Excerpt from Homily for Liturgical Reception and Solemn Mass of Installation as the 4th Bishop of Parramatta.

16th June A.D. 2016

Dear friends,

The clergy and Catholic people of Parramatta have been waiting for long and here I am, only five feet and a half though. After 19 months without a bishop, you have been given one in the person of a Vietnamese Australian and a former boat person. Perhaps, you can add my appointment to the list of surprises that Pope Francis has done.

I am very honoured and humbled by this appointment and grateful for the opportunity to serve the Church in Parramatta during this time. As guided by my motto “go further into the deep” (Lk 5:40), I have taken many leaps of faith before. I cannot help but feel daunted by what lies ahead. Nevertheless, I make bold to move forward, trusting in the sustaining power of God and the support of many people and fellow ministers of the Gospel.

To say that we are at a critical juncture is probably an understatement. We have been battered and bruised. We’ve been reduced in numbers and status. What is more, we have to admit with the greatest humility that we have not lived up to that fundamental ethos of justice, mercy and care for those who have been hurt by our own actions and inactions. And so in the eyes of many, whatever aura of respectability we’ve got left has evaporated with the sexual abuse crisis. The Royal Commission has been a lightning rod, an uncomfortable spotlight, but hopefully a catalyst for transformation.

The biggest lesson those of the biblical exile learned was seeking God’s justice for the poor and the lowly. They learned to be a society in which the care of the most marginalised was to be the essential distinguishing feature. I am committed to the renewal of the church patterned on the paschal rhythm of Christ: the church that dies to worldly power, privilege, clericalism and rises to humility, simplicity, equality and servanthood; the church that might be smaller, poorer and humbler but hopefully more of a light and a sacrament of God’s love to the world.

As your bishop, I am committed to be a bridge builder. We must foster pathways across the political and religious divide to build not only a rich and strong Australia but also an inclusive and humane society and a responsible world citizen. Furthermore, Pope Francis urges us to be a Church where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live according to the Gospel. There can be no future for the living Church without there being space for those who have been hurt, damaged or alienated, be they abuse victims, survivors, divorcees, gays, lesbians or disaffected members. I am committed to make the Church in Parramatta the house for all peoples, a Church where there is less an experience of exclusion but more an encounter of radical love, inclusiveness and solidarity.

“Love one another as I have loved you.” (John 13:34) These words of Jesus can be fully understood not only in terms of his relationship with the disciples but also in the larger context of his engagement with the people. Christ shows love not only by his passion and death on the cross. He also demonstrates that love through his acceptance, embrace, affirmation, compassion, forgiveness and solidarity, especially towards those stigmatised by others. It is his radical vision of love, inclusion and human flourishing that ought to guide our pastoral response. We cannot regain our moral credibility without first reclaiming that vision of the humble, powerless, loving Servant-Leader, and making it the cornerstone of all that we do and all that we are as the church.

With grateful heart, I ask for your prayer and support as I walk with you in the new exodus to the fullness of life and love.
Principal’s Message

Parent/ Teacher Interviews

Just a reminder that parent/teacher interviews begin next week. Please refer to the letter sent home last week regarding online interview time selection. If you have any issues following the instructions, please see Mrs Zammit in the front office. I welcome feedback from our parents regarding this new online system. Please send all correspondence to the office.

Student Academic Reports

Student academic reports will be sent home to families on Friday the 24th of June.

CAPTIVATE

This week begins the long awaited CAPTIVATE concert season. Many of our students will be performing either in the concert band or in the mass choir. I am looking forward to witnessing this spectacular on Tuesday night, Thursday night and on the following Monday night. I sincerely wish to thank our parents for their continued support with this extra curricular event. We could not offer such great experiences for our children without you. I also wish to acknowledge the outstanding work of Miss Merchant who has coordinated the students during rehearsals and on the performance nights. Miss Merchant has worked beyond her normal duties to ensure the children have had this opportunity to shine. I also wish to thank Mrs Julie Sampson and Mr Ken Beardsley for supervising and driving to and from the many rehearsals.

Kindergarten Interviews for 2017 enrolment year

Kindergarten interviews will be conducted on Saturday the 25th of June in the school office. If you are aware of families who have not yet enrolled their child for Kindergarten next year, please give them a gentle reminder as we will be finalising enrolments during the month of July. If you require an enrolment package please see Mrs Zammit in the school office or download the forms on line.

Holiday Period

Students will be on holidays from Monday the 4th of July until Friday the 15th of July. Students return to school in their winter uniform.

A fun way to pass away many quiet afternoons is with a great adventure story. Remember to read and let your imagination soar.

We congratulate this week’s Student of the Week Award recipients:

Kindy  Alannah Feher-Hegarty & Leonardo Valore
Year 1  Kelvin Nyakoi & Marvin Nassif
Year 2  Ashwin Kumar & Mariah Liukuey
Year 3  Johnny Kayrouz & Najweh Katrib
Year 4  Johnathan Chakoush & Rebecca Maatouk
Year 5  Mosa Lemoto & Janet Makdissi
Year 6  Debrah Youssef & Louie Sousan
There is a new student coming to the school. Mrs Baird has asked you to create a map of the school so that they can locate all of the places they will need.
Dear parents and guardians,

We have decided to have the Year 6 Mini Fete this term, but it is no longer called a mini fete, but a 'Festival of Imaginings'. We are linking this to our Shared Reading book called, 'Imagine a Day', and this is also connected to the Science unit, Information.

We have the mini fete every year to raise money for our trip to Canberra in Term 3. This is to help us learn about the Federal Government.

There will be many stalls for the children to buy some interesting treasures, have their nails and face painted, cakes to buy, and lots of other fun things to do. Some stalls are:

- The White Elephant stall
- Cake and lolly stall
- Soccer shoot outs
- Face painting and nail painting
- Water balloon throwing competition
- Scooter rides
And much more!!!
This festival shall take place on the 29th of June, 2016. The children are allowed to wear mufti clothes, but they must bring in a popper and/or a packet of chips or other snacks instead of a coin. We all know that we are not allowed to wear inappropriate clothing and shoes such as thongs. Acceptable footwear is to be worn.

Please bring some money to help our Year 6 students go to Canberra. We would really appreciate it! 😊

Thank you for your support,
Year 6 Students
Calendar

June/July

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 23rd June</td>
<td>CAPTIVATE Performance Nagle College Blacktown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 24th June</td>
<td>Assembly Kindy Year 2,4,6 Presenting School Reports go home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 27th June</td>
<td>CAPTIVATE Best of Performance at The Joan Penrith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 28th June</td>
<td>Parent Teacher interviews 3:30pm-6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29th June</td>
<td>Confirmation at Holy Trinity Parish 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 30th June</td>
<td>Stage 2 Soccer Gala Day Parent teacher interviews 3:30pm-6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 1st July</td>
<td>End of Term 2</td>
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Birthday Wishes!

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week
George Khawly, Anushka Raya, Bethany Agito & Aayush Prakash

2017 Enrolments

Kindergarten Enrolment Packages are available from the office for collection. Please notify family, friends and neighbours wishing to enrol their child at Holy Family. Enrolment period closes at the end of June.

School Fees

By now you would have received Term 2 school fees.

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, BPAY or at the Post Office.

Please contact Ms Ali in the office if you are having difficulty in paying your school fees.

Thank you

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.