



# St Finbar's Primary School

*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*



Newsletter | Term 1 Week 8 | 21 March 2019



From The Principal

This week we are nearing the middle of Lent. The gospel last weekend was about the transfiguration of Jesus on top of the mountain. Here, Jesus was joined by Elijah and Moses and it was here that Jesus was revealed to the disciples as the Son of God. God spoke to them and said "This is my Son, whom I have chosen. Listen to Him." Lk9:35

Jesus knew that he was headed for the cross and that his death would shake his followers to the core, so he gave them this vision to strengthen their faith, and encourage them, even as they watched him arrested, tortured and killed.

There is always more to an experience, to an encounter that meets the eye. Just as the disciples had their own eyes opened to the revelation of who Jesus was, we can have our eyes opened in encounters, and God encourages us to see the "more" in the other person. When have your eyes been opened to the full dignity of another person? What is it that sometimes prevents us from seeing the "more"? What types of things get in our way of "staying awake" to see God's glory, just as the apostles did on the mountain with Jesus?

Seeing and listening with the heart enables us to grow in encountering "the more" in others and all creation.

As Pope Francis says,

*"We need to practice the art of listening, which is more than simply hearing. Listening, in communication, is an openness of heart which makes possible that closeness without which genuine spiritual encounter*



cannot occur. Listening helps us to find the right gesture and word, which shows that we are **more than** simply bystanders. Only through such respectful and compassionate listening can we enter the paths of true growth and awaken a yearning for the Christian ideal: **the desire to respond fully to God's love and to bring to fruition what God has sown in our lives.**" (The Joy of the Gospel #171)

Lord,  
Help us to be a people who can take our part in the transfiguration by revealing to others the fullness of their dignity.  
Amen.

Please join us in remembering Father Jolly in our prayers, as he has returned to India to be with his unwell mother. We wish her a speedy recovery and a safe journey for Father Jolly.

Last week our stage three students attended Teen Ranch as a means of developing their leadership skills. I spent half a day with the students and staff on Monday, and I was deeply impressed with the behaviour and attitude of our students. The facilitators also commented on the level of maturity that the students displayed, as well as their willingness to "have a go" at all of the challenges presented to them. Thank you especially to Mr Ticehurst, Mr Tucker, Mrs Maunder and Mrs Robinson for committing to our stage three students and for looking after their needs overnight.

During the week I was visited by Ms Christine Howe, Director of Learning for St Finbar's. We had a robust discussion about learning and assessment and conducted a learning walk. Ms Howe was very impressed with our students and commended us on the deep learning she witnessed at St Finbar's. I might add that the students were very welcoming and open in their conversations, showing our visitor what it means to be a part of St Finbar's community - being safe, being a learner and being respectful.

Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke  
Principal





## Teachers as Learners



Name	Date	Professional Learning
Robyn Clarke, Rebecca Southern, Carolyn Viera	18 - 20th March	Contemporary Learning Frameworks (PBL) - PBL Foundations Academy
Ben Ticehurst	19th March	Principal's Forum - Domestic Violence Special Edition
Robyn Clarke Leanne Brown	26th March	System Leader's Breakfast Meeting RE across the Curriculum
Robyn Clarke Ben Ticehurst Leanne Brown Jemima McLeod Alicia Borg Georgia Hutchins Kim Waldron	27th march	Mathematical Sequences K-2



From the Assistant Principal

This Friday, St Finbar's will be hosting a Lots of Socks Day to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day.

On this day, people all around the world celebrate the lives and achievements of people with Down syndrome, creating a global voice, advocating for the rights, inclusion and wellbeing of people with Down syndrome. Our objective is to raise awareness of Down syndrome in our school setting and to enhance the social and educational inclusion of children with Down syndrome in our school community.

We want to get everyone talking about WDS, so wear your socks...BUT NOT JUST ANY SOCKS...wear official LOTS OF SOCKS logo socks, other brightly coloured socks, long socks, printed socks, 1 sock...maybe even 3 socks for 3 chromosomes.

The choice is yours, but we ask you to join us in wearing something which people will ask you about so that you can tell them all about WDS. It is easy to do, so join in!



During the school day, students will participate in a classroom discussion around inclusion, Down syndrome and acceptance, view a selection of videos to help raise awareness and highlight the importance of being unique, and complete a creative writing piece.

Down Syndrome Australia is made up of eight State and Territory associations providing support, information and resources to people with Down syndrome and their families across the country.

If you would like to support Down Syndrome NSW, click [here](#).

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst  
Assistant Principal



### Thursday Morning Prayer

The Year 6 Mission Leaders will be celebrating a liturgical prayer service, before school, each Thursday morning. We welcome teachers, parents and students to gather with us.

Each week, the Mission Leaders will begin with an **introduction** to help focus the prayer for the day. A **scripture reading** will be read, followed by a short **reflection**. Children will have an opportunity to share **prayers of intercession** and conclude with a whole group **closing prayer**.

Prayer will begin at **8.40am** each **Thursday** outside the **Father Barlow Room**. An announcement will be made on the playground and Mrs Brown will walk those children, who would like to participate, up to the prayer area. Unfortunately, prayer will need to be cancelled if it is wet weather.

Today's prayer focus was on **Harmony Day**. Harmony day celebrates the many different cultures that are part of life in Australia. It is about including and respecting everyone and giving them a sense of belonging. It is a day for all Australians to welcome cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. The message for Harmony Day is that 'everyone belongs'.



### 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](http://www.caritas.org.au)



### Parish Mass

Due to the ill health of Fr Jolly's mother in India, Parish Mass has been cancelled until further notice. Please keep Father Jolly and his loved ones in your constant prayers.

### Altar Server Program

If your child would like to join the St Finbar's altar server program, please fill out the attached [Junior Altar Server](#) note and return to the school office as soon as possible.

Fr Jolly and Peter McMahon will spend some time teaching the children about the role of altar serving and show them what to do during masses. At the conclusion of the training, your child will be placed on a roster to serve both the school and the parish masses.



### Dates for your diary

- **Holy Week Celebrations** - This year our Holy Week liturgical celebrations will be held in Week 11. The following classes will be presenting the different parts of the Easter story;

**Kindergarten** - Palm Sunday - Monday 8th April at 9am

**Stage One** - The Washing of the Feet/Last Supper - Wednesday 10th April at 9am

**Stage Two** - Garden of Gethsemane/Jesus' arrest - Thursday 11th April at 9am

**Stage Three** - The Crucifixion - The Crucifixion -

Yours in Faith

Leanne Brown

Religious Education Coordinator

## NAPLAN 2019

In Week Ten of this term, students in Years Three and Five will sit a practise NAPLAN test. This is to analyse how we will administer the online NAPLAN assessment in Week Three of Term Two. Please see the attached form for more information about the NAPLAN assessment.

[Naplan Letter, Forms and Information Sheet](#)





## Dates To Remember

<b>Saturday 23 March</b> Farewell for the Gott Family <b>2pm</b> in the Parish Hall	<b>Friday 5 April</b> Second Hand Uniform Sale 8:45 morning playground area	<b>Tuesday 9 April</b> Kinder and Stage 1 Excursion Riverside Theatre Room on the Broom
<b>Tuesday 2 April</b> 9am Parish Mass Year 3	<b>Monday 8 April</b> Year 6 Cupcake Stall at Recess	<b>Thursday 11 April</b> 9:15 - 9:45 Holy Week Liturgy Stations of the Cross
<b>Thursday 4 April</b> St Finbar's Cross Country	<b>Tuesday 9 April</b> <b>9am</b> Parish Mass Stage 3 Group A	<b>Friday 12 April</b> Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day

[View School Calendar](#)

## 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, 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.



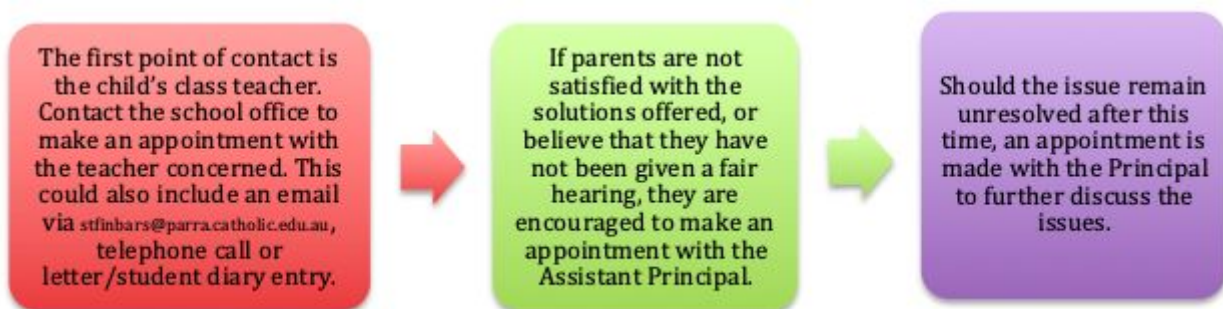


## Complaint Handling Procedures

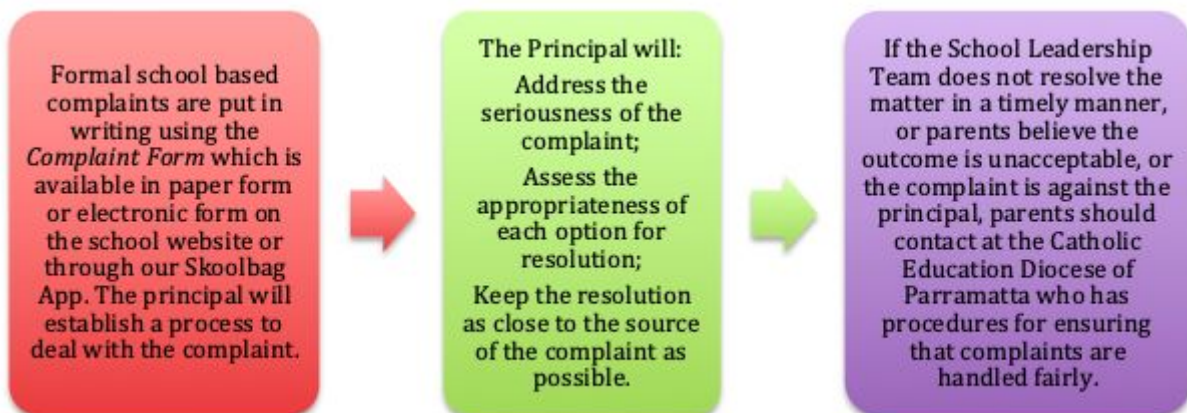
NESA requires all schools to publicise their complaint handling procedures. This is to ensure that parents and other community members know where to go to get information, how to make a complaint, how the complaint will be handled and how the outcome will be communicated to them.

An overview of the process is graphically represented below.

The recommended procedure to be followed by parents for informal complaints



The recommended procedure to be followed by parents for formal complaints



You can view the CEDP Complaints Handling Policy and Procedures [here](#).



## Important Announcements

**School Fees for Term 1 are due Friday 29 March 2019.**

**School  
FEES**

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](mailto:edenham@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Thank you

Mrs Denham  
Finance Secretary

Remember to hand in your Coles Stikeez if you are collecting them for the school. For more info visit : <https://colesstikeez.com.au/>



Remember to collect Woolworths Disney Words in your shop. The school can use these fun tools. <https://www.woolworths.com.au/shop/discover/words?icmpid=sm-hp-top:other:other:marketing>

### PBS4L Focus

I will share equipment and take turns

### From the Office

Notes due in :

- **Cross Country** - One form per child
- **ICT Agreement** - One form per child
- **Monash University** (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.





## 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 0481 150022.



## My School Lunchbox !

This service is available to our students each Wednesday.

The lunches are all fresh and homemade, delivered to St Finbar's in time for lunch.

[Click here to set up an account.](#)

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO AMEND YOUR CHILD'S CLASS FOR 2019 ON THE My Schoollunchbox site.  
This will assist us in sorting the lunches quicker.**

