Religious Education Matters

Gospel Reflection

Mk 4:35-41  Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.

In this Sunday’s Gospel from Mark we hear the story of Jesus calming the sea. This takes me back to my pilgrimage where I listened to the same Gospel on the Sea of Galilee.

We set off from the shore in a traditional sailing vessel for a private Mass floating in the centre of the Sea of Galilee. In the Gospel the disciples woke Jesus when the waves were very large, the wind blowing a gale and they thought their ship would go down. Jesus rebuked the wind and said to the sea ‘Quiet now! Be calm!’ Mk4: 39. After a lot of overnight rain and doubts that we would be able to go out on the boat for Mass, the Sea was very calm. The engines were cut when we reached the middle and the only sounds were the gentle lapping of water against the boat. Out there on the boat I felt His presence in the silence and His comfort in the gentle rocking.

The disciples showed a great lack of faith with Jesus, the Son of God on board, worrying that they wouldn’t be safe. They asked him ‘Master, do you not care? We are going down!’ When we read this we thought how could they worry so much when Jesus was with them?

But don’t we have the same fears and lack of faith at different times, when Jesus is right with us all the time? Like the disciples, Jesus asks us ‘Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?’ We have to just be quiet and calm and place our trust in Him.

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.
We congratulate this week’s Student of the Week Award recipients:

- Catherine Kpaka
- Nicholas Anjoul
- Andre Rbeiz
- Rebecca Maatouk
- Owen Faddoul
- Michael Rbeiz
- Lauren Kahila
- Samuel Edwards
- Rania Marcos
- Luke Laoulach
- Bachir Boulos
- Marko Sinozic
- Mina Nohra
- Brandon Faddoul

CAPTIVATE What a Spectacular!
This week many of our children have participated in the CAPTIVATE Concert experience. Our children have sung as part of a joint choir with other schools in our Diocese and our band members have shared their talents with band members from Delany College. I wish to sincerely thank our parents for their continued support. Without you we could not offer the many extra curricular activities we have at Holy Family. I also wish to thank the many staff members who attended the concert and supervised the children during the rehearsal. I also wish to thank Miss Merchant who coordinated the groups and rehearsed with the children during the term.

Parent Representative Group.
On the 25th of June we will be hosting our Parent Representative Group meeting. The meeting will be held in our school Library at 6pm. This meeting is open to all parents. To commence the meeting I have invited Constable Ellie to talk with our parents about a very important topic of cyber safety. This information is urgent for all families especially in this current climate. Following, we will be discussing our whole school goals for the next two years. This will include our academic goals and the survey results from our Catholic Schools survey. We will also have many opportunities for parents to share their thinking regarding the vision they see for our great school. A letter will be sent home this week. I encourage you to attend and be a part of the decision making process for our school.

Academic School Reports.
This Friday, you will receive your child’s Academic Report for Semester One. I have had an opportunity to read every student report and each child should be congratulated for the great work they achieved so far. I wish to thank the teachers for their continued dedication to the learning of each child at Holy Family.

Parent / Teacher Interviews.
Last Tuesday you would have received a letter for you to indicate your preferred interview time. The teachers have been processing these interview times and you will receive a time confirmation letter this week. Due to the Privacy Act all interviews must be with the parents not with other family members.
In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.

Work Samples.
On Friday your child will take home some great learning they have completed in the past few weeks. This is a time for your child to share work they are very proud of with their parents.

School Assembly.
On Friday we will join as a faith community to pray and enjoy the learnings from Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5. We invite you to attend at 2.15pm in the parish hall.

Kindergarten Interviews 2016.
On Saturday, we will be commencing our Kindergarten Interviews for 2016. By now Mrs Ali would have contacted you to arrange an interview time for Saturday. If you intend for your child to attend Kindergarten next year and you have not yet lodged an application form, I strongly encourage you to do so. I intend for enrolments to be finalised by the middle of next term. If you know of families who would like to come to Holy Family, please encourage them to lodge an application form. We have places in each grade from K-6.

Library News.
As we are nearing the end of the term, I ask families to begin returning any overdue books to the library. We will be having a stock take in week 10 so we ask that all books are returned this week.

Sydney Grammar Band Performance.
We have been invited to attend a performance coordinated by Dr Robert Busan, Head of Bands at Sydney Grammar School. The concert will take place across the road at Granville East Public School. Children from Years 3-6 will be attending. There is no cost for this concert. A permission note will go home this week.

Dorothea McKellar Poetry Awards
As in previous years, Mr Munday will coordinate our school’s entries for the Dorothea McKellar Poetry Awards competition. All entries emailed to the school before the end of term can be entered. The optional theme for 2015 is ‘the open door’. If they don’t want to use the theme, students can submit any poem they have written.

Before you email your entry, be sure you have re-read it and checked that it makes sense, has no spelling errors and so on. Mr Munday says he won’t submit incorrect entries - I think he’s serious too!

Calendar

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<td>2.15pm Assembly—Years 1, 3 and 5 presenting</td>
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<td>Captivate Showcase concert—Joan Sutherland Centre, Penrith</td>
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Birthday Wishes!
Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week: Jelina Boudolh, Helena Youssef, Amia Clarke and George Youssef.