

Newsletter

1st April, 2021 Term 1 Week 10

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Today is the last day of Term One. Today is also Holy Thursday. Throughout the week the children have had the opportunity to become immersed in the spirit of the Lenten Journey as we commence Holy Week. All around the school special prayer focuses have been arranged by various grades, symbolizing the events of Palm Sunday, (Kindy), Holy Thursday (Stage 2 yrs 3/4), The Agony in the Garden (Stage 1 yrs 1/2) and Good Friday (Stage 3 5/6). The children experienced the humility of a King entering Jerusalem on a donkey and the excitement of the people of his day. They learned of that special table, set for Christ and his apostles, just like that on Holy Thursday when Jesus told his friends what was going to happen and the special gift he would leave them. They reflected, with seriousness, when Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and concluded with a prayer about the day that our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross on what we know as Good Friday.

This year, for my Lenten observance, I decided that I would spend some time every week to undertake some spiritual reading. I chose the work of Father Ron Rolheiser OMI. Many of the readings I found very interesting but in particular, it was his reflections on Jesus at the Garden of Gethsemane that really touched me.

He speaks of the 'black hole' of loneliness and despair that Jesus would have experienced, in what would have been a very frightening time for him. He describes it as, '... the black hole of bitter misunderstanding, rejection, aloneness, loneliness, humiliation, and the helplessness to do anything about it.' For a man who has an ultra sensitive heart, full of compassion and love for all people, I cannot truly imagine what this would have felt like. I understand that this was indeed a tragedy for his followers and typical of our human frailty, they did not have the courage or strength to support him in his hour of need. Fr Rolheiser goes further to summarize the injustice of what was happening; 'The agony in the Garden is the black hole of sensitivity brutalized by callousness, love brutalized by hatred, goodness brutalized by misunderstanding, innocence brutalized by wrong judgement, forgiveness brutalized by murder, and heaven brutalized by hell.'

We know from this story that Jesus suffered and truly suffered just like many people who suffer deeply in our world today. Those who are abused and suffer injustice. Those who are misunderstood and marginalized. Those who are sick, lonely and abandoned. Jesus understands them because he was one of them. He understands when we are at the depths of despair, because he has experienced this same despair.

Jesus understands our humanity, because he was fully human. In last Sunday's reading from the Letter to the Phillippians (2: 6 - 11), St Paul reminds us that although divine, 'Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

Let us pray this Holy Week for the gift of humility and courage, just like Christ demonstrated through his suffering.

May I encourage you to get involved in the Holy Week events in your local parish or at St Patrick's Cathedral. Please find the times in this newsletter. I wish you and your family all the blessings of this very special Church season.

God Bless you and your family
Bernadette Fabri
Principal



On behalf of the staff at St Patrick's Parramatta I wish to sincerely thank you for your expressions of gratitude and good wishes for Easter. May you all have a Happy and Holy Easter and a restful break.

Ms Fabri



Holy Week

O God
grant that whatever good things I have,
I may share generously with those who have not,
and that whatever good things I do not have,
I may request humbly from those who do.
Plant deep in me, Lord,
all the virtues,
that I might be devout in divine matters,
discerning in human affairs,
and burdensome to no one in fulfilling my own needs.
Order me inwardly through a good life
that I might do what is right and what will be meritorious for me
and a good example for others.

- St. Thomas Aquinas

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER MASSES

WITH BISHOP VINCENT LONG OFM CONV
AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, PARRAMATTA

TENEBRAE
MONDAY 29 MARCH 7.30PM

CHRISM MASS
WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH 7.30PM

HOLY THURSDAY
THURSDAY 1 APRIL 7.30PM

GOOD FRIDAY
FRIDAY 2 APRIL 3.00PM

EASTER VIGIL
SATURDAY 3 APRIL 7.30PM

EASTER SUNDAY
SUNDAY 4 APRIL 11.00AM

LIVE STREAM
f LIVE YouTube

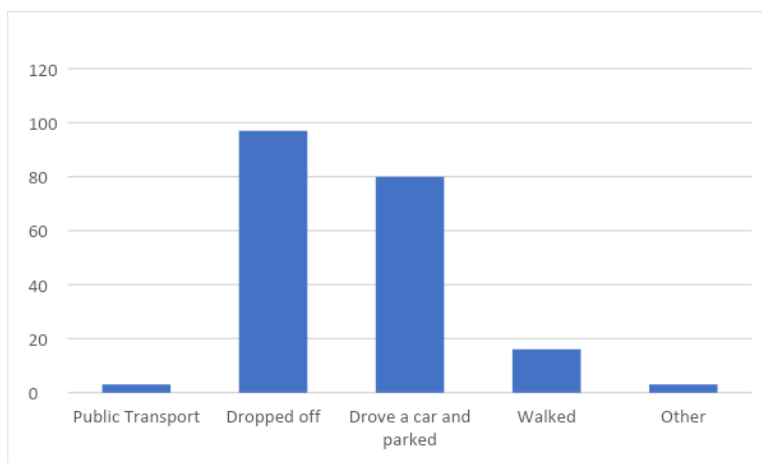
NAPLAN

This year students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 will participate in NAPLAN online. The following pdf outlines important information regarding NAPLAN. More information can be found at the NAPLAN Parent support page - [Parent Support Page](#)

INFORMATION FROM TRAFFIC SURVEY

How we Travel to School

This March we conducted a Travel Survey for both St. Patrick's Primary and Our Lady of Mercy College. The two schools have come together to work to improve transport for students, parents and staff. We had 614 people participate (201 from St. Patrick's), nearly 40% of students and staff across the two schools, which is a great participation rate! We wanted to share back some of the things we heard from you.



Over the next few weeks, both schools will be working with Parramatta Council and Transport for NSW to resolve some of the issues you reported. Watch the newsletters for an update. If you have transport concerns but don't know where to report these, please use the [Snap Send Solve website](#) or app for a quick response.

Term Dates

Term 1 - Thursday 1st April

Term 2 - Monday 19th April - Friday 25th June

Term 3 - Monday 12th July - 17th September

Term 4 - Tuesday 5th Oct - Friday 17th Dec

** Please note: Every year the NSW Government allocates 6 days to each school to be used for Staff Professional Development. These can be used for the gathering of essential data on students

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - Children do not attend school on these days.

Term 2 - 11th June, 2021

Term 3 - 17th September, 2021

Term 4 - 16th & 17th December, 2021

PARRAMATTA AQUATIC AND LEISURE CENTRE - Community Information For more information on the Parramatta Aquatic Centre please follow this [link](#).

NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

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

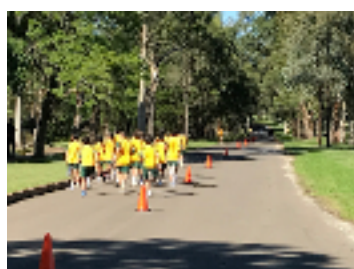
How to help your child manage their online time**Set boundaries for digital device use in your home**

Device-free zones and times can help you manage screen time. For example, your family plan could include rules like this:

- no devices in the bedroom for younger children
- all screens off in bedrooms after a certain time for older children
- all screens off at least one hour before planned bedtime
- all family members switch off at dinner time
- devices charged overnight in a place your child cannot access

Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday over the holidays:

Edward McCloskey, Rebecca Black, Mary Roumanus, Maria Khoury, Elizabeth Aitkins, Andrew Batti, Joanna Angela Khoury, Madeleine Talbot, Christian Jaitani, Natalie Kahwaji, Luke Wehbe, Christopher Hanna, Shavene Perera, Pierre El Bayeh, George Nassif, Patrick Saab, Marcelino El Halabi, Isaac Wehbe, Sophia Khoury, Celine Joachim, Gabriella Semaan, Sierra Usman, Isaiah Johnston

**Cross Country**

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who tried out for the Annual Cross Country event at Parramatta Park last Friday. We were gifted with glorious weather and good conditions and the children had lots of fun. Congratulations to the following children who will now move forward to the next round.



Alexander Markovic, Jubran Sayegh, James Kerr, Alex El Khoury, Dylan Amaral, Nicholas Drosos, Alexandriya Izmestyeva, Jacob Semaan, Emmanuel Missak, Adam Jurisic, Takeshi Liu, Lachlan Moore, Leon Sampaio, Gabriella Volante, Maria Khoury, Rhys Bautista, Phillip Ayoub, Owen Abraham, Anthony Malak, Daniel Seeman, Gabriel Kalouche, Madeleine Talbot, Sophia Semaan, Eva Jakopovic, Andrew Khalil, Erick Granados-Gavito, Jonah Shehadie, Anton Baysari, Samson Sayegh, Jim Sahyoun, Grace Talbot, Esperanza Thompson, Georgia Rose Rizk, Lourdes Saleh, Mika Liu, Mariah Jreij



EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY activities

Early Bird Art
Term-Saver
Additional
\$30

AGE: 5-14 YRS | TIME: 9AM-4PM
COST: \$35 PER CHILD PER DAY
USE YOUR CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER TO SAVE \$100

CREATIVE KIDS

MONDAY 5 APRIL 2021 | WE ARE CLOSED EASTER MONDAY

TUES 6 APRIL 2021 | CRICKET | BOXING | FACE PAINTING | TABLE TENNIS

WEDS 7 APRIL 2021 | AUSSEE FOOTY | KICKBOXING | JIU JITSU | YOUTH HUB

THURSDAY 8 APRIL 2021 | SOCCER | ARTS & CRAFTS | KARATE | HIP HOP

FRIDAY 9 APRIL 2021 | BASKETBALL | BOXING | TAEKWONDO | TABLE TENNIS

MONDAY 12 APRIL 2021 | SOCCER | KICKBOXING | KARATE | HIP HOP

TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021 | CRICKET | BOXING | FACE PAINTING | TABLE TENNIS

WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL 2021 | WILDLIFE ANIMAL VISIT | KICKBOX | J/J | YOUTH H

THURSDAY 15 APRIL 2021 | LASER TAG | SCIENCE | TAEKWONDO | TABLE TENNIS

FRIDAY 16 APRIL 2021 | WILDLIFE ANIMAL VISIT | BOXING | J/J | HIP HOP

MONDAY 19 APRIL 2021 | SOCCER | ARTS & CRAFTS | MONI OLYMPICS | YOUTH HUB

BOOK ONLINE

WWW.PCYCHSW.ORG.AU/PARRAMATTA/SCHOOL-HOLIDAYS

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE PCYC MEMBERS (\$30 ANNUAL FEE)

CHILD MUST BRING MORNING TEA, LUNCH, AFTERNOON TEA, WATER BOTTLE AND HAT

107 GEORGE STREET, PARRAMATTA
1021 9635-8242 | PARRAMATTA@PCYCHSW.ORG.AU

PCYC PARRAMATTA

OUR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT HAS MOVED

The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network is pleased to announce that the Westmead Children's Emergency Department has moved to the Westmead Health Precinct.

When travelling down the highway, Road 100, you will see the Children's Emergency Department sign. Please follow the sign to the new location. The Emergency Department is located on the 1st floor of the building. Please follow the sign to the new location.




Walking route from the car park to the new location.

Understanding School Talk ???

Prompting Questions

Questions teachers ask to guide thinking



ST PATRICK'S GIFTSHOP

EASTER SALE

- 30% of all Easter decorations
- 25% of all Easter books
- 25% of all crosses

Visit us in Murphy House next to the Cathedral at
1 Marist Place, Parramatta
or via our website

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

Call us on 0419 133 195 .

Find us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/StPatricksGiftShop>



Honour Award

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

| | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|---------------|----|----------------|---------------|
| KA | Caterina Boulos | Francis Rahme | KM | Anyce Ibrahim | Lara Alphonse |
| 1C | Vittorio Lo Surdo | Irene Tony | 1S | Juliana Angelo | Emily Lin |
| 2M | Jude Hudson | Ava Takchi | 2Y | Chanel Wakim | Ava Khouri |



ST PATRICK'S AWARD

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

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------------------|----|------------------|-------------------|
| KA | Christabel Azzi | Anthony Youssef | KM | Nicholas Nassif | Angelina Moujalli |
| 1C | Flora Thompson | Elijah Missak | 1S | Jayden Bounassif | William Gebrael |
| 2M | James Said | Joanna Angela Khoury | 2Y | Oliver Jakopovic | Deon Don |





Honour Award

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| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|--------------------|----|---------------------|---------------|
| 3L | Ashton Grohs | Catherine Kwa | 3T | Anastasia Naudi | Isaiah Maroon |
| 4B | Bailey Grohs | Fleur Perrett | 4G | Ray Chen | Olivia Fayad |
| 5C | Angelica Beame | Christian Kalouche | 5T | Steven Abraham | Sophia Semaan |
| 6P | Samuel Navasardyan | Sam Abu-Ali | 6W | Magdalena Gilchrist | Jacob Semaan |



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| | | | | | |
|----|----------------|-------------------------|----|------------------|-------------------|
| 3L | Patrick Semaan | Olivia Zhang | 3T | Caroline Youssef | Benjamin Kalouche |
| 4B | Chloe Vella | Nicholas Reyes-Mangabat | 4G | Victoria Nassif | Raymond Wehbe |
| 5C | Cynthia Daher | Sienna Khattar | 5T | Zavier Moujalli | Gabriella Volante |
| 6P | Dylan Amaral | Alexandriya Izmestyeva | 6W | Olivia Saab | Adam Jurisic |



Putting Our Faith In Action

This Term, thanks to the organisation of our wonderful and faith-filled Religious Education Coordinator Mrs TueTue, students from Years K-6 at St Patrick's Primary School have been donating essential food items to the JRS (Jesuit Refugee Service) Centre. This is a service that not only supports refugee families but also families who have been struggling due to loss of income during COVID. It was a heart-warming experience and put things into perspective seeing all of the food and the volunteers packing food parcels each week for the 400 families who are in need.

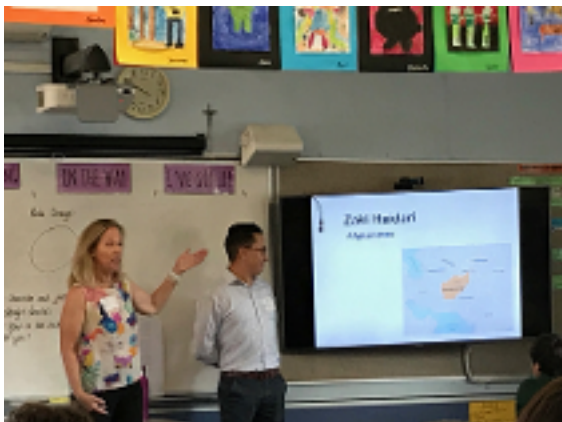
On Wednesday 31st of March, Years 5 and 6 gathered together to listen to a touching presentation by Zaki and Anne from JRS.

To begin, Zaki talked to us about all the hardships he went through as a child growing up in Afghanistan during war, violence and the ongoing persecutions due to discrimination. His story was so moving and emotional. Sadly he lost his brother, he does not know if his father is alive or dead and he lives in fear for his mother and siblings who are still stranded in Afghanistan.

Zaki inspired us all and is a perfect example showing that nothing is ever too hard or impossible to live through when you have hope and faith and when people put their faith into action to help others. He now works in the employment support office at JRS helping refugees just like him.

Anne then spoke to us, explaining the horrible situation that refugees like Zaki are going through and how many of them there are throughout the world who are not as fortunate as Zaki to make it to a safe place and receive help. Did you know that there are 26 million refugees in the world? Imagine fleeing your home and leaving everything and everyone you love behind because you are in fear of your life and discriminated against! She also spoke to us about how children like us and organisations such as the JRS are helping supporting those in need through their donations.

As Anne explained, we need to help and put our faith into action and be more like the Good Samaritan. As St Mary of the Cross MacKillop quoted, ***'Never see a need without doing something about it!'*** We need to make a change! We are the future of this world. We need to encourage the Government to provide refugees with a safe place to live and support the JRS which is an amazing organization. So if you have any extra food to donate or any time to donate to volunteer as a packer (Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm) or delivery driver, head on down to JRS Centre (10 Victoria Rd, Parramatta) so *you* can be part of the change.





We have one solid comfort amidst this little tripping about, our hearts can always be in the same place, centered in God, for whom alone we go forward or stay back.

Catherine McAuley

FEEDBACK and COMPLAINTS

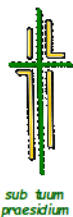
St Patrick's Parramatta staff always welcome feedback and ideas from the parent community. If you have any feedback, concerns or complaints please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher, Mrs Standing (behaviour) or Miss Fabri through the school office (8832 4600), school email address stpatsricksparra@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>

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.



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, 7.15pm (Arabic)

Weekday Masses

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

Pastoral Team

Dean & Administrator:

Very Rev Fr Robert Riedling

Assistant Priests:

Rev Chris del Rosario, Rev Chadi Ibrahim SDB

Parish Secretary:

Pat Preca

Sacramental Coordinator:

Meg Gale