



St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge



Newsletter | Term 1 Week 10 | 4 April 2019



From The Principal

Dear Parents and carers,

This week we enter the fourth week of Lent. The gospel reading this week was one of the most well-loved parables of all scripture - The Parable of the Prodigal Son. It is rather a misleading title, and possibly should be renamed to reflect the role that the father has in forgiving both of his sons. This parable has two goals: it shows us that God wants everyone to know his love, and it shows us that God wants those who know his love to experience

it more deeply. Let's take a look at the first son: He took what he was entitled to, squandered it and returned empty handed, asking for his father's forgiveness. He was in a sense "dead" because of the sins he had committed, but the moment he returned it was as if he had been brought back to life. Jesus used this character to describe people who have not accepted the love that God has for them. They need to turn to God and come home to him. These are the people that God wants us to pray for, so that they may have a conversion. The second son also had a conversion of sorts. He was already "alive" - faithful and hardworking. But his thoughts were sinful, and he needed a different type of conversion. A turning away from anger, self-righteousness and resentment. Even when we try our hardest to live good lives we can fall into this second category. And so God asks us to keep turning to him for love and help and healing. God is always waiting for us with open arms.

"Thank you, Father, for welcoming me home. Amen"



Last week I attended a Mathematics professional learning opportunity alongside all of our Kindergarten and Year One and Two teachers. The day required a lot of hard thinking on our part, but our pedagogies around teaching Mathematics was deepened, and for me anyway, the "penny dropped" when the presenter talked about the need for children to struggle with a problem for a while. So often, as parents and teachers, we try to create a smooth pathway for our children. We don't want them to struggle, as we may have in the past. But it is within this struggle that real learning, deep and lasting learning begins and grows.

A colleague shared an interesting article with me this week, about a new term for parents - concierge parents. I particularly enjoyed the section where the principal of a high school reminded the parents that when their children were learning to ride a bike, **they wobbled**. As children are learning we need them to wobble a bit. Deep learning does not happen when information is handed to children on a plate. The wobble is when they make sense of something, make connections between things and show that they are ready to transfer their knowledge to another situation.

You can read the whole article [here](#)

As we head into the final week of school we will be reflecting on the Passion of Jesus as he travelled the road to he cross. Please join us at assembly each morning as we pray and reflect together. Thank you to all staff who have contributed to this prayerful experience for the students and families, and to Mrs Brown for coordinating the event.

I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing holiday break, and a holy and peaceful Easter. We will celebrate the joy of the risen Christ when we return to school, with a special liturgy at Monday morning assembly.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal





Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Leanne Brown	26th March	RE across the Curriculum Course
Robyn Clarke, Ben Ticehurst	28th March	PBS4L PLC meeting
Robyn Clarke, Ben Ticehurst, Leanne Brown, Jemima McLeod, Alicia Borg, Georgia Hutchins, Kim Waldron	29th March	Mathematical Sequences K-2
Jo-anne Shean, Alison Maunder, Robyn Clarke	1st April	Moderations of School Personalised Plans for Diversity Leaders and schools
Ben Ticehurst Rebecca Southern	3rd April 10th April	EMU OPaL Day
Leanne Brown	3rd April	Child Protection Workshop
Robyn Clarke, Ben Ticehurst, Carolyn Viera, Rebecca Southern	9th April	Peer Review



St Finbar's Numeracy
K-2 Teachers
with
Sharon Livy



Mrs Clarke mentioned in her article, above, the importance of letting our children wobble. I want to share with you a short story and reflection on a moment that made me realise, as a parent, I have to let my children wobble.

Last Friday evening, I stood at the counter of my kitchen tidying up after dinner. From the lounge room, I hear the voice of my daughter asking if she could have something for dessert. She continued, and asked if I could get a piece of caramel slice from the fridge.

As I put down the bowl in my hand and went to turn to walk towards the fridge I stopped myself. My thoughts immediately went to, "Oh my gosh! I am a concierge parent."

I had become the helpdesk that my children see as a way to escape the wobble of their days. I then reflected on how many times have I rushed in to solve their little problems and the damage I was doing to their ability to be resilient problem solvers in the future.

Time to change! I realised I was doing more harm than good.

To often, we as parents, feel the need to be able to swoop in and fix the problem. From little things like getting the caramel slice out of the fridge when they can't be bothered to get up and get it themselves or bringing in their lunch box, to the school office, when they have left it at home in the morning.

When I said no, to my daughter, I am doing something else at the moment and I am sure you are more than capable of working out how to get the caramel slice yourself, I wondered what she would do if she left her lunch box at home. My wife and I both work, so we are not available to respond to the ding from the concierge desk.

I know she would either work out how to get by for the day by asking for help, or by experiencing the loss of no food for the day, she would probably not forget her lunch box next time.

Sometimes we have to let go and let them wobble through their day. It is through the wobble that they learn to get back up again.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal



COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

In NSW school attendance is compulsory for children over the age of six years until the minimum school leaving age of 17 years.

What if my child has to be away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, you must tell the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:

- send a Skoolbag note, or handwritten note to the class teacher,
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school

A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- attends a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness

Children need to arrive on school and class on time. Lateness to school or leaving early from school will be recorded as a partial absence.

Application for Leave

If you are planning a holiday during term time, you must contact the school and ask for an Application for Leave School form. This is required for any any planned absences that is greater than 5 days. The principal will consider your application and decide whether to grant a Certificate of Leave from Attendance at School.

Responsibilities of the school principal

Principals are able to question requests for a child to be absent from school and are also responsible in deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified. Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness.

When absences are unexplained by parents, or explanations are not accepted by the principal, the school will work with parents to identify the reasons for non-attendance and put in place strategies so the child can return to school. Principals may ask support staff or other agencies to assist.

What if my child continues to have unsatisfactory attendance?

It is important to understand that the NSW Department of Education (DoE), on behalf of the State Minister for Education, may take further action in cases where children of compulsory school age have recurring



numbers of unexplained or unacceptable absences from school. The following actions may be taken in these cases:

➤ Attendance planning meetings

Parents, and sometimes their child, can be asked to attend a meeting with school personnel. The aim of the meeting is to help identify strategies to support the child and family and remove barriers to non-attendance. Other agencies may also be invited, if parents agree.

➤ Attendance Conferences

If school attendance does not improve, parents and sometimes their child, can be asked to attend an Attendance Conference. The conference aims to help the school, parents and other agencies to further identify the issue impacting on a child's attendance. The outcome of an attendance conference is for the parties to agree to undertake certain actions to improve the child's attendance. These actions are agreed in writing.



Caritas 2019 Project Compassion Appeal

If all money from the Project Compassion boxes, which were sent home with families on Ash Wednesday, please be returned to the school office by **Wednesday 10th April** (Week 11, Term 1). Alternatively, you can take your Project Compassion box to St Finbar's Parish Mass on Palm Sunday (14th April) or make a donation by calling 1800 024 413 or www.caritas.org.au

Holy Week

In Week 11 we will gather together each morning, as a school community, to remember the significant events of Holy Week. These liturgies are an integral part of our school Religious Education program and a witness to our shared Catholic Faith.

Below is an overview of our Holy Week commemorations and the stages who will lead us. Each morning we will assemble on the amphitheatre stairs, on the basketball courts, and will begin our liturgies at approx 9.00am. It would be appreciated if your child could be at school no later than 8.50am on the day in which their class will be leading the school in prayer.

We warmly invite all our families and friends to join us.





Monday 8th April	Tuesday 9th April	Wednesday 10th April	Thursday 11th April	Monday 29th April (TERM 2)
Palm Sunday	Holy Thursday Last Supper	Garden of Gethsemane	Stations of the Cross	*Easter Resurrection
Kindergarten	Stage One	Stage Two	Stage Three	Teachers

*** Please note: Our Easter Resurrection Liturgy will be in the Parish Hall at 9.15am**



On Monday 29th April (first day back of term 2) we invite our families to join us for our ANZAC Day commemorative service at 11.30am. We will gather together to pray, honour and thank those who have gone to war to defend our country, and acknowledge our very own St Finbar families, who are serving men and women today.

Celebrating Parish Mass

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 in term two. We warmly invite all parents and parishioners to join us. Parents are invited to sit with their children during Parish Mass.

Please note: Year 4's attendance at Parish Mass (scheduled for Tuesday 9th April) has been cancelled due to our Holy Week Liturgy and Father Jolly's absence.

Looking forward to Term 2:

Stage 3 Group A	Year 4	Stage 3 Group B	Year 3	Year 2	Year 1	Kinder
7th May Week 2	14th May Week 3	21st May Week 4	28th May Week 5	4th June Week 6	18th June Week 8	25th June Week 9



Fr Jolly

We continue to pray for Fr Jolly and his mother, who is seriously ill. He sends his thanks to all parishioners and our St Finbar families, for their prayerful support and care.



St Finbar's Parish - Easter Roster

St Finbar's Parish are looking for volunteers to help with the Easter Rosters. They need Readers, volunteers for Washing of the Feet, Ministers of Holy Communion, Senior Servers, Sacristans and **Junior Servers**. If you are able to help please put your name on the list, on the board, in the Narthex.

Dates for your diary - Term 2



- **Easter Liturgy** Monday 29th April 9.15am (Week 1)
- **Anzac Day Service** Monday 29th April 11.30am (Week 1)
- **Mother's Day Mass** Friday 10th May 9.15am (Week 2)
- **Mary, Our Lord Help of Christians Liturgy** Friday 24th May 9.00am Morning Assembly

(Week 4)

- **The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** Friday 31st May 9.00am Morning Assembly (Week 5)
- **Pentecost Liturgy** Tuesday 11th June 9.00am Assembly (Week 7)
- **Grandparents Day** (The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass) Friday 28th June 9.15am Week 9

Yours in faith,

Leanne Brown
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Mobile Phones

We understand students may bring their mobile phone to school from time to time if they are catching the bus to and from school. However, we ask that students place their phones in the office in the morning and collect them on dismissal in the afternoon.

We are in the process of developing a Policy around mobile phones and will send that communication out early in Term 2.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.





Dates To Remember

Friday 5 April Second Hand Uniform Sale 8:45 morning playground area MUFTI DAY and Easter Egg Donations	Tuesday 9 April 9am Holy Week Liturgy - Garden of Gethsemane Kinder and Stage 1 Excursion Riverside Theatre Room on the Broom	Thursday 25 April ANZAC Day March in Glenbrook
Monday 8 April 9am Holy Week Liturgy - Palm Sunday Year 6 Cupcake Stall at Recess	Thursday 11 April 9am Holy Week Liturgy - Stations of the Cross	Monday 29 April 9.15am Easter Liturgy - Resurrection 11.30am ANZAC Day Service
Tuesday 9 April 9am Holy Week Liturgy - Holy Thursday Last Supper	Friday 12 April Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day	Monday 29 April TERM 1 COMMENCES FOR ALL STUDENTS
View School Calendar		



**MUFTI DAY
AND
EASTER EGG DONATIONS
THIS FRIDAY 5 APRIL**



Morning Safety

Of a morning when the children enter the playground, they are required not to go outside the gate for any reason.

Please remind your child/children that if a ball goes outside the fence, it is important for their safety that they do not go and retrieve it. If they advise the teacher on duty, the ball can be collected by an adult.





Enrolments Open

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 now open for enrolments.

Mid year enrolments for 2019 are available for selected grades, please do not hesitate to enquire about availability.

Enrolment packs are available at the school office or you are able to [download](#) them from our website.

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.



Medical Plans

If your child has a medical condition it is always a good idea over the holiday period to have their medical plan updated if it is due.

Those with Asthma, Anaphylaxis or Allergies are required to have a plan signed off by their Doctor.

We have blank coloured templates here in the office if you require one.



Change of Details

It is very important that you notify us if you have changed address, obtained a new phone number or if any of the emergency contacts listed for your child have changed.

Fees statements are sent directly from head office, so it is important that your address is correct on our system. If in case of an emergency and we need to contact parents or other relatives, it is extremely important that phone numbers are always up to date.





PBS4L Focus: I will respect myself and others

Colossians 4:6

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Examples:

- Using kind words
- Positive tone
- Respectful language
- Looking at the person when speaking
- Responding respectfully
- Following instructions as directed



Matt 5: 14-16

"You are like a light for the whole world... Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do."

Jesus challenges us to always try our best so we can reach our full potential and help others reach theirs.

We show active listening when we:

- Listen with our eyes and our ears
- Repeat what someone said back to them to ensure we have heard them correctly
- Nod our head or give them a thumbs up to show them that we have understand what they are saying



Examples

Please may I borrow your pencil?
Thank you for lending me your pencil.
Excuse me may I move past you?

Non-examples

Snatching equipment off someone using it
Pushing past others in a doorway
Demanding to use other people's property "Give me the sharpener"





Congratulations Award Recipients

Be a Learner

Isaac Fisher
Darcy Skinner
Zoe Taylor
Matthew Christie
Mitchell Cremona
Ava Lorking
Matilda Maunders
Elias McCaffery
Cooper Monaco
Jed Berben

Living Our Faith in Daily Life

Aurora Wade
Jessy Burgess
Briar-Rose Wade
Katia Apps
Dan Breen



Be Safe

William Moore
Rhys Loughman
Alexander Simpson
Olivia Caetan
Amber Goodlace
Jack Ambrosoli
Ethan Cameron
Hugo Bastoli

Be Respectful

Oscar Borg
Keira Clifford
Emma Seaman
Hope Greenem
Ellie Taylor
Bronagh McKeown
Joshua Simone
James Naude
Gabriele Larsen



Important Announcements



School Fees for Term 1 were due on Friday 29 March 2019.

Fees are payable in accordance with the Diocesan School Fees Policy which states "all fees are due and payable within 30 days of the date the school account statement is issued".

If you need to discuss any issues regarding the school fees, please contact me by phone on 4724 3600 or via email edenham@parra.catholic.edu.au

Thank you

Mrs Denham

Finance Secretary



PBS4L Focus

I will respect myself and others.

From the Office

Notes due in :

- **ICT Agreement** - One form per child
- **Monash University** (K-2)
- **Room on the Broom Excursion** (K-2)

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.

Gateway Family Services

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

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.

