



From the Principal

This week we begin reflecting on the events of Holy Week. Each year, the commemoration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus intertwines with our life experience in a different way, drawing us more deeply into this great mystery of our faith while moulding us into women and men who resemble Jesus. After a year living with the global pandemic, we can draw on our own experiences to develop a greater understanding of the Passion of Jesus.

At times, we may have found ourselves confined and having to limit our movements in order to protect others and ourselves from the coronavirus pandemic. We may have found ourselves confined to our house. Here, we can think of our quiet and repetitive daily lives as a waste of precious time or as an opportunity to rediscover the deeper dimensions of our faith. During this Holy Week and Easter season, are we open to the possibility that a transformation might take place in our room, similar to the transformation that the disciples of Jesus experienced in the Upper Room?

The Upper Room was the place where the greatest drama in human history was played out. For the disciples of Jesus, it was the place of the Last Supper. The place where they hid in fear after the death of Jesus. The place where they encountered the Risen Christ. The place where they welcomed the Holy Spirit and the Church was born. That Upper Room became not just a life-changing experience for the disciples, but also a world-changing experience for all humanity.

It is all there in the Upper Room: on the one hand, the shadows – jealousy, betrayal, fear and angst – and on the other hand, the light trying to break through – trust, service, healing and hope.



As we finish Term one, I thank all of our families for your commitment to keeping the light alive, and sharing the light with others who may need it. I wish all of you a happy and safe vacation break, and we will gather together on Monday of week one to celebrate the risen Christ.



In 2016 I was privileged to be on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This photo shows the inside of the Upper Room in Jerusalem.

Staff Changes for Term Two

At the beginning of Term Two, Ms Terese Collins will be taking two weeks long service leave as she is about to become a grandmother very soon. We pray that Ms Collins' daughter has a safe delivery and that the family enjoy their time caring for their new arrival. Ms Collins will be replaced during this period by Ms Ella Youngman (Monday and Friday) and Mrs. Liz Lewis (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday).

After much deliberation, Mrs Leanne Brown has decided to step down from her role of Religious Education Coordinator. We have been blessed to have had Mrs Brown in this role for the past two and a half years, and her dedicated contribution to the religious curriculum and spiritual formation of students, staff and families has been outstanding. We wish Leanne all the best, and we are pleased that she will continue in her classroom teaching role in Stage One. A recruitment process has begun for assigning a Religious Education Coordinator (temporary) for Term Two.

Mrs Judy Frazer will be taking leave for all of Term Two as she cares for unwell family members, and attends to her own health and recovery from surgery. We wish Judy a speedy recovery and hope she will rest up and be ready to join us again in Term Three. The position for a temporary Creative Arts teacher has been advertised and recruitment will occur during the school holidays.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal



Mr. Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Outstanding Swimming Results

I would like to congratulate Joe and Daniel Engelbrecht for their outstanding achievements in swimming this term. They have placed 1st and 2nd in both the 50m freestyle and backstroke events at the Zone and Diocesan Carnivals.

They have progressed, this year, through to the highest level possible. Unfortunately, with no National Championships this

year their last meet will be the All Schools State Swimming Finals that are on today.

Congratulations Joe and Daniel on your achievements. We are all very proud of you.



Simmons Collective

Last week, the Simmons Collective participated in Round 1 of the 2021 Bebras Challenge. The Bebras challenge is an international initiative aiming to promote Informatics and Computational Thinking among students. The Bebras Challenge is run in up to 60 countries with over 1.6 million students participating worldwide!

Students participated in teams, and individually, to practise their critical thinking and problem solving skills. Each challenge consisted of 15 questions, broken into 3 levels, with all students striving for their personal best and the hope of getting onto the international honour roll.

Despite not getting on to the elusive honour roll, our Simmons Collective scored an incredible result of 4 High Distinctions, 3 Credits and 7 Merits.

The Simmons Collective is a selective program, targeted to develop and challenge students that have been identified through a range of diagnostic assessment. These assessments are used each year, as a part of our normal testing, to assess each learner's ability in Mathematics (PAT Maths), Reading (PAT-R) and their general abilities (AGAT).





The program is proudly named after Professor Michelle Yvonne Simmons, the 2018 Australian of the Year. She is a role model who demonstrates that it is important to believe in yourself and be proud of who you are, that thinking differently is invaluable, and that all young people, male or female, should pursue what they love, set their heights high, tackle the hardest challenges in life and be creators, not just users, of technology.

Her 4 mantras are:

Do what is hard; Place high expectations on yourself; Take risks; and Do something that matters.

Professor Simmons asks young people to be proud of their country and where they are from, know that reward comes from hard work, and sometimes the biggest rewards come from the hardest challenges.

The Simmons Collective Program is designed to prepare students with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in the workforce of tomorrow. As a part of this program, they participate in the Bebras Challenge.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal



HOLY WEEK

Throughout this week our classes have been gathering together for prayer and reflection, remembering the significant events of Holy Week.

Each stage set up beautiful prayer experiences, with signs and symbols reflecting the different parts of the Easter Story. Each day the students were involved in a different prayer opportunity, such as journaling about the important people in their lives, recording prayers and petitions on sticks to place in the garden, and sharing bread and grapes as a class, as the Last Supper

was reenacted.

The students will participate in a journey around the church today, as Stage 3 leads our classes in the Stations of the Cross.



We will celebrate the Resurrection when we return to school on Monday 19th April. This whole school liturgy will take place in the Parish Hall and commence at 10.30am. (Please note this is a time change from the previous newsletter). Parents wishing to attend are required to register [using this link](#). Due to COVID numbers are still restricted.



PARISH NEWS

EASTER MASS TIMES

Friday 2nd April | 10.00am Stations of the Cross
3.00pm The Lord's Passion

Saturday 3rd April | 7.00pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 4th April | 7.30am Mass
9.30am Mass

CELEBRATING PARISH MASS

Please note the date your child's class will be attending Parish Mass on a Friday next term. Mass begins at 9am. We warmly invite all parents, carers and family members to join us. Family members are invited to sit with their children during Parish Mass.



Kinder & Stage Three	Stage Two	Stage One	Kinder & Stage Three	Stage Two	Stage One
23rd April Week 1	30th April Week 2	21st May Week 5	28th May Week 6	4th June Week 7	18th June Week 9

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR | TERM TWO

Monday 19th April | Easter Liturgy 10.30am

Monday 26th April | ANZAC Day Service 10.30am

Friday 8th May | Mother's Day Breakfast 8.15 am and Mass 9.00am

Friday 15th May | International Day of Families Picnic Lunch and Prayer 1.30pm

Yours in faith,

Leanne Brown

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Dates To Remember

Thursday 1 April	Last Day of Term One
Monday 19th April	All students return for Term Two
Monday 19th April	Easter Liturgy – Bookings required via this link
Monday 26th April	ANZAC Day Ceremony 10:30am

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.



St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge

Enrolments Open



Now Enrolling



Enrolments are now open for 2022. If you require an enrolment pack for your child, please do not hesitate to contact us in the office on 4724 3600 or send us an email stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au and we can arrange a pack for you.

If you have family or friends that have a child ready for school, please pass on our details and let them know enrolments are now open. We have regular tours booked throughout the year. Due to limited places, tours need to be booked through the school office. [Click here](#) to submit your Expression of Interest and we will contact you.

Enrolments for 2021 in grades K-6 are limited, however, we welcome your enquiry

Enrol Now
Discover Your Potential

St Finbar's Primary School Glenbrook
02 4724 3600 | stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au

Winter School Uniform

Term Two will see the students transition into Winter uniform. Given the weather is still quite unpredictable, students are allowed to wear either Summer or Winter uniform for the first two weeks of term. From week three, all students are expected to be in full Winter school uniform.

If you are unsure of what the Winter uniform is, follow this [link](#) to The School Locker. All orders are to be placed online. Delivery is free if delivered to the school. However, we do not recommend this over the holidays.

Samples sizes for all uniform items are available in the school office. Please phone us to arrange a suitable time to try uniforms on.



Award Congratulations

Congratulations to all of our award recipients for Term One so far.

Being Safe | Malachi Matthews, Josh Shouha, Lara Crameri, Marley Boyall, Emma Seaman, Jack Kay

Be A Learner | Phoenix Eggins, Leia Agahari, Adele Taylor, Callan Loughman, Abigail Stanford, Gus Berben, Rachita Pathak, William Okaro, Elias Capuyan, Sofia Cavanagh, James Howard, Edward McCaffery, Jessy Burgess, Rachel Martland, Liam McFadden, James Borg, Isla Reece, Ethan Andres, Christian Simpson

Being Respectful | Ellie Taylor, Mitchell Cremona, Wentworth Don-Wakefield, Lillian Bastoli, Frank McKeown, Lilliana Hayek, Stacey Naude, Abigail Hassett, Eloise Scott, Nathan Penny

Living Our Faith in Daily Life | Isobel Reece, Darcy Waring, Jayden Katsantonis, Zoe Wilson, Alexander Simpson, Charlotte Simpson, Stella Wilson, Juliette Lynch



Child Safety Handbook

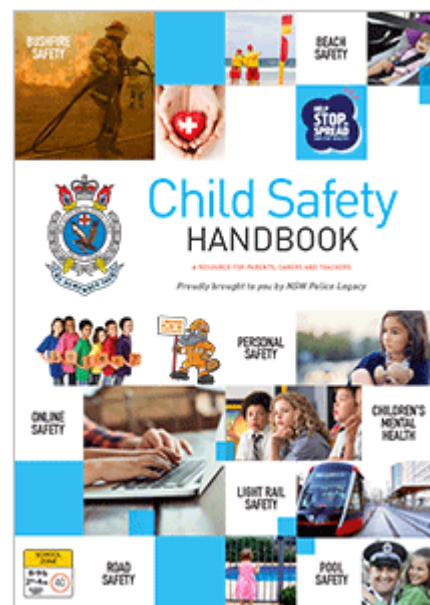


NSW Police Legacy have shared with us their Child Safety Handbook.

The *Handbook's* emphasis is on prevention. Our children are precious and all of us who live and work with them will find information in the *Handbook* useful to keep them safe.

A link to the digital version is can be found [here](#).

There are some great resources in this handbook as well as quick reference guides.





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.

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.

Current Covid-19 Guidelines for Church in The Barra