THE LENTEN SEASON... a time for renewal

Next Wednesday we will see the commencement of the Lenten season for 2011. This period of time, lasting 40 days, is of great significance for us all. During this time we prepare ourselves for the greatest of all mysteries – The Resurrection of Christ.

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday, when the church sprinkles ashes on our foreheads as a reminder of repentance and bodily death, and will conclude with the sorrows and joys of Holy Week.

Lent is characterised by our renewal, personal growth and prayer. A time for self denial - thinking less of ourselves, and more of those in need. A time for sharing our time, patience and talents with God and our neighbour.

Lent could be a time for:

- Saying extra prayers
- Attending Mass more often
- Helping the needy
- Trying to help in my family
- Doing my best in all things
- Going without my favourite things
CONGRATULATIONS to the Wehbe family (Lara 3T) on the birth of a baby girl.

ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL
CONGRATULATIONS to all the St Patrick’s children who represented our school at the Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival on Thursday 24th February. Your behaviour was outstanding! Your efforts were fantastic! Our school came fourth overall.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS to Louise Zhang who broke the 50m backstroke record! Louise also won the Senior Girls Championship Trophy.

Olivia Murillo closely followed by winning Senior Girls Runner-up Trophy.

THANK YOU to all the parents who came and supported their children.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO ATTEND SWIMMING LESSONS TO DEVELOP CORRECT STROKE TECHNIQUE & CONFIDENCE.

DIOCESAN SWIMMING CARNIVAL
CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who have qualified for the Diocesan Swimming Carnival tomorrow Friday 4th March:

Louise Zhang  Olivia Murillo
Cassandra Horvath  Jo-Beth Elias
Andrew Younes  George Khoury
James Sarkis  Joshua Rizk

We wish them all good luck

TEAM SPORTS TRIALS FOR PARRAMATTA DIOCESE

GOOD LUCK to Joshua Rizk & Harry Gray who will try out for the Diocesan Rugby League team on the 7th March.

CRICKET NSW-SKILLS PROGRAM
The Cricket Skills Program continued this week with the children having great fun. Don’t let your child miss out. All children are expected to participate as part of the PDHPE Key Learning Area.

WORK BOOKS
Each Monday this term, your child will be bringing home one of their work books for parents to see their work. Next week your child’s English book will be sent home. Please make a comment and sign the books then return them to school the next day.

FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION
VALIDATION FORMS
The 2011 Validation Forms have been sent home to all parents. Please complete the information on both sides of the form, sign and return immediately.

PARENT HELPERS PROGRAM
Reminder that the next session will be tomorrow Friday 4th March at 2.00pm in the Library. The Focus will be Mathematics in the classroom. You are welcome to attend even if you will not be able to help in the classroom.
KINDERGARTEN VISIT TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE
On Monday 28th February, Kindergarten students were given a special tour of the Catholic Education Office by Executive Director of Schools, Mr Greg Whitby.

The students were invited to visit the CEO by Greg when he visited our new hall last Thursday.

Greg said it was a great opportunity for CEO staff to be in touch with the students and staff directly and see first hand, the people for whom they work.

“These children and their teachers are our reason for being, and we need to do the very best for them,’ said Greg. ‘Allowing our staff to see them here in the office reminds us of the human face of our work.’

The students arrived proudly at the CEO with their school hat and uniform, accompanied by Mrs Bryant, Miss Rouggas, Miss Farah and Mrs Mills.

The students made their first stop at the Executive Director’s office, squeezing into the space and playing with the chess set and other items on his desk, while asking him questions about his work.

The students then toured some of the floors before singing two songs prior to heading back to school.

Mrs Bryant was pleased that the students had the opportunity to tour the CEO.

‘The children were very excited about the visit and asked a lot of questions when they arrived,’ said Mrs Bryant. ‘They were looking forward to singing some songs for the staff as well.’

SHROVE TUESDAY
Thank you to the parents who responded promptly and ordered Pancakes for their children. We have had a great response.

We will need two or three volunteers to help us package the children’s orders on the day. If you could help please let Mrs Nutter know by Monday.

ASH WEDNESDAY marks the beginning of Lent on Wednesday 9th March.

The students in Years 2 to 6 will attend Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral at 9.30 a.m. The Kindergarten and Year One students will have a Liturgy at school.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year.

SCHOOL CHOIR
We are hoping to build the School Choir this year. If your child enjoys singing please encourage them to join the choir. They do not have to be ‘talented’ just love to sing. We especially would like to see a number of boys involved.

INVITATION
St Patrick’s Feast Day Mass
Thursday 17th March
9.30 a.m.
St Patrick’s Cathedral

SCHOOL FEES – PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS
Please be advised that payment arrangements must be renewed each year. They do not carry over from last year.

Please contact the office to organise a new arrangement.

LETTERS SENT HOME THIS WEEK
YEARS 3 – 6:
ICAS Science & Computer Competitions

Details to come: Primary Cross Country
COMING EVENTS 2011
TERM ONE - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week Five
Friday 4th March
Diocesan Swimming Carnival
Assembly Year 4 School Hall 9.00 a.m
Parent Helpers Program 2.00 p.m.

Week Six
Tuesday 8th March
Shrove Tuesday - Pancakes
Wednesday 9th March
Ash Wednesday Mass (no cricket)
Thursday 10th March
Cricket Clinic
Friday 11th March
Hall Blessing & Opening Ceremony

Week Seven
Wednesday 16th March
Cricket Clinic
Thursday 17th March
St Patrick’s Feast Day Mass 9.30 am. (no cricket)
Friday 18th March
Assembly Year 3 School Hall 9.00 a.m.

Week Eight
Wednesday 23rd March
Cricket Clinic
Thursday 24th March
Cricket Clinic
Friday 25th March
Primary Cross Country

Week Nine
Wednesday 30th March
Cricket Clinic (make up day from 9th March)
Thursday 31st March
Cricket Clinic (make up day from 17th March)
Friday 1st April
Year 5 Excursion
Year 4 Excursion
Assembly Year 2 School Hall 9.00 a.m.

Week Ten
Friday 8th April
LAST DAY TERM ONE

God dwells in heaven and earth and the sea
And all things that are in them
He inspires all things
He watches over all things
He gives life and love to all things.

Mrs Gloria Bryant and Staff

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 am

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

RECONCILIATION
Monday to Friday
8.30 to 9.00am & 5.15 to 6.00pm
Parish Golden Jubilee
1. St Bernadette’s Parish, Lalor Park, invites all past and present parishioners, students and teachers to an Anniversary Mass on 6th March at 10am. A sausage sizzle will be held in the school grounds following mass. Where: St Bernadette’s Church, 143 Wheeler Street, Lalor Park Ph: 02 9672 4037

2. At Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong, invites all past and present parishioners to a Mass of Thanksgiving on 27th March at 10.30am followed by morning tea. St Andrews Church, 40 Breakfast Road, Marayong Ph: 02 9622 0817

2011 Lenten Resources
the Archdiocese of Brisbane has produced a set of resources for use by parishes, groups, schools, families, young people and children. Heart to Heart: Lenten reflections for individuals and groups; CD with introduction and hymns for opening and closing prayers; Gospel readings, Scripture reflections and guided meditations; posters and prayer cards. Inquiries: Life & Faith phone (07)3336 9168. view samples and order online: www.bne.catholic.net.au/lent

Ecumenical and Interfaith Seminar: 5th March
An opportunity to meet and learn. Topics: ‘What can we learn from Martin Luther?’ with Rev Mark Lieschke, President of Lutherans in NSW; ‘The Scandal of Divisions among Christians and a Theology of Ecumenism’ with Dr Gideon Goosen, author of Bringing Churches Together; ‘Growing up a Hindu in Australia’ with Ms Sujatha Natarajan, Founder of the UNSW Hindu Society. Where: Institute for Mission, cnr Flushcombe Road & Marion Street, Blacktown. Time: 9.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. Register by 28th February with the Institute for Mission: (02)9831 4911, mh@instituteformission.com.au

Catholic Outlook March issue
- World Youth Day - Ole Madrid! Only 6 weeks to register
- Bishop Anthony’s Lenten Message
- New translation of the Roman Missal: Why ‘and with your spirit’ is right
- Importance of Early learning
- Families invited to ‘Share the Dream’ conference
- NSW votes: Questions for Catholics to ask
- Relic of St John Bosco to visit OLOR, St Marys

Reflection Day for Women: 21st March
Sr Mary Louise Walsh ISSM and Fr Terry Bell will host a Reflection Day on the theme: Lent - A Time of Letting Go. The sessions include talks, spiritual reflections and time for personal prayer all set in the peaceful grounds of Mr Schoenstatt Retreat and Conference Centre at Mulgoa. Cost: $10 donation. BYO lunch. Where: Mt Schoenstatt, Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Time: 9.30 am – 2.30 pm. Details: p: 47738338.

Reflection Morning: 26th March 2011
Bishop Anthony Fisher OP will give a reflection on the “Spirituality of St Dominic” at 10am-1pm in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, cnr Stuart & Wentworth Sts, Blackheath. Entry by donation. Morning tea provided. No need to book. For details contact Carmel 02 4787 8706
Position Vacant  Parish Manager (part time)

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes is recruiting for a part time Parish Manager to work 24 hours per week. If you are interested in the position please visit the Diocesan website www.parra.catholic.org.au

Pastoral Care Worker (full time)

Westmead Hospital is an accredited hospital of approximately 1,000 beds within the Greater Western Sydney Area Health Service. The Pastoral Care Worker will minister to patients, their relatives and hospital staff as a member of a cooperative, multi-denominational team.

The successful applicant will:
- Have completed at least one unit (basic) of hospital based Clinical Pastoral Education.
- Possess certification of sound theological training;
- Have demonstrable experience of pastoral care in health services.
- An information package is available from the Diocesan Office. Please contact Vicar General’s secretary on 02 8838 3411, email: msewell@parra.catholic.org.au closing date: Friday 11th March 2011

Office Manager (part time)

The Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton is recruiting for a part time Office Manager, 30 hers/week (Mon-Fri). This is a new position. You will need to have MYOB Accounts Payable & Receivable experience and General ledger knowledge. You will prepare end-of-month accounts, BAS reporting and payroll. Details: John Sheehy tel (02) 8838 3417 or download the job description for the Diocese of Parramatta’s website: www.parra.catholic.org.au

Closing date: Monday 18th march at 5.00 p.m.

CATHARINE MCAULEY WESTMEAD OPEN DAY-TUESDAY 15TH MARCH

Catherine McAuley Westmead will be holding a School Open Morning for students and their parents interested in enrolling for Year 7 2012. The morning will give you the opportunity to tour around our school grounds, view our fantastic facilities and meet our wonderful students and teachers. As this is a normal school day you will have the opportunity to go into classrooms and see them in action.

School tours will leave from School Reception at 9.15am. Car parking is available on site via gate 3 (opposite Westmead Private Hospital). Morning tea will be served following the school tour.

Please contact School Reception on 9849 9100 if you would like to attend.

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