



# St Finbar's Primary School

*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*



Newsletter | Term 3 Week 2 | 1 August 2019



From The Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new Term and the beginning of a new Semester of school. Last Sunday, on the final day of the holidays I was at mass and one of my favourite stories was recounted in the Gospel - the story of Mary and Martha. As we recall, Mary was happy to sit contentedly at the feet of Jesus, listening to him talk, while her sister Martha ran around the house, trying to be hospitable to all the guests and attentive to everyone's needs. Martha was clearly overwhelmed, and a bit cranky at her sister for not helping. So she asked Jesus to make Mary help with the chores. Jesus

reminded Martha that Mary's role was to be in relationship with him at that time, and that Martha should respect this. Here are five things I have learned about this story

- 1. True hospitality is always in style** - welcoming people into your home is a gift. We shouldn't have to worry about the stain on the couch caused by spilled juice, or the dust on the shelf that seems to come back no matter how often you dust! True hospitality wraps a person up in a hug and makes them feel special, welcomed and truly wanted. It's not about the perfect decor or the matching towels in the bathroom.
- 2. Comparison breeds anxiety and discontent** - while Mary sits and listens to Jesus, Martha is working like a mad woman to make everything perfect for her guests. With zero help. She feels a bit put out, and begins to compare herself to Mary, realising that she may have drawn the short straw! It's the same with us, when we compare our lives to the "insta perfect" lives of others. But these social media snapshots of a perfect life fail to reveal the truth.... The toddler's tantrum moments after the photo was taken, or the argument before the photo, trying to get everyone to pose perfectly! I have learned that comparison doesn't change anyone's story, it just steals your joy.



- 3. When you are struggling, go to the best source first!** - Martha didn't whinge or complain to others behind her sister's back. She didn't complain on a facebook chat group. Instead, she went straight to the source that she felt could fix things. She asked Jesus to intervene and make her life easier. And even though He didn't do as she asked, Martha had the right idea.
- 4. You can tell Jesus anything** - Jesus didn't get angry with Martha when she complained. He listened to her and accepted her tirade for what it was - the complaint of an overworked woman. He didn't jump on the defensive and argue that he was overworked too. He didn't dismiss her as being "hormonal" or of being too critical of Mary. Instead he listened. With no judgement, he accepted her complaint for what it was and then explained his position to her. Jesus loves it when we talk to him and he listens without preconceived ideas and arguments.
- 5. The path to peace begins with one thing** - Jesus tells Martha that she worried too much. He explains that she needn't be concerned about rushing around and making everyone happy. She just needs to enter into relationship with him and the other guests. When we focus on Jesus first, we discover that inner peace and strength are given to us so that we can handle anything that is thrown our way.

Have a wonderful week!

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke  
Principal



## Attendance

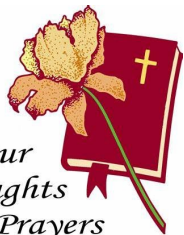


I am very pleased to receive the data for attendance of students in Semester One, 2019. We have over 90% attendance, so I would like to thank all parents and carers for their diligence in ensuring that children are at school on time, ready to learn every day. Let's aim for a 95% or above target for Semester two!



## Condolences

On Tuesday afternoon, we received the very sad news that Brian Martland, a former student of St Finbar's, died that morning following a motor bike accident. Brian's father Greg and his mother Marguerite are deeply grateful for the support given to their family during this difficult period.



*In Our  
Thoughts  
and Prayers*

The thoughts and prayers of the St Finbar's community are with the Martland family, and I am sure that Christopher (Year 7 at St Columba's), Michael (Year 4) and Rachel (Year 2) will have your love, prayers and support during this challenging time, along with the rest of the Martland family.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

## Prayers



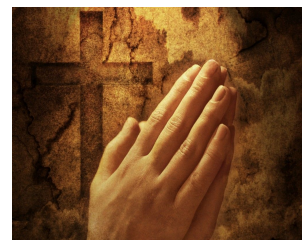
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### **Prayer for the Sick**

May you be wrapped up in God's love.  
Found deep in his everlasting wings.  
Carried and kept, safe and cherished. May  
the healing power of Christ breathe across  
your being now. Amen.

— Unknown

Your prayers are asked for the Mother of St Finbar's Parish Secretary, Juliana Khnouf, as she is currently in ICU and very unwell.







## Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Robyn Clarke Ben Ticehurst Leanne Brown	August 1, 2019	PBS4L Teach Meet



Dear Families

We recently underwent a change with how we collect permission for excursions, including whole school events like the Athletics Carnival. At present, we are still using paper forms for excursions that involve the collection of money, like sports gala days.

Last week, we had to collect permission for the rescheduled Athletics Carnival. We had previously sought feedback from families about collecting permission forms online, through Skoolbag. This feedback was overwhelmingly positive. However, we are still seeing a number of forms being returned after the due date. The impact of this is quite significant. 98 children had not had their permission form submitted 2 days before the carnival and 22 children still did not have their permission form submitted the day before.

To ensure all children could attend the carnival, we spent over 4 hours reconciling the missing permission forms over 3 days, informing families that still needed to submit their forms and then contacting families who had still not submitted their forms by phone, the day before, to ensure permission was submitted for these children. The impact of this lost time meant that I was unable to conduct my EMU Maths group and not provide instructional support for Numeracy in two classrooms.

I ask that you please work with us to ensure permission forms for excursions, including sports gala days, are submitted by the due date. This will help reduce the amount of time currently needed to check returned permission forms. The unfortunate outcome of a child not having parental consent, to attend an excursion or sports event, means we can not send that child to the planned excursion. We chase up these missing forms, as we do not want the children to miss out.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst  
Assistant Principal



### Staff Spirituality Day

Last Monday our staff attended a professional development day in the area of spiritual formation. We gathered together at the Edmund Rice Retreat and Conference Centre, Mulgoa. The theme of our day was *People of Presence*.

Throughout the day we were provided with a variety of opportunities to facilitate and nurture our personal relationship with God and with one another. We were given time to listen, reflect and grow awareness to the importance of being *present*, paying attention to our own needs, the needs of others and the needs of the world.

Experiences like these help to develop the spirituality of our staff, who in turn encourage, lead and enhance the spiritual formation of our students through authentic witness.

***"To teach means not only to impact what we know,  
but also reveal who we are by living what we believe".***

John Paul II

### Sacramental Program

For those children who are participating in the parish Sacramental program, please add the following dates to your calendar.

#### *Sacrament of Confirmation Preparation Sessions*

1. Saturday 3th August 4.30pm-5.30pm
2. Saturday 10th August 4.30pm-5.30pm
3. Saturday 17th August 4.30pm-5.30pm
4. Rehearsal session in the church Sunday 25th August 3.00pm



**Please Note:** Attendance of your child and one or both parents are required at each session, as is your attendance at Mass.

Sacrament of Confirmation will be held on Sunday 1st September at 6.00pm. All are welcome to attend and support the students in their faith journey. Please note this date is Father's Day.



## School Masses

We warmly invite all our families and friends to come along and celebrate Mass with our St Finbar's students and parishioners.

On Thursday 8th August (week 3) we will come together to celebrate Australia's first Saint, Mary MacKillop. On this day we pay homage to Mary MacKillop, a faithful servant to God. Kindergarten will be leading our celebration.

The Feast of the Assumption, on Thursday 15th August, is a Holy Day of Obligation and we celebrate the belief that the body and soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary were taken into heaven at the end of her earthly life. Stage Two will lead us in this celebration.

Both Masses will begin at 9.15am. We hope that you can join us.

## Parish Mass every Tuesday

Throughout the term, each class joins St Finbar's parish community for Mass, on a Tuesday at 9am. Please note the date your child's class will be attending Mass this term. We warmly invite all parents and carers to join us. Parents/carers are invited to sit with their children during Parish Mass.

Year 2	See note below	Year 5	Year 1	Year 6	Kindergarten	Year 3/4
30th July Week 2	6th August Week 3	13th August Week 4	27th August Week 6	3rd September Week 7	10th September Week 8	17th September Week 9

- Year 3 will now be attending Parish Mass with Year 4 in Week 9 and not in Week 3, as advertised in last term's newsletter. We apologise for any inconvenience.

## Junior Altar Server Reminder

A reminder to our Junior Altar Servers to check your roster to see if you are serving at the next Parish Mass. A roster is also on display in the COSHC window.



### Dates for your diary

- **Thursday 8th August** - Feast of St Mary of the Cross Mass commencing at 9.15am
- **Thursday 15th August** - Feast of the Assumption of Mary Mass commencing at 9.15am
- **Friday 30th August** - Father's Day Breakfast and Liturgy commencing at 8.30am



- **Sunday 1st September** - Sacrament of Confirmation commencing at 6pm St Finbar's Parish
- **Friday 27th September** - Feast of St Finbar's Mass and Celebration Day commencing at 9.15am

Yours in Faith

Leanne Brown

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

## Athletics Carnival Age Champions

### Girls

Under 8	Charli Butler	Age Champion
Under 8	Lillian Bastoli	Runner Up Age Champion
Under 9	Maiya Edwards	Age Champion
Under 9	Ava Lorking	Runner Up Age Champion
Under 10	Grace Incorvil	Age Champion
Under 10	Ellie Taylor	Runner Up Age Champion
Under 11	Gabriele Larsen	Age Champion
Under 11	Nicola De La Mare	Runner Up Age Champion
Under 12	Addison Farnsworth	Age Champion
Under 12	Anne Walker	Runner Up Age Champion

### Boys

Under 8	Darcy Waring	Age Champion
Under 8	Quentin Lynch	Runner Up Age Champion
Under 9	Sam Ambrosoli	Age Champion
Under 9	Tom Seaman	Runner Up Age Champion
Under 10	Phoenix Eggins	Age Champion
Under 10	Angus Smith	Runner Up Age Champion
Under 11	Cooper Monaco	Age Champion
Under 11	Joshua Simone	Runner Up Age Champion
Under 12	Oscar Waring	Age Champion
Under 12	Bailey Clifford	Runner Up Age Champion





## Book Week

In Week Five of this term, St Finbar's will celebrate Book Week. On Tuesday, 20th August we will host our annual Book Parade Character Day. All students (as well as little brothers and sisters, mums and dads) are invited to dress as a favourite book character.

Parents and families are invited to join us for the parade, which will commence at 9am on the infants playground.

Happy reading!



## Dates To Remember

**Friday 2 August**

**CENSUS Day**

**Thursday 8 August**

9am Church - Kinder  
St Mary of the Cross, Virgin,  
Mary Mackillop Mass

**Thursday 15 August**

9am Feast of the Assumption  
Mass  
Stage 2

**Monday 5 August**

Whole School Assembly  
2:10pm Parish Hall  
Stage 3 Presenting

Woolworths Cricket Blast Day

**Friday 9 August**

Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival  
Blacktown

**Tuesday 13 August**

9am Parish Mass - Year 5

**Friday 16 August**

Special Food Day

**Tuesday 20 August**

Book Fair Character Parade

[View School Calendar](#)





## Online Letters and eForms

### Stay informed with the SkoolBag App



The SkoolBag app is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minutes notices, newsletters and all school communications.

**1**

#### Download the app

Search for the free SkoolBag app in the Apple App or Google Play Store



**2**

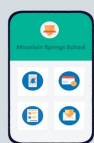
#### Create an account

Sign up in seconds with your email address

**3**

#### Add your school

Search for your school and add your subscription groups



SkoolBag

In our last edition, we asked families to respond to a survey about receiving letters and reply slips in an online format only. Of all the respondents, 100% of families said they would prefer to receive letters and reply slips online. Moving forward, more of our letters and eForms will be published electronically via Skoolbag.



facebook

## School Fees

School Fees for Term 3 are due **Wednesday 28 August 2019** and will be posted shortly. If you do not receive your fee statement please contact the office.

Fees are payable in accordance with the Diocesan School Fees Policy which states "all fees are due and payable within 28 days of the date the school account statement is issued". If you need to discuss your school fee account, please contact me by phone on 4724 3600 or via email [finb-glbrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:finb-glbrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Thank you

Mrs Denham



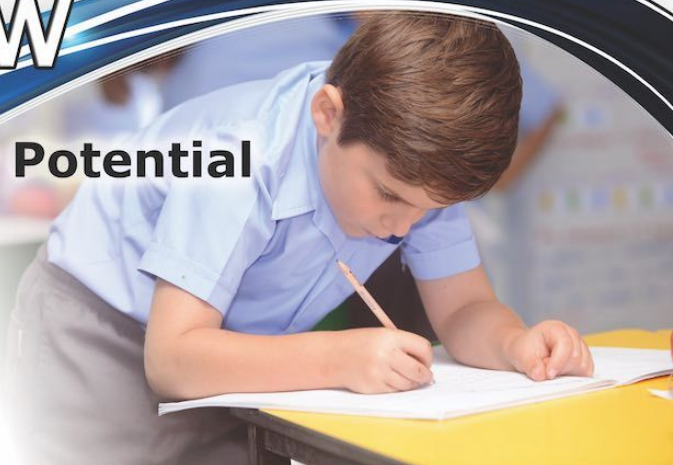


**St Finbar's Primary School**  
*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*



# Enrol Now

## Discover Your Potential



**St Finbar's Primary School Glenbrook**  
**02 4724 3600 | [stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au)**

Enrolments for 2020 are now open. If you have younger children ready to start school, now is the time to collect the enrolment pack. Spread the word, let family and friends know that we are open for enrolments. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us on 4724 3600.

School Tours are also available. [Click here](#) to view the dates and times.

## School Office and Parish News

### From The Office

**Please log on to your child's My School Lunchbox account and amend your child's class for 2019.**

**This will assist with accurately sorting the lunch orders, especially on the busy days.**

### Parish News

[Click this link to read The Parish Barra](#)

#### Sunday Masses:

Vigil - 5.30pm Saturday evening  
7.30am & 9.30am Sunday morning  
6pm Family/Youth - First and Third Sunday evenings (except Jan)

#### Weekday Masses:

**Monday:** 9am **Tuesday:** 9am **Wednesday:** 8am  
**Thursday:** 9am (except third Thursday - see Anointing Mass)  
**Friday:** 9am  
**Saturday:** 9am

**Reconciliation:** Saturday evening - 4.45 - 5.15pm, or any time on request

**Rosary in Honour of Our Lady:** Usually after Wednesday morning Mass.

**Anointing Mass:** Usually third Thursday of the month at 10am (except January)

**Adoration & Benediction:** Usually after Friday morning Mass.





## Mobile Phone Devices and Bike and Scooter Policy

Over the course of this year, we have noticed an increased number of students riding bikes and scooters to school, as well as students bringing a mobile phone device to school. To help ensure families have clarity around our expectations and students are aware of safe practices when riding to school or using a mobile phone device, the following 2 policies have been created.

- [Bicycle and Scooter Policy](#)
- [Mobile Phone Device Acceptable Use Policy](#)

Students in Years 5 and 6 have had a discussion session with Mr Ticehurst about the Mobile Phone Device Policy and all students that ride to school will have an opportunity to be briefed on the Bike and Scooter Policy on Friday.

## Announcements and Services

Gateway Family Services Group Parenting Courses for Term 2 - [Brochure attached](#)

Catholic Care - Solo Parenting Services and dealing with the Legal System. [Brochure attached](#).

### **Seminar – Understanding Family Law**

CatholicCare Solo Parent Services is holding a two session Seminar on “Understanding Family Law”. These sessions are presented by an Accredited Family Law Specialist and will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

**Session 1: 10am – 12pm** – Understanding the Family Law Act – Focus on Divorce/Separation and Children’s needs.

**Session 2: 1pm -3pm** – Understanding the Family Law Act – Focus on Property Settlements.

**Venue:** St. Patrick’s Cathedral Parish Hall, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. Entry and onsite parking via Boom gate on Victoria Rd.

**Cost:** \$10.00 per session.

**Registration Essential:** Contact - Rita - PH: 8843 2575 or email: [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)





## St Finbar's Playgroup

### St Finbar's Playgroup

#### Attention Parents/Grandparents/Carers

St Finbar's Playgroup for 0-5 year olds meets each Wednesday in the Parish Hall (Levy St) 9:15am till 11:30am during school term dates. Please bring a piece of fruit to share and a gold coin donation. Tea and coffee and morning tea provided. Please come and join us for a play and meet other families. For more information please contact Gabrielle Lynch on 0481150022.



The start of Term 2 has seen students having days off due to a virus that has been going around along with cases of Head Lice.

Could you please take a moment to refresh your children on the importance of hand washing procedures. This will assist in the prevention of germ spreading.

Also, the importance of having their hair tied back and being checked and/or treated for Head Lice if necessary to prevent recurring cases.

Thank you for your continued support.