



Mrs. Robyn Clarke
Principal

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have been touching base with parents and staff this week, and it seems like there is a general feeling of having had enough. Enough of home learning, enough of the bad news each day at the press conferences, enough of being in lockdown. It's perfectly natural to feel disheartened and to wonder when will our lives ever be able to get back to normal. Rest assured parents, you are doing an

amazing job! You may not think so, and the responsibilities on your shoulders right now might seem staggering. But take heart. God doesn't send us any trial that we can't overcome. Tomorrow is the feast of the Transfiguration.

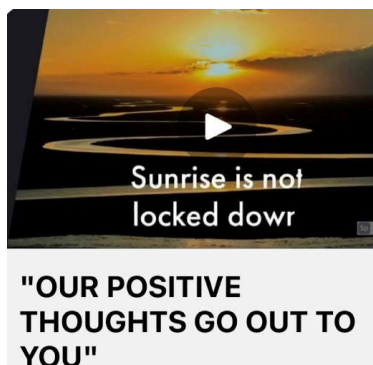
"There he was **transfigured** before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead." Mark 9:2-9

Jesus orchestrated this miraculous occurrence because he realised that the disciples were completely overwhelmed by the previous events... namely that he had revealed his destiny to them. They were reeling from the news that Jesus was going to leave them, and Jesus needed to unite them in a common purpose, and to realise that God had a plan which would be revealed soon.

Perhaps when we become overwhelmed and feel that it is all too much for us right now, we need to



remember that God has a higher purpose for us. He will never give us more than we can bear. And he is constantly showing us signs of his glory. We just need to keep an eye out for them!



This video clip was shared with us recently. [Click here](#) to view.

Covid updates

With the recent resurgence of covid cases in NSW, there have been some changes that families need to be aware of.

- If your child is unwell and presenting with a cough, runny nose, temperature etc. please ensure that they have a covid test. If the test is negative, please send the results via email to stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au Parents will be contacted if students are presenting with these symptoms at school.
 - Runny nose
 - Persistent cough
 - High temperature
 - Loss of taste
 - Loss of smell
- If parents choose not to get a covid test for their child, the child must stay at home for a period of ten days, and be symptom free for three days before they can return to school. This requirement will continue after lockdown is lifted.
- If a doctor says a covid test is not necessary, a medical certificate will be required to say that the child is fit for school and that the illness is not covid related. This requirement will continue after lockdown is lifted.
- All teachers onsite must wear masks inside until further notice. It is recommended that parents do not enter the school grounds during this lockdown period. We currently have a very limited number of staff on-site to supervise the few children who have no other option but to attend school. If you find your situation has changed, please call the office or email so that we can ensure that supervision ratios are maintained.
- If parents or carers need to come to the front office, please call ahead and speak to a member of



our office staff. They will provide you with directions for coming onsite (QR code sign in, mask requirements, social distancing).

- We have asked children who are attending school because there is no other option for supervision to bring a mask in a ziplock bag. This would be used if there were multiple children presenting to sick bay, or if a student was working 1:1 in a small break out area with an adult.
- Any parent or relative of students who are currently presenting at school must notify us immediately if they have been a casual or close contact of someone with covid. Please follow the [NSW Health website](#) for updates on affected areas.

Thank you for your ongoing support of these measures. As always, we appreciate all you are doing to support us to ensure that our children and staff are safe.

Thank you!

On behalf of the staff and P&F of St Finbar's, I'd like to thank all of our helpers at our Athletics Carnival last term. Without your support, running these events would be difficult to manage. Thank you to all who volunteered for canteen and cooking duty. Thank you also to Sport In Schools Australia, who coordinated all of the novelty events. We had a brilliant day, and I am so grateful that we were able to create such great memories before lockdown! Great memories below of the Bingo night held last term also.



May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal



Mr. Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

From the Assistant Principal

I couldn't imagine spending all of your young adult life preparing for an event that you might only get one shot at. Even worse, I couldn't imagine, after all the pain and hours of training, finally making it to the summit only to be disqualified for jumping out of the blocks too early. Sometimes the difference between staying in the race or being disqualified comes down to a tenth of a second.

It's no surprise then that rule 167.2 is unpopular. Immediate disqualification seems unduly harsh. I tend to agree, it seems harsh. No second chances if your reaction time was too



quick. However, it is not the rule that I want to focus on. Rules are rules and they need to be followed and accepted if you want to participate in the race. It is the way these athletes react to that soul destroying black and red card.

Standing at their blocks, after knowing they had broken early, they accept the decision and walk from the track. I am so impressed by their composure, despite the tornado of emotions that would be raging inside. How they can recognise their mistake, their sudden fall from the summit that they had spent years climbing to reach, and gracefully leave their mark. I couldn't imagine that hurt.

As my family and I have been watching the Tokyo Olympics, I couldn't help but think of the times I have seen my own children "spit the dummy" when something hasn't gone their way. Of course, this was way back when they were toddlers and now they are perfect.... I also couldn't help but reflect on the nearly 2000 children I have taught over the last 22 years, in both Primary and Secondary settings, that some at some point have got upset by a decision.

Cate Cambell spoke to the media after her Bronze Medal in the 100 Freestyle. She reflected on the previous 13 years, when she last won an individual medal at the Olympics. She said, "What's important is how you handle yourself when times are challenging, not how you are when everything is good."

At the moment we are all going through extraordinary times. We are all being challenged in different ways. What I would encourage each and every one of us to do is, to look for the positives in your days. Reflect on how well you have handled the different challenges you are faced with at the moment. Because, who you are at the moment is going to make you even better when things are all good again in the future. You might feel like sometimes you are being given the dreadful black and red card. That what you had hoped to be didn't turn out. Just like the athletes on the track. Take a breath. Go for a walk. And come back bigger and better because of the experience.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal



Mr. Michael Lo Cascio
Liturgy Coordinator



From the RE Coordinator

This weekend (August 8) we celebrate the Feast Day of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, Australia's first saint. During these times of lockdown we can relate to the life that St Mary Mackillop lived, she ensured that others are put before ourselves. Although challenges were faced throughout her life, St Mary sought to ensure that those around her were always looked after.

She was key in creating the Sisters of St Joseph in Australia, as well as establishing schools for children so they could access an education. This is especially important as the Sisters of St Joseph were key in creating our school community. More than 110 years on, we still look to St Mary Mackillop for guidance in our lives, and hope that we can live a life of faith and courage.

Ever generous God,

You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop To live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and constant in bringing hope and encouragement to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.

With confidence in your generous providence and through the intercession of Saint Mary MacKillop

We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh by the Holy Spirit so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live with courage

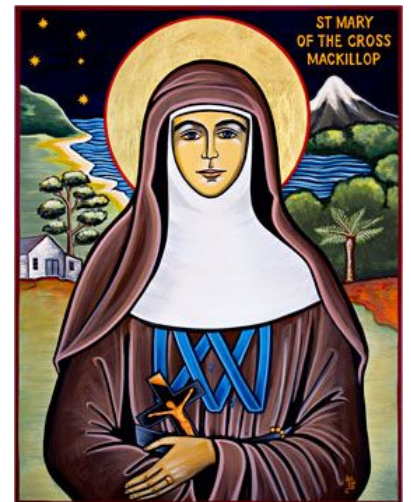
*We ask this through Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

St Mary MacKillop (Pray for Us)

Amen

Yours in Christ,

Michael Lo Cascio
Acting Religious Education Coordinator



Term 3 School Fee Statements

Term 3 Instalments have been mailed out. If you have not received your fee statement in the mail,



please let us know so we can follow that up.

As always if you require financial support, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Clarke via email finb-glbfees@parra.catholic.edu.au or phone the school office on 4724 3600. All conversations will remain strictly confidential. Communication from CEDP is attached [here](#) with further information.

Thank You
Mrs Denham

Parish News

[Click this link to read The Parish Barra](#)

[Saturday Night Vigil Mass](#)

At present due to Covid, Parish Mass is live streamed.

Dear Parishioners,

Please note that Father Joe has just purchased a ZOOM license so he will move from GOOGLE MEET to ZOOM Video Meeting for the upcoming events.

Visit the [Parish website](#) to access all links.

