

Newsletter

2nd September, 2021 Term 3 Week 8

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This Sunday is Father's Day and although it is one of the most well celebrated days of the year, the challenge this year is how to make this day as special for our precious and much loved fathers as that of previous years.

Lockdown for the men in our families has brought its own challenges and joys I am sure. I cannot imagine how difficult it has been for fathers who have lost their jobs or who are unable to work. Our fathers take pride in providing for the family and the innate sense of protection is one that must be well and truly activated at this time.

For many fathers seeing the family under stress, must be particularly challenging; and it has indeed been stressful, especially with learning from home duties.

The wonderful thing about all challenges however is that sometimes there is also a silver lining as they say. Some dads have reported being able to spend more time with their children and are really enjoying outdoor activities with them or including the children in the tasks that they have finally found time to do at home. Some dads have commented that their children have enjoyed seeing them at home even if they are working in another room. Making a new normal together is what we have had to do with our families during this time. When I go on my daily walk after work I am seeing more and more fathers with their children exercising with the family pet or even running with a kite. Some are leading the family on bikes or just taking a walk. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this can happen more regularly even after lockdown. From my many discussions with the fathers that I know one aspect I really appreciate is how the fathers demonstrate a practical and solution based approach to what we are currently going through with great hope that all will be well. What a gift of strength to share with the family.

This Sunday let us keep in mind all the fathers, grandfathers, uncles and cousins who provide our children with positive male role models. I truly hope that you are able to enjoy the day with the family in whatever you are able to do at this time.

Let us particularly pray for those members of our community whose fathers are no longer with us but who live in our memory, nourished by their love.

God Bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

Prayer for Fathers

Most gracious Heavenly Father,
We thank you for our earthly fathers,
those to whom you have entrusted the responsibility
to provide loving protection of their families and guidance of their children.

We thank you, also, for our priests and bishops,
whose spiritual fatherhood is so vital to the faith of your people.

May our earthly fathers imitate the manly courage
of Abraham, Jesse and Joseph,
and all the holy fathers of the past
in providing wise counsel to the children you have given to their care.
And may our spiritual fathers be guided by the examples of Saints Peter and Paul,
all the Apostles and their saintly successors.
Give them valiant faith in the face of confusion and conflict,
hope in times of trouble and sorrow,
and steadfast love for you, for their families,
and for all your people throughout the world.

Assist all fathers of families, all spiritual fathers,
and all Christian men, that through your Grace they may steadily grow
in holiness and in knowledge and understanding of your Truth.
May they generously impart this knowledge to those who rely on them.

As you, our Heavenly Father, so loved the world,
sending your only Son to be our Savior and Redeemer,
we ask you to help all men to imitate His fatherly gentleness
and mercy toward those who are weak;
His humility, perfect obedience to your Will,
and fearless witness to your Truth.
May their lives be examples to all of heroic faithfulness to you.

We ask your blessing on all those to whom you have entrusted fatherhood.
May your Holy Spirit constantly inspire them with justice and mercy,
wisdom and strength, fidelity and self-giving love.
May they receive your Grace abundantly in this earthly life,
and may they look forward to eternal joy in your presence in the life to come.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son and Our Lord,
AMEN.

In **German**, "Happy father's day" is...



Glücklicher vatertag!

(say "glue-k-lish faht-er tahk")

In **Thai**, "Happy father's day" is...



สุขสันต์วันพ่อค่ะ

(say "sook-sahn wan pah")

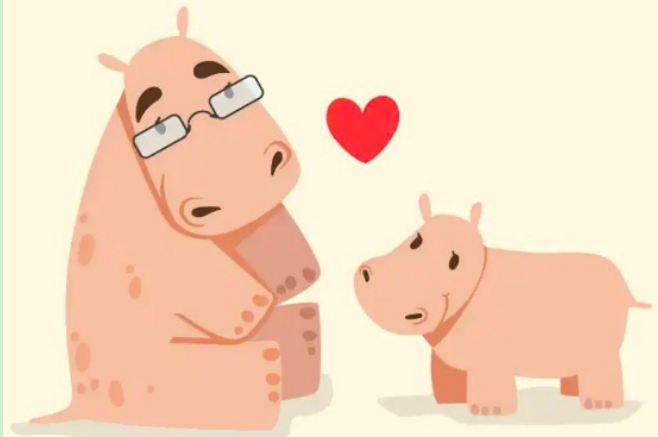
In **Spanish**, "Happy father's day" is...



Feliz día del padre!

(say "fay-leez dee-ah del pah-dray")

In **Portuguese**, "Happy father's day" is...



Feliz dia dos pais!

(say "fay-leez dee-ah dos pies")

In **Italian**, "Happy father's day" is...



Buona festa del papà!

(say "boo-oh-na fes-ta dell pa-pah")

In **Japanese**, "Happy father's day" is...



父の日 おめでとう。

(say "chee-chee no hee oh-meh-deh-toh")

Staff Development Day

Every year the NSW Government allocates 6 days to each school to be used for Staff Professional Development. Schools are required by the staff Enterprise Agreement to provide this Professional Learning.

The Staff Development Day scheduled for the 17th September will still be going ahead.

The decision to go ahead has been made in preference to postponing this day for next term when the children are scheduled to be on site as most of the children are learning from home at the moment. Children will not be expected to do any learning on this day but optional activities will be available.

As always school is opened on this day for those families where supervision is unavailable

Jesuit Refugee Services

As the situation in Afghanistan deteriorates drastically, JRS Australia stands in solidarity with members of Australia's Afghan diaspora, including thousands of refugees, people seeking asylum, and their families, who are experiencing significant pain and uncertainty.

To support families seeking asylum and refugees; feel free visit this website for more information **Solidarity with Afghanistan: How you can help**
<https://aus.jrs.net/en/news/solidarity-with-afghanistan-how-you-can-help/>

Bookclub Issue 6

Whilst we are stuck at home Scholastic has made available book club and home delivery. When ordering online you have the option of selecting home delivery and school delivery. **Please note if you select school delivery the orders will not be placed until we return to school full time.** If you select home delivery there will be a cost of \$7.50 and it will be delivery within 2 weeks. If you need any help with ordering please email the school on stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au where you will be contacted by Mrs Jones who is working from home.

Please follow the link to order: <https://bookclubs.scholastic.com.au>

BOOK WEEK CONTINUES 2021

This year's Children's Book Week theme is

**"OLD WORLDS, NEW
WORLDS, OTHER WORLDS**

**New and exciting activities and
opportunities will be available through
your Google Classroom.**

**JOIN IN THE FUN AND YOUR PHOTO MAY BE
POSTED ON THE SCHOOL'S FACEBOOK PAGE.**



PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE:

Extension

The Premier's Reading Challenge closes
for students **Friday, September 3**

2021. Students are able now to include up to **10 Choice Books** on their reading records.
You can find more information about these adjustments on the Premier's Reading
Challenge NSW [Rules page](#).



**Visit the PRC
Student Site!**

<http://online.def.nsw.edu.au/prc/StudentExperience.html#/>

Did you know something as simple and fun as 'play' provides many health benefits?

Play can relieve stress, boost learning, connect you to others, and also make your work more productive and enjoyable.

Why not build some play into your day, and get the family active at home?

Here's an easy game to get started:

Do you remember "Stuck in the mud"? You can play this indoors or in your yard.

Nominate a "tagger", who chases the other players. When a player is "tagged", they become "stuck in the mud"! They can't move and must stand with their legs and arms apart.

The only way to be freed from the "mud" is for a non-tagged player to crawl between their legs. And then the chasing continues!

A great way to work up your heart rate and have some family fun.

Discover more ideas to keep the family active at home with fitness classes, active play, yoga and dance here – take a look!



<https://tinyurl.com/familiesactive>

eSafetyparents



eSafetyCommissioner

NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

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

Screen time monitors

Screen time monitors allow you to set time limits that block your child's access to a device, app or online service after a set period of time. Alarm clocks, kitchen timers and stop watches work just as well, and can be a useful way of involving your child in setting time limits.

SCHOOL SPEAK

MAI:

Mathematics Assessment Instrument (MAI) undertaken at the beginning of every year for all students. This is an example of student tracking.

Is your child unwell ?

If you are learning from home and your child is too sick to participate in online learning please follow normal absence reporting procedures by sending in a skoolbag alert or email to stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au. This will allow the office staff to amend their attendance and notify their teachers they are unwell.

If your child has been attending school for supervision please follow the above guidelines for a child that is sick. A reminder that if your child is ill with any COVID 19 symptoms they are not to attend school, so as to keep our school community safe.

Thank you for your understanding.

Mrs Jones



DATA VALIDATION REQUEST FOR FAMILIES - CLOSING TOMORROW

On Monday 16 August you should have received an email or SMS (for those parents without email) from the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) asking you to review and, where necessary, update the key information they hold about your children currently enrolled in CEDP schools.

The purpose of this review is to ensure that CEDP has the right details to correctly identify and support students, including contacting families in an emergency or to share important updates.

Steps have been taken to ensure this process is as secure as possible to protect your information and your family's privacy. Your information is only accessed by authorised staff when it is necessary and in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#).

The process is open until Friday 3 September and I encourage you to complete the review/update as soon as possible to ensure that your family's correct details are on file. This is particularly important as Greater Sydney remains in lockdown due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

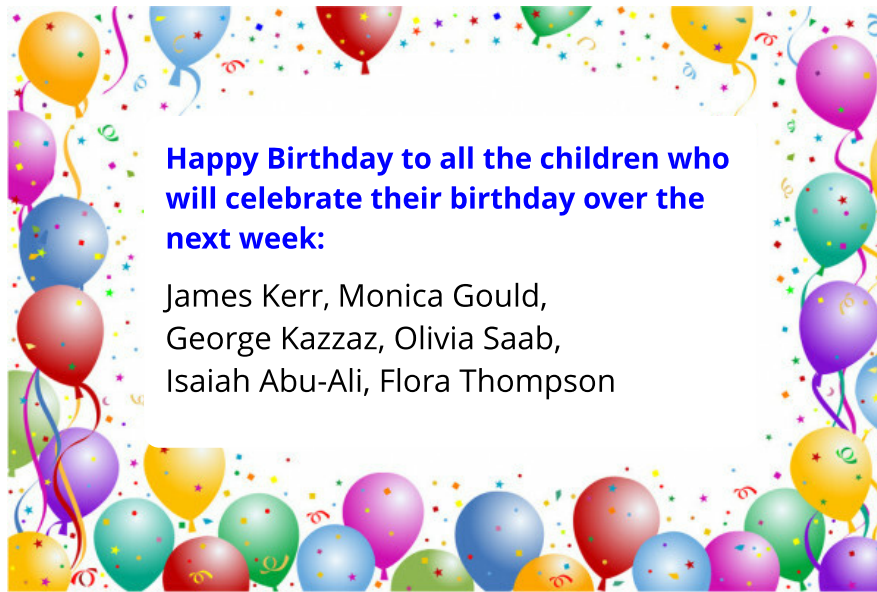
This [short "how to" video](#) may assist you with completing the process (use the closed caption icon to turn on subtitles). Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Only one person per family needs to complete the survey and it takes about 15 minutes to complete. If you have any questions or to seek help, please contact the CEDP Community Liaison Team on 9840 5796.



It's hypocrisy to call yourself a Christian and chase away a refugee or someone seeking help, someone who is hungry or thirsty, toss out someone who is in need of my help... If I say I am Christian, but do these things, I'm a hypocrite."

Pope Francis



For the telecast of Weekend mass follow this link:

[St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta - Facebook](#)

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Further information and an update will be provided.

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.



Ask R U OK?

My week's been rough. How was yours?

How are you?

I'm here for you if there's anything going on you want to talk about?

How are things going at home/school/university/TAFE/work?

really
Are they OK? Ask them today

RU OK?



Listen

I'm here to listen if you want to talk more.

How are you feeling about that?

I'm not going to pretend I know what it's like for you, but I'm here to listen to why you feel the way you do.

really
Are they OK? Ask them today

RU OK?



Encourage action

What do you think might help you right now?

Have you talked to anyone else about this?

What can I do to help you?

Your doctor can actually help you with this stuff, I can go along with you if you like?

really
Are they OK? Ask them today

RU OK?



Check in

Cool? getting there?

Just wanted to check in and see how you're doing?

What's been working for you since we last chatted?

Have things improved or changed since we last spoke?

Do you need more support?

really
Are they OK? Ask them today

RU OK?

NEW TESTING CLINIC



Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District

COVID-19 Drive-through Testing Clinic at **Bankwest Stadium**

- 🕒 **Time:** 8am - 6pm daily (9am start on 11 August)
- 🕒 **When:** 7 days a week until further notice
- 📍 **Where:** Northern carpark, Enter at Gate 2
O'Connell Street, Parramatta, NSW, 2150

**Testing is FREE. All ages welcome.
No booking or GP referral required.**

**Check when you're eligible for COVID-19 vaccination using the
Australian Government Vaccine Eligibility Checker**



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