



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

A happy St Patrick's Day is extended to our St Patrick's Parramatta Community!

Did you know that there are 28 St Patrick's Schools in New South Wales. Some of the suburbs which are served by a St Patrick's School include: Asquith, East Gosford, Port Kembla, Campbelltown, Strathfield, 2 in Sutherland, **Dundas**, Albury, Cooma, Bega, **Blacktown**, Brewarina, Cessnock, Griffith, **Guidford**, Gundagai, Holbrook, Lithgow, Lochinvar, Macksville, Swansea, Trundle, Walcha, Wallsend, Kogarah, Summer Hill, and **Parramatta**. The highlighted schools are in the Parramatta Diocese. Our school is part of the St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Community.

One of the most beautiful prayers which is often attributed to St Patrick is the St Patrick's Breastplate also known as The Lorica of St Patrick. Although some say that the author was anonymous it is a prayer that reflects the spirit with which St Patrick brought the Catholic faith to Ireland.

You will find that The Lorica of St Patrick is quite a lengthy prayer but the words of the short version below is what particularly inspires me.

Father Jesse at mass last Sunday challenged the congregation at St Michael's to remember that when we pray there is no need to fear or hide our insecurities from God. God understands us so purely that we can always be truly honest and free to pray, disclosing all our vulnerabilities and errors. If we think of our lives as surrounded by our God in the person of Christ we will have the strength to encounter others honestly also and perhaps look out for Christ in them, with no judgement or fear of difference.

I would like to sincerely thank you for choosing St Patrick's Primary School Parramatta for your child(ren). Together I pray that the words of this prayer below is one that our children embrace throughout their lives, deep with the knowledge of an ever loving and ever forgiving God, who is all around and within each of us.

God Bless you and your family
Bernadette Fabri
Principal



Honour Award

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

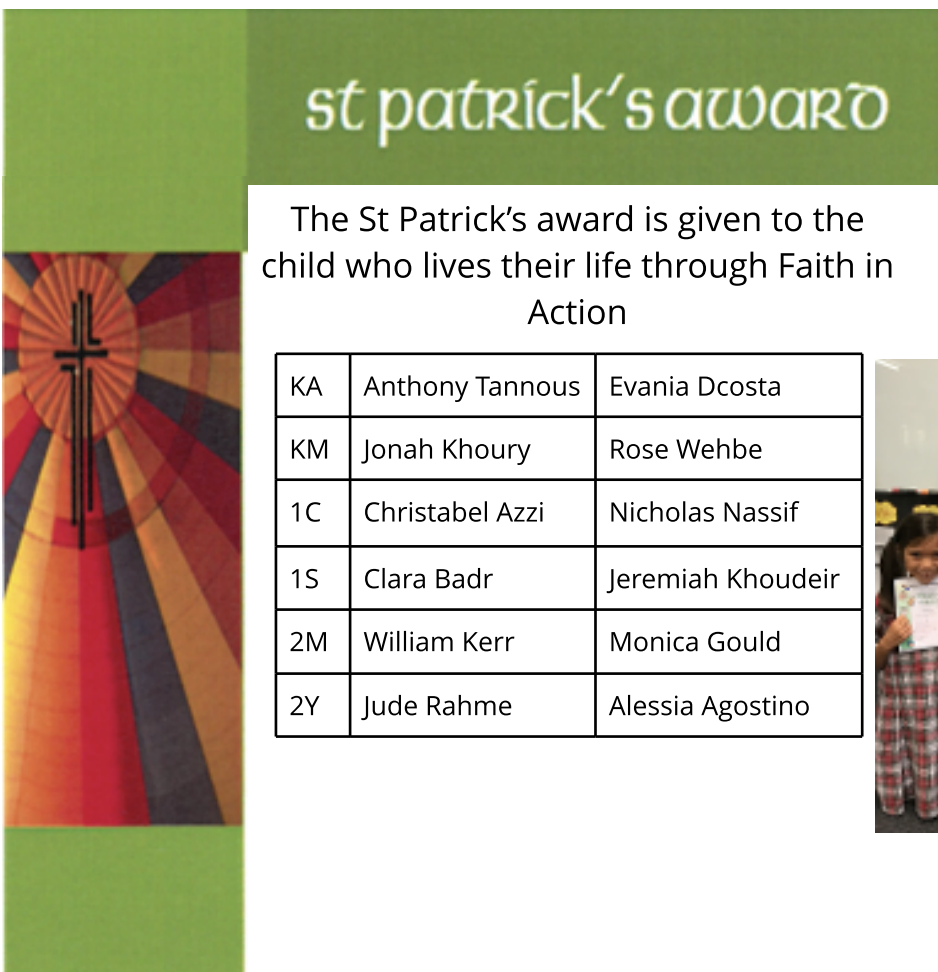
KA	Angelique Assaf	Frank Hunter
KM	Andre Abraham	Amelia Daher
1C	Danny Fayad	Natasha Khoury
1S	Scarlett Lagerlow	Joshua Sahyoun
2M	Charlie Chua	Elijah Missak
2Y	Flora Thompson	George Bazouni



st patrick's award

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

KA	Anthony Tannous	Evania Dcosta
KM	Jonah Khoury	Rose Wehbe
1C	Christabel Azzi	Nicholas Nassif
1S	Clara Badr	Jeremiah Khoudeir
2M	William Kerr	Monica Gould
2Y	Jude Rahme	Alessia Agostino



Honour Award

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



3L	Jaidyn Shehadie	Sophie Abraham
3T	Tony Karam	Elias Kazzaz
4B	Frank Malkoun	Anastasia Naudi
4G	Logan Munro	Molly Moses
5C	Fleur Perrett	Ray Chen
5T	Kenzie Murphy	Victoria Nassif
6P	Alicia Remaili	Troy Daniel
6W	Sienna Khattar	Christian Kalouche



st patrick's award

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

3L	Ian Mason	Serena Semaan
3T	Melissa Black	Nadia Maroon
4B	Dominic Rahme	Mary Gilchrist
4G	Jayden Blazek	Ashton Grohs
5C	Madeleine Talbot	Anthony Bracks
5T	Celine Joachim	Joanthy Tannous
6P	Liam Stojkovski	Barbie Koima
6W	Marie Rahme	Rhys Bautista



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENT LEADERS

Congratulations to our school leaders who will receive their badges this afternoon after the St Patrick's Day Mass. It is wonderful to see how these students have grown and developed over the many years at St Patrick's Parramatta and just like their Year 6 peers, have proven themselves to be kind and mature young boys and girls. We wish them all the best in the leadership journey this year and hope and pray that their roles in leadership will be less interrupted than what has been experienced over the last 2 years.

ALL PARENTS ARE INVITED TO A LEARNING TOUR AND MEET AND GREET

WEDNESDAY 30th March

4.00 - 6.45pm

15min time slots

This will be an opportunity to say 'hello' to your child's class teacher and some support teachers and staff and for your child to take you on a learning tour of their class space. Due to the time limit and lack of privacy, interviews regarding your child's progress will need to be scheduled at a more suitable time. Teachers will need to be given the opportunity to be prepared and organised for interviews so please use this time to request a time devoted to feedback rather than hold them during this time. Focusing on what your child wishes to show you also allows them to feel a sense of pride and ownership of their learning which is a key trait of successful learners.

Guidelines

- Please do not attend if you or your child have any flu like symptoms
- Children to attend to take you on a learning tour. They do not need to wear school uniforms but may if it is more convenient.
- Please arrive on time and keep to your time slot to avoid overcrowding
- Please book an interview at a later date rather than try to hold one at this time.

Please book using conferences through our Compass Parent Portal.

Follow the link for instructions on how to book.

[Meet and Greet Instructions](#)

TIPS FOR HOME READING



Find a reading time that works for your family. Limit the time and set the timer if reading in the past has always been difficult. It is better to have an enjoyable 10 minutes than a laborious 30 minutes where everyone is left feeling frustrated.

NAPLAN NEWS

This year students in Year 3, 5 7 and 9 will participate in NAPLAN online. **Year 3** complete **Reading, Conventions of Language** and **Mathematics** online. Year 3 complete writing with pen and paper. **Year 5** complete **Writing, Reading, Conventions of Language** and **Mathematics** online. *All students are required to use headphones during the test so they can hear verbal instructions without disrupting other students. Please ensure you have sent a pair of headphones to the school before Week 9 as they will also need these during the practice test held on Thursday 24 March 2022.*

NAPLAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What organisations are responsible for delivering NAPLAN Online?

- Education Services Australia is responsible for developing the online assessment capability and platform, using ACARA's detailed requirement specifications.
- ACARA is responsible for the NAPLAN Online assessment and for reporting the results of these assessments.
- State and territory school authorities are responsible for ensuring their schools are ready to move online.

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>

Week 1				
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Monday 9/5	Tuesday 10/5	Wednesday 11/5	Thursday 12/5	Friday 13/5
No Testing Scheduled today	Writing (online - 42 mins)	Reading (online - 50 mins)	Language Conventions (online - 45 mins)	Numeracy (online - 50 mins)
No Testing Scheduled today	Writing (paper - 40 mins)	Reading (online - 45 mins)	Language Conventions (online - 45 mins)	Numeracy (online - 45 mins)
		Catch Up for Writing as needed		
Week 2				
Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9
Monday 16/5	Tuesday 17/5	Wednesday 18/5	Thursday 19/5	Friday 20/5
Catch up Sessions for Reading, Conventions and Mathematics as needed				
Catch up Sessions for Reading, Conventions and Mathematics as needed				

Lent for Families:

Luke's Gospel reading recounts the Transfiguration of Christ. Through the appearance of Moses and Elijah, Jesus is identified as both prophet and lawgiver, but more important, as the Son of God. As Moses and Elijah talk with Jesus, they talk about his death that is about to take place in Jerusalem. These readings give us a glimpse of what glory awaits us if we remain faithful to Jesus and listen to him. The apostles' experience on the mountain in terms of it being a time when they finally understood about Jesus. It was an extraordinary experience, but at the end of it, God speaks to them from a cloud and tells them that Jesus is God's beloved Son, and that they should listen to him. How do we listen to Jesus today? What are ways that we can listen to and follow Jesus this week? Ask your children what they think Jesus is calling them to do this week.

Activity Idea:

Family discussion: What are your favourite quiet places? What sort of things do you like to do in your quiet place? Quiet places can be very good for praying. Take a moment to think of when you can go to your quiet place this week. What or who can you pray for? Perhaps set up a quiet place in your home, outside or visit a quiet place in your area such as a park, garden, library or a church.



Photo: Sameer Bara/Caritas Australia

Second Week of Lent

(Week beginning Monday 14th March)

This week through Project Compassion we learn about Biru who lives in a rural village in India's east. He lost mobility in one of his legs, after contracting polio as a child. Biru worked as a shepherd, looking after other people's cattle, to support his wife and four daughters. Keeping up with the cattle was a challenge.



Biru taught himself how to repair bicycles by watching other people, but he never dreamed of using those skills to start his own business. With your generous support, Biru was able to access an entrepreneurship and livelihoods training program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas India. He gained the support and skills he needed to start his own bicycle repair business. Now, Biru earns enough money to support his family.

Watch a short film about Biru's story [here](#).

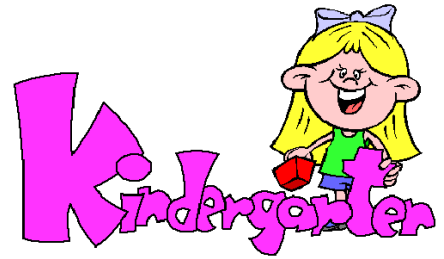
The School is cashless so please support through these links. Please do not send money to school.

Please support Project Compassion: Please donate using this link or the QR code below:

<https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au/stpatricksprimaryschoolparramatta>



ENROLMENTS FOR 2023
KINDERGARTEN ARE NOW OPEN



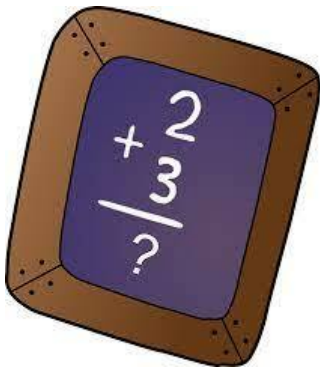
Enrolment packs for Kindergarten 2023 are available as follows:

- Packs can be sent home with your eldest child. Please send an email to stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au with the subject line Kindergarten 2023 Enrolment.
Please include your K2023 child's name and DOB
- Enrolment forms are also available from the school between the hours of 9am -3pm Monday to Friday.
- The enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website:
<https://www.stpatsparra.catholic.edu.au>

As we are still working under COVID restrictions you are able to email the application through to us at stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au , along with any supporting documents. Please retain the original application form as you will be required to submit that at a later date.

Enrolment forms are required to be returned by 31st March 2021.

Sibling enrolments are due by Friday 17th March.



Helping your Kindergarten child at home with Mathematics

This guide from the new K-2 Mathematics syllabus can help you support your Kindergarten children at home.

Number and algebra

Combining and separating quantities

Combining and separating quantities focuses on:

- addition and subtraction
- number pairs which make 10.

You can help your Kindergarten child at home by:

- playing adding and subtracting board games such as Snakes and Ladders
- using a deck of playing cards to add two number cards together from the same suit. For example, 4 hearts added to 3 hearts is 7 hearts. Count all the hearts by ones, from one, to begin. Alternatively, start the count from the largest number, as in 4 – 5, 6, 7
- using Lego pieces to model addition and subtraction. For example, start with 5 blue Lego pieces connected. Now connect 4 more red Lego pieces. How many are there altogether? Now take 2 red Lego pieces away. How many are left?
- playing Ten Pin Bowling with toilet rolls and a tennis ball for a subtraction game. Count how many pins have fallen down and how many are left standing
- getting to know number bonds, or 'friends of 10', which are number pairs which add together to make 10. These number pairs are 1 and 9, 2 and 8, 3 and 7, 4 and 6, 5 and 5.

CONVERSATION STARTERS ABOUT CYBER SAFETY (link)

These questions are designed to be used in a family to start everyday conversations about online safety. The questions cover topics such as identifying online risks, using technology safely and reporting unsafe behaviour. Use them together with the information at eSafety kids, and empower kids to take control of their online experiences.

What are your top tips for staying safe online?

1. Keep your personal information private — don't give out your address, which school you go to, phone number or passwords. [Find out more.](#)
2. Check your privacy settings and talk about what to share — make your online accounts private and talk to your mum, dad or carer about the kinds of photos and information it is OK for you to share online.
Find out more in the [eSafety Guide](#).
3. Cyberbullying — if you receive a mean message, or a message that is mean about someone else, try not to respond and don't forward it.
4. Tell an adult you trust about it and read our [tips on what to do](#).

SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 school fees were due for payment on 16th March 2022. Thank you if you have paid Term 1 fees or set up a Flexible Payment Arrangement for 2022.

If you have not received an invoice and have not yet informed me, please email

pats-parrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Kind Regards

Fiona Mitterer



Friday 18th March

Mufti and St Patrick's Fun Activities and Irish dancing Performance

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Due to a technical error we were unable to source children's birthdays. efficiently. This has now been resolved.



Happy Birthday to all the children that celebrated their birthdays over the last couple of months - We really hope you had a great day !!!

January - Sienna Sousou, James Younis, Jacinta Malkoun, George El-Khoury, Scarlett Jaitani, Mariette Wakim, Olivia Younis, Esperanza Thompson, Amelia Naudi, Charbela Chedid, Benjamin Aitkins, Isabelle Tannous, Noah Naudi, Victoria Nassif, Lucia Reyes-Mangabat, Rhys Bautista, Arin Joseph, Antoun Abboud, Sandra Nehme, Sophia Khoury, Dominic Coles, Saria-Jo Eid, Liam Makhoul, Tiago Barroso, Sarah Loader, Gabriella Norman, Juliette Khoury, Zachariah McPherson, Gabriel Kalouche, Trey St John Tannous

February - Nour Kahwaji, Francis Rahme, Mia Freifer, Alessia Agostino, Kenzie Murphy, Jaidyn Shehadie, Alicia Remaili, Fareeda Daher, Hannah Scanlon, Mia Wehbe, Lucas Karam, Angelica Beame, Mika Liu, Paul Khouri, Olivia Pijaca, Victoria Adaymy, Anastasia Naudi, Jazmyne Drosos, Erika Talbot, Georgia-Rose Rizk, Ashane Silva, Gwyna Palmos, Zara Ciampi, Jayden Bounassif, Callum Donaldson, Lawson Li, Vincent Camenzuli, Adam Saman, Elijah Skaf, Anabelle Tudberry

March - Christian Karam, Erick Granados-Gavito, Xavier Bayssari, Kayla Amaral, Hugh Perrett, Tiffany McCloskey, Evania Dcosta, Hunter Morson, Gabriella Sta Rosa, Lucas Pavlovic, Caroline Youssef, Richard Do, Zavier Skaf, James Agostino

AND finally the children who will celebrate over the next week, we hope you have a great birthday - Olivia Fayad, Lara Alphonse, Audrey Perram, Gabriel Saba, Angela Bracks, Sebastian Vella, Zachariah Abu-Ali, Anthony Bracks

Sporting Updates

Due to the weather over the last couple of weeks there has been a few changes to sporting events.

1. Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6) Touch Gala Day for April 8th has been postponed until July 29
2. The Cross Country for St Patricks Primary School has been rescheduled for Monday 21st March for children who have previously indicated participation.

Mrs Carroll

Diocesan Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the following students who represented St Patrick's as part of the Diocesan swimming team at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival on Friday 11 March:

Phillip Ayoub, Sara Jabbour, Sarah Loader, George Rizk, Hannah Scanlon, Gabriella Volante

This event includes some very capable and fast swimmers from the Parramatta Diocese. From all reports our team members participated enthusiastically and supported each other as well as team members from other schools throughout the carnival.



Thank you again to the parents for supporting us in this event by transporting their child to and from the pool.

School holiday announcement:

Next Level Sports Clinic is happy to announce that we have been approved to go ahead and we will be back in action this coming school holidays! To make a booking please email nextlevelsports@live.com.au or contact Mr Younis.

Holiday Clinic dates:

Clinic 1: 13th & 14th April.

Clinic 2: 20th, 21st & 22nd April.



More exciting news:

Spartans is back!

Sessions will recommence on the 3rd of May Term 2, every Tuesday of the school term from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. All existing Spartans and anyone new who would like to join our Tuesday afternoon class to please contact Mr Younis.

Thank you and welcome back!

Mr David Younis

nextlevelsports@live.com.au

Term Dates

Term 1 - Friday 28th January to Friday 8th April

Term 2 - Tuesday 26th April - Friday 1st July

Term 3 - Monday 18th July - Friday 23rd September

Term 4 - Monday 10th October - Tuesday 20th December

** 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 DATES

Day 1 Friday 28th January 2022

Day 2 Monday 30th January 2022

Day 3 TBC

Day 4 TBC

Day 5 TBC

Day 6 Tuesday 20th December 2022

SDD's will be communicated to you as soon as possible when confirmed

Notices sent thru Compass Parent Portal this week

Good Morning Parents & Caregivers,

This year we will be doing the Mother's Day Stall a little bit different.

We have sourced gifts to present in a pack, rather than individually.

- The prices of the packs will be \$5, \$7 or \$10.
- Each pack will have either 1, 2 or 3 gifts per pack, depending on price.
- There will be approximately 13 different varieties of the packs.
- The child will still select which pack they would like depending on how much was paid by the parent.
- Each child will receive a black Mother's day reusable bag to place their gifts into.
- All payments will be made through the QKR app or by phoning the office with a credit card. At this stage we would like to get an indication of how many packs to purchase. This will ensure there is no wastage and excess gifts purchased. We will be requesting parents early in Term 2 to assist coordination of wrapping and selling the gifts.

Can you please indicate on the form attached an approx. no of gifts you would be purchasing per family. To ensure we can secure the gifts can you please complete by **Friday 18th March**.

<https://forms.gle/fWG5qoME23dX59meA>

Regards

Mrs Jones

Good Afternoon Parents & Caregivers,

This year, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have been invited to a special performance by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (SSO) at the Parramatta Riverside Theatre. The SSO will present orchestral music that has been used for major sporting events and unpack how the musical elements connect with different sports. We feel that this is a very worthwhile extracurricular event for our students to experience, who ordinarily may not get to see a live orchestra. It also allows the students to make connections to skills and elements of music taught at school during Music lessons, which deepens their knowledge and understanding of outcomes covered.

Where: Parramatta Riverside Theatre

When: Wednesday 23rd March, 2022

Wear: Normal Summer School Uniform

Cost: Covered in School Activity Fees

Please complete the below google form by **Tuesday 22nd March**

<https://forms.gle/EQ5pXyBj9bt4pWWJA>

Yours faithfully

Mrs Rodricks

Music Teacher

From our Parent Representative - Mrs Gizel Thomas

Monday evening I was fortunate to attend the first PRC meeting for 2022. The topic was Student Wellbeing – A Partnership Approach and the guest speaker was Dr Greg Elliott. Dr Elliott was appointed Director of WellBeing by the CEDP October last year. This is a new role created in order to provide greater and more direct assistance to students and families in the CEDP schools.

Dr Elliott's presentation was very informative and entertaining. He covered a large range of information. I will try and provide a brief summary of what he said below.
A persons well being can generally be classified in one of the following categories:

In crisis – struggling – surviving – thriving – excelling

We are not stuck in the one spot of these classifications, it's a continuum moving from one to the other. These last couple of years have proved testing, to say the least, for the best of us and our children. The question to ask is how equipped are we to deal with the things that get in our way of flourishing.

A child's wellbeing is the foundation for their learning success. Dr Elliott identified how we can partner with the school for the wellbeing of our children. These include:

- Trust the school
- Ask for information about social-emotional learning and wellbeing programs
- Stay up to date with the school events and information
- If there are changes at home impacting your child – let the school know
- Don't assume your child's perspective is the only perspective about the issue
- Let the school know when you are worried.

He also went on to say that the first point of contact when something is concerning you is the classroom teacher and that you should make it a point to get their direct email when possible. It is important to know the chain of command as such, that is, who to contact if you still have concerns. It's important to not go straight to "The Vatican" as soon as something is wrong.

Finally, Dr Elliott provided some tips on what you can do at home to help your children:

- Teach children how to identify and name their Big feelings
- Validate the child's Big feelings
- Model how to regulate your Big feelings
- Resist Catastrophising – explain that big feelings come and go.
- Reframing misery – don't solve problems for them, help them by asking them "I wonder.." questions
- Model and teach empathy
- Set them up for success and failure. Failure is the first step on the way to success.

One final thing, Dr Elliott said during his speech that I thought was prudent to mention, *There is no such thing as a perfect parent. We don't have to strive for perfection. We all the same in that we all love our children and want the best for them.*

The meeting truly was great and something I believe many parents would have not only benefited from, but also enjoyed. I would encourage everyone to attend the next meeting in Term 2. The guest speaker is Dr Justin Coulton and the topic is, Miss Connect, Dealing with Teenage Girls.

God bless
Gizel



'I dream of an Amazon region that fights for the rights of the poor, the original peoples and the least of our brothers and sisters, where their voices can be heard and their dignity advanced.'

[Pope Francis](#)

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.

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 stpatricksparra@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>

For the telecast of Weekend mass follow this link:
[St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta - Facebook](#)



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



YEAR 7, 2024

ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday, 29 March 2022

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you and your family to attend our Year 7, 2024 Enrolment Information Evening. Hear from our College Principal, Ms Lucie Farrugia and other key members of the College Leadership Team and discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life.

Time: 6:00pm (Registration from 5:30pm)

Enquiries: Enrolments Office T (02) 8838 1222 E enrolments@olmc.nsw.edu.au

www.olmc.nsw.edu.au



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

ENROLLING NOW

Visit our website to apply or visit the college to collect an enrolment pack.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 18TH MARCH

Gilroy Catholic College is a comprehensive, co-educational Catholic secondary school.

Learning and teaching at the College focuses on challenge and diversity in the classroom to ensure that all students are engaged in their learning and offered every opportunity to achieve.

Our aim is to empower our students to be people of faith who are confident, collaborative and creative.

Cerdon College

Aspire to Great Heights

ENROLLING NOW YEAR 7 2023

A Catholic secondary school education for girls with a consistent history of academic excellence.

For more information:
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8724 7300