



Dear Parents

Yesterday, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 was Ash Wednesday. It is marked by the distribution of ashes made from the burning of palms. At St Patrick's some of the ashes came from the burning of the palms at Tuesday's morning assembly. Father Bob introduced this symbolic action with prayer, blessed the palms and explained to the children the importance of this element of our Religious Education and growing faith. At Ash Wednesday Mass the children from Years 1 to 6 came forward to receive the ashes as father or their class teachers made a Sign of the Cross on each person's forehead, saying the words, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."

This year Pope Francis' Lenten message is focused on the theme, 'The word is gift and other persons are a gift' He encourages us to use Lent as a time to deepen our spiritual life through fasting, prayer and almsgiving. He invites us to hear and ponder scripture more deeply and he 'unpacks' the scripture story of 'The Rich Man and Lazarus'. Pope Francis always speaks words of wisdom which are easily accessible to his people. I have included his Lenten message in this newsletter for your convenience and encourage you to read it thoughtfully. I have also included the link to Bishop Vincent Long's Lenten message from Youtube. It is well worth viewing.

God Bless You and Your Family  
Bernadette Fabri  
Principal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnsTGev5rT8>



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

**Lent is a new beginning**, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's **victory over death**. This season urgently calls us to **conversion**. Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016).

**Lent is a favorable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer and almsgiving.** At the basis of everything is the word of God, which during this season **we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply**. I would now like to consider the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (cf. Lk 16:19-31). Let us find inspiration in this meaningful story, for it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. It exhorts us to sincere conversion.

#### 1. The other person is a gift

The parable begins by presenting its two main characters. The poor man is described in greater detail: he is wretched and lacks the strength even to stand. Lying before the door of the rich man, he fed on the crumbs falling from his table. His body is full of sores and dogs come to lick his wounds (cf. vv. 20-21). The picture is one of great misery; it portrays a man disgraced and pitiful.

The scene is even more dramatic if we consider that the poor man is called Lazarus: a name full of promise, which literally means "God helps". This character is not anonymous. His features are clearly delineated and he appears as an individual with his own story. While practically invisible to the rich man, we see and know him as someone familiar. He becomes a face, and as such, a gift, a priceless treasure, a human being whom God loves and cares for, despite his concrete condition as an outcast (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016).

Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift. **A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value.** Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change. The parable first invites us to **open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift, whether it be our neighbor or an anonymous pauper**. Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. Each of us meets people like this every day. Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love. **The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable.** But in order to do this, we have to take seriously what the Gospel tells us about the rich man.

#### 2. Sin blinds us

The parable is unsparing in its description of the contradictions associated with the rich man (cf. v. 19). Unlike poor Lazarus, he does not have a name; he is simply called "a rich man". His opulence was seen in his extravagant and expensive robes. Purple cloth was even more precious than silver and gold, and was thus reserved to divinities (cf. Jer 10:9) and kings (cf. Jg 8:26), while fine linen gave one an almost sacred character. The man was clearly ostentatious about his wealth, and in the habit of displaying it daily: "He feasted sumptuously every day" (v. 19). In him we can catch a dramatic glimpse of the corruption of sin, which progresses in three successive stages: love of money, vanity and pride (cf. Homily, 20 September 2013).

The Apostle Paul tells us that "the love of money is the root of all evils" (1 Tim 6:10). It is the main cause of corruption and a source of envy, strife and suspicion. Money can come to dominate us, even to the point of becoming a tyrannical idol (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 55). **Instead of being an instrument at our service for doing good and showing solidarity towards others, money can chain us and the entire world to a selfish logic that leaves no room for love and hinders peace.**

The parable then shows that the rich man's greed makes him vain. His personality finds expression in appearances, in showing others what he can do. But his appearance masks an interior emptiness. His life is a prisoner to outward appearances, to the most superficial and fleeting aspects of existence (cf. *ibid.*, 62).

The lowest rung of this moral degradation is pride. The rich man dresses like a king and acts like a god, forgetting that he is merely mortal. For those corrupted by love of riches, nothing exists beyond their own ego. Those around them do not come into their line of sight. The result of attachment to money is a sort of blindness. The rich man does not see the poor man who is starving, hurting, lying at his door.

Looking at this character, we can understand why the Gospel so bluntly condemns the love of money: "No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money" (Mt 6:24).

#### 3. The Word is a gift

**The Gospel of the rich man and Lazarus helps us to make a good preparation for the approach of Easter.** The liturgy of Ash Wednesday invites us to an experience quite similar to that of the rich man. When the priest imposes the ashes on our heads, he repeats the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". As it turned out, the rich man and the poor man both died, and the greater part of the parable takes place in the afterlife. The two characters suddenly discover that "we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it" (1 Tim 6:7).

We too see what happens in the afterlife. There the rich man speaks at length with Abraham, whom he calls "father" (Lk 16:24.27), as a sign that he belongs to God's people. This detail makes his life appear all the more contradictory, for until this moment there had been no mention of his relation to God. In fact, there was no place for God in his life. His only god was himself.

The rich man recognizes Lazarus only amid the torments of the afterlife. He wants the poor man to alleviate his suffering with a drop of water. What he asks of Lazarus is similar to what he could have done but never did. Abraham tells him: "During your life you had your fill of good things, just as Lazarus had his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony" (v. 25). In the afterlife, a kind of fairness is restored and life's evils are balanced by good.

The parable goes on to offer a message for all Christians. The rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers, who are still alive. But Abraham answers: "They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them" (v. 29). Countering the rich man's objections, he adds: "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead" (v. 31).

The rich man's real problem thus comes to the fore. At the root of all his ills was the failure to heed God's word. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to despise his neighbor. **The word of God is alive and powerful, capable of converting hearts and leading them back to God. When we close our heart to the gift of God's word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters.**

Dear friends, Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need. I encourage all the faithful to express this spiritual renewal also by sharing in the Lenten Campaigns promoted by many Church organizations in different parts of the world, and thus to favor the culture of encounter in our one human family. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter.

From the Vatican, 18 October 2016

Feast of Saint Luc the Evangelist

FRANCIS



## Honour Award

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

KA	Levi Jaitani
KM	Angelique Saliba
1C	Isaac Loulach
1S	Brendan Lima
2M	Alexandriya Izmestyeva
2Y	Weyata Lamin

## st patrick's award

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

KA	Olivia Fayad
KM	Joseph Norman
1C	Clare Camenzuli
1S	Alicia Remaili
2M	Amelia Coles
2Y	James Kerr

CEDP Attendance Benchmark Target Level = 90%

**St Patrick's Current Attendance Level = 88.2%**

### ROSS ST DRIVEWAY OUT OF BOUNDS



Can I ask you **not to** drive into the driveway off Ross Street to pick up or drop off children unless there has been an emergency and you have received special permission. The process of reversing back, especially in the morning when children are still entering the school is dangerous and the left and right side blind spots makes it very difficult for drivers to see clearly even with reverse cameras. Please remember that children are only small and can often be hidden from view. Sometimes staff need to park in the driveway so as to avoid going into the playground. The movement of these cars is fully supervised at all times when children are about. I am confident in your cooperation in this very important safety matter.

Miss Fabri

### BUS STRIKE

We have been notified that a bus strike for buses in western and south-western Sydney is planned for next **Tuesday 7 March**. The strike will take effect from 7.00am-9.00am in the morning and from 2.00pm-4.00pm in the afternoon.

## After School 'Drive Through' & Crossing Alert

Dear Parents

Can I thank all the parents using our 'Drive Through' service for being so patient. Last week both the police and parking officers congratulated the staff on the extremely well run and efficient system we have in place. It has been awhile coming but we did it.



For this to continue being the case we need your assistance. Please:

- Have a clear label displayed in your front wind screen in **bold black text** (highlighter and biro are impossible to read)
- Have children enter the car from the footpath only
- Avoid having children put bags in the boot (if another car accidentally accelerated your child could be crushed). Drive through is not like a car park!
- Avoid making a u-turn in Ross Street at this time of day
- Use the designated crossings (this is what your children are taught in school) around the school rather than crossing in between the traffic
- Remain in your car as it is illegal to leave your vehicle.

The afternoon crossing in Ross St now has a staff member from OLMC acting as a 'Lollipop person' so please support them.

For your convenience children can be picked up using the 'drive through' pick up from 3.00 to 3.30pm.

A few extra minutes to follow the rules may save a life. Your children are important to us.

Thanking you for your support and co-operation

Elly Benkovich



**Happy Birthday to the following children who will celebrate their birthdays in the following week:**  
**Amelia Lathouras-Beacroft, Samuel Navasardyan, Lacey Bond, Malcolm Nasr, Sean Feng, Tiffany McCloskey, Harrison Chidiac, Hunter Morson, Alexander Sicurella, Gabriella Sta Rosa**

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day

Thank you to the following parents who assist us on Shrove Tuesday by preparing and distributing pikelets to the children, It was wonderful to see the many happy faces; smiles smeared with jam and butter and hungry tummies satisfied. Thank you to Diane Jaitani, Laura Tarabay, Josephine Romanos, Elizabeth Johnson and Joan Jreij.

## ICE BLOCKS !!



We are selling ice blocks again every Friday starting from 3rd March until the end of term. Each child may buy ONE ice block at \$1.00 each.

If you are able to spare 1 hr between 1pm and 2pm over the next 6 weeks please contact Mrs Jones in the office on 9630 1421.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MIKAYLA SALEH

Congratulations to all the children who represented the school and Cumberland Zone in the recent zone swimming carnival. Special congratulations goes Mikayla Saleh Class 5C for her outstanding achievements in the pool.



**SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!**

**St Patricks Day 17th March**

**More details to come**

## 2017 Catholic Schools Week

This year St Patrick's will celebrate the wonderful opportunities that our school offers during Catholic Schools Week from 5-11 March. The theme of Catholic Schools Week is 'Learning Connected'. Catholic Schools Week is a great opportunity to come together and connect with the people that make St Patrick's the terrific community to which we all belong.

	Monday	Tuesday
9.00 – 9.40	2M	6P
9.40 – 10.20	2Y	6W
10.20 – 11.00	KA	KM
11.00 – 11.30	RECESS	
11.30 – 12.10	5C	4B
12.10 – 12.50	5T	4G
12.50 – 1.30	LUNCH	
1.30 – 2.10	3L	3T
2.10 – 2.50	1C	1S

Many occasions have been organised throughout the week for your child to develop their connectedness to learning. You are invited to join your child and witness their enjoyment of school as well as their learning. Listed below is a schedule of events for the week.

**6/7 March - Monday/Tuesday – Showcasing Gymnastics-Lesson demonstrations** for parents to come and see the skills their children have been developing in the "Tri-Skills lessons" Please see the timetable for the scheduled times for your children.

**8 March Wednesday - Whole school - 9.15am 'Welcoming Ceremony'** followed by 'Open classrooms' for parents to connect with their children in their learning space.

Following the open classrooms the parents will be able to enjoy a **picnic Morning Tea** with their children.

Infants Recess time - 10.30am approx  
Primary Recess time - 11.00am approx

Other Catholic Schools' Week events that are only for children include:

**9 March -Thursday – Year 4/5 Science incursion**

**10 March - Friday- Year 4,5,6 - Concert at Riverside Theatre**

Catholic Schools Week is an ideal opportunity to support our community and to learn more about the great things that are taking place in our school. We look forward to seeing you during Catholic Schools Week.



### School Photos –16th March 2017

School Photographs will be taken on Thursday **16<sup>th</sup> March 2017**. Please ensure that your child is neatly dressed in **full Summer School Uniform**.

**We encourage you to pay online for both individual photos and sibling photos.** This can be done in the convenience of your home. An email receipt will be mailed to you as confirmation and you can pay for all children or sibling photos in 1 easy payment. **The online code for our school St Patricks Primary, Parramatta is MKW J3F KMB. This needs to be completed at least 48hrs prior to photo day.**

Every child has received a separate school photograph envelope, which if paying by cash or cheque must be returned to school with the correct payment (no change is able to be given) by **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017**. Please ensure that you read the instructions on the envelope carefully and complete the envelope in full.

# 2017 School Calendar

## Term 1

### Week 6

Friday 3rd March St Patrick's Choir Performance  
Whole School Assembly — 2.15pm

### Week 7

### Catholic Schools Week

Monday 6th March Tri-skills—Gymnastics  
Parents welcome to attend for Catholic Schools Week (see timetable in newsletter)

Tuesday 7th March Tri-skills—Gymnastics  
Parents welcome to attend for Catholic Schools Week (see timetable in newsletter)

Wednesday 8th March Welcoming Ceremony followed by open classrooms  
Picnic Recess with your children  
Infants approx. 10.30am  
Primary approx. 11.00am

Thursday 9th March Year 4 & Year 5 Science Incursion

Friday 10th March Sydney Symphony Orchestra Yrs 4-6  
Riverside Theatre  
Primary Assembly—2.15pm

### Week 8

Monday 13th March Tri-skills—Gymnastics

Tuesday 14th March Tri-skills—Gymnastics

Thursday 16th March School Photos—Full Summer Uniform

Friday 17th March St Patricks Day Mass & Picnic  
More details to come  
No assembly

### Week 9

Monday 20th March Tri-skills—Gymnastics

Tuesday 21st March Tri-skills—Gymnastics

Friday 24th March Year 2 Excursion to Elizabeth Farm  
Infants Assembly—Year 1—2.15pm

### Week 10

Monday 27th March Tri-skills—Gymnastics

Tuesday 28th March Tri-skills—Gymnastics



*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***

#### **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**

Mon to Fri 6.45am, 12.30pm  
Public Hol 8.00am

##### **Pastoral Team**

**Bishop of Parramatta Most Rev.  
Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM CONV**

Very Rev Fr Robert Bossini  
Rev Fr John Paul Escarlan  
Rev Deacon Willy Limjap  
Margaret Gale ( Sacramental Coord)  
Milli Lee (Parish Admin Asst)  
Patricia Preca (Parish Secretary)

**Bishop of Parramatta, Vincent Long Van Nguyen  
& Dean Of St Patrick's Cathedral  
Fr Robert Bossini invite you to  
Join us for the  
St Patrick's Day Business Breakfast**

Friday 17th of March,  
6:30 am to 8:30am  
1 Marist Place, Parking off Victoria Road  
RSVP 10 of March 2017  
To RSVP please call -8839 8411  
or email [events@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:events@stpatscathedral.com.au)



Keynote Speaker  
Former Premier of NSW  
John Fahey

**ST PATRICK'S MARIST COLLEGE, DUNDAS**

*Awakening Strong Minds  
and Gentle Hearts*



**OPEN DAY**



**Monday, 6th March | 4.00pm to 6.00pm**



**PARRAMATTA MARIST HIGH SCHOOL**

2 DARCY ROAD, WESTMEAD NSW 2145  
 PH. 02 9635 7066 | E. PARRAMARIST@PARRA.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU  
 WWW.PARRAMARIST.NSW.EDU.AU

**YEAR 7 2018 INFORMATION EVENING**

**WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH 2017**

**5:30PM - SCHOOL TOUR & BBQ**

**6:30PM - 7:30PM - PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS & INFORMATION SESSION**

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL VIA [WWW.PARRAMARIST.NSW.EDU.AU](http://WWW.PARRAMARIST.NSW.EDU.AU)  
 PARKING AVAILABLE VIA GATE 3, DARCY ROAD (OPPOSITE WESTMEAD PRIVATE HOSPITAL)

**ENROLMENT INFORMATION**

Enrolment Packages will be available during the evening.  
 Enrolments Open: 13th March - Close: 31st March

ENROLMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE WILL BE PLACED ON A WAITING LIST

**WE OFFER TOP QUALITY, AFFORDABLE CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR BOYS**

Over the past 10 years, Our HSC Results have placed us in the top 100 schools in NSW.

In 2016, we achieved the following HSC Results: 51st in the state overall, 4th in Mathematics Extension 1 and Extension 2, 28th in Mathematics General 2, 61st in English (Advanced), Extension 1 and Extension 2 and 6 All-round achievers.

Parramatta Marist High School has been both Nationally and Internationally recognised as High Quality Innovators in 21st Century Education

Oakhill College  
**OPEN DAY**

THURSDAY 2 MARCH 2017 4.00-7.00PM

Oakhill  
 COLLEGE



Enrol now for Year 7, 2018 and Year 7, 2019



Tours  
 Principal's Address  
 Active Learning  
 Meet Staff  
 and Students



Oakhill College is an independent Catholic school in the Lasallian tradition

Years 7-10 Boys  
 Years 11-12 Co-educational

ALL ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Book your tour at [www.oakhill.nsw.edu.au](http://www.oakhill.nsw.edu.au)

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**ENROLLING  
 now for 2018**

Catherine McAuley is a Catholic girls' secondary school, located at Westmead. Our broad curriculum encourages young women to pursue independent lifelong learning.



*Educating young women for the future*

**OPEN NIGHT** Tuesday 14th March 2017  
 4.00pm - 7.00pm

This school open event will give visitors the opportunity to tour the school and view facilities as well as meet our School Principal and School Leadership Team

CONTACT OUR SCHOOL ON 9849 9100 FOR AN ENROLMENT PACK.  
 APPLICATIONS CLOSE 31ST MARCH 2017

Catherine McAuley, 2 Darcy Road, Westmead | [www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au)



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

**Open Day**

Discover what a Mercy education can do for your daughter at the OLMC Parramatta Open Day on

**Sunday March 12, 2017 10am - 2pm**

Principal's welcome at 10.00am and 12.00pm

*Expanding beyond what we know we can be*

[www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au)



MERCY | COMPASSION | JUSTICE | DIGNITY | EXCELLENCE | HOSPITALITY | STEWARDSHIP | SERVICE



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

**Open Day**