Religious Education Matters

This week we are celebrate Holy Week, a week that is full of our important Church symbols:

Water

Water was used by Jesus on Holy Thursday as a great symbol of service. In the time of Jesus there were few paved pathways and no tarred roads. People had to walk over dusty cobblestones and along dirt paths and it was generally up to the servants to wash their master’s feet. But here Jesus showed the Apostles that to be a true disciple you must put everyone else first and be a servant to all. So it goes for us that we must put others first but also that Our Lord wants to, and can, wash you clean.

Bread and Wine

At The Last Supper Jesus initiates the Eucharist as a symbol of our covenant with God and the sacrifices he has made. We offer up bread and wine as a sacrifice to God at Mass as a symbol of the work that we do for our daily nourishment. Through the consecration of the bread and wine God returns it to us as summit of our faith and the true source of our nourishment.

Crown of Thorns

The crown of thorns is a brutal symbol of the suffering that Jesus went through to save His people. Every king wears a crown but a crown of thorns is fit for a king who came to serve and save his people through the act of love and sacrifice.

The Cross

“How beautiful it is to stand before the Crucifix, simply to be under the Lord’s gaze, so full of love.” (Pope Francis)

It’s a bit hard to see at first, but when you step back, and really look at it, the gift of the Cross is incredible. On the Cross, God shows us that His love has no bounds. But, He doesn’t stop there; God also shows us that our suffering has purpose. That no matter what happens, He has conquered it all. Death is not the end. Our suffering has merit for eternal life.

Holy Week Ceremonies at Holy Family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Ceremony</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holy Thursday</td>
<td>7:30pm Solemn Mass of The Lord’s Supper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>10:00am Stations of The Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:00pm Solemn Commemoration of The Lord’s Passion and Death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Saturday</td>
<td>7:30pm Solemn Easter Vigil and Mass of The Lord’s Resurrection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
<td>8:00am Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30am Mass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Principal’s Message**

Parent Play Ground Protocol
I am again expressing the importance of parents approaching other children in the play ground. This behaviour is not appropriate and will not be accepted. If you are experiencing any issues between your children please discuss these matters with the class teacher.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**Holiday timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Holy Week Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd</th>
<th>Normal school days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holy Thursday 24th</td>
<td>Normal school day- Holy Week Liturgy at 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good Friday 25th</td>
<td>No school for students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Easter Monday 28th</td>
<td>No school for students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th, Thursday 31st, Friday 1st</td>
<td>Normal school days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Monday 4th - Friday 8th</td>
<td>Normal school days Friday is the last day of the term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Vacation</td>
<td>Monday the 11th of April</td>
<td>First day of school holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Vacation</td>
<td>Friday the 22nd of April</td>
<td>Last day of school holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students return to school for Term 2 in Winter Uniform</td>
<td>First day of school holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday the 25th of April Anzac day</td>
<td>No school for Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 26th of April</td>
<td>Students return to school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.*
Holy Week

Please join us on Holy Thursday when we walk with Jesus to the Cross. This is a very special liturgy as we prepare our hearts for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

On Thursday the students will have an earlier lunch.
1.10-1.40 student lunch break.
1.40 -2pm students prepare for the Liturgy
2pm- Holy Week Liturgy on the playground

Easter Liturgy

Parents and friends are invited to join us for our Easter celebration on Wednesday the 30th of March at 2.15pm in our parish Church.

Fundraising Committee

At our last Parent Representative Meeting it was decided that a Fundraising Committee would be created this year to assist in organising events with the purpose of raising funds to purchase educational resources for the students or assist in raising funds for capital projects. A letter went home this week with expression of interest for parents thinking of joining this committee.

Whole School Assembly

Our next assembly for the term will be held on Friday the 1st of April at 2.15pm in our parish hall. Our Year 1, Year 3, Year 5 and Kindergarten will share the great learning from this term with our community. I welcome parents and friends to join us.

Quality Schools Survey

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be once again participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) survey.

The QCS survey provides information from students, staff and parents about our school’s cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community, and assists us in our focus on continuous improvement.

Between 21 March and 9 April all staff and all Year 5 and 6 students, and 60 randomly-selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

This year we will be able to get even more information about the link between student wellbeing and learning outcomes. To do this we will need to include a student identifier in the student survey. The survey will still remain confidential and individual survey responses will not be accessible by the school or the Catholic Education Office.
An independent survey consultant (Insight SRC) who manages the data collection will ensure the survey data is kept strictly confidential. Each school will receive a de-identified information report at the end of May to help them to develop strategies for further improvement.

While this is a change from previous years it will definitely help us in working with all students to improve their learning. If you have concerns, please feel free to contact Mr Munday.

As a parent if you are randomly-selected to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

---

**School Fees**

Please note that ALL school Fees are over due.

*Any school fee payment arrangement made in 2015 does not automatically continue. This also includes those families that have automatic payments deducted from Centrelink.*

Please contact Ms Ali in the office to make a new school fee arrangement or if you are having difficulty in paying your school fees.

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

---

**School Banking**

A school banking service is available to students who hold Commonwealth Dollarmites or Youth Saver accounts. Encouraging children to make small regular deposits to a bank account helps them to develop good savings habits and awareness of the value of money. Students who wish to deposit money should bring bank books (with the deposit slip filled in) and money to school on Tuesday morning. The deposits are processed on Thursday during the morning and the bank books returned to students by their class teacher. Please note that we are unable to process cheques. For every deposit you make, you will receive a token. When you receive 10 tokens you can redeem them for a prize.

*Any parent wishing to open a Commonwealth account for their child may collect an information package from the school office.*
Cross Country – Wednesday 30th March 2016

Due to the wet weather on Monday, 21st March, the cross country carnival was postponed and will now be held on Wednesday the 30th March for Years 3-6 (and any Year 2 student who is 8 years old this year) at Colquhoun Park during school hours approx. 9am – 12:30pm. On the day, all students need to wear their sports uniform, hat and sunscreen.

Students participate in these events according to their age groups as shown in the following table. It is the age they turn this year. To qualify for the next level of competition, students need to run the distance in the qualifying time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>Approx. Event Time</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Years-Old Boys and Girls</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>2,000 metres (within 13 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Years-Old Boys and Girls</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>2,000 metres (within 13 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Years-Old Boys and Girls</td>
<td>10:50 am</td>
<td>2,000 Metres (within 13 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Years-Old Boys and Girls</td>
<td>9:50 am</td>
<td>3,000 Metres (within 17 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Years-Old Boys and Girls</td>
<td>9:20 am</td>
<td>3,000 Metres (within 17 minutes)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Kindergarten! ... here I come!
Calendar

March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th March</td>
<td>2pm Holy Week Liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 25th March</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY–NO School for Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 28th March</td>
<td>EASTER MONDAY–NO School for Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 29th March</td>
<td>Students Return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30th March</td>
<td>Cross Country Year 2 - Year 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30th March</td>
<td>2:15pm Church Easter Liturgy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Birthday Wishes!

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week
- Brayden Bailey
- Rita Dib
- Michel Rbeiz
- Steven Estephen
- Alannah Feher-Hegarty
- Dut Atak

Diocesan and Community News

PENRITH OBSERVATORY

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

WHAT’S ON IN APRIL

ASTRONOMY NIGHTS
- Saturday 2 April (8.00 pm – 10.00 pm)
- Saturday 16 April (7.00 pm – 9.00 pm) – The Lives of Stars
Where do stars come from and where do they go?

KIDS’ SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS
- Thursday 14 April (10.00 am – 12 noon) – All Kinds of Aliens
- Thursday 21 April (1.00 pm – 3.00 pm) – Rockets
Make and launch your own paper rockets and watch water rockets and a solid fuel rocket being launched

In addition to multimedia presentations all programs will include a 3D astronomy movie and either safe viewing of the sun (day program) or viewing of the night sky through the University’s telescopes. Our programs run regardless of the weather.

To book and pay for tickets visit the “What’s On” page at westernsydney.edu.au/observatory

COST OF ASTRONOMY NIGHTS: $18 for adults, $12 for children/concessions or $50 for a family
COST OF WORKSHOPS: $15 per person

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.
PLAY GROUP

Every Tuesday Between 9-11:30am play group is run at Holy Family Primary

All welcome!

please bring your toddlers & preschool children along for some great fun,

play & learning.

The Staff at Holy Family would like to wish the

Students & their Families a

Happy & Safe Easter