



St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge



Newsletter | Term 4 Week 4 | 7 November 2019



From The Principal

Last Friday we attended a beautiful mass to celebrate All Saints Day. November is traditionally the month of the year that we remember and pray for all those who have departed Earth to find their eternal home in the Kingdom of God. November 1 was also a special date for my family.... It was my Uncle Ron's 80th birthday.

My dad passed away 16 years ago, and Ron was his younger brother. They were very close as brothers and often got into lots of mischief, mainly at the expense of my poor Nanna! I remember her telling us once about how they used to race their bantam chicks down her freshly waxed floors in the hallway.

And another time they used a little electric generator to charge the copper door handles, so when Nan tried to come in the back door she would touch the handle and get a mild electric shock! No matter how cheeky, they were much loved by my Nanna.

As the boys grew into men, they both ended up working in the food industry and my Uncle Ron progressed from being in catering in the army to owning his own restaurant, to eventually working at the markets in food quality control, while my father worked in research and development for a food company. Both men were dedicated to living their faith through service to the church and community in many ways, such as visiting the sick, being an acolyte, and to this day, my Uncle Ron picks up disabled children to drive them to their school and back home every afternoon. My point is, that these young boys were not saints as children. They were ordinary little boys who got into mischief from time to time. However, they grew up knowing that service to others was an important part of their lives. These are what I would call "everyday saints" and people like my dad and Uncle Ron walk among us constantly.

Earlier in the year I attended a Principal's retreat and we discussed our schools as being Holy Ground, with Saints walking among us. So while it's important to remember the saints and ask them to intercede on our behalf, it is so important to recognise the everyday saints that cross our path each day.



At a recent Principal's meeting we prayed The Beatitudes for Modern Life. These Beatitudes acknowledge the lives of everyday saints among us and I include them here:

Blessed are those who "recognize their need for God," who acknowledge their dependence on God and His gifts to them.

Blessed are those who though they are blessed with fine families and friends are still very concerned with the pain and suffering of others, either nearby or at a distance. These others are their human brothers and sisters.

Blessed are the generous people who give of their love, their time, their money, and somehow keep on giving despite disillusionment and disappointment in seeing their efforts go wasted.

Blessed are the "big people" who can forgive those who are petty, angry, rude, or neurotic, and seek to find and delight in the good qualities of the people around them.

Blessed are those who respect a person as an individual and do not prejudge him or her because of race, colour, ethnic, or economic background or sexual identity. They do not, therefore, reduce that individual's many good qualities to one rather unessential characteristic.

Blessed are the single persons who somehow can hack this life alone.

Blessed is the partner in marriage whose love affirms his or her partner with patience, understanding, and especially, forgiveness, helping that partner to keep growing in every way.

Blessed are the parents who love and respect their children as individuals. They realize that, regardless of what their children are taught and how they are disciplined, they will learn especially by imitation of them.

Blessed are the parents of teenagers who can really listen and give them time in casual, low-keyed situations, and who take time to explain and discuss quietly their reasons for certain actions.

Blessed are the children and teenagers who respect their parents, who try not to inflict their growing pains upon the ones who love them the most, and who contribute to the family with their time and communication.

Blessed are the peacemakers who before a rift in a family is frozen like ice and divides a family for years, go out of their way to settle disputes, heal the bruised egos, and restore peace.

Blessed are those who mourn the loss of a loved one and who, because of their hope in Christ, work through this pain and anger without becoming depressed or bitter.

Blessed are those who do not resent the poor or the homeless.

Blessed are those who befriend the handicapped and appreciate the people in their lives who teach them that no situation is hopeless and that they should use all the talents they have.

Blessed are those men and women who in the September of their lives still wonder how they can serve God and others better. In their cheerful acceptance of pain and inconvenience, they give witness to a strong belief in a loving God.

Blessed are those who like Christ are facing what seems like a senseless death with so many jobs to be done and people to take care of. This trust in the face of death is their last compliment to a loving and caring Father who waits to reward them.

Blessed are those people who are most sensitive to pain and injustice around them. They help us to keep our vision clear. By this example, they help us to be patient, loving, and forgiving. They inspire us to keep putting one foot in front of the other in our attempts to walk the path of Christ in following the ideals of these beatitudes.

Blessed are those selfless people who throw parties that get families and friends together.



This Friday, we welcome our 2020 Kindergarten cohort and their families to our school community. We hope that they enjoy their first taste of school and their families feel welcomed and accepted into our community. Thank you to the 2019 Kindergarten parents who gave generously of their time and cooking skills to welcome and share hospitality with our new and existing families.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal



Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Ben Ticehurst	28 October	Governance Training
Jo Shean	30 October	Reading Recovery Training
Ben Ticehurst	31 October	PBS4L Cluster Meeting
Ben Ticehurst, Alison Maunder, Leanne Brown, Rebecca Southern	1 November	PBS4L Effective Classroom Practices PL
Robyn Clarke	5 November	Principal's Mentoring Meeting
Alicia Borg, Georgia Hutchins, Kim Waldron, Terese Collins, Leanne Brown, Ben Ticehurst, Robyn Clarke	7 November	Numeracy K-2 Sequencing





From the Assistant Principal

Last weekend, the Gospel reading was one that we would all remember, The Story of Zacchaeus.

I have always liked this story, as it has so many strong messages about forgiveness, the importance of relationships, the positive influence we can have on others and putting yourself out there to be a disciple of Jesus.

However, last weekend my parish priest put a new lens on the story for me. He talked about the importance of the actions of Zacchaeus. How we have this grown man. A wealthy, successful, opulent, well-dressed and in many ways elitist man, who decided to climb a tree in front of a crowd of people who he demanded respect from. Why would he put himself in such a position? To the crowd below they thought it was all a bit strange.

But Zacchaeus' actions tell us that if we want to see Jesus, we may have to get out of our comfort zone. The metaphor of Zacchaeus climbing the tree relates to the choices we make each day to look for the good around us. Jesus is present in each and every one of us, and like Zacchaeus we are certainly not all perfect, but there is always an opportunity to find Jesus in our daily actions.

I am sure there are days that we are faced with our own "tree" to climb. It is what you do when you get to the top that is important. In that moment can you find Jesus?

(Click [here](#) to watch The Story of Zacchaeus)

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

Confirming Enrolments for 2020

If you have decided that your child/ren will not be returning to St Finbar's in 2020, we request that you let the school office know as soon as possible. We note that ten weeks notice is required prior to departure in order to avoid being billed for Term 1, 2020 school fees.

We have a waiting list of students who are hoping to transfer to our school next year, and it would be good to arrange final class groupings before the end of the year.

Mrs Clarke would be happy to meet with any parents to discuss students transferring to another school in order to ensure a smooth transition process for them.





Remembrance Day 11th November 2019

We warmly invite all our parents and friends to join us for our Remembrance Day Service at 10.40am next Monday, in the Parish Hall. Year 5 will be leading us, as we remember all the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we have today.

Mission Day Tuesday 12th November 2019

This term in our Religious Education lessons, St Finbar's students have been focussing on the call of mission. Each grade has engaged in a range of learning experiences to understand and appreciate the mission of Jesus. The students have been developing and implementing practical ways to continue Jesus' mission within the school community, national and global context.



Each stage will present their work to the rest of the school on our **Mission Day**, to be held on **Tuesday 12th November, 2019**. Our day will begin with a liturgy in the parish hall. We invite our parent community to attend, as well as visit the classrooms where our students will be showcasing their learning to their peers (between 9.30-11.00am). A timetable will be sent via Skoolbag.



This year, Catholic Mission's teachings have been focused on Ghana and the life-saving care the church is providing to children with disabilities. We would like to contribute to their efforts by fundraising as much money as we can. We are asking children to dig deep and empty their piggy banks to bring in gold and silver coins to add to our fundraising map. The students will have the opportunity to add their coins when they go in their class groups.

We look forward to a great morning and hope to raise awareness and funds for Catholic Mission and the great work they do.



Sacrament of Holy Communion

We keep in our prayers the children who have begun preparing with their families to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. They will be celebrating this sacrament for the first time on Sunday 24th November at 9.30am. All are welcome to attend and support the students in their faith journey.



EAMONN APPS † GUS BERBEN † DARCY WARING † PHOENIX EGGINS †
HAILEY CRAMERI † LARA CRAMERI † EDMUND CAMERON † MAKENNA O'CALLAGHAN †
FRANK MCKEOWN † BRONAGH MCKEOWN † COPPER KAY † AMELIE BOHAN †
MATILDA HOWARD † KIAN LOUGHMAN † CALLAN LOUGHMAN † EVIE WALKER †
EDWARD WALKER † ANGUS SMITH † LILLIAN BASTOLI † SAM AMBROSOLI † ELIJAH BAIRD †
FINNIAN MCCANN † ADELE TAYLOR † JUDE ALDERTON †

As you receive the Holy Eucharist, may God guide you in your faith and draw you ever closer to the joy of His wondrous love †

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 parishioners to join us. Parents are invited to sit with their children during Parish Mass.

Kindergarten	Year 3	Year 4
19th November Week 6	26th November Week 7	3rd December Week 8

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



- **Remembrance Day Service** Monday 11th November 10.40am Parish Hall
- **Mission Liturgy** Tuesday 12th November 9.00am Parish Hall. Classroom activities from 9.30-11.00am
- St Finbar's Parish **Sacrament of First Holy Communion** Sunday 24th November 9.30am

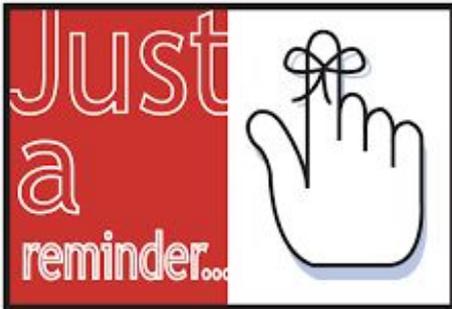


- **St Finbar's Christmas Concert** Monday 9th December 6.00pm
- **Year 6 Graduation & End of Year Mass** Monday 16th December 9.15am
- **St Finbar's Parish Christmas Eve Vigil** Tuesday 24th December 6pm (Children to come dressed up as figures representative of the scene of the nativity)

Yours in faith,

Leanne Brown
Religious Education Coordinator

Important Reminders



- **Check your Skoolbag App.** If you are having trouble with it, try refreshing the app by uninstalling and re-installing. Check your notification settings in the app and on your phone. You will find we are sending more information home via Skoolbag rather than paper notes. It is important that your Skoolbag app is working efficiently so that you don't miss any key information.

- **[The School Locker](#) will be onsite at St Finbar's on Friday 8 November between 9:30 and 11am with sample uniforms to try on and order. This service will be available to the whole school during this time. Outside of this it will be open to Kinder 2020 families.**

- **Remember** to check your child has a hat and a water bottle each day. If your child is allergic to sunscreen please let us know.

- Please check your child's belongings when they come home each day to ensure they have not picked up a hat or jacket that does not belong to them. We have a situation at present where families are losing brand new hats and jackets that have been clearly labelled.

Uniform items come at an expense and we like to be able to return lost property as best we can.



Bush Dance



Make sure it is in the diary! This Friday night is the P&F Bush Dance.

Free BBQ commences at 5pm | Live band and dancing from 6pm

Dates To Remember

Friday 1st November 9:15am - All Saints Mass Stage 2	Friday 8 November <u>Bush Dance</u> in the evening	Monday 18 November Whole School Assembly 2:10pm in the Parish Hall
Monday 4 November Open Tour For new enrolment enquiries 9:30am	Monday 11 November Remembrance Day Prayer Service 10:40am	Monday 9 December Christmas Concert 6pm
Friday 8 November Kinder 2020 Orientation 9:15am The School Locker onsite with sample uniforms to try on and order. 9:30 - 11am in the COSHC room.	Thursday 14 November Gymnastics Gala Day	Monday 16 December End of Year Mass 9:15am Year 6 Graduation Dinner 6pm

[View School Calendar](#)



Strings Tuition

Permission notes for Co-Curricular String Lessons for 2020 - Years 3 to 6 only were sent home last week. Please return as soon as possible to enable us to allocate classes for next year.

At St Finbar's we offer group strings tuition to Years 3 to 6 with our own highly professional specialist teachers.

Lessons are available in groups of 4 to 6. Cost per student per term for a 30 minute lesson each week (minimum of 8 lessons per term) is \$110.00. Tuition Fees will be charged to your School Fee Account.

If your child is interested in attending these classes please complete the attached [form](#) as soon as possible and return it to the school office. We need to have an idea of the number of students interested in Strings lessons before the end of Term.

Thank you
Mrs Denham



Extended Leave Applications for Students

As you know it is very important that children attend school every day. Quite often leave is requested by parents for various reasons. While we understand that this may be necessary sometimes, it is not encouraged as every school day is important for every child.

If you intend taking your child out of school for **five days or more** you must make a formal application in writing to the Principal and fill out an application for extended leave which is available from the school office. Each application will be considered on an individual basis and could depend on circumstances such as the intention for the leave, your child's attendance, and the impact the leave may have on your child's academic progress.

These regulations are in place to make sure that your child achieves to his/her full potential and we know you will understand the reasoning behind them.

Thank you for your understanding. Please contact the office if you require Leave Forms.



COSHC 2020 Enrolment Form

The 2020 Enrolment form for COSHC is now available [here](#). If you require before and after school care for your child, please complete the enrolment form and return it to COSHC **as soon as possible**.

Forms can be returned via email to coshcstfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au or alternatively they can be dropped into the school office.

The enrolment form needs to be completed and provided with a copy of your child's birth certificate, medical immunisation statement and both parent ID's. If your child has a medical condition, please provide a letter of diagnosis from the relevant Doctor and also a current Action Plan.

Keep in mind that places are limited, so it is a good idea to return your forms early.

Online Safety for Parents and Carers

As parents and carers you know your child better than anyone and have the best opportunity to support and guide them to have safer online experiences.

This guide covers some of the key online safety issues for young people and includes a range of practical tips and advice on what to do if things go wrong. You can also find a list of important services that can offer extra support.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice>

School Office and Parish News

From The Office

Reminder: When returning permission notes for an event, please send money in with the note if applicable.

Reminder: Check your child's jackets, jumpers, hats to ensure they are labelled and that they have their own belongings, not someone else's.

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.





Announcements and Services

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.



TOMORROW FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER

FREE BBQ FROM 5PM, LIVE BAND AND DANCING FROM 6PM

THE BOTTOM PLAYGROUND AT ST FINBAR'S

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

EVERYONE WELCOME!

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



Change of Name McCarthy Catholic College to Penola Catholic College as of 2020

75 Mackellar Street, Emu Plains

From the beginning of the 2020 new school year, McCarthy Catholic College will be known as Penola Catholic College Emu Plains. This transition is due to, McCarthy Catholic Trade Training Centre becoming part of the CathWest Innovation College from 2020, which will have a campus at McCarthy Emu Plains and Loyola, Mt Druitt. The College community welcomes this news as a significant step celebrating Australia's first saint starting a school in Penola to enable education to be accessed by children and adults.

Penola Catholic College will continue to serve students from Year 7 to Year 12. Penola Catholic College name recognises the strength that this proud learning community draws from values and example of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

The history of the College and the McCarthy name will continue to be recognised and acknowledged in a variety of ways at Penola Catholic College, as well as at the McCarthy campus of CathWest Innovation College.

We are looking forward to walking in the footsteps of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop as we continue this exciting journey as Penola Catholic College in 2020.

Ms T Cairns
Principal Leader



St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge



Parents Representative Council
SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



CYBER SAFETY CHALLENGING TODAY'S YOUTH

Our Speaker will help parents understand the modern day challenges facing our young people within the digital world. Everything that they write, post and send can be traced and will remain there forever. Learn how parents can protect their kids from online risks. Sexts, Texts and Selfies are a concern for any parent. Learn how to give your child the skills, knowledge and strategies to use the internet in a safe, smart and responsible way.



Cyber safety, Sexts, Texts, Selfies, Pornography, Bulling and Online Predators.



Our guest speaker for the evening is:

**School Liaison
Officer NSW Police**

Register FREE now: www.prc.catholic.edu.au

SEATS ARE STRICTLY LIMITED TO 100 SO REGISTER EARLY!!



Monday, 18th November 2019

Doors open: 6:30pm for 7:00pm (2 hours)
(PRC General Meeting - will be held prior to guest speaker
Institute of Mission (downstairs meeting room)

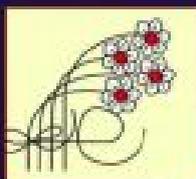
Fluscombe Rd & Marion St, Blacktown NSW 2148

Light supper and refreshments will be provided, and a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!

www.prc.catholic.edu.au

 @preparra

 @preparra



THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 SPONSOR

Floral Expressions

For details on the School fundraising program

Call Charles Lukasik on 02 9683 1116

