifice. Whether it be staying awake till the early hours helping with a school assignment or the arrival of young adult children, keeping a midnight vigil at the bedside of a sick child, or comforting a little one during a night storm even though they know that they will need to get up early for work the next day, mothers seem to be able to sacrifice personal needs for the family.

Keeping this in mind let us show them how much they mean to us, not only this Sunday but every single day. Let us take some time to think and pray for our mothers and mothers all around the world. We especially remember mothers who are no longer with us. God Bless them!

God our Creator, we pray:
For new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibilities;
   Loving God, bless them and give them strength.
For expectant mothers, wondering and waiting;
   Loving God, bless them and give them strength.
For mothers who are tired, stressed or depressed;
   Loving God, bless them and give them strength.
For mothers who struggle to balance the tasks of work and family;
   Loving God, bless them and give them strength.
For mothers who are unable to feed their children due to poverty;
   Loving God, bless them and give them strength.
For mothers whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities;
   Loving God, bless them and give them strength.
For mothers who raise children on their own;
   Loving God, bless them and give them strength.
For mothers who have lost a child;
   Loving God, bless them and give them strength.
For mothers who care for the children of others;
   Loving God, bless them and give them strength.
For mothers whose children have left home;
   Loving God, bless them and give them strength.
For mothers whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.
   Loving God, bless them and give them strength.

Loving God,
Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and tender, and that they may lead their children to know and do what is good, living not for themselves alone, but for God and for others.
Amen.

God Bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri
Student of the Week

Student of the week is awarded to the child who demonstrates outstanding application across any Key Learning Area.

| KA  | Christian Barakat    |
| KM  | Ruby Younan          |
| 1C  | Daniel Pinto         |
| 1S  | Jonas Fleeton        |
| 2M  | Jade Takchi          |
| 2Y  | Kyah Rahme           |

St Patrick's Award

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

| KA  | Shanelle Wambeek  |
| KM  | Anthony Wehbe     |
| 1C  | Crista-Nicole Gahdmar |
| 1S  | Scarlett Khoury    |
| 2M  | Gabrielle Sabat    |
| 2Y  | Isabella Younes    |

Happy Birthday to the following children who will celebrate their birthdays in the following week:
Marielle Sonido, Christiana Kalouche, Erica Jurisic, Brandon Roque

WINTER UNIFORM CHANGEOVER
Parents, please note that the changeover date for winter uniform is officially **Monday 12th May, 2014** (Term 2 week 3)

The Cycle of Motherhood.

4 Years Of Age - My Mummy can do anything; 8 Years Of Age - My Mum knows a lot! A whole lot
12 Years Of Age - My Mother doesn’t really know quite everything. 14 Years Of Age - Naturally, mum doesn’t know that, either
16 Years Of Age - Mother? She’s hopelessly old-fashioned
18 Years Of Age - That old woman? She’s way out of date
25 Years Of Age - Well, mum might know a little bit about it
35 Years Of Age - Before we decide, let’s get Mum’s opinion
65 Years Of Age - Don’t worry mum, I’ll come with you.
--- Years Of Age - Wonder what Mum would have thought about it. Wish, I could talk it over with her.

AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP ALERT
Dear Parents
Can I impress upon you again the importance of ensuring the safety of our children and other drivers by adhering to the road rules in place around our school. The increase in police presence and parking officers in the afternoon serves to remind us that safety in school zones is paramount, especially in an area involving two schools and so many children travelling home. Parramatta Council have done their best in creating the safest conditions possible in what I can see can be a very difficult situation for you, in that you sometimes need to drive up and down the street waiting for a space in the line. It is part of the complications inherent with a school situated in an urban setting.

Two key points needing attention from my observations and from reports from the teachers on duty are:
- Making sure that you cross the road at the crossing
- Making sure that your car is fully within the marked white line near the round-a-bout.

Fines for breaching road rules can cost over $300. For your convenience children can be picked up using the drive through pick up from 3.00pm to 3.30pm

Thanking you again for your support and cooperation
Berndadette Fabri
**ST PATRICK’S PARENT MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR**

**Term 2:** Thursday 12th June 1.30pm  
School Library  
Educational Input  
(Dr Carol Dweck's 'Mindset' theory)

**Term 3:** Wednesday 20th August 1.30pm  
School Library  
Educational Input (TBC)

**Term 4:** Monday 27th October 7.00pm  
School Hall  
Educational Input (TBC)

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**MOTHER’S DAY STALL & RAFFLE**

May I sincerely thank all the parents who assisted with this year’s Mother's Day Stall and raffle. So many parents contributed to this very successful school event in so many ways. Thank you to those who volunteered to undertake the sorting and packing of gifts, unpacking and organizing gifts for Wednesday, selling raffle tickets, and selling gifts to the children yesterday. Whether you were here for an hour or all of the day we thank you so very much. Thank you to Mrs Jones and Mrs Nutter for sourcing and organizing the purchase of the gifts and to some of the staff, Judith Soso and some Year 6 students for assisting in the mornings and afternoons with the raffle. Raffle tickets will still be available for purchase this afternoon and Friday morning. The raffle will be drawn after the Mother’s Day Mass morning tea.

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**WINTER UNIFORM STOCK**

The majority of winter uniforms have arrived and are being distributed. If you have not received your order please come to the office to collect. There is still a wait for the woollen jumpers.

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**GET WELL FATHER JOHN**

As mentioned in the newsletter last week Father John is currently on sick leave. Please continue to keep him in your prayers for a speedy recovery. We wish Father Andrew all the very best as he undertakes the role of Parish Administrator.

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**MOTHER'S DAY MASS AND MORNING TEA (Yr 3)**

All parents are warmly welcome to the Mother's Day Mass tomorrow, Friday 9th May at 9.30am at St Patrick’s Cathedral. Morning Tea will follow in the school hall. If any Year 3 parent would like to donate a small plate of food or a packet of biscuits etc for the morning tea, it would be very much appreciated. Tables will be set up in the school hall on Friday morning on which donations can be left.

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**LIFE EDUCATION**

Thank you is extended to all the parents who assisted with the supervision of children on the recent excursions to the Life Education Centre. As always the children really enjoyed meeting ‘Healthy Harold’ and learning all about how to live a happy and healthy life. This program support outcomes from the Personal Development/Health/Physical Education Curriculum. It was pleasing to hear the teachers from the centre commenting on the outstanding behavior displayed by the children. Congratulations children!

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**WHITE JOGGERS**

In keeping with our school uniform policy and code can I ask all parents to please ensure that their children wear predominantly white school joggers with their sports uniform and that this is in place by Term 2. Children will often try to pressure parents to buy them fluoro coloured joggers or laces for use at school, with the appeal that many other children are wearing them. Can I assure you that the uniform code will continue to be enforced by staff so as to maintain the high standard of uniform St Patricks is well known for.

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**CHANGE OF DATE FOR ASSEMBLY**

Please note a change of date for Yr 5 and Yr 4 assemblies.  
Year 4’s assembly will now be on 16th May  
Year 5's assembly will now be on 30th May  
Also a reminder to parents that assemblies will commence at 2.15pm.
BOOKCLUB ISSUE 3-2014
Due Wednesday 21st May, 2014
NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED
The preferred method of payment is to make the payment online directly to scholastic. If paying by cheque please make the CHEQUE out to Scholastic Australia. Remember to fill out Order Forms correctly and place in a sealed envelope clearly marked with NAME - CLASS - BOOKCLUB CORRECT MONEY (no change given).

PARKING FOR VOLUNTEERS AT ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL.
Once again I would like to thank Fr John McSweeney, Dean of St Patrick’s Cathedral for allowing school volunteers to use the overflow. For those who intend to use the overflow in Term 2 can I remind you of some of the guidelines”

- Please collect a notice from the school office and display on the dashboard when parking.
- Please remember to park on the tennis courts by reversing in.
- Parking notices need to be returned to the school office after use
- Parking notices are only to be used by school volunteers for use during volunteering activities.

Win a share of the sunken Treasure from the Lost City Of savings
Here’s how to win. If you have a Youthsaver account and are aged between 5-13 years, simply make three or more School Banking deposits between 21 April and 4 July 2014 and you’ll be automatically entered into the competition. See the website for a list of prizes

2014 Diocesan Cross Country

I would like to congratulate all of the students who represented St Patrick's at the 2014 Diocesan Cross Country event on Tuesday the 6th May. All of the students tried their best and completed the course. Most importantly they displayed fantastic sportspersonship and supported each other throughout the day. It shows what wonderful, compassionate and caring students we have at St Patrick's.

I would like to give a HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to LUKE MAROUN in Year Three who finished the 8/9 Year old boys 2km race in 2nd place and has now qualified to represent the Parramatta Diocesan Team at the NSW Catholic Primary Schools Cross Country Championship in June. What an outstanding achievement!

Thank you again to all of the students for their commitment and effort throughout the day and to the parents who helped out with supervision in the stands and taking students to the toilets to ensure their safety. I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Haddad and Mr Khreich for volunteering their time to assist with the running of the Cross Country event as recorders and to Mrs Barclay, Mrs Jabbour and Mrs Eltakchi for assisting as age group managers and taking students to the marshalling area for their event. We are fortunate to have such wonderful parents at St Patrick’s who never hesitate to assist. Without you these events would not run as smoothly.
Yours Thankfully
Mrs Anne Fardell
Acting Sport Coordinator
DIOCESAN WORKS FUND APPEAL (DWF)

During the month of May, we will be joining all schools and parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta to help support the Diocesan Works Fund, Faith @ Work.

Over the coming weeks we will learn about some of the ministries and people it supports. This fund reaches out to people in our local communities that are not supported by regular parish contributions.

On Monday, 19th May the school will send out collection envelopes to the eldest child of each family with the hope that families can make a contribution to the appeal. Your donation, no matter how big or small, is very much appreciated and will go towards assisting thousands of people in Western Sydney.

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. Of particular interest is Blacktown Neighbour Aid service, which assists the frail, aged, people with a disability and their carers in our community; and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) which trains religious education teachers who give witness to their faith in public schools in Western Sydney. Over the next month there will be regular information on the DWF and the people it assists.

SACRAMENTS AT ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation for children who have reached the age of 10 years will commence on Wednesday 16th July at 7.30pm in the parish hall. (parents only). The following meetings are on 23rd July, 26th July and 2nd August. Sacrament of Confirmation 10th Aug. at the 11am Mass - Bishop Anthony is the Celebrant.

Please contact pastoral@stpatscathedral.com.au if you wish to prepare your child for First Holy Communion (remember they must have already prepared for the Sacrament of Penance) or Confirmation (must have received Holy Communion) or leave a message on 02 8839 8412.

Sr Susan

Internet safety presentation helps children stay safe online

Young people today are immersed in digital technologies. They use the internet and mobile phones to socialise, study, exchange ideas and play. While online activity has many benefits, there are also risks.

To help your children stay safe online, St Oliver’s Harris Park is hosting a Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation. Designed for parents, this presentation is provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) as part of a national program of cybersmart initiatives.

The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation is thorough and non-technical. It covers a range of issues including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, identity theft, inappropriate contact and exposure to inappropriate content
- tips to help children stay safe online.

The presentation is conducted by an ACMA Cybersmart trainer and is free of charge.

The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation will be held on:

Wednesday, 21 May from 6.30pm at St Oliver’s Primary, 33 Wigram Street, Harris Park. Please note limited parking is available in the school grounds.

To register your attendance, please contact Anna Small at St. Oliver’s Harris Park on 9682 1244 or via email StOlivers@parra.catholic.edu.au

2014 COMPETITION NOW OPEN FOR ENTRIES (YRS 3 TO 6)

Calling all good writers in Yrs 3 to 6. The 9th annual Sydney Youth Writing Competition 2014 is now open for entries. The signature words for 2014 are: Drop. Wind. Keep. Each entry must contain one signature word. Entries do not need to be about these words and they can be used in any form ie plural, noun/adjective/verb etc. All entries will need to be submitted online from home. For more information go to http://www.sydneyyouthwriting.com Closing date for entries is Friday 6 June 2014.
FOOD ALLERGIES
Several children at our school suffer from food allergies – some very severe. Action plans are currently in place to administer medication to these children if it is required. To assist the staff and to help safeguard the health of these children I ask that you impress upon your own children the dangers of sharing their lunches with other students. In line with this policy we ask that you do not send gift items such as lollies, chocolates, Christmas candy canes etc for your child to give to other students. We will continue to educate the children in the classroom about only eating their own lunches and I will keep you informed of any other protocols we may need to put in place.

BE AWARE
SHOW YOU CARE
FOOD ALLERGY WEEK 12-18 MAY 2014
Food allergies are becoming increasingly common and understanding them is important for all Australians

REMEMBER:
• Know what your classmates are allergic to
• Don’t ever share food
• Wash your hands after you eat

www.foodallergyaware.com.au
Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations: 15 May
Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations from 7-8pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Patrick’s Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. To find out more about priesthood in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta contact Fr Warren Edwards – Vocations Director: tel 0409 172 700, vocations@parra.catholic.org.au

Celebrating the Early Years of Marriage: 18 May
Couples are invited to attend a special Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral in Parramatta at 11am. This Mass will recognise, celebrate and be offered for couples celebrating wedding anniversaries between one and 20 years. Those celebrating their 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th or 20th wedding anniversaries will be given a commemorative certificate. Couples and their families are invited to a light lunch in the Cathedral hall afterwards. Book with your parish office or contact Lyn Keane at CatholicCare Parramatta tel (02) 9933 0222.

Annual May Pilgrimage at Mount Schoenstatt: 18 May
All are welcome to celebrate Schoenstatt’s centenary at the Annual May Pilgrimage. This is an outdoor event – BYO chairs or picnic rugs. The celebrations commence at 10am with a pre-program including Confession. Pontifical High Mass celebrated by Bishop Anthony Fisher OP at 10.30am followed by lunch. Food stalls available or BYO picnic lunch. There will be a jumping castle and games for children during the lunch break. The Eucharistic Procession from the valley to the Shrine will commence at 2pm. Children are encouraged to wear white and strew rose petals. There is an alternative program with the Anointing of the Sick at the Shrine at 2pm. Mt Schoenstatt is at 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. For more information tel (02) 4773 8338 or visit: www.schoenstatt.org.au

Kenthurst Country Fair: 18 May
St Madeleine’s Parish is holding its Annual Country Fair with fun for the whole family from 10am-4.30pm: animal farm, pony rides, rides for all ages, show bags, face painting, café, pizza, pancakes, yummy gluten-free food and much more. Proceeds to benefit CatholicCare’s Emmaus

Disabled Persons Catholic Services in the Diocese of Parramatta: www.facebook.com/CCSSParramatta

Christian Meditation: 18 May
You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction & Renewal Day at St Benedict’s Monastery. Arrive 10am for 10.30am start. Program includes presentations, Introduction to Christian Meditation, two periods of meditation, Eucharistic Celebration and information exchange. Concludes about 3pm. BYO picnic lunch. Tea & coffee provided. Books & CDs for sale. Monastery is at 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia, tel (02) 9653 1159. Self-catering accommodation may be available in the monastery guest house. Contact Br Terry 0438 282 318. Inquiries: Ann Bergman (02) 9498 2625, anniebergman@hotmail.com or Ann Lomas (02) 9456 4775, atlomas@bigpond.com

Australian Catholic Historical Society Colloquium: 18 May
Winners are Grinne: a curious tale of episcopal one-upmanship. Speaker: Dr John De Luca, historian, musician and former Parish Priest of Maroubra Parish. Starts 2.30pm, admission free, no membership required. Crypt Hall of St Patrick’s at Church Hill, Grosvenor St, The Rocks. Inquiries: Dr John Carmody, President ACHS, (02) 9417 2082, john.carmody@sydney.edu.au

Heal the broken-hearted – Rwanda 20 years on: 19 May
*He heals the broken-hearted, and binds up their wounds.”(Psalm 147:3) Everyone is invited to morning tea with Fr Emmanuel Nsengiyumwa, parish priest for the Nyamata community in Rwanda. Fr Emmanuel will share his personal journey of loss and reconciliation in the 20 years since the 1994 Rwandan genocide, which claimed as many as 1 million lives. Catholic Mission is working in partnership with Fr Emmanuel to support the community of Nyamata as they build a new church to help restore life to their community. Time: 10.15am for 10.30am start, St Patrick’s Cathedral Hall, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. RSVP: Anita Lee tel (02) 9919 7800, allee@catholicmission.org.au

Theology on Tap: 20 May
Young adults aged 18-35 are invited to this public conversation on ‘The Pope, the Church and the Modern World’ with Bishop Anthony Fisher OP and Catholic philosopher Prof John Finnis. They will be chatting about some of the most controversial and topical issues facing Catholics all around the world. From 6.30-8.30pm at the Commercial Hotel, 2 Hassall St, Parramatta. No age range for clergy & religious. Details: www.TheologyOnTap.com.au

An evening for couples: 29 May
Do you find it difficult to make decisions as a couple?
Does one or both of you end up feeling compromised and without an equal voice?
Do your discussions often result in unpleasant arguments or cold wars?
Come and learn a method for making couple decisions. This unique Values Based Decisions Making framework will help you to learn how to connect with your deepest values for love and unity so that your choices become true couple decisions. Francine Pirola, an experienced marriage educator, a director and founder of the Smart Loving series courses, will give this presentation. From 7.30-9pm at the Diocesan Assembly Centre, cnr Fluscombe Rd & Marion St, Blacktown. Admission is free. Bookings: Karin at CatholicCare Parramatta (02) 9933 0222, Marriage@ccss.org.au

Faith at the Fiddler: 29 May
A forum for young people aged 18-35 to come together to discuss issues of faith and spirituality in the warm and friendly atmosphere of Sydney’s most famous pub. An initiative of the Diocese of Parramatta and Catholic Education Parramatta. The speaker is well-known journalist Miranda Devine. Topic: Communicating Virtue – How young people are hungry for meaning in an amoral age. From 5pm-7pm at The Mean Fiddler, cnr Commercial & Windsor Rds, Rouse Hill. Details: Steven Buhagiar – Catholic Education, Parramatta, sbuhagiar@parra.catholic.edu.au
MASS TIMETABLE FOR ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL, PARRAMATTA


MASSES
Saturday Vigil  6.00 p.m.
Sunday  8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
Children’s Liturgy 9.30 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASS
Monday to Friday  6.45am, 12.30 p.m.
Saturday  8.00am
Public Holidays  8.00am

RECONCILIATION
Monday to Friday  11.45am to 12.30pm
Saturday  8.30 to 9.00am & 5.15 to 6.00pm

**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**

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**COMING EVENTS 2014**

**TERM TWO - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Week Two**
Friday 9th May  
Mother’s Day Mass 9.30am  
Mother’s Day morning tea  
Assembly Yr 2 School Hall 2.15pm

**Week Three**
Monday 12th May  
Life Education - Year 5  
Tuesday 13th May  
NAPLAN - Yrs 3 & 5  
Wednesday 14th May  
NAPLAN - Yrs 3 & 5  
Thursday 15th May  
NAPLAN - Yrs 3 & 5  
Friday 16th May  
Assembly Yr 4 School Hall 2.15pm

**Week Four**
Tuesday 20th May  
ICAS Computer skills - 7.50am

Friday 23rd May  
Assembly Yr 1 School Hall 2.15pm

**Week Five**
Friday 30th May  
Assembly Yr 5 School Hall 2.15pm

**Week Six**
Wednesday 4th June  
ICAS Science skills - 7.50am

Friday 6th June  
Pupil Free day - NO school for students

**Week Seven**
Monday 9th June  
Queen’s Birthday - Public Holiday NO SCHOOL

Friday 13th June  
Primary Athletics carnival  
Infants Fun day  
No assembly

**Week Eight**
Monday 16th June  
Reports home to parents

Friday 20th June  
Assembly Kinder School Hall 2.15pm

**Week Nine**
Friday 27th June  
Last day of Term 2  
Assembly Yr 3 School Hall 2.15pm

**Ode to my Mother**

Before I was myself you made me,  
You helped me to realize all that I could be  
You’ve taught me a lot, and I need you to know  
I don’t say it enough but I do love you so

Thanks Mum.

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**sub tuum praesidium**

Ode to my Mother

Before I was myself you made me,
You helped me to realize all that I could be
You’ve taught me a lot, and I need you to know
I don’t say it enough but I do love you so

Thanks Mum.