

BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Term: 2 | Week 2 | Date: Friday, 8th May

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Welcome back to Term 2 to each member of our Bethany Family.

We return from an atypical term break each with different experiences and perspectives on life under the challenge of Covid-19. Amidst this new reality has come opportunities for solitude, prayer, music, drawing, meditation, baking, cooking, gardening, sewing, woodworking, cleaning, walking, reading, over-indulging in TV series and other family time.

We are also acutely aware of the human effect of the pandemic on our community and our nation - the tragic loss of life, serious illness, mental anxiety, social isolation, ongoing stress, loss of regular employment and the financial strain that this brings families.

One **silver lining** of our new reality is a greater appreciation of the importance of human connection and of community.

Our society has also gained a greater appreciation of the centrality of certain people and occupations and their critical contribution **to the greater good** – grandparents, doctors, nurses, medical researchers, scientists, supermarket staff, warehouse workers, food process workers, truck drivers, farmers, postal couriers, teachers just to name a few.



We have a greater sense that as humans we are **interconnected social creatures** - **needing each other to survive and thrive**. This imposed period of physical isolation has forced us to look for different ways to maintain connection with our families, neighbours and friends. Modern technology has enabled this to occur to a great degree, but we pine for more. Anzac Day is a perfect example of this. Unable to gather in large groups, our sense of national ritual was expressed through commemorations at the end of our driveways.

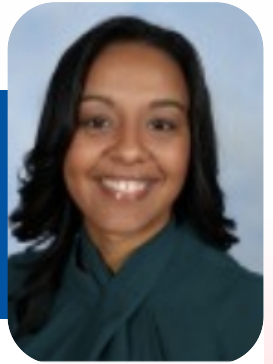
Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, **The mind, once stretched by a new idea, never returns to its original dimensions**. So, by paying attention to the profound lessons of this time, we can have hope that we will not remain the same after the crisis eventually passes. We **WILL** be changed and conceivably, be better for the experience.

In essence what this time brings to us is an opportunity to focus on the **PEOPLE** in our life - our relationships with others. This is ultimately, what brings our life meaning and joy.

Wishing all mothers, grandmothers and mother-figures a blessed and happy Mother's Day.

Sergio Rosato

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Family and Prayer

Many words have been used to describe the current situation our world faces today - unprecedented, ever-changing, challenging, disconcerting and the list goes on. More than ever before, and certainly in my lifetime, the FAMILY unit is under the spotlight. With families being forced into isolation many have become very creative with their time together. Just some of the activities that families are engaging in together are: walking, cooking, playing board games, meal time. But what about PRAYER?

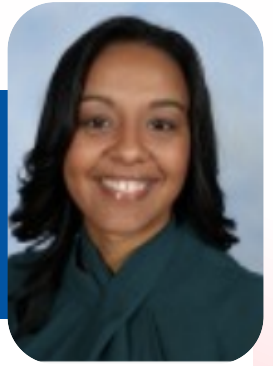
Among many things, as Catholics we are called to evangelise to the greater community. And what better time to disciple and to stimulate love and good works than NOW and in our homes. A number of research sources point to a drop in faith practice when children become young adults. But what is more alarming is that 40% of these young adults reported their first doubts and questions of faith at the approximate age of 12.

The basis of our church stems from the FAMILY. Figuratively the church is often referred to as the church family. Similarly God is referred to as the Father and our counterparts as brothers and sisters in Christ. When we are baptised, we refer to this as the welcome into God's Family. None of us are saved 'by association'. God calls us all into relationship with Him.

So this Easter season I invite you to spend time in prayer, as a family. I encourage you to put time aside, just as you would for baking and other activities, to pray. This does not need to be in formal prayer but a conversation with your children about God. Alternatively, if formal prayer is a more comfortable practice for you then I invite you to recite an Our Father or Hail Mary as a family. You may even want to light a candle to create this space for God. On the following page is a prayer that you may choose to recite together at this time.



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



When This is Over...

When this is over,
may we never again take for granted
a handshake with a stranger
conversations with neighbors
a crowded theater
Friday night out
the taste of Communion
a routine checkup
the school rush each morning
coffee with a friend
the stadium roaring
each deep breath
a boring Tuesday
life itself.

When this ends,
may we find that we have become
more like the people we wanted to be,
we were called to be,
we hoped to be.

And may we stay that way – better for each other because of the worst.

- Laura Kelly Fanucci

In prayer,
Pascale Joseph

REC



A very warm welcome back to Term 2 even though it be from a distance. I pray that all of our Bethany families are well and looking forward to the time when we are all reunited physically as a community.



This Friday, students whether here at school or working from home will share in a Mothers' Day Liturgy. Our Kindergarten team have prepared this for us. It will be shared on each grade's remote learning platform, as well as on our school FACEBOOK page.

I wish all of our Bethany mothers, grandmothers and mother figures a wonderful Mothers' Day for this Sunday.

This is a great lead into what is considered a very special month in our Church, the month of May, dedicated to Mary.

Why is May the month of Mary?

The tradition of dedicating the month of May to Mary, came about in the 13th century. This month is the time when spring, (northern hemisphere) is at the height of its beauty. Spring is also connected with nature renewing itself. In her way, Mary gave new life to the world when she gave birth to our saviour Jesus Christ.

The pious practice of honouring Mary during the month of May has been especially promoted by the Popes. Pius XII made frequent reference to it and in his great Encyclical *the Sacred Liturgy Mediator Dei*.



[Why we should love the Virgin Mary - www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=WN0JCs9B4Gw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=WN0JCs9B4Gw) This is a beautiful animation I encourage you to watch with your children, where Pope Francis explains why we need to take care and cultivate our relationship with the Virgin Mary.

Devotion to Mary is an important part of the Catholic identity. As our mother she is an example of a committed "Yes" to the will of God. Because of the devotion to her, many people ask her for help in the most difficult moments of their life as any child does with his/her mother.

One of the ways we here at Bethany honour Mary is at noon each day when we, as a community we pray 'The Angelus'. This prayer that commemorates the Incarnation includes our most powerful prayer of praise to Mary...

Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.**

Amen

LIBRARY

Library News!

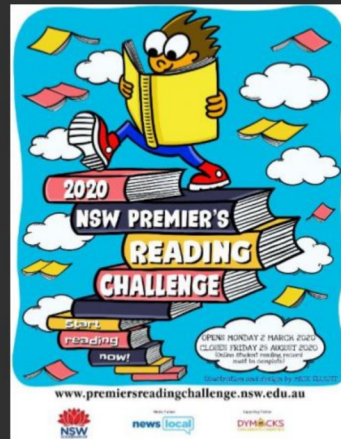
2020 Premier Reading Challenge Changes

2020 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Opens 2 March 2020
Closes 28 August 2020

Students on all Challenge levels are able to read 10 choice books.

Students on all Challenge levels will be able to include books on their reading records that they read collaboratively as a class, in person or online with their teacher or at home with their parents/carers.



Our Bethany Library is coming to you!

Have you checked out our Bethany eLibrary lately?

We have so many fantastic books that you can borrow online and all for FREE.



Here you can find links to so many fun and exciting resources, such as:

Student Ebooks

Premier's Reading Challenge...

DK Online

ABC Education...

BTW News

Storyline Online

Follow this link to take you to our very own [elibrary](https://ceop.ent.sirsiidynix.net.au/client/en_GB/13988).
https://ceop.ent.sirsiidynix.net.au/client/en_GB/13988

I can't wait to share with you all our **new** and exciting books!

Happy Reading!

Mrs Liepa

COMMUNICATION

The following information has been advised via the SkoolBag App:

7/5/20 - COVID-19 - Social Distancing Arrival and Dismissal

5/5/20 - Student Attendance Weeks 3-5

2/5/20 - Letter from the Executive Director

30/4/20 - Bethany e-Library

29/4/20 - COVID-19 - Fee Relief

28/4/20 - Transition Guidelines for the Return to School



ENROLLING NOW FOR 2021



Bethany Catholic Primary School will continue to process enrolments submitted by families for 2021 regardless of the current health situation.

Enrolment applications received will be processed and families notified promptly confirming an enrolment place for your child for 2021.

Once the health restrictions are lifted, we will contact families to schedule a meeting time.

No student will be refused enrolment because of a family's genuine inability to pay fees.

Families can access an enrolment form at
<https://www.bethanyglenmorepark.catholic.edu.au/>

or telephone 4723 3700 or use our contact form to receive an application by mail.

In Christ we love and serve

