

News Up-date



7 May 2014

Dear Parents,

This year with Easter falling so late in the calendar it seems fitting that our celebrations of Easter run into the month of May- a time when we traditionally remember Mary. Mary was a woman of rare strength and obedience. She was the only person to be with Jesus throughout his entire life — from his birth until his death. She gave birth to him and watched him die as her Saviour. Throughout the Gospels, while Mary's appearances are limited, we know that she was a confident and loving mother who would have experienced both the joys and anguish that being a mother can bring. Like all Mothers, she would have nursed him as a child, educated him and felt proud of him as he grew into a man.

Earlier this week my nine year old son came home very excited with a note to say that he had expressed an interest in participating in a poetry eisteddfod at his school. To take part he needed to learn two poems and commit some of his lunchtimes to practise. He was rather pleased with himself that he had been chosen for this but I will admit that I had a sleepless night worrying about whether I should encourage him or take the easier path and suggest that perhaps he might not take part. I worried that he would not be able to learn the poems, that he would hate to give up his lunchtimes and that on the day, he would make a mistake, get upset and embarrass himself. The teacher in me knew that it was important for him to have an opportunity to take a risk and to develop his own independence but the mother in me wanted to protect him from the ups and downs that come with risk taking. Sometimes allowing our children to fly under the radar is the safer option for us as we don't have to feel their pain and disappointment – but it also means we can miss out on the pride that is felt when our children do take a risk.

Being a Mother is sometimes not an easy job, yet its rewards are unrivalled. Most mothers can relate to the many nights of lying awake wondering if we are making the right decisions for our family and our children. It is often easy to want to keep our children close to us to protect them from all the difficulties and hurts that are part of growing up and at times it seems that the “fulltime job” of being a mum is often undervalued and unappreciated. Yet, the true reward of being a mum or indeed being any significant carer in a child's life comes out in the many little things our children say and do – and in the way they grow and mature as members of our families and the wider community.



A Jewish Proverb says "A mother understands what a child does not say." Often what children don't say to us as Mothers they will quite openly share with their teachers. This morning a child in the infants classes asked me if I could call his Mum to check that she was okay as she had been unwell when she dropped him at school. Over the last week many of the teachers have been touched by some of the things that the children have written about their Mums in preparing for the Mothers' Day liturgy. Often it is the small things that Mums do that children remember, such as “I love my Mum because she hops into bed with me” or “I love my Mum because she makes me a nice lunch”. Those everyday things that we often do without even thinking are the things that are so important to our children and help form them into the people we hope they will grow up to be.

With all this in mind I would like to wish all of our Mums, Grandparents, Aunties and significant carers a very happy Mothers' Day. I hope that you are able to take some time to relax and enjoy the day with your family.

Regards, Jane Misek.

Religious Education

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!”

Luke 1:40 - 42

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Mary is the Mother of Christ and the Mother of the Church. May is liturgically referred to as the ‘Month of Mary’ and how fitting it is that within this month we also acknowledge all our earthly mothers by celebrating Mothers’ Day on 11 May. May all mothers and mother figures, enjoy time with their loved ones on Sunday.



As we enter the month of May it is a wonderful opportunity to pray and reinforce our devotion to Mary. She is a model for all Christians and by sharing our prayers and intercessions with her we are doing what Jesus tells us. Marian devotions take many forms within our church and all highlight the important role Mary holds within it and our life. During the month of May, the children at St Paul the Apostle will devote at least one Morning Prayer to our Mother. Apart from continuing with ‘The Angelus’ every day at noon the children will also be invited to pray the Rosary. If your child has a set of rosary beads, you may like to send them in so they can be used during prayer time.

God’s special plans for Mary began at the time of the Immaculate Conception. Where she was conceived without sin. Mary is seen as being ‘full of grace’. Catholic teachings explain that “grace” in this context means a special gift. Not only was Mary ‘full of grace’ she also continued to model how we should all live. Like all of us, Mary too had times when she was disturbed, asked questions, wondered and simply did not understand what God was asking but she answered his call by ‘letting his will be done’. Her special gift to us was the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. Her life should continue to inspire us today to answer the call of God by saying ‘Yes’ to him just as she did.

On Friday 9 May, Stage 1 will be holding a Mothers’ Day Mass at 9.10am to which all Stage 1 mothers are warmly invited. We hope you are able to attend this special celebration in honour of the love and commitment you show your child daily.

God Bless,
Mrs Leanda Standring, Religious Education Co-ordinator

KINDERGARTEN MASS

The date for Kindergarten Mass has been changed because of the Walk-a-thon. The Mass will now be held on **Thursday 22 May**. Thank you Father Raring for accommodating this change.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Nakhoul family (Chanel 6J and Alyssa 4TL) on the birth of Savannah.

PARRAMATTA DIOCESAN CROSS COUNTRY

Yesterday, 6 May, students from St Paul the Apostle participated in the Diocesan Cross Country at Eastern Creek. All students are to be congratulated for their co-operation and efforts on the day. In particular, special mention must go to Ebony Borg 5th, Theron Letherbarrow 6th and Holly Walker 7th, in their respective age groups. We wish these children the best of luck as they move on to the next level. Also, a huge thank you to Jennifer McIntosh for all your support on the day. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Angela Dunn and Fiona Lambert

To St Paul the Apostle school community:

Greetings from Mrs Bell who is having a great time in the Grand Canyon.



P & F UPDATE

Mothers' Day Stall: A reminder that the stall is being held **on Friday** - please remember to bring your money on this day. We will be selling the gifts in the AV/Music Room. We welcome the assistance of any parent/carer who has any time to spare between 9am and 12pm. Thank you to all of the Mums who helped wrap the gifts last Friday.

Walk-a-thon: Sponsor cards were sent home earlier this week. Please collect one from the office if your child didn't receive one.

Bingo: Thank you to those families who have already donated to the Bingo collection. Further donations will be gratefully received.



HEADLICE

Headlice has been reported in Kindergarten. We are asking that **all** parents examine their child's hair for signs of lice infestation and treat if necessary.

Please notify the office if your child has lice or nits.

We appreciate your co-operation in dealing with this frustrating problem.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS



The new 2014/2015 Entertainment books are now available! They have 2 for 1 meal deals, movie vouchers, discounts at local attractions and loads more. Books are \$65 each for Sydney West. Please contact Bernadette D'Silva on 0414 588 670 if you would like to purchase one

CANTEEN NOTE

The Aroona Mineral Water has been discontinued and replaced with an 'Aqua Fruits Quench' product. The available flavours are lemon lime, apple raspberry, cola and blue. The price remains unchanged at \$2.00. Lisa Butcher.

BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Lilia Ferrero is hosting an "Australia's Biggest Morning Tea" in the Father David Scott Parish Centre on Friday 23 May from 8.30am-12.30pm. \$5 + gold coin donation for food and drinks; raffles and prizes to be won.

RSVP by Monday 19 May to Lilia 0412215048/lilialferrero@gmail.com or Mary 9639 6516/office@stpaultheapostleparish.org

WESLEY GIANT GARAGE SALE

Where: **In the Wesley Uniting Church grounds at 32 Showground Road, Castle Hill.**

Dates/Times: [Friday May 9th 2014](#) (operating from 8:00am to 3:00pm) and [Saturday May 10th 2014](#) (operating from 8:00am to 1:00pm)

Sale items/Stalls will include Books, Records, CDs, DVDs, Clothing, Electrical, Plants, Toys, Furniture, Manchester, White Elephant, Fine Art and China etc.

We will also be providing tea and coffee during sale hours, together with a Sausage Sizzle for lunch on both days, and Bacon and Egg rolls for breakfast on Saturday morning.

Enjoy the friendly atmosphere, and pick up a bargain (or two) knowing you are helping those families who need help within the Hills District, through the Hills Family Centre.

OLMC Parramatta Open Morning Tour

Discover rich tradition and cutting edge education at OLMC Parramatta during an Open Morning Tour on **May 19**. In this special 125th anniversary year, join us for a tour of the College before enjoying a 'comfortable cup of tea' with the College Leadership Team.

The College is now enrolling for 2015 and 2016.

Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1263 to reserve your place or obtain further information.

