

BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Term: 1 | Week 5 | Thursday, 23rd February 2023

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Bethany Families,

It is hard to believe but we are already at the halfway point of the term. We concluded last week on a really high note with our **Opening School Mass** and **Welcome BBQ**.

Our **Opening School Mass** last Friday was both beautiful, meaningful and well attended by parents and families. Thank you to our Parish Priest, Father Suresh for his spiritual nourishment and leadership and also to our Religious Education Coordinator, Catherine Baldacchino for planning and preparing the children to participate in this first Eucharist of the school year.

On Friday evening we hosted a **Welcome BBQ**. It was a relaxed, convivial and really well-attended event. Thank you to all those who volunteered to help in various ways to plan, cook and serve the BBQ.

Yesterday we began the season of **Lent** by being marked on our foreheads with the ashes burnt from last year's palms. The season of Lent which begins on **Ash Wednesday** is always 46 days (40 days and 6 Sundays) before Easter Sunday.

The number **40** traditionally symbolises a period of **testing, trial** or **probation** and has important biblical significance:

- Jesus stayed in the desert for **40** days before commencing his ministry
- Jesus stayed with his disciples for **40** days after His resurrection before ascending into Heaven.
- Jerusalem was destroyed **40** years after the crucifixion of Christ
- Moses lived for **40** years in Egypt and **40** years in the desert before entering the Promised Land with the chosen people
- Moses stayed on Mt Sinai for **40** days and nights
- The prophet Elijah took **40** days to reach Mt Sinai
- The number **40** also represents a generation of human life
- The number **40** is traditionally attributed to the Christian virtue of humility



The season of **Lent** leading to **Holy Week & Easter** provides us with a time to deepen our spiritual relationship with God and to translate this into action through **fasting** (giving up), **almsgiving** (giving to others) & **prayer**. In doing so we are led to step out of our comfort zone and become more humble and charitable and in service to others.

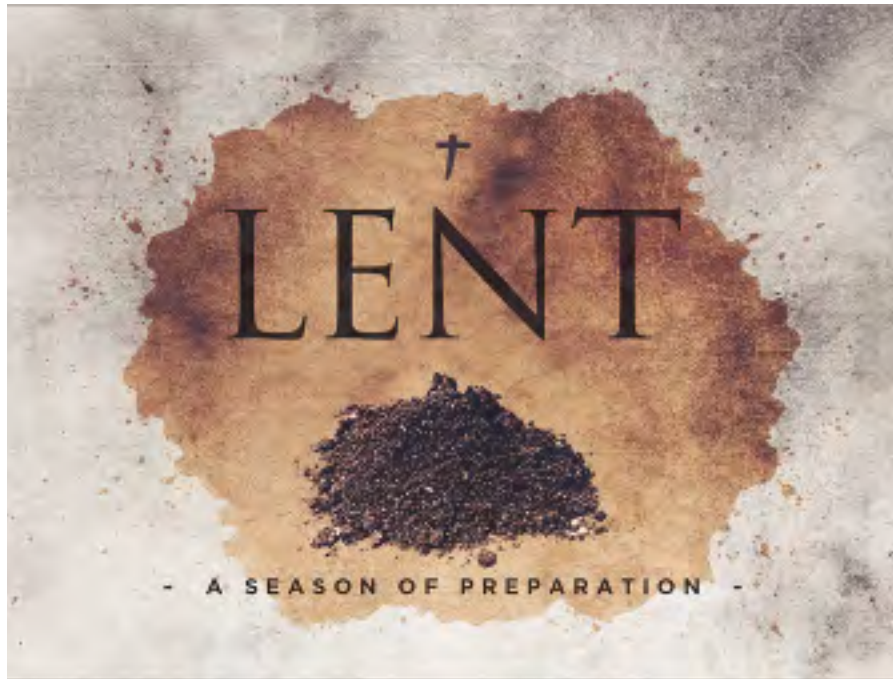
Wishing everyone a blessed first week of Lent.

Sergio Rosato

Principal

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

NB: I share with you a short Youtube reflection by the Australian Salesian priest, Fr Elio Capra on the meaning of Lent using paintings depicting Christ in the Wilderness by the artist Stanley Spencer. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmKHcMeWIFs>



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Parents and Carers,

It was so lovely to meet and have time to have a chat with many of our new families at the Welcome BBQ last week. We look forward to welcoming you to a number of other school events this year.

NAPLAN 2023

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills. Each year students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in tests for writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

From 2023, NAPLAN is moving to Term 1 and will take place from **Wednesday 15 March** to **Monday 27 March**. The reason for this change is so that results can be returned to schools earlier in the year which will support teachers to understand the learning needs of their students and plan accordingly.

NAPLAN tests are just one part of our school learning assessment program and questions are primarily based on knowledge, understanding and skills gained from the prior year of schooling.

In preparation for NAPLAN 2023, our school will undertake activities to help students to become familiar with the format and functionality of the online tests. These activities are not an assessment of student ability and will not be marked.

Students and parents can access the [public demonstration site](https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site) (<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>) to familiarise themselves with NAPLAN and the types of questions and tools available. Excessive preparation for NAPLAN is not required nor recommended.

If you have any questions about NAPLAN, please contact your child's teacher.

NAPLAN CHANGES FROM 2023

Beginning this year there will also be changes to the way that NAPLAN results are reported. Parents and carers will get earlier and simpler information about their child's NAPLAN achievement based on the following 4 levels of achievement:

- *Exceeding*
- *Strong*
- *Developing*
- *Needs additional support.*

The descriptors for each category will make it clear to parents what their child's literacy and numeracy skills are at the time of NAPLAN testing, and we will continue to work with you to meet your child's needs. NAPLAN will remain one of many useful ways that we assess your child's learning and support needs.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONT'D

EARLY PICK UP OF STUDENTS

If your child/children need to be picked up early from school and you are unable to do so, we ask that the office be notified by email prior to the pickup time with the following information:

- Full name of child
- Class
- Name of the person collecting your child
- Time of pick up

Please ensure that the person picking up your child/children have ID for the office staff to verify.

Please note: This is regardless of whether the nominated person is listed as an emergency contact.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Many blessings for the week ahead,

Rebecca Lloyd

Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



This week we celebrated **ASH WEDNESDAY** with the St Padre Pio Parish community. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent is the preparation period before Easter which is the most significant feast day within the Church's liturgical year.

Forty is an important number in the Bible.

In the Old Testament, scripture tells us that Moses waited for forty days and nights before he could go to Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments. Moses prepared himself for this event during this time.



+ Image of cross used above: RootOfAllLight, CC BY-SA 4.0
<<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via
Wikimedia Commons

The Israelites walked through the desert for forty years before they could enter the promised land. This period was a time of learning to obey God's Commandments, thus a preparation for beginning a new life in the Holy Land.

Elijah the prophet, walked for forty days to meet God on Mount Sinai. Like Moses, Elijah used this time to prepare himself to meet God.

In the New Testament we hear how Jesus spent forty days and nights in the desert to prepare himself before he could begin God's work.

We can clearly see that the forty day/ night/ year period has been used by biblical people as a time of preparation.

As Catholics, we too are called to use this forty day period in Lent to prepare ourselves for Jesus' Resurrection.

How can we prepare?



We prepare through our actions: we reject sinful ways and repent, we fast on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and other Fridays during Lent by not eating meat, and we reach out to others in need.

We prepare through spiritual connections with God: through prayer and the renewal of promises made at our Baptism.

Each classroom at Bethany has been issued a Project Compassion box. This initiative from Caritas Australia is a way that our community can reach out to others who are most in need and will complement the learning that our students engage in during their

Religious Education lessons. Coin donations are gratefully accepted for Project Compassion.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

This year WYD takes place in Lisbon, Portugal. Each school within the Diocese of Parramatta is participating in fundraising to support the youth of the diocese to attend this spiritual pilgrimage. At Bethany, this fundraiser will take place on Friday 10th March with a mufti day. Donations will be made via QKR which will be open from Thursday 9th March.

More information will be communicated as the date draws closer.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONT'D

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - ST PADRE PIO

The Sacramental program for 2023 has begun at St Padre Pio Parish with the Sacrament of Reconciliation/ Penance. This is the initial sacrament that must be completed before entering into the Sacraments of Communion and Confirmation. This sacrament is open to any student who has been baptised from grades 3-6. If you would like your child to participate in this sacrament, please contact the St Padre Pio Parish Office as soon as possible.



SCHOOL AND PARISH MASSES and RECONCILIATION (YEARS 3-6)

The following grades will be attending the Friday morning parish Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation over the coming weeks:

DATE	CELEBRATION	GRADE/S
Tuesday 1 March	Reconciliation	Year 6
Friday 3 March	Friday morning Parish Mass	Years 1 and 5
Sunday 5 March	10am Sunday Children's Parish Mass	Year 2 coordinating - all Bethany families invited to attend
Friday 10 March	Friday morning Parish Mass	Year 4

RE ANGELS

There have been many many letters submitted by students in Years 3-6 to be an RE Angel. These will be announced in the next edition of the Bethany Newsletter.



OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Catholic Schools Week - Week 7 (6th-10th March)

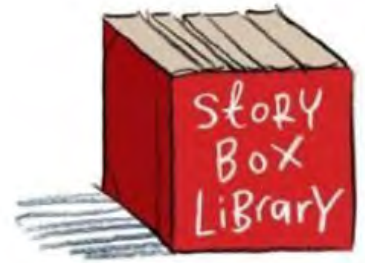
Stations of the Cross - Good Friday (7th April)

Mrs Baldacchino

LIBRARY

Story Box Library

If your family has joined our Bethany Community this year, you may not yet be aware that our school has a subscription to **Story Box Library**. This enables all students and their families to access Australian literature read by Australian authors, illustrators and storytellers. It is a safe online space free from advertising.



Story Box Library does not replace the important experience of borrowing books from our school library and reading each night at home. Story Box Library supplements children's reading experiences by connecting them with literature through the complementary medium of film and allowing them to read and listen to books that may not be available in our school library.

Story Box Library regularly adds new books, so is an ever-growing library aimed at Kindergarten to Year 6 students. The wide selection of books can be searched by themes, length and appropriateness for different age groups.

To access **Story Box Library** at home:

- 1) Visit www.storyboxlibrary.com.au
- 2) Choose Log In from the top right corner of the screen.
- 3) Log in using the username and password provided below. This is the same for all students.
- 4) Enjoy the library of stories on any device with internet connection.

USERNAME: bethanycps PASSWORD: stories Please contact me in the library if you have any questions about accessing this wonderful resource.



What is missing from these morning photos of Bethany's school library?

Answer: Students and parents!

At lunchtime on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays our library is a busy place with students reading, drawing, colouring, building, playing and working on puzzles but it is rather quiet in the mornings!

Starting next week, our school library will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8.15am until the bell at 8.30am. This will give parents an opportunity to come into the library with their children to select books they would like to borrow or sit and read a book together. This also means that students can come into the library to enjoy a quiet reading and chatting space before lessons begin and exchange library books more often rather than waiting a week between library visits.

Mrs Emmett

DATES FOR THE DIARY



24th February	Effort in Learning Awards Assemblies - Infants 8:45am - Primary 9:15am
27th February	Cross Country - Years 2-6
1st March	School Photos
1st March	Sacrament of Reconciliation formation workshop session 1 (7pm-8pm in the school hall)
6th March	Catholic Schools Week
7th March	Bethany Open Day 9am - 10am
8th March	Bethany Open Day 9am - 10am
8th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation formation workshop session 2 (7pm-8pm in the school hall)
10th March	Bethany Open Day 9am - 10am
10th March	Mufti-day to support WYD
14th March	Diocesan Swimming carnival - Blacktown Aquatic Centre
15th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation formation workshop session 3 (7pm-8pm in the school hall)
15th March	NAPLAN - Years 3 & 5 - testing window - 15/3/23 to 27/3/23
17th March	School Photos - SRC & Catch up Day
22nd March	Sacrament of Reconciliation formation workshop session 4 (7pm-8pm in the school hall)
29th March	St Padre Pio Sacrament of First Reconciliation - 6:45pm
30th March	NSWCPS Swimming carnival- SOPAC
31st March	Effort in Learning Awards Assemblies
5th April	NSWPSSA Diving- SOPAC
5th April	NSWPSSA Swimming
6th April	NSWPSSA Swimming

COMMUNICATION



Recent Skoolbag Notifications

23/02/2023	Years 2-6 Cross Country / Fun Run - Monday 27th February
22/02/2023	Teaching arrangements - 2 Red
22/02/2023	Australian Government 2023 Student Residential Address and Other Information Collection
22/02/2023	Year 3 Homework
22/02/2023	Year 4 Homework
21/02/2023	Parish Sacramental Program - St Padre Pio Parish
21/02/2023	Years 2-6 School Cross Country/Fun Run
20/02/2023	Guitar and Percussion Club
20/02/2023	Bus Safety Week
20/02/2023	Turkiye & Syria Earthquake Appeal
17/02/2023	NEPEAN ZONE SWIMMERS - REMINDERS
16/02/2023	Safe Respectful Learner Day - 24th February 2023
16/02/2023	Bethany Open Days 7, 8 and 10 March 2023
14/02/2023	AFL Auskick cancelled today
13/02/2023	Welcome BBQ Reminder & RSVP
13/02/2023	Opening School Mass
10/02/2023	Lego person - Monday 13th February - Year 5
10/02/2023	Kinder - Year 6 Auskick program

Find us on
facebook



Don't forget to follow us on Facebook

**Bethany Catholic Primary School,
Glenmore Park**

OTHER MATTERS

MEDICAL ACTION PLANS

If your child is on a Medical Action Plan, could you please take the time to check that it is still valid.

Medical Action Plans are valid for 12 months. A visit to the doctor may be required if your child's plan is approaching the end of its validity.

We would appreciate it if updated Action Plans be sent to us via the school email or sent with your child.

Thank you

Bethany Office

Notification of Absence

A gentle reminder to parents and carers to **please notify the school if your child is absent.**

The **automated attendance SMS system** is an efficient way for parents/carers to notify the school of their child's absence. If a student is absent, an **SMS** notification will automatically be sent to parents/carers. The notification will contain a one-time link that can be clicked on to add an attendance note for your child. The one-time link is valid for 48 hours.

Other ways to notify the school of your child's absence include contacting Bethany via email (bethany@parra.catholic.edu.au), phone (4723 3700), or sending a note with your child to school.

Thank you for your cooperation.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS ...

We love celebrating all our students' birthdays! If you would like to celebrate please supply your child with individually wrapped lollies, chocolates, and ice blocks to share with their classmates. These include - freddo frogs, small boxes of smarties, small packets of m&m's, etc.

We do not accept doughnuts and cupcakes.

Food items that are not individually store/supplier wrapped can not be accepted.

Thank you for your understanding.

OTHER MATTERS

SCHOOL PHOTOS

A reminder that School Photos will be held on Wednesday 1st March (Week 6).

A back up day (for any students who were absent on photo day) will be held on Friday 17th March.

Please note some important information:

- Students are to wear full summer uniform regardless of whether their Sport day is on Wednesday. Students who have Sport on Wednesday can bring their sport shoes to change into. Please ensure these are clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Hair is to be neatly done and in keeping with the Bethany Hair style policy.
- Hair accessories must be in the Bethany colours.
- Please note that photography and school staff are not permitted to adjust or comb students' hair.
- Please ensure your child arrives at school on time - photos will commence at 8:30am.

ATTENDANCE



**MISSING SCHOOL
= MISSING OUT**

Early primary children learn new sounds and words every day. These are important building blocks upon which all future learning is built.

Help your children achieve their best by getting them to school on time every day.

every learner
every day ✓

Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

OPEN DAYS



Bethany
CATHOLIC PRIMARY

OPEN DAYS FOR 2023
TUESDAY 7 MARCH, WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH AND
FRIDAY 10 MARCH 9AM-10AM

Visit our website to register to attend
bethanyglenmorepark.catholic.edu.au
Please contact the school office on 4723 3700 for
enrolment packs or visit our website.

CALL FOR A SCHOOL TOUR YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

 BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
34-38 William Howell Drive
Glenmore Park 2745
pt 02 4723 3700
e: bethany@parra.catholic.edu.au
bethanyglenmorepark.catholic.edu.au

At Bethany we encompass the spiritual, academic, relational, creative and physical development of each child. Bethany students are engaged and committed learners who thrive in our quiet and peaceful setting. We invite you to tour our school and discover the benefits of a Bethany Primary education.

ENROLLING NOW FOR 2024

OPEN NIGHT  **PENOLA**
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Tuesday 7 March 2023 4pm - 7pm



Enrolling now for Year 7 2024
*Self-guided & guided
tours available
no bookings required*

Your local 7-12 co-educational Catholic School
Walking in the footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop

  @PenolaEmuPlains P: 02 4728 8100 www.penolaemuplains.catholic.edu.au

OPEN DAYS



 **ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE** 
2023 OPEN DAY

THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOUR SON
SUNDAY, 26 FEBRUARY
**WELCOMING ALL FAMILIES TO JOIN US ON
A GUIDED TOUR OF OUR COLLEGE CAMPUS**

SESSION 1	SESSION 2
Commences at 10.00am, followed by a tour of the College at 10.30am	Commences at 12.30pm, followed by a tour of the College at 1.00pm

BOOK ONLINE FOR YOUR GUIDED TOUR
www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au or scan the QR Code provided



84-94 Goswami Street, Kingswood NSW 2147 | Enrolments: enrolments@stdominics.nsw.edu.au | Enquiries: 4731 1330 | Follow us  

OPEN DAYS

2024 ENROLMENTS

FOR GIRLS YEARS 7-12

OPEN NIGHT TOURS:

Mon 13th to Wed 15th March 2023

.....
Join us to see for yourself why girls are so
happy to learn at Caroline Chisholm College.
.....

Tours of the college: 3:30 - 6:30pm

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Limited places available in other years
.....

Further information and bookings can be made
via our website and Facebook page.

www.cccglenmorepark.nsw.edu.au

90-98 The Lakes Drive Glenmore Park

Enrolment packages can be obtained by
contacting the college on: 4737 5500

CAROLINE
CHISHOLM
COLLEGE



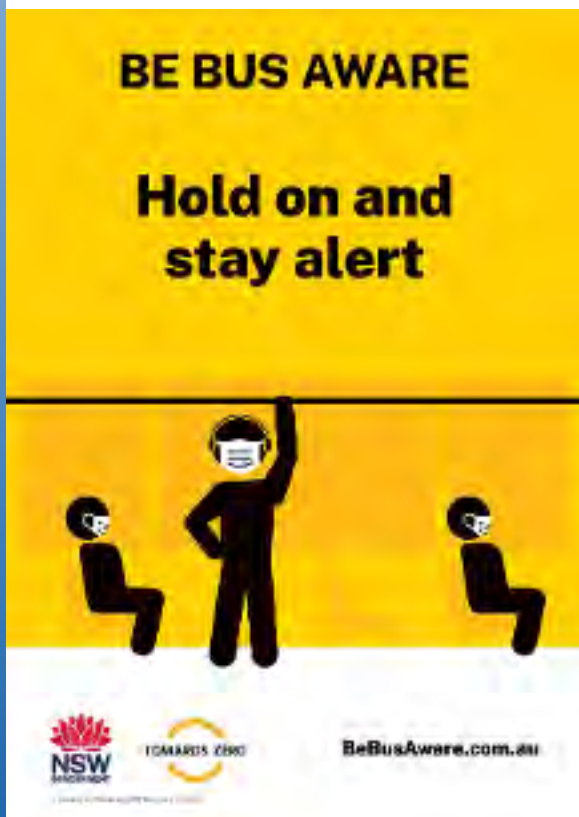
Follow us



COMMUNITY

BUS SAFETY

This week was Bus Safety Week . Our school bus operator Busways is reminding all road users, parents, and students to 'be bus aware' as part of Transport for NSW's Bus Safety Week campaign. Bus Safety Week, part of the 'Be Bus Aware' campaign, sees Governments, bus operators, and emergency services raise awareness about the importance of being safe in and around buses and spread the message to 'Be Bus Aware'. The initiative provides a timely reminder to parents to have a talk with their children about bus safety. For more information on bus safety visit roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au or www.busways.com.au. We all have a part to play in bus safety.



COMMUNITY

**TAYLORED**
SUPPORT COORDINATION

Navigating the NDIS can be tricky, our **highly skilled & experienced Support Coordinators** are here to guide you through. Taylorred Support Coordination strives to provide **Individualised support** which helps you understand and use your NDIS plan to pursue your goals.

DO YOU NEED HELP NAVIGATING THE NDIS?



1300 816 512 • info@tayloredsupport.com.au • www.tayloredsupport.com.au

Taylorred Support was formed with the idea in mind to ensure NDIS participants have the **support they need** to access and utilise their NDIS plans and **reach the goals**.



Our Mission is to be a voice for people with disabilities and mental health and assist them in achieving quality of life by providing a flexible and **Taylorred Experience**.

**TAYLORED**
SUPPORT COORDINATION

1300 816 512 • info@tayloredsupport.com.au • www.tayloredsupport.com.au

**TAYLORED**
SUPPORT COORDINATION

We Recognise that obtaining access to the NDIS can be difficult, which is why here at Taylorred Support's we provide a **FREE** complimentary service to assist individuals with disabilities in their NDIS application and guide both you and your family throughout the process.

DO YOU NEED HELP ACCESSING THE NDIS?



1300 816 512 • info@tayloredsupport.com.au • www.tayloredsupport.com.au

HOW IT WORKS



**TAYLORED**
SUPPORT COORDINATION

1300 816 512 • info@tayloredsupport.com.au • www.tayloredsupport.com.au

COMMUNITY



COURTNEY HAMILTON VIOLIN TUTORING

Beginner violin lessons + AMEB tuition

0444 561 569
courtneyhamiltonviolin@gmail.com
Glenmore Park

\$25 for 30mins



Boys and Girls 7 – 13 years are invited to join

Penrith City Children's Choir

Singing Day

Sunday 26 February 3.00 – 5.00pm

St Finbar's Church Hall, Glenbrook

A great introductory 'taster' for new singers and a warm 'welcome back' for members. We sing for the energetic 'Freedom Train' from America, the mysterious 'Camel Rider' and the beautiful harmony of the German folk song 'Music alone shall live'. Through this wide ranging and colourful repertoire, we develop vocal technique, musicianship and part-singing skills in an encouraging and joyful learning environment supported by experienced adult and teenage mentors. Friends and family are invited to attend an informal performance at the end of the workshop.

If you love to sing, join us. No auditions. Applications close Tuesday 21 February

For further information contact the Administrator, Suzanne Armstrong
on 0450 091 367 go to www.penrithcitychoir.com.au/penrith-city-childrens-choir or
email pcc@penrithcitychoir.com.au