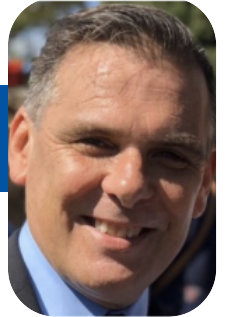


BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Term: 2 | Week 2 | Monday 3rd May, 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Bethany Families,

During Week 1 our Year 6 students, together with their teachers and a number of staff, travelled to Canberra. This excursion to our nation's capital is important in helping children develop a life-long understanding of the Australian democratic system, civics, history and our cultural identity. The excursion is also a right-of-passage for children in late primary school and serves to **create lasting memories** of their time at school and their friendships during this important formative period of their education.

The students who attended the excursion were **outstanding representatives** of the Bethany community. They were thoroughly engaged in each aspect of their visit and their **conduct was exemplary**.

We are grateful that this year our students were able to attend this trip given the restrictions of the past 12 months. They were able to visit a number of important national sites such as Parliament House, Old Parliament House, the Australian Institute of Sport, The National Art Gallery and the War Memorial. COVID19 restrictions meant that in some of the venues the visits were somewhat restricted.

Although the students engaged with fewer exhibits the **silver lining** was that they had the opportunity to **"go deeper"** and really extend their understanding and appreciation. At the **Australian War Memorial** for instance the children were able to spend more time in the Memorial building which includes the **Roll of Honour** which names the individual 102,000 men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. A few of our students were even able to locate names on the roll belonging to relatives.

The Roll of Honour building extends to the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**. A sacred site for our nation where the remains of an unknown Australian soldier killed during World War I were exhumed from a French cemetery and reinterred in 1993.

Little is known about this soldier. We know that he fell in France during World War 1 and that he was buried close to where he fell on a foreign battlefield far from home and his loved ones. We do not know what battalion he was part of nor anything about him as a person. This anonymous fallen soldier whose remains were unearthed many years after he fell in service to his nation were called on again, to **represent all Australians lost in war - past, present and future**.

At the head of the tomb reads, **"An Unknown Soldier killed in the war of 1914-18"** On top of the tomb is inscribed **"Known unto God"** and at the foot, **"He is all of them and he is one of us"**.

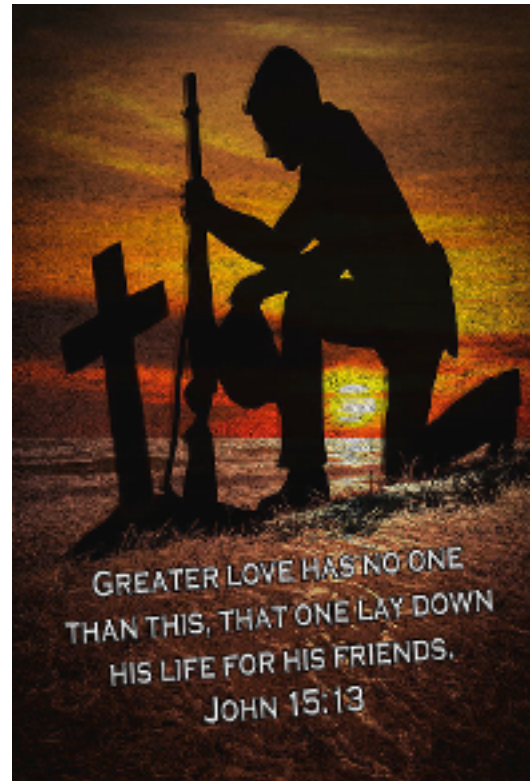
Last Monday we were able to gather as an entire school community-students, staff, parents as well as former and current serving members of our defence forces for a beautiful and moving liturgy to commemorate ANZAC Day. It was truly a blessing to be able to commemorate, reflect and pray once again in community after so long.

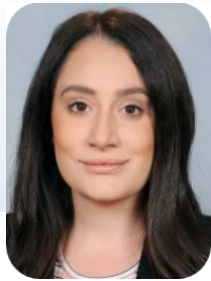
LEST WE FORGET

Until next time,

Serge

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED





RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



"Love one another as I have loved you"

ANZAC Day reminds us to pray for peace, to think about what we are doing as individuals, as a community and as a country to bring God's peace into the world. This is a time when a believing community should once again turn towards prayer and the call of the Gospel to love.

"If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments, and will abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "this is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends". John 15:10-13

We are reminded that Jesus came to bring peace and that we are all called to share God's love with others.

Prayer of St Francis

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.
Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness only light,
And where there's sadness ever joy.

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console.
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.
Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Heavenly Father, Your Son Jesus showed us how to serve others and not be served. We give thanks to you for the generosity of so many who have served our country to keep our land safe, and ask you to bless them for their deeds. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Sunday Children's Mass

Thank you to Year 5 & 6 students and their families for leading and attending our first Sunday Children's Mass for the term on Sunday 2nd May at 10:00am.

Mother's Day Liturgy & Picnic Morning Tea

Families would have received an invitation to this liturgy and picnic to be held on Friday 7 May commencing 10am

Mother's Day Mass

We would like to extend a warm welcome to come and celebrate the Eucharist with a Mother's Day Mass on Sunday 9th May at 10am. Students from Bethany and their mothers will be involved in the Mass and Fr Suresh will give a special blessing to all mothers.

Blessings for a wonderful week,

Rebecca Lloyd REC

YEAR 6 CAMP

Our Year 6 students from Bethany have recently undertaken an education tour of our National Capital. They were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The students visited Parliament House, The National Museum of Democracy, War Memorial, Australian Institute of Sport and the National Gallery of Australia. They were able to participate in hands-on experiences that helped deepen their knowledge of Australia's History. This was in line with our Project Based Learning unit, Australia as a Nation.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education.

To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.



FIRE AND RESCUE NSW GOLDEN TICKET WINNER AT BETHANY

Congratulations to Charlie Jare in Year 3 who on Thursday was presented a very special Golden Ticket Award by Fire and Rescue NSW.

Charlie recently entered a competition to be a Junior Fire Commander for a day.

Firefighter Chris and Teagan from the Regentville Station visited Bethany last Thursday with their fire appliance to make this surprise presentation to Charlie with Year 3 children, his parents and staff in attendance.

Today Charlie and Year 3 took part in a virtual zoom scenario where he was asked to take control of a fire event and lead real-life firefighters to battle a fire and keep people safe.

Congratulation and well done to Charlie for his initiative—we are proud of you!



SPORT



DIOCESAN CROSS COUNTRY

Good luck to all our students running at Eastern Creek for the Cross Country on the 4th May!

SWIMMING NEWS- Matilda Mobbs - Yr 6

Late last term, Matilda was named in the NSW primary school squad. She received the tracksuit and award as part of being selected. Unfortunately, the Australian Schools championship was cancelled due to Covid.

She has been recognized for her fantastic performances and has now qualified for Australian Age National Championships with Swimming Australia.

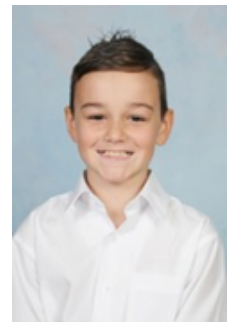
Matilda is training five mornings a week at 4 am, in preparation to travel with the state squad.

Bethany is super proud of you Matilda!!



PARRAMATTA TEAM TRIALS- TOUCH FOOTBALL

Congratulations to Logan Krahe in Yr 6 who trialed and made the Parramatta Touch Football team earlier this week. He will be competing and trialing for the Mackillop team at the Kingsway on the 28th May. Good Luck Logan!



MACKILLOP TRIALS - RUGBY LEAGUE

Congratulations to Zachary Collins (Yr 5) who trialed and qualified for the 11 years Rugby League team last term. Zachary competed as part of the Diocesan Mackillop team .



Upcoming Event: Yr 2-6 Athletics Carnival in week 5

A note will come home soon.

LIBRARY

Library News

I am excited to be joining the staff at Bethany and look forward to becoming involved with and serving the school community in my new role in the school library.

I met with Mrs Liepa at the end of Term 1 and she told me how the students at Bethany value their library and love to read the books they borrow. I am committed to building on the love of reading Mrs Liepa has instilled in students and continuing to maintain the well resourced learning centre that has been established for the school community.

I have a strong belief in the impact of literature in children's lives and believe that reading with children and encouraging reading in the home and at school, impacts and enriches their lives and sets them on the path to a life-long love of reading and learning.

As an information and learning hub, the library has a significant role to play in a school community. I look forward to working with teachers and families to promote and foster a love of learning in the students at Bethany.

During Term 2 I will be working in the library on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. This means a change to library borrowing days for some classes. Students and families will be informed of these changes later in the week.

Mrs Lesley Emmett

NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

As in previous years, Bethany students are being encouraged to participate in the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge. Information about the challenge was included in the Term 1 Week 6 newsletter. More information can be found on the PRC website at

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html> All K-2 students will be completing the challenge within school, with books being recorded for them as they are read in class and library time. Students in Years 3-6 record their own books by logging onto the PRC site with their username and password. Check at the library if you are unsure of these.



Visit the PRC Student Site!

<http://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/StudentExperience.html#/>

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 4th May	Australian Football - Byron Bay
Tuesday 4th May	Diocesan Cross Country - Eastern Creek
Wednesday 5th May	Australian Football - Byron Bay
Wednesday 5th May	3R Reconciliation
Thursday 6th May	3W Reconciliation
Friday 7th May	3B Reconciliation
Friday 7th May	Mothers Day Liturgy and Picnic 10am-11:30am.
Friday 7th May	Parramatta Diocesan Cricket Trials - Boys & Girls - All day
Friday 9th May	Mothers Day Mass - 10am St Padre Pio Church
Tuesday 11th May	Naplan commences Year 3 & 5
Wednesday 12th May	4R Reconciliation
Thursday 13th May	4W Reconciliation
Thursday 13th May	Feast of the Ascension Mass 9am
Friday 14th May	4B Reconciliation
Tuesday 18th May	Girls Hockey - Unanderra
Wednesday 19th May	Bethany Athletics Carnival (Years 2 - 6)
Wednesday 19th May	Girls Hockey - Unanderra
Thursday 20th May	Girls Hockey - Unanderra
Tuesday 25th May	Boys Hockey - Newcastle
Friday 28th May	Mackillop Touch Trials - All day

PASTORAL LETTER



Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL
Bishop of Parramatta

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PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750

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Pastoral letter to the pastors, parents and the faithful of the Diocese of Parramatta on the proposed Parental Rights Bill

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta recently made a submission to the NSW Legislative Council's inquiry into the *Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020* (introduced by the Hon. Mark Latham, NSW State Leader of Pauline Hanson's One Nation party). I felt it was important to write to reassure you that the decision to oppose the Bill was guided both by our strong Catholic faith and teachings, and concern for the wellbeing of our students and their families.

Our Catholic schools remain resolutely committed to our Catholic values which are at the heart of teaching children and young people. This means approaching these matters with sensitivity, compassion and truth, acknowledging at all times the dignity of each person. Dedicated staff respond to the needs of each student in an age-appropriate way.

As the Bishop of Parramatta, with oversight of Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, I take seriously the trust you have placed in us to educate your children and will uphold that trust with an education based on Catholic Scripture, Tradition and Values. Parents' role in education is vital, necessary and sought after at all times because parents are their children's first teachers (Canon 793 §1). This is made very clear in Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta's submission to the parliamentary inquiry.

At issue is whether or not certain sensitive or challenging topics such as consent, sexuality, gender et cetera can be discussed in the classroom. Some have quickly made a judgment that our Catholic education system panders to dangerous ideology. I can assure you that we take all the vital questions of our culture seriously and reflect on them through the prism of Jesus' solidarity with the marginalised.

PASTORAL LETTER

As a Catholic community, we believe that all students - including those who identify as gender diverse - should have the opportunity to reach their potential, to learn with their peers and feel a sense of belonging in their school. The Bill prohibits the schools from affirming and supporting these children who are already at risk of marginalisation. We have to remember that at times the teachers are the only people these children might trust in helping them in these sensitive matters. By banning their discussion, the school community is unable to address unhealthy and discriminatory attitudes that may exist in their learning environment.

I emphatically reject the notion of gender ideology. What I advocate for is a compassionate, respectful, inclusive, Gospel-centred learning environment and a deep commitment to the wellbeing of all students, particularly those at risk. Their lives must not be made more intolerable by unjust laws such as elements of the "Latham" Bill that I have articulated above.

We have nothing to fear from a respectful and intelligent dialogue with our sons and daughters, with our deeply committed teaching staff, and in a caring Catholic environment. Life can be complex; but the Church is not a cult that refuses to engage and challenge our contemporary culture. I believe when faced with a choice, we need to acknowledge and stand with those who are ostracised rather than consigning them to the margins of society.

Catholics believe all people are made in the image and likeness of God. As our Holy Father, Pope Francis, reminds us, the Catechism of the Catholic Church invites us to accompany all people. As the parable of the Gospel's Good Samaritan tells us, we are called to walk with and care for everyone in our community.

As always, I welcome respectful discussion and acknowledge the good intentions of many of those with an interest in this important issue. Yet I ask that the dignity of each person be maintained at all times, regardless of the view being expressed. Thank you for working with us in partnership for the best outcomes for children and young people.

Yours in Christ,



**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta**

*Given at Parramatta on 27 April 2021
Tuesday of the 4th Week of Easter*

COMMUNICATION

The following information has been advised via the SkoolBag App:

- 30/4/21 Mother's Day Liturgy and Picnic Morning Tea
- 28/4/21 Lowes Schoolwear offer - Thursday 6th & 7th May
- 27/4/21 Diocesan Cross Country Runners - Reminder
- Trial Changes to Afternoon Dismissal - Specifically for Year 1
- Scholastic Book Club Term 2
- 23/4/21 Padre Pio Children's Mass



OTHER MATTERS

TRIAL CHANGES TO AFTERNOON DISMISSAL SPECIFICALLY FOR YEAR 1.

The following arrangements are in place for a trial period of two weeks (effective Wednesday 28th April):

- **Kindergarten** - existing afternoon pickup arrangements will continue
- **Year 1** - Students who normally get picked up from school will be brought to the **Welcome Garden** area for dismissal (note this is a change).

Older siblings with brothers/sisters in Year 1, will come to this area to join them.

Parents collecting their children from this area will need to enter via the **Welcome Garden (Gate 5)** .

Any student not picked up by 2:55pm will be brought to the **Park and Collect area (Gate 4)** for dismissal

- **Year 2** - existing afternoon pickup arrangements will continue

Due to the large number of students and parents now accessing the Welcome Garden in the afternoon, we are requesting that parents pick up their children and exit this area quickly and safely.

We also request that children (including toddlers) do not play on the playground equipment during this time.

Please note that the Welcome Garden gate is only open between 2:45pm and 3pm.

Parents are reminded of the following afternoon pick up alternatives:

- **Walkers/Car Pick Up** - Parents may choose to pick up their child from William Howell Drive, where parents do not need to exit their vehicles.
- **Walkers/Car Pick Up** - Parents may wish to park on Morrison St or nearby streets and collect their children in person from the pick up area opposite the school.

Students are accompanied and supervised by Bethany staff for Walkers/Car pickup.

CLOTHING POOL

All items in the clothing pool are now available for \$5. There are many items available that have been kindly donated and in good condition. The Clothing Pool is open each Tuesday from 2:15pm.



COMMUNITY



**2 DAY VIP EVENT — 6th & 7th MAY
ZERO & REWARDS CARD HOLDERS**

**20%
*OFF
SCHOOLWEAR
& EVERYTHING ELSE!**



**DON'T HAVE A CARD? APPLY IN-STORE OR
ONLINE & START ENJOYING THE BENEFITS**

*Offer available In-store & Online ends midnight (AEST) 7th May 2021. Must use Zero or Rewards card to receive discount. Excludes Gift Cards and Schoolwear laybys. Savings of original prices. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, no rainchecks.