



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 1

Week 10

31st March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year Holy Week falls within the school holidays. Holy Week is the most sacred time of the year, for it is when we commemorate and remember the last week of Jesus' life on this earth. These are the days leading up to Easter. The Lenten season of sacrifice and self-denial is about to come to an end, but Holy Week is extremely important for all Christians. The greatest focus of the week is the Passion (suffering) and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the events that led up to it.

Historical documents tell us that as early as the fourth century the Church celebrated this "Great Week" with a feeling of profound sanctity. It begins with Palm Sunday, which marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The palms are blessed and are then borne in procession to the church, where an entry is made with a certain amount of ceremony, after which the Mass is celebrated. The other notable and very ancient feature of the present Palm Sunday service is the reading of the Gospel of the Passion by three readers.

Especially important for Catholics is the Easter Triduum. This is the three days just before Easter. On Holy Thursday, we re-enact the Lord's Last Supper, which He shared with His apostles on the night He was betrayed and arrested. This is one of the most beautiful liturgies of the entire liturgical year. At the Mass, the priest will wash the feet of twelve people, just as Jesus did. Also on this night, priests all over the world will renew their sacred vows.

On Good Friday, the day of the crucifixion and death of our Lord we celebrate with the Stations of the Cross. We also hold a service called the veneration of the Cross. This service is held at three o'clock in the afternoon (the hour He is believed to have died). We go forward and kiss the Cross in order to show honour and respect for Christ's sacrifice for our sake. There is no consecration of the Eucharist on this day, and the Communion we receive will be from the night before, which has been reserved in the tabernacle.

Holy Saturday is a vigil. We keep watch for the expectant rising of Our Saviour. This was the day He went down into the netherworld in order to bring back up with Him into heaven those who had died before His coming. Up to this time, the gates to heaven were closed and no one could go there because of the original sin of Adam. Jesus changed all that. By paying the price for our sins on the Cross, He gained for us our eternal salvation, and heaven was opened once more. Also on this night, persons who have spent months of preparation will be received through Baptism and Confirmation into the Catholic Church for the first time. It is a joyous occasion.

Those who engage themselves wholeheartedly in living the entire paschal cycle discover that it can change them forever. Holy Week is a time to clear our schedules of unnecessary activities. Our minds and hearts should be fixed on Jesus and what He did for us.

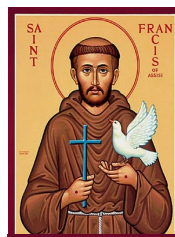


DATES COMING UP

- 07/04 **Last Day of Term 1**
- 24/04 Staff Development Day
- 25/04 ANZAC Day
- 26/04 **Term 2 Resumes & Winter uniform**

RESPECT AWARDS

KR	Mikaela Baquillos
KS	Tiannah Farrugia
KV	Lakan Diestro
1B	Joshua Foneska
1R	Jayme Whittaker
2C	Neha Kurian
2F	Theresa Batara



3A	Mia Hampton
3B	Trishala Sharma
4B	Marcus Ribaya
4C	Kenneth Cordoba
5B	Ryan Ferrer
5O	Mikko Tiongson
6D	Antonina Tagiloa
6S	Corriene Real

HOLY WEEK—STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Wednesday 5th April parents are invited to attend our Holy Week - Stations of the Cross at 9.10am. We hope to see you there.

EVERY LEARNER EVERY DAY

Week 9 attendance level was 78.6 %

Week 10 attendance level was 81.0 %

Attendance level goal for all Diocesan schools is 90%



Our school needs your help to improve this level. Please remember to plan holidays in the school holidays, not during the school term.

Congratulations to Year 5 who are at 89.0% attendance this week. They have almost hit the target of 90%. Well done!!!

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRIMARY SCHOOL

ENROLING NOW KINDER TO YEAR 6 FOR 2018

CONTACT THE SCHOOL ON 9832 3062

OR EMAIL stfrancis@parra.catholic.edu.au



ST CLARE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL are now taking enrolments for Year 7, 2018. Please contact the school office on 9830 2400 for any inquiries. Enrolment packages are available from the school office. School office hours are 7.30am - 3.30pm, 175 Buckwell Drive, Hassall Grove. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the school website <http://www.clarehassallgrove.catholic.edu.au>

PUPIL FREE DAY

Our staff will be involved in a Staff Development Day on **Monday 24th April 2017** (Monday Week 1 Term 2) to focus on our school goals.

This is a Pupil Free Day.

Please note: Tuesday 25th April 2017 is ANZAC Day, which is a Public Holiday.

Students will return to school for Term 2 on **Wednesday 26th April 2017.**

COSHS will be available on this day if there is enough interest. (minimum 12 children required)

COMPLAINTS & GRIEVANCES

Parents, please note if you would like to make a complaint/grievance in regards to any school matter, you can pick up a form from the school office. All matters will be attended to under strict confidentiality.

MORNING DROP OFF - ARMITAGE DRIVE



Just a reminder to parents that the bus bay out the front of the school on Armitage Drive is to drop off your children only. Please do not get out of your car and walk your child into the school. If you wish to walk your child into the school please park your car elsewhere and walk them in. There is parking available at the BP service station (not at the bowlers or shop front), and also curb side on Armitage Drive & Gregory Street.

THANK YOU PARENTS

Firstly to Natasha Griffiths, Lilli Dowd, Amy Whitelaw, Katharine Velasco, Janelle DeLuca, Brooke Chandler and Joanne Duff, who volunteered their time on Wednesday to put together the Easter Raffle prizes.

Thank you to all those who sent in Easter eggs. Your generosity is wonderful.

Thank you also, to the parents who completed the Quality Catholic Schools Survey. The time you have taken to complete this survey is greatly appreciated.

YEAR 6 CAMP

We would like to say thank you to the Year 6 teachers, Mr Daglis and Mr Sultana, and also Mrs Owens, who have gave up time with their families to go on the camp with our Year 6 students.



EASTER RAFFLE

The Easter Raffle will be drawn on Friday 7th April. This will be done during school time and any prizes will be sent home with you children or if they don't attend the school they will be contacted by phone.

P & F COMMITTEE

Earlier this month the P & F held a meeting for parents in our community to get to know one another. On the night a new P & F Committee was elected. Congratulations to the following parents:

President: Mrs Lena Camilleri
Vice President: Mrs Nadine Venturato
Secretary: Ms Natasha Soulsby
Treasurer: Mrs Lisa Clarke

MINDFULNESS & WELLBEING LESSON

Next Friday 7th April 2017, parents are invited to come and see a Mindfulness and Wellbeing Lesson. The times for each grade are as follows:

Year 5	8:55am
Year 4	9:35am
Year 6	10:15am
Year 3	11:20am
Year 2	12:00pm
Year 1	1:30pm
Kinder	2:10pm

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE 2017

Have you got what it takes to complete the

NSW Premier's Reading Challenge for 2017 ?

The Premier's Reading Challenge is a fun initiative that encourages children of all ages to read quality literature and explore the many aspects of good books. Premier's Reading Challenge will provide your child with the opportunity to review and recommend books that are listed in the Challenge. It also encourages great 'book talk' and assists the children in becoming better readers.

The Challenge runs from March to August 2017. For those students that registered last year they can continue to use their original username and passwords.

All Student Reading Records are submitted online. Students will be registered at the beginning of April. Before this can be done, a privacy form needs to be signed by the student's parent or guardian. By signing the form, the parent/guardian acknowledges an understanding that all students entering the Premier's Reading Challenge will receive a PRC certificate and appear on the PRC Honour Roll which is published by the Sun-Herald newspaper. Students cannot participate officially in the challenge without this permission. Full rules and privacy information can be found on the website at

<https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

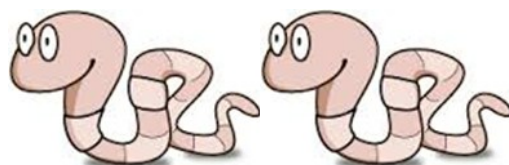
Please see the office for a permission note to allow your child to officially participate in the 2017 Premier's Reading Challenge. Once all of the permission notes have been received, your child will bring home their username and password to begin the challenge. Our library has many PRC books that are shown on the reading list so they may like to borrow these quality books during library borrowing time.

Thank-you and we look forward to registering many enthusiastic readers.

Yours in reading

Mrs Griffiths-Smith

Teacher/Librarian



MON TUE WED THU FRI



ON TIME, EVERY DAY

Partial absences = missed learning.
Let students know that every day
counts by recognising punctuality,
good and improved attendance.

every learner every day

How can you promote a healthy
attendance culture in your school?

every learner
every day 



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta