

BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Term: 1 | Week 9 | Thursday, 23rd March 2023

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Bethany Families,

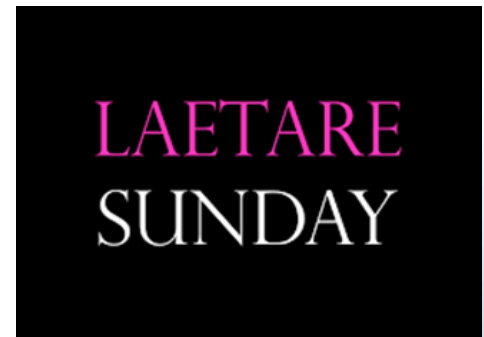
Welcome to **Week 9** and the halfway mark of the season of **Lent**. Our Catholic tradition is rich in symbolism and ritual but often we are unaware of the origins of certain traditions as they have emerged from another time and culture.

Last Sunday was the Fourth Sunday in Lent which is also known as *Laetare Sunday*.

The word *Laetare* in Latin means *to rejoice* with hope. To emphasize this theme of rejoicing, the liturgical colour the Mass of the day temporarily changes from the sombre **purple** to a **rose** colour.

The colour rose is only worn on two Sundays during the year - on *Laetare Sunday* and again halfway through Advent on *Gaudete Sunday* - a day also focussed on joyful anticipation as we get closer to the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Music for the Mass on *Laetare Sunday* is brighter in tone with the first word sung in the entrance antiphon being "Rejoice". The altar also changes from its minimalist look to include decorations of bright flowers such as roses to reflect the joyfulness of the day.



So why are we rejoicing in the midst of the fasting, penance, almsgiving and austerity of Lent?

In a nutshell the Church is encouraging its faithful to *stay awake* and *remain hope-filled* because the joy of Easter and the Risen Christ is just around the corner. It also serves as a small break from the sombreness of the Lenten season.

The Gospel reading of the day focuses on Christ's power to heal by recounting the story of the blindman whose sight was restored by Christ. Through the themes and readings of the day the Church is inviting us to think beyond the darkness and sadness of Calvary to the light and joy of the Paschal Mystery that we will celebrate on Easter Sunday.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Wishing all a blessed week ahead,

Sergio Rosato

Principal

NB: The focus on Christ healing people of their physical and mental illnesses carries on in this Sunday's Gospel where God's power through Christ restores the life of his close friend Lazerus at **Bethany** - the township which Christ often visited during his ministry and that our school is privileged to be named after.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Parents and Carers,

HomeCo. Glenmore Park Town Centre have invited us, along with other local Primary Schools to participate in their **"School Eggs-hibition"**.

We were provided with a large 1.2m high fibreglass egg to decorate. We thank Miss Dingemans for her creativity, hard work and time in designing and decorating our egg.

At Bethany Catholic Primary School, Jesus is at the centre of all that we do each and every day. Easter is the greatest celebration in the Catholic church because it is the completion of Holy Week that ends with the resurrection of Jesus. Easter celebrates the beginning and foundation of Christianity. Jesus was raised from the dead! Easter is a reminder for us that Jesus has overcome death and sin. His resurrection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death. It is the singular event which proves that those who trust in God and accept Christ will be raised from the dead. Since Easter represents the fulfillment of God's promises to mankind, it is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar.

Our design represents the final station of the cross. This is a pinnacle point of the bible where we remember all that Jesus did for us. The use of the colour purple represents the liturgical season of Lent. The image of the three crosses represents the final place where Jesus was nailed to the cross with the words "He has risen" displayed at the bottom.

Each school's egg will be displayed in the shopping centre and customers will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite School Egg through a QR code.

The winning school will receive a \$500 HomeCo Glenmore Park Town Centre gift card that can be used to purchase school supplies. Customers will also have the chance to win one of five \$100 HomeCo Glenmore Park Town Centre gift cards.

The display will be set up in the centre on the Coles side from Thursday March 23 and the voting will commence. Make sure you remember to vote for our egg - good luck! Voting closes Wednesday April 12.

Many blessings for the week ahead,

Rebecca Lloyd

Assistant Principal



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



As we draw closer to Holy Week and Easter thus marking the end of Lent, our students are beginning to reflect on the learning that they have undertaken throughout the term and make connections to the upcoming events of Holy Week that will be recalled and celebrated.



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In drawing to an end the time of personal reflection and preparation that we are invited to participate in during Lent, we continue to think about how we can place the needs of others before our own. For our students, one of the simplest ways to do this is through Project Compassion. Although we are a cashless school, Project Compassion is a tangible way that our students can help others who do not have the same opportunities or privileges that they know. Each classroom has a Project Compassion donation box where students can donate money. This week our RE Angels addressed each class from Kindergarten to Year 6 and spoke about the different groups of people who receive assistance because of the donations to Project Compassion.



RE Angels

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent their class as RE Angels for 2023.

Year 3: Chelsea Gibson (3B), Pippa Briggs (3B), Aydan Moschoudis (3W), Chelsea Easterbrook (3W), Juliet Gregory-Facchetti (3R), Alicia Dickson (3R), Christian Anteckci (4B), Mia Kilpatrick (4B), Monica Sierra (4W), Giselle D'Agostino (4W), Isabelle Psaila (4R), Nicholas Hamilton (4R), Phoebe Portman (5B), Brooke Rothemund (5B), Sebastian Neil Earl (5W), Achik Dau (5W), Monique Naudi (5R), Ethan Lloyd (5R), Jayke Shehata (6B), Francesca Vella (6B), Sierra Ryan (6W), Amelie Carroll (6W), Jasmine Galea (6R) and Sophie Rudel (6R).

This year, I received many applications from students in Years 3-6 to become an RE Angel. Due to the large number of students who expressed an interest in becoming an RE Angel, two students were chosen to represent each class. The RE Angels will attend the morning Parish Mass on Thursday 30th March where their badges will be blessed. They will be presented with their badges on Friday at the Effort in Learning Awards assembly for Primary students beginning at 9:30am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The final workshop for the preparation of students enrolled in this sacrament took place this week.

The children will make their First Reconciliation on Wednesday evening 29th March at St Padre Pio from 6:45pm. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.



Sacrament of Confirmation

Letters were sent home at the end of last week to all students in Years 5 and 6 about the Sacrament of Confirmation. The parent information session for this sacrament will take place on the first Wednesday

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONT'D

evening of Term 2.

If you would like your child to enrol in this sacrament, please complete the form and return it to the parish office by Friday March 31. Children must have made their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion before they can enrol in this sacrament. If you have any further questions, please contact the parish office on (02) 4789 2232 (press option 4) or email sacraments@padrepio.org.au

Any families wishing to have their child/ren baptised, please make contact with the parish office.

Stations of the Cross

A final call for students to volunteer for the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

The Stations of the Cross begin at 10am. Practices for this will take place during school hours with Fr Suresh and myself. Please email Mrs Baldacchino as soon as possible if your child would like to participate.



Holy Week Times a St Padre Pio Parish

HOLY WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE	
PARISH RECONCILIATION - TUESDAY 28 MARCH 7:00pm	
PALM SUNDAY - SATURDAY 01 APRIL 5:30pm Mass (begins outside the church)	
PALM SUNDAY - SUNDAY 02 APRIL 8:00am Mass (begins outside the church) 10:00am Mass (begins in the park across the road)	
HOLY THURSDAY - THURSDAY 06 APRIL 7:00pm Mass (No 9:00am Mass)	
GOOD FRIDAY - FRIDAY 07 APRIL 10:00am Stations of the Cross 3:00pm Passion of the Lord	
EASTER VIGIL - SATURDAY 08 APRIL 7:00pm Mass (No 9:00am Mass)	
EASTER SUNDAY - SUNDAY 09 APRIL 8:00AM MASS & 10:00am Mass	
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - SUNDAY 16 APRIL 8:00am Mass, 10:00am Mass, 3:00pm Mass	

Mrs Baldacchino



DIOCESAN SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Diocesan carnival was held last week, 14th March, at Blacktown Aquatic Centre. Our Bethany swimmers representing the Nepean zone competed against students from across the Parramatta Diocese.

Congratulations to the following swimmers for competing in relay teams and individual events. It was such an accomplishment to have competed at this level!

Caleb Commerford
Zane Duncan
Mateo Tangata-Tao
Jude Dunn



Jayda Finn
Georgia Gately
Anna Coburn
Sierra Ryan



Natalya Martin
Harlow Pollock
Karli Gunawan
Celeste Devaise



Nikola Marakovic



Anjelika Nikolovski

A big congratulations to the following:
Senior Boys relay team achieving 3rd place.

Caleb Commerford

Zane Duncan

Mateo Tangata-Tao

Jude Dunn

Congratulations also goes to:

Harlow Pollock - 3rd in the 9yrs 50m Freestyle

Zane Duncan - 4th in the 11yrs 50m Freestyle

Good luck at the NSWCPs Carnival at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre next week!

Bethany are very proud of you all!

Mrs Neilly

LIBRARY



Don't miss the boat!

Start reading now for the PRC in 2023.

So many students have enthusiastically "come on board" and are reading for this year's Premier's Reading Challenge.



Students from K-2 are choosing books to take home and enjoy with their families. Any parent needing help to log the books they read with their child can contact Mrs Emmett via the Bethany email at bethany@parra.catholic.edu.au



Students in Years 3-6 are enjoying discovering new titles and series to read for their challenge. They are borrowing books from the library as well as reading ebooks that they can access on SORA via the school's eLibrary.



Well done to all those who are endeavouring to expand their reading and enjoy the creativity of so many wonderful authors and illustrators.

The PRC website can be found at online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc or search for PRC 2023. The challenge doesn't end until 18th August, so there is still plenty of time to "jump on board."

Did you know that membership of Penrith City Library is free?

Recently, a number of Bethany families have joined Penrith library and it's been great to hear the children's positive responses to their visits to the library and their excitement about the number of books that were available for them to borrow. They have 100s of PRC books!

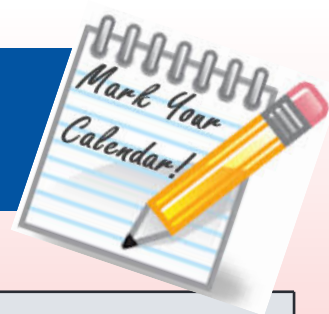
Penrith Library also has many online resources for families to access and programs running during school terms and in the holidays.

[Click here to find out about Penrith City Library](#)



Mrs Emmett

DATES FOR THE DIARY



TERM 1	29th March	St Padre Pio Sacrament of First Reconciliation - 6:45pm
	30th March	NSWCPS Swimming Carnival - SOPAC
	31st March	Effort in Learning Awards Assemblies - Yrs K-2 8:45am - 9:15am, Yrs 3-6 9:30am - 10:15am
	5th April	NSWPSSA Diving- SOPAC
	5th April	NSWPSSA Swimming
	6th April	NSWPSSA Swimming
	6th April	Last Day Term 1
Term 2	24th April	Staff Development Day - Pupil Free
	25th April	Anzac Day - Public Holiday
	26th April	Sacrament of Confirmation parent Meeting- Padre Pio Parish - 7pm
	26th April	First Day Term 2
	27th April	Sacrament of Confirmation formation workshop #1 (7pm-8pm) - School Hall
	3rd May	Sacrament of Confirmation formation workshop #2 (7pm-8pm) - School Hall
	4th May	Sacrament of Confirmation formation workshop #3 (7pm-8pm) - School Hall
	10th May	Diocesan Cross Country - Eastern Creek
	10th May	Sacrament of Confirmation formation workshop #4 (7pm-8pm) - School Hall
	11th May	Confirmation Practice (6:45pm - 8pm) Padre Pio Parish
	14th May	Sacrament of Confirmation Mass 2pm - Padre Pio Parish
	17th May	Yr 6 Canberra Excursion
	18th May	Yr 6 Canberra Excursion
	19th May	Yr 6 Canberra Excursion
	21st May	Sacrament of Confirmation Mass 2pm - Padre Pio Parish
24th May	National Simultaneous Story Time	

COMMUNICATION



Recent Skoolbag Notifications

23/03/2023	Safe Respectful Learners Newsletter
21/03/2023	Sport reminder regarding permission notes
20/03/2023	Hazard Reductions on Tuesday 21 March 2023
17/03/2023	Hazard Reductions on Tuesday 21 March 2023
16/03/2023	K-2 Reading Gathering 23rd March 2023
16/03/2023	Sad News - 3R - Parents and Carers
16/03/2023	Notification of Chickenpox - Year 5
15/03/2023	Year 1 Excursion tomorrow - 16th March 2023
15/03/2023	School Photo Catch Up Day - Friday 17th March 2023
14/03/2023	AFL Auskick cancelled today
13/03/2023	Diocesan Swimming Carnival Reminders - Tuesday 14th March - Years 2-6
10/03/2023	Student Data Validation
10/03/2023	Kindergarten 2024 Enrolments

STUDENT ARRIVAL, DISMISSAL, SUPERVISION & PICK UP PROCEDURES

School Times:

- Morning** Supervision begins at 8:00 am and concludes at 8:30 am
School starts 8:30 am and concludes at 2:45 pm
- Afternoon** Supervision begins at 2:45 pm and concludes at 3:15 pm

ARRIVAL

Students arrive via one of three access points:

Gate 1: William Howell Dr (students who walk, are dropped by bus or dropped by car on William Howell Dr)

Gate 2: Beside the Canteen/Hall (Kiss & Drop or parents walking their children in) opens at 8am

Gate 3: Caroline Chisholm Catholic College

Students arriving prior to 8:00 am to gather outside Gate 1 (in front of the administration office) and sit quietly.

Gates 1 and 2 and/or 4 are opened at 8:00 am by the teacher on duty.

Gate 3 is closed between the hours of 8:35 - 2:40 pm (Duty Teacher to unlock)

All gates will be locked between the following hours: - 3.15 pm - 8:00 am, 8:35 am - 2:40 pm

1. All children are expected to arrive at school between 8:00 am and 8:25 am
2. Students to enter in the morning via gates 1, 2 (and/or 4) & 3.
3. Once on site, all students are to independently place their bags on hooks outside their classroom and move to passive play areas.

Student only zones are:

- * Year 1 - Year 2 bag area.
- * Kindergarten and Years 3 - 6 pavers
- * Basketball courts
- * Astro Turf

5. Music will play at 8:28 am prior to the bell, indicating that learning is about to commence.
6. Students proceed to their class lines.
7. Teachers are expected to be at lines before the music stops playing.
8. Gates 2 and 4 will be locked at 8:30 am by teacher on *Kiss and Drop* Duty/Basketball Court duty/ teacher on Gate 2/4 entry duty.

STUDENT ARRIVAL, DISMISSAL, SUPERVISION & PICK UP PROCEDURES CONT'D

LATE ARRIVALS:

- Students who arrive after the gates are locked at 8:30am are to be signed in by their parent/carer at the school office. Parents are required to complete a "late arrival / early departure" pink slip and the student receives a late pass to take back to their teacher.
- Late arrivals are recorded (as partial absences) in Compass by the office staff.

DISMISSAL

- The following gates to be opened at 2:45 pm (designated person)
 - Gate 1: Teacher on bus duty
 - Gate 3: Teacher on gate duty
 - Gate 4: *Kiss and Ride* teacher on Afternoon Duty
 - Gate 5: Teacher on duty
- The modes of dismissal are:
 - Parent pickup - parents/carers enter the school via Gate 5 (Welcome Garden gate) and pick their children up front the basketball courts.
 - Kiss and Ride - students walk to Gate 4 and line up outside Year 1 classes.
 - Bus - students wait at the basketball courts until the teachers on bus duty arrive to walk them to Gate 1; students wait outside the school office until their bus arrives.
 - Walkers - students wait at the basketball courts until the teacher on Walker's duty arrives to walk them across William Howell Drive via the demountable gate. **Students do not wait for a parent to collect them from this area, as this is not a supervised pick-up point.**
 - COSHC - students wait at the basketball courts until COSHC staff member arrives to walk them to the hall.

Students exit via one of three access points:

Gate 1: William Howell Drive (Students who catch a bus)

Gate 3: Caroline Chisholm

Gate 4: Opens at 2:45 pm for student dismissal for Park & Collect.

Gate 5: Access and exit point for parents walking with their children to the car park or walking home. Students can only access this gate if accompanied by a supervising adult.

- Parents/carers to enter via Gate 5 and proceed to the basketball court.
- All students must be wearing their hats.
- All teachers should be wearing their High Visibility Vests.
- Teachers on afternoon duties proceed to designated waiting areas ie Bus, Walkers, Kiss and Ride, Parent Pick-up Basketball Court, Welcome Garden Gate and Caroline Chisholm gate.
- When all students have arrived at their dismissal areas, the teachers on duty begin dismissing students from their area. Students on the basketball court being collected by an adult remain under the supervision of the teacher on duty upon dismissal. Any student not collected by 3:15 pm from the basketball court is to be accompanied to the office.

Bus designated area - Students wait for buses on the paved area between the Welcome Garden and the student foyer. Students **sit** behind cones displaying bus numbers.

STUDENT ARRIVAL, DISMISSAL, SUPERVISION & PICK UP PROCEDURES CONT'D

Walkers - Students line up on the basketball court and wait for teacher instruction to begin moving to their designated area across the road.

Kiss and Ride - Students sit on the ground between the 1 Blue classroom and the Learning Support demountable.

Parent Pick up - Basketball Court - Students sit in two lines on the basketball court behind their grade sign. The student will High 5 the teacher on duty before going to their parent.

ADJUSTMENTS

On the rare occasion that extreme weather conditions occur (strong winds, torrential rain, extreme heat), dismissal procedures may change. Parents and carers will be informed via the Bethany Skoolbag app in the form of an alert if this occurs.

BULLYING OF STUDENTS - PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROCEDURES

Bethany Catholic Primary School as part of Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD) promotes positive relationships which reflect Gospel teachings and Catholic values. A core aspect of this work is in the prevention and response to incidents of bullying.

The school is guided by the principles outlined in *CSPD Bullying of Students - Prevention and Response Procedure (2022)*. This document guides schools, students, parents/carers to work together to create a safe and respectful learning community characterised by positive, respectful relationships. The document directs school communities on how to respond fairly, respectfully and sensitively to the needs of students.

The document outlines the difference between bullying as opposed to conflict, roles & responsibilities, prevention & response strategies and resources to support parents/carers.

Please find a link to the document below:

[Bullying Prevention and Response Procedure](#)

ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance at school is essential to assist children to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students.

The school day commences at 8:30am at Bethany. The morning music commences at 8:27am and concludes with the bell, where by this time, students have walked to class and are entering their classrooms.

Please note that gates will be closed at 8:30am with the bell. Staff on duty have classes, meetings and professional learning to attend to at this time. As such, the gates must be closed on time, as teachers have a duty of care to the students in their class and other responsibilities to attend to.

Similarly, the learning commences in all classrooms at 8:30am. Missing any part of the morning can mean that prayer has been missed, instructions have not been heard and routines have not been set in motion. As a consequence, students can find themselves disorientated and taking longer to settle into their learning.

Please ensure that students are on time at school every day and take into consideration the fact that the carpark does begin to get busy from 8:20am. Should unforeseen circumstances prevent you from arriving on time, please ensure that children are signed in at the office by an adult.

Where possible, parents are encouraged to make appointments outside of school hours, as all late arrivals and early departures are recorded as partial absences.

It is important that everyone works together to help children obtain the best possible start in life with a good education. It is vital that both school and parents encourage regular and punctual attendance at school.

Did you know that 1 in 6 primary students are not attending school regularly? Click on the image below to see how parents can help children develop healthy attendance patterns.

YouTube



2024 ENROLMENTS

We are currently accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2024. Families who have a child starting school next year are encouraged to complete and submit an enrolment form. Please visit the school office if you would like an enrolment pack or contact our Enrolments Officer on 4723 3700 if you have any enquiries regarding the enrolment process.

If you have family or friends who have a child ready for school, please pass on our details and let them know enrolments are now open. We love welcoming new families to our community!



OTHER MATTERS

CONSENT FOR USE OF STUDENT IMAGES AND/OR WORKS AND SELLING RAFFLE TICKETS

Consent for the use of students' images and/or works and for raffle tickets to be sold is collected at the time of a student's enrolment (Form B of the enrolment form).

If you wish to change consent for the use of students' images and/or works published or for raffle tickets to be sent home and sold, please notify the school in writing or request a new Consent form.

A reminder to Kindergarten and Year 1 parents

Please put spare underwear, shorts, shirts/uniform and socks in your child's schoolbag.

Thank you for your cooperation.



COMMUNITY



Boys and Girls 7 – 13 years are invited to join

Penrith City Children's Choir

Project II – April / May 2023

Native American Chants

Penrith Children's Choir will be the special guest at Penrith City Choir's concert 'All American'. The Children's Choir will captivate the audience with the haunting beauty of 'Ancient Mother' and the rhythmic drive of 'The Earth is Our Mother'. Adults and children combine for an exciting finale.

The project includes two workshops in Glenbrook in April and May leading to a public performance on Sunday 21 May at Glenbrook Baptist Church.

Fees: \$50 per child. Family reductions: \$75 for two children; \$90 for three children.

If you love to sing, join us. No auditions. Applications close Tuesday 28 March

For an Information Pack & Application Form contact: PCCC Administrator,
Rebecca Padgett 0417 433 903; Director, Lucy McAlary 0432 625 986;
email pccc@penrithcitychoir.com.au or visit
www.penrithcitychoir.com.au/penrith-city-childrens-choir