**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS**

**Sunday, 16 Sep 2012: Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B**

Mk 8:27-35 - *You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.*

Jesus called the people and his disciples to him and said, *'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.’*

What are the crosses that Jesus asks us today to take up? Are we prepared to make that sacrifice? Is there a particular ‘cross’ or burden, no matter how small, that you can bear in order to better follow Jesus?

There are people who have been prepared to take up the challenge that Jesus continually put in front of us. They are our priests and religious orders that serve our communities so well. This week we welcome back Fr. Stack, we pray for Fr. Crowley’s recovery and we take time to honour the Sisters of St. Joseph. It is an incredible lifetime of dedication to God that our priests and other religious live. To live a life of love and service to the Church requires extraordinary people. May we always keep these wonderful men and women in our prayers.

**Junior Joeys**

Over the next two weeks the Junior Joeys Justice Group will be running some events in the name of the Sisters of St. Joseph. This Thursday for Infants and Friday for Primary they will be running a lunchtime prayer session highlighting the history and work of the Sisters. Then next Monday for Infants and Tuesday for Primary we will have a lunchtime Disco. There will be a $2 charge for the disco with money going towards the Sister’s efforts in Timor Leste.

Stephen Bawden

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**During the remainder of term, children may wear their Summer uniforms if the weather is going to be warmer than usual. School hats are a compulsory part of the Summer uniform.**
HFSTV is LIVE!

What a truly wonderful day we had on Tuesday celebrating the stars of HFSTV - the students of Holy Family. There was great excitement from all present as we launched this exciting new initiative. Keep a look out in the local newspapers for stories about this exciting event.

This initiative has even come to the attention of our federal Education Minister, Mr Peter Garrett. To see his message tune into our HFSTV link on the school website. The online address is:

http://www.hfgranville.catholic.edu.au

then follow the links to HFSTV.

A great event like this sees requires great work by many and thanks must be given to:

- Mr Tim Butt for his leadership and creativity with this initiative
- the teachers of Holy Family who have guided and supported the students in this new area
- the many parents who attended our launch and the parents who helped the children in dressing up
- Mrs Vanessa Edwards who created Starman’s costume
- and finally to our wonderful students who have shared their skills and learning through these tasks

We acknowledge the generous support of the federal government’s Smarter Schools National Partnerships (Low SES) funding which has allowed us to resource this initiative.
Welcome Pat Farmer - Tuesday 18th September 9:15am

Pat is known as a world record ultra marathon runner, former politician and most importantly, a former student of Holy Family Primary, Granville East. Pat is returning to HFS next Tuesday:

9:15 Talk to all students about his world record run from North Pole to the South Pole. Parents are most welcome to join us in the hall for this presentation and his book will be available for purchase.

10:00 Talk to Stage 3 about leadership and making a difference in our world.

What a great honour this day will be for all who attend.
Please come and welcome Pat back to Holy Family.

Calendar

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<tr>
<th>September</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 14th September</td>
<td>2.00pm Whole School Assembly– Kinder, Year 1, 4 &amp; 6 presenting.</td>
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<td>Religious Education Work Samples home for parents to view.</td>
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<td>Friday 21st September</td>
<td>Last Day Term 3</td>
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ADVANCE NOTICE:
Monday 8th October will be our next Staff Development Day for the year.
This is the first day of Term 4. No school for the children.

Happy Birthday!
We congratulate Marcus Ishac, Jamella Sharma and Adau Ngor who celebrate their birthdays this week!

School Fees
Thankyou to everyone that has already paid the school fees.
Please note, school fee payments are now overdue for Term 3, school fees must be finalised this week. Payments can be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, BPAY or at the Post Office.

HOLY FAMILY’S LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAM - TERM 4

Holy Family's swimming program will be held in Term 4 from Wednesday 7th November to Friday 16th November. The cost for the program includes 8 lessons with a specialised swimming teacher in a small group, pool entry and bus fare to and from the pool. The anticipated cost for 2012 will be $65 per child.

All monies raised from fundraising activities have gone towards reducing the cost of the 2012 Swimming Program for each family.

So start putting aside something each week so your child can attend the swimming program and learn these essential survival skills necessary for living in Australia.
Catholic schools and funding – what you need to know

1. Choice of schooling is a fundamental right for parents in a democratic and pluralist society
Catholic schools in western Sydney educate over 46,000 students from 30,000 families, which represents over a quarter of all school aged children in this region.

2. Catholic schools provide value for tax payer's dollar
This is evidenced by the outstanding results achieved by our students and our successful delivery of the Building Education Revolution program

3. Catholic schools operate with 10% less net recurrent income per student than government schools creating a resources gap
The ACARA data shows that even after parent contributions are taken into account, government schools operate at around $11,523 per student and Catholic schools operate with around $10,008 per student

4. Recurrent and capital funding for Catholic schools needs to be maintained in real terms and indexed to the equivalent costs of educating students in government schools
A funding freeze for Catholic schools would be unsustainable and would lead to loss of service and teaching positions. Catholic schools are one of the largest employers in western Sydney with over 5,000 people employed.

5. Funding for students with additional needs and schools in disadvantaged areas in both government and non-government sectors needs to be increased
Catholic schools support calls for both government and non-government schools to be appropriately funded to ensure that they achieve for their students high equity and high quality outcomes.

How much money is spent on your child’s education?

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<tr>
<th>Independent schools</th>
<th>Public schools</th>
<th>Catholic schools</th>
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<tr>
<td>$14,460</td>
<td>$11,520</td>
<td>$10,340</td>
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For Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta approximately 79% of educational funding is from government sources and 21% is from private contributions.