



Newsletter | Term 4 Week 8 | 3 December 2020



From The Principal

## From the Principal

Last weekend, I attended a wedding. The parents of the bride were from a large, Italian family. There was a lot of excitement prior to the wedding itself - lots of guests whispering and pointing! I asked someone nearby what was going on, and they told me that the father of the bride's brother had shown up to the wedding. The brothers hadn't spoken to each other for nearly twenty years, because of a family rift. When they saw each other, both men broke down and hugged, and forgave each other for

whatever the perceived wrongdoing was that kept them apart. It was a very touching moment to witness, and the bride was beaming, knowing that her family was whole again after so many years. Talk about emotions running high!

Last Sunday we entered into the Liturgical season of Advent. Advent is a time where we prepare for the coming of Jesus. Part of our preparation involves reflecting on things we might have to change in our lives. A kind of spiritual inventory. But we know we don't have to do this alone. We have the Holy Spirit to guide us and to help us search our hearts, so we can have our sins gently revealed to us. This Sunday's gospel describes the important role that John the Baptist played in preparing the way for the Lord. As it was written in Isaiah,

*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,*

*He will prepare your way.*

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:*

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,*

*Make straight his paths."*

John the Baptist knew that sin kept people from God, and he offered them the only remedy to help



them receive Jesus when he came: repentance and forgiveness. It can be hard to say sorry for something we have done wrong, and it is sometimes even harder to forgive someone who has wronged us. Yet, in doing so, we can clear our heart and our conscience so that we are more open to a loving relationship with God.

***Jesus, give me the grace to recognise my sins and to forgive those who have sinned against me. Amen***

## 2021 Staffing Announcement

School Leadership Team	<b>Principal</b>	Mrs Robyn Clarke
	<b>Assistant Principal</b>	Mr Ben Ticehurst
	<b>REC</b>	Mrs Leanne Brown
	<b>Leader of Learning</b>	Mrs Alison Maunder
	<b>Special Projects Coordinator</b>	Mrs Alicia Borg
Early Stage 1	<b>Kinder</b>	Miss Georgia Hutchins / Ms Terese Collins
	<b>SLSO</b>	Mrs Kristie Loughton (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri) Mrs Michelle Robinson (Mon, Wed, Thurs, alternate Friday's) Mrs Julie Wilson (Tues, Wed, Fri)
Stage 1	<b>Year 1</b>	Miss Rebekah Stopford
	<b>Year 2</b>	Mrs Leanne Brown
	<b>SLSO</b>	Mrs Denise Cupitt / Mrs Joanne Leone (Tues – Fri) Mrs Julie Wilson (Monday)
	<b>Stage 1</b>	Mrs Alicia Borg
Stage 2	<b>Year 3</b>	Mr Michael Lo Cascio
	<b>Year 4</b>	Mrs Rebecca Southern
	<b>Stage 2</b>	Mr Ben Ticehurst / Mrs Alison Maunder
	<b>SLSO</b>	Mrs Veronica Lee / Therese Sammut (Wed – Fri) Matthew Zolfel (Mon, Tues)
Stage 3	<b>Year 5</b>	Mr Jonathan Tucker
	<b>Year 6</b>	Mrs Carolyn Viera (Mon – Wed) / Mrs Jemima McLeod (Thurs, Friday)
	<b>SLSO</b>	Mrs Louise Corby (Monday – Friday)
Specialist Staff	<b>Diversity</b>	Mrs Jo-Ann Shean
	<b>Executive Release Years 2 &amp; 4</b>	Mrs Amber Baines / Mrs Natalie Platt (currently on maternity leave)



	<b>RFF teachers</b>	Mrs Judy Frazer / Ms Taylor Laporte / (Music TBA)
	<b>Library</b>	Mrs Sara Berger
	<b>Administration</b>	Mrs Donna Beukers (Alternate Monday's & Tues, Wed, Thurs, Friday) Mrs Liz Denham (Tues, Wed, Thurs & Alternate Friday's) Mrs Tracey Procter (Monday) Mrs Fran Pietersma (Monday and Friday)
	<b>Maintenance</b>	Mr Mathew Sharp
	<b>Counsellor</b>	Mr Jae McCarron
	<b>IT Support</b>	Mr Samuel Lewis

## Cuppa with the Principal

With some covid restrictions still ruling our lives, I have been very concerned over communication (or lack of) with parents. I know that teachers have managed to continue communicating with you, via Skoolbag, Google Classrooms or good old fashioned phone calls! However, I feel that I haven't had the chance to touch base with parents to see how you are going.

I will be holding the final "Cuppa with the Principal" session for this term via zoom. The final session will take place on Friday 4th December (week eight), from 10:30am until 11am. It would be lovely to catch up with anyone that can join me for a chat prior to the holidays.

### ***Parent Testimonial***

*I was really pleased to see the invitation for 'A Cuppa with the Principal' on Skoolbag last week. Not only was it an opportunity to pause my own work for half an hour and have a cup of coffee (like many, I have been working from home most of this year since the onset of COVID-19), but it was also a chance to have chat with Mrs Clarke and catch up on things at our school. I miss the playground chats with the parents and teachers and the chance to 'get a feel' for what's going on more generally at school. While we are kept regularly informed about various events at school, it's not the same as a face-to-face catch up or those impromptu conversations. What I really enjoyed though, was just having a chat to Mrs Clarke more generally about 'off school' topics and getting to know her a bit more as a person. We both share a love of jacarandas and it was interesting to compare our experiences of work this year, me with home working and Robyn with most of the year spent back at school. Sometimes, with us all so busy in our own lives and our circumstances, our default position is to slide into the roles we take on as parent/teacher or parent/principal in this school environment, so we can forget there are actual people behind these roles (on both counts) and it was great to share a bit more of myself and learn more about Mrs Clarke, just as people. I'll definitely be zooming in again soon for this weekly catch-up! Thanks Robyn.*

Anyone is welcome to attend one or any of these sessions. There is no need to book in a time or day... simply log in and join myself and other parents for a cup of tea or coffee, and a catch up.





I look forward to meeting with anyone who would like to join in.

The zoom link can be found [here](#)

Our students will still take part in a "promotions" afternoon, where they visit their next year's classroom and meet their teacher for 2021. This will occur on Thursday, December 10. **If your child/ren are not returning to St Finbar's in 2021, please see the article below for further information.**

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke

Principal



On Friday of Week 9, you will receive your child's Semester 2 Learning Report via the Compass Portal. This report contains information about your child's achievement, effort and application and their behaviour under our framework of being a safe, respectful learner.

In addition to the school report, parents of students in Years 2 - 6 will also receive a copy of their child's ACER Reading and Numeracy Assessments. These assessments take place in all schools in our diocese, to help leaders, teachers and students track growth and performance using a national norm referenced test.

As these reports are quite different to our school reports, I wanted to have an opportunity to explain to you how to read these reports and provide parents and students with an opportunity to transform this information into knowledge and ultimately into constructive action.

You can access a youtube clip [here](#) of me explaining how to read the PAT Reading and PAT Maths Reports. You can also find out more information about the ACER PAT Tests [here](#).

If you would like to discuss aspects of your child's report, parents can contact the office to make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher in week 10.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst

Assistant Principal



### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DRAFT NEW CURRICULUM UPDATE STAGE TWO

Stage 2 has been examining the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit and the role they play in their lives.

The students have been working in small groups to prepare and explain one of the fruits AND gifts of the Holy Spirit. Their driving question for this mini project was: The Holy Spirit gives us so much. The students were required to tell the teachers and their peers about their chosen fruit and gift of the Holy Spirit, with a time limit of 25-40 seconds. The students have

really enjoyed this challenge, and reflected on how they are called to act in ways that the Holy Spirit calls on us.

### STAGE THREE

Stage 3 has been discussing the possible answers to their driving question: "How do we find Hope and Joy?".

Their investigations have led them to more clearly define what the words Hope and Joy mean with reference to Catholic Traditions. This has resulted in the conclusion that they can only truly experience Hope and Joy, when they have placed God into the centre of their lives. Further exploration of the Parable of the Sower has led them to see that humans can only flourish when they respond fully to the relationship being offered to them through Jesus. Their call to action will be how they can help others find Hope and Joy.



### CHRISTMAS CONCERT | MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER

Next Monday we will come together to celebrate our Christmas Concert. A note went home to all students on Wednesday outlining the events for the evening. This note was also sent via Skoolbag. Click on this link to view the note. [Christmas Note](#)

We look forward to celebrating this special occasion with our families. Please remember to remain in your family bubble when positioning yourself on the courts.





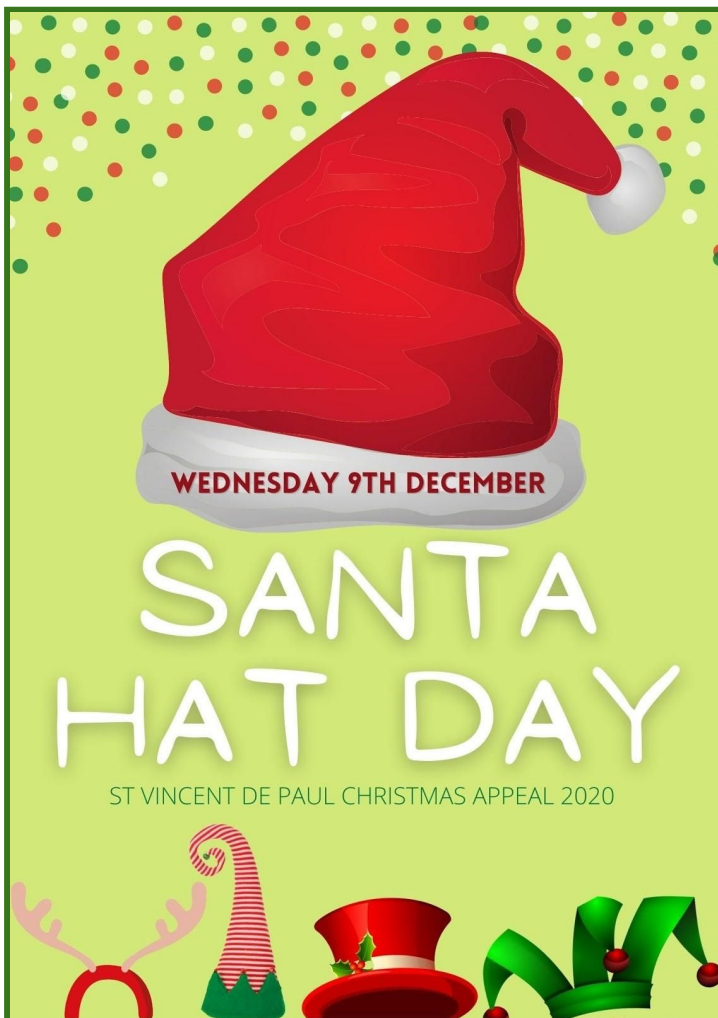
### **SANTA HAT DAY | WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER**

This year for our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal, we are having another fun **Santa Hat Day!**

Students are able to wear a santa hat, reindeer antlers and elf hats to school.

We ask that students bring in a non perishable item/s to add to our Christmas hampers. Each grade has been allocated suggested items so the hampers can be made full of goodies which will help make this joyful season brighter for those in need.

If families would like to donate gift cards for places like Coles, Woolworths or Bunnings, these can also be included in the hampers.







### ST FINBAR'S PARISH CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL

Last year, many families from our school came together at our parish Christmas Eve Vigil to celebrate the joyous birth of Jesus. Students dressed as figures representative of the scene of the nativity, including angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph and the three wise men.

We invite our students and families to do the same this Christmas Eve. Students are asked to arrive in dress and meet Mrs Brown at the back of the church. Here, they will each be given a candle that they will place by the crib in the church's nativity scene, after communion. Please extend the invitation to cousins, friends and neighbours, as we join together in celebrating the spirit, meaning and miracle of Christmas. It is recommended that parishioners wear masks during Mass.

Christmas Eve Vigil commences at **7pm**.

Midnight Mass at 11.30pm commencing with carols. Mass begins at 12am.

Christmas morning Mass at 8.30am.

Strength, love and peace,

Leanne Brown

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

### FAITH IN ACTION

The FIAT team would like to thank everyone for their generous donation of books. The books are to be delivered to the Save the Children organisation next week where they will be distributed for Christmas.

Mrs Borg and the FIAT Team

## Dates To Remember

<b>Friday 4 December</b> Year 6 AMF Bowling Day Out	<b>Monday 7 December</b> Christmas Concert 6pm - 7:30pm	<b>Thursday 10 December</b> 2021 Class Promotion Afternoon	<b>Friday 11 December</b> Semester 2 Reports Distributed
<b>Monday 14 December</b> End of Year Mass Year 6 Only 9:15am	<b>Tuesday 15 December</b> Swimming Carnival	<b>Wednesday 16 December</b> <b>END OF TERM 4</b>	

Our 2021 Calendar is now available. [View School Calendar](#). Use the  to add our calendar to your Google Calendar. It is also available on Skoolbag.



## 2021 MAI / EYA Interview Bookings

Commencing on **Thursday 28 January to Friday 29 January 2021**, students will be required to book an interview time to meet with their 2021 teacher. These interviews will provide teachers with important information about your child's level of understanding in numeracy and for students in Kindergarten to Year 1, literacy.

The dates for Kindergarten, Year 1 & 2, and Years 3 – 6 are varied, so please [click here](#) for further information that will need to be taken into consideration.

These are student only appointments and parents are not required to attend. Due to current COVID restrictions, parents can only enter the school grounds and wait at the office area. A waiting area will be provided, if you wish to wait on site. Parents must ensure they are only on site for the allocated time. If you do go off site, please ensure you return for the finishing time.

To make a booking, please go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and use the booking code **e7rs4**

Bookings are now open and will close on Thursday, 21 January, 2021.

## Commonwealth Student Banking

Unfortunately the student banking program will not be continuing in 2021. Due to Covid, it became difficult to continue the program. St Finbar's is also transitioning towards being a cashless school.

If your child has ten tokens at home and they wish to claim a reward, please send them in to school before Tuesday 8th December.

Thank you for your understanding and support of the Commonwealth Student Banking program over the years.



## Are you leaving St Finbar's in 2021?



If you are intending on leaving St Finbar's at the end of 2020, you must inform us in writing. In order to avoid being charged Term One school fees, we require a terms notice.





## Executive Directors Summer Reading Challenge

These summer holidays, I am again launching my Summer Reading Challenge and encouraging all students to read, read, read!

Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it's a comic, play, a piece of poetry, book, e-book or animated novel.



Taking part in the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge is easy! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it. The more a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of two Chromebooks or one of 30 runner-up gift vouchers to the value of \$30. Students can enter [online](#) by visiting the CEDP website.

**Entries open on 23 November 2020 and close at 5:00pm on 1 February 2021.** Terms and Conditions can be found [here](#).

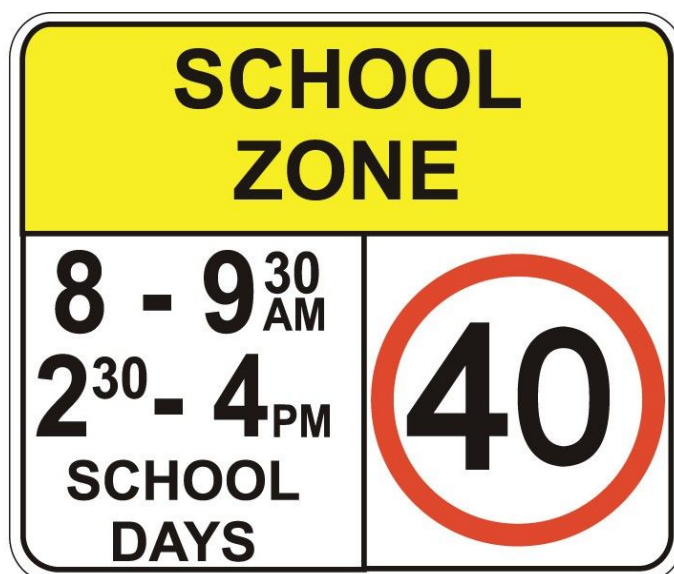
## Road Safety

As the year is coming to a close, we are noticing excitement building with the children and parents with appointments to be at and time schedules to keep.

This is a timely reminder to please be aware of the school zone speed limits as well as any children that are crossing the road.

[Attached](#) is road safety information provided by NSW Government.

School Zone information is also [attached](#).





## Swimming Carnival - Tuesday 15 December

Families are reminded to complete the Swimming Carnival Permission Form on Skoolbag. Every family will need to complete a permission form for their children to be able to attend.

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to assist on the day. As mentioned in the letter sent out last Thursday, only parents who are a part of our Covid Safe Plan (Parent volunteers) are able to attend.



### Volunteers

Michele O'Callaghan  
Claire Lewis  
Xanthie Scott  
Bianca Alderton  
Ginny Spence  
Alison Howard  
Meredith Hetherington

Gabrielle Parish  
Florence Moutsos  
Johann Engelbrecht  
Emma McKenna  
Jody Cremona  
Laura Buggy  
Emma Andres

Victoria Good  
Michelle Wilson  
Annissa Nilsson  
Terence Capuyan  
Daniel Lynch

## School Fees

### School fees due – Friday 18 December 2020

If you have paid your School Fees account, Thank you. 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)

*School*  
F E E S

## End of Year Payments

Due to end of year procedures, we will be unable to accept any payments after Tuesday 8th December. All receipting will be closed off on the afternoon of the 8th.



## School Opal Cards

Applications for the 2021 School Opal Card are now open.

A new or updated application for school travel passes is only needed when a student is:

- applying for a school travel pass for the first time;
- requesting an additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (eg joint custody);
- changing school or campus;
- changing home address;
- receiving an expiry notification;
- repeating a school year;
- changing their name or requesting a new transport operator.



This means students who are progressing to Year 3 and Year 7 only need to reapply if they are changing circumstances.

To apply or update your child's details visit [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students).

Applications need to be submitted before the end of Term 4. School Opal Cards will be mailed out to the student's nominated postal address from January 2021.

If you don't have access to the internet, phone 131 500 for assistance.

## 2021 School Start Dates

Thursday 28th January	MAI   EYA Testing Day
Friday 29th January	MAI   EYA Testing Day
<b>Friday 29th January</b>	<b>Years 3 - 6 Commence classes 8:57am</b>
<b>Monday 1st February</b>	<b>Years 1 - 2 Commence classes 8:57am</b>
<b>Monday 1st February</b>	<b>Kinder Commence classes 9:30am</b>

To make a booking for MAI | EYA Interviews, please go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and use

**Booking Code e7rs4**

More information regarding these dates can be found [here](#).





## 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.



## Covid-19 Guidelines for Church

### **WEARING OF FACE MASKS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED IN CHURCHES**

✓ *The Parramatta Diocese is therefore officially recommending that all worshippers in the Diocese of Parramatta wear a mask to Mass. This would be as people arrive on parish grounds, during Mass and afterwards as they leave. During Communion, the mask may be removed, but it should be in place at all other times.*

✓ *Priests, cantors and readers who cannot wear a mask to conduct their duties at Mass, must always observe appropriate social distancing.*

✓ *We understand the inconvenience that masks may pose, but the health of our parishioners and the wider community is our highest concern.*

By Public Health Order, it is now a condition of entry that all attending churches are requested to provide information for contact tracing and recording purposes.

- Parishioners attending Mass must now also be asked to confirm that they are not unwell; not experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms; do not have a temperature; have not been in contact with anyone suspected of or having covid-19.

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**If anyone thinks their answer is 'yes' to any of these questions, they are asked not to come to the church that day.**

- NSW Health also remind those of us over 70, or any with an underlying illness, wherever possible, we should avoid crowded spaces - where 1.5 metre physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- The Diocese has also sent a reminder that:
  1. the current dispensation from Bishop Vincent applies – releasing all Catholics from fulfilling their Sunday obligations of attending Mass; and
  2. details pertaining to pre-recorded and/or live-streaming online Masses can be found on the Diocesan website - <https://www.parracatholic.org/covid19>