



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Yesterday, Wednesday 26th February 2020 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 Chris 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."

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is a time in the Church's year to reflect on how we can live our lives with the heart of Jesus. This is a special time of self reflection for Catholics all around the world and we are called to examine how we treat others. In a recent address about the coming of Lent, Pope Francis asks us the following questions:

- How do I behave with people?
- How is my heart in front of people?
- Am I a hypocrite? Do I smile then criticize and destroy them with my tongue?

He then says, if "we at the end of Lent have corrected this a little, and are not always criticizing others from behind, I assure you that the Resurrection of Jesus will be seen more beautiful and greater among us"

Pope Francis advises that the best medicine to assist us in this area is through prayer. Father Bob also mentioned the importance of prayer in his homily on Ash Wednesday. He asked us to pray with Respect, Compassion and Resilience; to push through our desire to stop when we find it hard, to continue to pray with a compassionate heart and with respect to others.

What powerful ways for us to model to our children this Lent. For the full address from our Holy Father, please follow this [Link](#).

This year I have included for your use a Lenten Prayer prepared by the mission team at the Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta. There will be a different one every week. May I encourage you to take some time to pray this with your family, as part of the bedtime ritual.

God Bless You and Your Family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal



# 2020 Dates to Remember

## Week 5

Friday 28th February

Infants Assembly—Year 1—2.15pm School Hall

## Week 6

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Monday 2nd March

Triskills Continue

Tuesday 3rd March

9:15 am: Welcoming Ceremony in the Cola.

10:00 am: Parent Morning Tea in the Hall.

10:30 am: There will be an opportunity for Open Classrooms, where you will be able to visit your child's learning space.

11:00 am: Joint Morning Tea/Picnic on our school playground.

All are welcome to join.

Friday 6th March

Primary Assembly—Year 3—2.15pm School Hall

## Week 7

Monday 9th March

Triskills Continues

Tuesday 10th March

Triskills continues

Friday 13th March

Infants Assembly—Kinder—2.15pm School Hall

## Week 8

Monday 16th March

Triskills Continues

Tuesday 17th March

Triskills continues

Friday 20th March

Primary Assembly—Year 6—2.15pm School Hall

## Week 9

Tuesday 24th March

Triskills continues



## Honour Award

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

KA	Saria-Jo Eid	George Bazouni
KM	Monica Gould	Noah Naudi
1C	Alyssa Vella	Isaiah Zaiter
1S	Nina Kancijanac	Elias Kazzaz
2M	Ashton Grohs	Jasmine Rizk
2Y	Lourdes Saleh	Patrick Semaan



## st patrick's award

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

KA	Jared Cauan	Cienna Joachim
KM	Olivia Saab	Jamie Chiha
1C	Sandra Nehme	Xavier Bayssari
1S	Zachary Tannous	Faith Daniel
2M	Mariah Jreij	Jewel Sebastian
2Y	Anastasia Naudi	Jayden Blazek



**Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday in the coming week**

— Ava Salloum, Erick Granados-Gavito, Aireen Kwa, Xavier Bayssari, Kayla Amaral, Samuel Navasardyan, Max Barakat

## St Patrick's Current Attendance Level = 87.5%

K = 94.8%

2 = 77.4%

4 = 85.2%

6 = 88.1%

1 = 88.5%

3 = 90.0%

5 = 88.7%

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Last Friday the staff joined with the staff at Christ the King, North Rocks for Professional Learning on Sustainable Inquiry. The day was facilitated by Dr Michael McDowell and the staff worked through strategies and research principles around teacher clarity, student involvement in the learning, an increase in student ownership and growth, feedback, sequencing of tasks and assessment. It was a very worthwhile day.

## CAR PICK UP UPDATE



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are still experiencing difficulties with regard to our afternoon pick up. Whilst the school will continue to appeal on the parent's behalf may I continue to encourage you to follow all the traffic rules. On one of my visits around the block of the school I

noticed that many drivers are blocking the round - a - bouts. This is certainly not helpful as it not only blocks the round -a -bout but also the cross streets. May I also appeal that you do not block the driveways of our local businesses.

The school will continue to work on a system that aims to alleviate your stress, distress and frustration.

Regards  
Bernadette 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 and the efforts of these parents has enabled the school to hold these opportunities. Thank you to Josie Romanos, Corinne Joachim, Diane Jaitani, Mary Lahoud, Rania Seely, Patti Batti, Rose Suh and Deena Hanna. Thank you Mrs Jones!



## NAPLAN Yrs 3 and 5

12-22 May

NAPLAN Online

NAPLAN information will be available through this newsletter over the next 2 terms. Please watch this space.

## NAPLAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

The links below take you to demonstration tests for conventions of language (grammar, punctuation, and spelling), numeracy, reading and writing for each NAPLAN test year level: 3, 5, 7 and 9. As all Year 3 students will complete the writing test on paper, there is no Year 3 demonstration test for writing.

<https://pages.assessform.edu.au/pages/year-3-demos>

<https://pages.assessform.edu.au/pages/year-5-demos>



# Catholic Schools Week

This year St Patrick's Parramatta will celebrate the wonderful opportunities that our school offers during Catholic Schools Week from 2-6 March. The theme of Catholic Schools Week is '**Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed**'. Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening connections between our school community - students, staff, priests, parishioners, and parents- showcasing our activities and actions.

During Catholic Schools Week, we take the opportunity to highlight not only the best of what we do, but also what happens every day. We will be holding many opportunities on Tuesday to join with your child and witness their enjoyment of school as well as their learning.

Please join us:

## Tuesday 3 March:

9:15am: Welcoming Ceremony in the Cola.

10:00 Parent Morning Tea in the Hall.

10:30 There will be an opportunity for Open Classrooms, where you will be able to visit your child's learning space.

11:00 Joint Morning Tea/Picnic on our school playground. All are welcome to join.

Thank you

Catholic Schools Week Committee

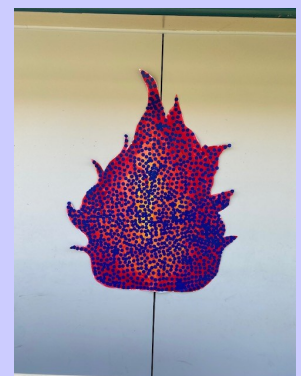
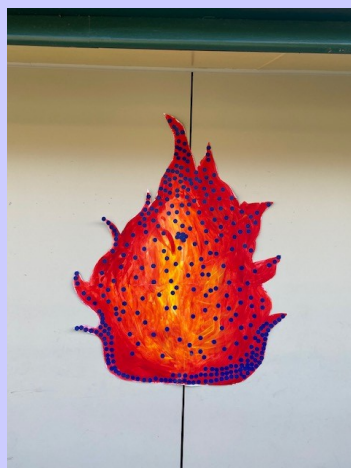
## Bushfire Appeal

Last Thursday, on the 20th February, St Patrick's Primary School helped to raise money for the BushFire Appeal. In preparation for this day, the Arts Leaders, Renee Kougellis and Ashintha Joseph, with the help of Mrs Standring, painted a beautiful, symbolic flame representing the burning bushfires across and around Australia.

As a school community, we wore blue to represent the water needed to put out the extreme fires that caused much damage, death and destruction. Each student attached blue dots onto the flame to represent the water that we desperately needed to extinguish the fires. Our flame began as a large flame at the beginning of the day, but the more water that was added the smaller the flame became, until the flame was extinguished by a sea of blue dots (water).

A gold coin donation was brought in by every student to raise money for the Bushfire Appeal to help the families and wildlife who have been affected by the fires. St Patrick's Parramatta was putting their faith into action. Thank you to everyone (Parents, Students and Staff) who participated and contributed on this special day.

**Olivia Wehbe and Liam Jocson  
(Vice Captains)**



**\$1000  
Raised**



# Parent Representative Council (PRC)

Dear Parents,

The school is looking for someone who would be interested in being a school representative for the PRC. Over the years we have had a number of parents who attended the meetings and shared relevant information with the parent community. We are very grateful to these parents and thank them for their interest and attendance at some of the meetings. If you are interested please contact the school office who will communicate your interest to Miss Fabri. Parents may prefer to attend with another parent. For further information please read the information below.

**Parents Representative Council**

Diocese of Parramatta

**Partners in Learning & Faith**



## **Parent's Representative Council School Representative**

### **Role of the PRC School Rep**

The Parents Representative Council (PRC) is the peak parent body that represents and supports parents, families and caregivers of students enrolled in all Primary and Secondary Catholic Schools within our Diocese.

The PRC works in collaboration with the Bishop, the Executive Director of schools, Parish Priests and Catholic School Principals and School Parent Bodies in providing additional support to families throughout their child's learning journey within the Catholic Education System.

Every Primary and Secondary Catholic School in the Diocese of Parramatta can have one PRC Parent Rep and an Alternate Parent represented. These Representatives speak on behalf of their School's Parent Body and community representing their Parents within the PRC. This provides the important two-way communication between local school parent communities, their local school and the greater Diocesan Parent body of the PRC.

### **The PRC School Representative are encouraged to:**

- When available attend the PRC General Meetings held once a Term. PRC meetings are held in each Term on Monday Week 6 of the School Term. These meetings consist of Executive Committee Members reports by the President, Treasurer, Secretary and the Council of Catholic School Representative. Guest speakers with relevant up to date educational issues are provided. These speakers will range from a keynote presentation of a Professional Academic, Educational Leader, Psychologist and/or an Educational Leader within the Catholic Education Office Parramatta.
- Liaise with their school community about the work of the PRC – report back to their parent bodies on the Term meetings, content, speakers and issues that were raised
- Liaise with their Cluster leader and attend Cluster Meetings. Cluster meetings/gatherings are held within the PRC Term Meeting. These meetings are led by a Parent Cluster Leader. School Reps have the opportunity to network with other parent reps within the geographical area of their own school. Hear about the work of other parent bodies and parents in your area.
- Disseminate information to their school about upcoming meetings, speakers etc. and encourage other parents to attend with them. Information should be disseminated through their school's parent meetings, newsletter, website and social media site etc.
- Provide feedback to the PRC on type of presenters, topics and relevant educational and parenting issues that they or their school may want to hear about.
- Nominate yourself to become further involved in parent leadership and collaboration by becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the PRC.



## Understanding School Talk ???

Mufti Day

Out of Uniform Day

Children wear ordinary clothes that  
day



Numeracy@HOME



MONASH  
University



MELBOURNE. AUSTRALIA

<https://www.numeracyathome.com/>

The following is taken from guidelines published by the NSW government:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/>

### Shapes and objects

Understanding shapes is the basis for geometry and other maths concepts. Simply pointing to shapes in picture books or stacking containers in different ways will give your child new ideas about them.

### At a glance

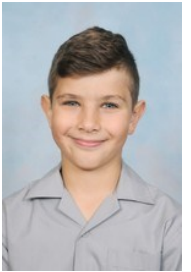
- Spatial maths includes ideas relating to shapes, shapes within solid objects, and the position of shapes and objects.
- Kids need to develop strong images in their minds about shapes and objects and the way they can be changed, put together or pulled apart.
- We also need to help kids to develop the language they need to describe shapes and objects.

### Helping your child learn about shapes and objects

- Read books to your child and talk about the shapes you can see within the pictures, eg 'The roof on the house is a triangle'.
- Look for objects inside or outside the house that are shaped like a circle, triangle, rectangle or square. Look for different sized shapes and shapes in different positions.
- Involve your child in craft activities such as making your own gift wrapping by printing painted shapes onto paper using corks, empty cotton reels or sponges.
- Make shadows on the ground or on a wall using your body or hands and talk about the shapes.
- Fold paper to make a hat or boat and talk about the shapes made as you fold the paper.
- Make your own jigsaw puzzle by cutting a magazine picture into about four or five pieces and putting it back together again. Talk about how the edges of the pieces fit together.

## Diocesan Swimming Carnival

I had a great experience at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival this year. I felt really good about my performance because it was a fair swimming carnival, I had a lot of fun. I got to hang out with my friends Daniel, CJ, Michael, and Philip. I made it through for the most tiring stroke, butterfly. I was really excited because I made it through to the next level, this will be my second time!



### **SCHOOL FEES**

Term 1 2020 Statements have now been mailed to all families. Due date for payment of Term 1 fees is on or before **Wednesday 18th March 2020**.

The Catholic Education Office Flexible Payment Plan is offered as a convenient option for payment of 2020 fees. The information required for the Flexible Payment Plan is included in the Instalment 1 statement.

#### **Please note:**

If you wish to take up the Flexible Payment Plan option, it is essential for all the completed and signed forms to be sent to the Catholic Education Office Parramatta by 6th March 2020 in the reply paid envelope or you can post to:

Catholic Education Office (Billing & Receipting)  
Locked Bag 4  
NORTH PARRAMATTA NSW 1750

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

### **Spotlight**

Today we are focusing our Spotlight on....

Our Year 3 teacher Mrs Tuetue

**Mrs Tuetue**

**If you had \$1,000,000 to spend in a day, what would you spend it on?**

I would spend it on building a school for children who are new to Australia.

**What is your favourite movie/tv show ever? Why?**

My favourite movie is Annie because the message that the Producer portrays is one that is unique and special.

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

I would have the superpower of peace so that the world is a more peaceful place.

**Who is your biggest inspiration?**

My biggest inspiration is my Mother. She is my role model.

**What is your biggest fear?**

My biggest fear is snakes! I can't even see a picture of them without screaming.

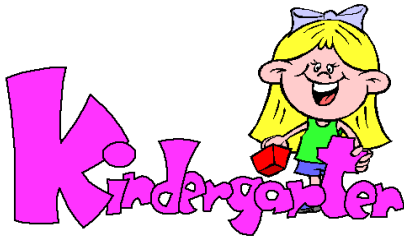
### **SCHOOL WELL-BEING COUNSELLING SERVICE**

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.



## **ENROLMENTS FOR 2021 KINDERGARTEN ARE NOW OPEN**



Enrolment packs for Kindergarten 2021 are available from the school between the hours of 9am -3pm Monday to Friday.

The completed Enrolment Application, together with originals of all requested supporting documentation, must be submitted, in person, to our school office. You will need to bring copies and originals of your child's Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, Passports (parent's and child's if born overseas), Immunization Certificates and proof of address (council rates, drivers licence). Please be aware that we are unable to accept or process incomplete applications and note that submitting an application does not guarantee automatic placement.

**Enrolment forms are required to be returned by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.**

### **ENROLMENT CRITERIA**

#### **Who can enrol in a Catholic school?**

Children whose fifth birthday occurs on or before 31 July are eligible for enrolment for Kindergarten that year. By law, all children must be enrolled in school by their sixth birthday. For more information on the Diocesan guidelines for enrolment please see [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)

#### **What if my child already attends a Catholic primary school in the Diocese?**

A child who has completed primary education in a Catholic parish-based primary school will usually be offered continuity of enrolment in a Catholic secondary school. If no places exist at the chosen school, Catholic Education's Director System Performance will assist families to enrol in another Catholic secondary school in the Diocese.



every learner  
every day 





*Walking with humility  
in the way of Jesus,  
serving all of God's people'*  
Draft RE Rationale

*Into the Deep*



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta

## PARENT RETREAT DAY

Wednesday 13 May 2020

9.30 – 2.30

ST JOSEPHS RETREAT CENTRE  
BARINA DOWNS RD, BAULKHAMHILLS

Join parents from the Parramatta Diocese in a day of personal TRANSFORMATION as you nurture faith through reflection, small group discussion and creative activities.

Explore the concept of WITNESS as you interact with Scripture, God, Self and Others.

For more information: Donna Dempsey 0407597426  
[ddempsey1@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ddempsey1@parra.catholic.edu.au)

For Registration  
click the  
symbol →



Please RSVP  
by  
1 April



# OPEN DAY

Sunday, 8 March 2020

10.00am – 2.00pm

You are warmly invited to join us for Open Day 2020.

Principal's Welcome at 10.00am and 12.00pm

Bookings can be made by visiting the College website [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au)

*A work of the Sisters of Mercy Parramatta since 1889*



**YEAR 7, 2022**  
ENROLMENT  
INFORMATION  
EVENING  
Tuesday, 24 March

MERCY

COMPASSION

JUSTICE

DIGNITY

EXCELLENCE

HOSPITALITY

STEWARDSHIP

SERVICE

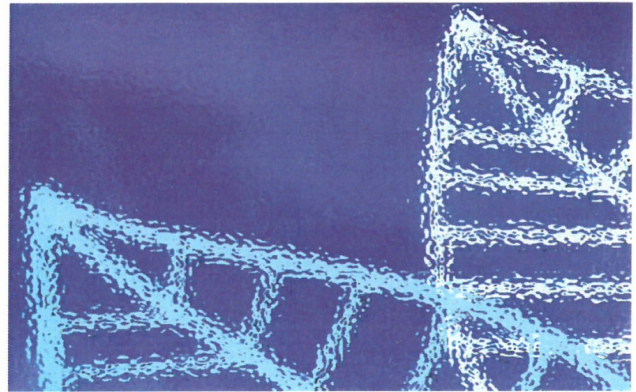


# Choices

## Week 1

Ash Wednesday February 26  
to Sunday March 1

2020 CEDP LENTEN REFLECTIONS



### Gather

**“Be still and know that I am God!” Psalm 46:10**

Lord Your words lead me to a calmness and greatness of Your presence.

As we begin the Season of Lent, allow me to open my heart to the potential of knowing You better.

My choices can sometimes be predictable, caught on illusions of fulfillment.  
I ask You to walk with me as I seek signs of Your ongoing creation within me.  
Amen

### Listen

**Gospel – Matthew 4:1-11**

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the force of darkness.<sup>2</sup> He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.

<sup>3</sup> The tempter approached and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.”<sup>4</sup> Jesus said in reply, “It is written: *One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*”



<sup>5</sup> Then Jesus was taken to the holy city and made to stand on the parapet of the temple.<sup>6</sup> The evil one said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: *God will command the angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*”

*‘The Temptation in the Wilderness’ by Briton Riviere*



<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, “Again it is written,  
*You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*”

<sup>8</sup> Then the evil one took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence,<sup>9</sup> and he said to him, “All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me.”

<sup>10</sup> At this, Jesus said to him, “Get away, Satan! It is written: *The Lord, your God, shall you worship, and God alone shall you serve.*”<sup>11</sup>  
Then the evil one left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

## Reflect

**Why did Jesus go into the desert, the wilderness?**

**Why did Jesus choose solitude?**

During his Baptism in the river Jordan, Jesus had just experienced a deep sense of being called to mission. In this call there was new sense of awakening. He was **CURIOUS** about the deeper meaning of these words,



*Site of Jesus's Baptism- Galilee*

**“You are my son, the one in whom I am delighted.”**

Jesus sought **CLARITY** around what it meant to be the beloved of God. His journey into the desert, into silence and solitude, increased his capacity to listen deeply “to listen with ear of his heart.”

The journey of Jesus from **CURIOSITY to CLARITY** brought him face to face with his demons aiming to obscure his vision and deter his path to clarity. Jesus struggled with these forces of darkness and resisted the temptation to grasp hold of transient power offering only a false sense of **CLARITY**.

## Respond

**Can you remember a time or times in your life when you sensed the temptation to be distracted from your life goals and/ or commitment?**

**Recall a time or an event in your life when you have moved from curiosity, even confusion to clarity, because you took some “time out”, gifted yourself with some solitude and remain committed to your core life choices.**

## Concluding Prayer

Glory to God source of all being, eternal Word, Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen

**From Curiosity to Clarity – From Curiosity to Clarity – From Curiosity to Clarity**





**Parents Representative Council**  
 SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE


**PRC**  
 Diocese of Parramatta  
 Partners in Learning  
 Partners in Faith



**MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID Australia**  
 Out of every 30 students in Australia, 7 are dealing with mental health issues  
 2 will ask for help ..... **5 will suffer in silence**  
 This presentation will focus on giving parents information on how they can identify and help the 5 that suffer in silence. Learn how to assist adolescents who are developing a mental illness, experiencing a worsening of an existing mental health problem or in a mental health crisis, until appropriate professional help is received, or the crisis resolves. Mental health problem is a broad term that includes developing mental illness, symptoms of a diagnosable illness, substance misuse, and adverse life events which are having an impact on functioning.  
 Depression, Anxiety, Behavioral disorders, Mood Disorders, Personality Disorders, Suicide, Drugs, Eating Disorders, Self-Injury, Panic Attacks, Stress, Substance Abuse

**UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH**  
 Learn the skills to make a difference



Our guest speaker for the evening is:  
**JANE ARMSTONG**  
 Mental Health First Aid Instructor

Register FREE now: [www.prc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au)



**Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**  
 Doors open: 6:15pm for 7:00pm (2 hours)  
 PRC Annual General Meeting  
 (will be held prior to guest speaker)  
 AGM will take approximately 20 minutes  
**St John Paul II Catholic College**  
**85 Hambledon Rd, Schofields NSW 2762**  
 Light supper and refreshments will be provided, and a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!  
[www.prc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au)    @prcparra





**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR**  
**Floral Expressions**  
 For details on the School fundraising program  
 Call Charles Lukacik on 02 9683 1116




**Oakhill COLLEGE**  
 Feet on the ground. Aiming for the stars.

# Open Day

**SUNDAY 08 MARCH 2020 11.00AM – 3.00PM**



Principal's Address at **11.30am, 12.30pm and 1.30pm**

RESPECT / EXCELLENCE / INCLUSIVITY / FAITH / SOCIAL JUSTICE

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



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**

*sub tuum praesidium*

**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	6.30am, 12.30pm
Public Hol	8.00am

**Pastoral Team**

**Bishop of Parramatta Most Rev.**  
**Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM CONV**  
 Very Rev Fr Robert Bossini  
 Fr Christopher Del Rosario    Rev Deacon Willy Limjap  
 Meg Gale ( Sacramental Coord)  
 Milli Lee (Parish Admin Asst)    Mindy Mercado (Youth Co-ord)  
 Patricia Preca (Parish Secretary) Donna Missio (Receptionist)