



Newsletter | Term 3 Week 6 | 19 August 2021



Mrs. Robyn Clarke  
Principal

## From the Principal

Last week, Father Joe asked me to write the daily reflection for the parish. I thought it might be possible to share it here with our families too.

Matthew 19:23-24

Jesus said to his disciples, "Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again, I say to you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God."

A camel passing through the eye of a needle? That's impossible, if you think of it in the literal sense. However, if you were to look at it from a linguistic perspective, it becomes clear that Jesus meant it would not be impossible, just difficult.

The Aramaic word for "rope," *kamilon*, was almost identical to the Greek word for "camel," *kamelon*, which appears in the verse. Some scholars say that the word was misspelled, and so Jesus may have been making an analogy to threading a thick rope through the eye of a needle, not a large animal. In other words, He may have been referring to something extremely difficult, but not impossible. Other commentators suggest that, at that time, there was a type of small gate called a needle. Camels were used to transport goods, so they were bulky. Trying to fit a camel through a small gate would be pretty difficult, but not impossible.

There are several potential explanations for what camels and needles could have meant in Biblical times. However, all of them point to the same lesson: Jesus said that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for a rich person to enter His Kingdom.



If you're reading this and thinking of the rich as billionaires who lead Fortune 500 companies, you may need to rethink your idea of wealth. Worldwide statistics show that, in fact, you are probably one of the world's wealthiest people. According to a paper from the World Bank in 2012, if you make more than \$50,000 annually, you are in the global 1 percent. Now, compared to others in your geographic area, you might consider yourself to be middle class. But if you know how to read and write, if your home has electricity, and if the device on which you are reading this article belongs to you, chances are that you are in the top tier of the world's most wealthy people.

What is clear, is that Jesus wanted his disciples to understand that the people who will be welcomed into God's kingdom will not be chosen according to the world's criteria for success. In Jesus' new order, class, wealth, status, power, position, and influence play no part, and will not guarantee someone a place in heaven. Instead, Jesus set new criteria, based on love, compassion, forgiveness, repentance, and humility.

Living with the current pandemic is a great leveller. Covid-19 does not discriminate between wealthy or poor, the powerful or the weak. Anyone can be susceptible to catching it, regardless of their status in life. We might be finding life difficult right now, with restrictions and rules guiding our daily lives. We might be asking ourselves why this is happening in our world at this time. We might also be wondering why God would put us through such a difficult experience. The thing is, God only gives us what He knows we can handle. Whatever happens, we are all God's children, and he wants us to be with Him in His Kingdom eventually. It might seem to be a little difficult right now, but it's not impossible.

*Jesus, you gave us your vision for the Kingdom of God. Help us to see ourselves as you see us, and to be worthy to one day enter into your kingdom. Amen*

## 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](mailto: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 and outside 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.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke  
Principal







Mr. Ben Ticehurst  
Assistant Principal

## From the Assistant Principal

Next week is Sabbath Week and there will be some special activities for all members of our community to get involved in.

Sabbath Week was introduced by Mrs Clarke in 2019. It is a week that is designed to focus on our wellbeing and each other. The timing of Sabbath Week for Term 3 2021 couldn't come at a better time!

During this week, the learning portion of each day will be reduced, to give you and the children a Sabbath rest.

Children will still participate in their morning Zoom lessons, and complete essential literacy and numeracy lessons each morning. The work set should ensure the children are finished by 11:00am.

After a morning break, the Leadership Team will each run an activity for the children and, if you wish to join in as well, their families to attend each day. These will run from 12:00pm – 12:40pm and consist of a variety of activities that are designed to bring either peace, calmness or joy to your day.

These activities will be repeated each day from Monday to Thursday and are listed below. They will also appear on the children's daily learning slides next week.

- 12pm: Meditation with Mrs Clarke – [Click here to join the zoom](#)
- 12:30pm: Heads & Tails Game with Mrs Clarke – [Click here to join the zoom](#)
  
- 12pm: Drawing & Painting with Mrs Borg – [Click here to join the zoom](#)
  
- 12pm: Kahoot Trivia with Mr Ticehurst – [Click here to join the zoom](#)
  - Monday: Harry Potter
  - Tuesday: Famous Picture Books
  - Wednesday: 13 Story TreeHouse
  - Thursday: Name the SuperHero and Star Wars Trivia
  
- 12pm: Zoom Team Games with Mr LoCascio – [Click here to join the zoom](#)
  - Mini Golf
  - Unblock it
  - Drawn Together
  - Candy Jam



**Join Mrs Clarke, Mr  
Ticehurst, Mrs Borg or  
Mr LoCascio for some  
Sabbath Week Peace and  
Joy**

**Each Day - Monday to  
Thursday  
12pm**

Select your activity on the next slide

Available to all children and family members



Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst  
Assistant Principal

## From the RE Coordinator

"Mary said yes!"

This past weekend, we celebrated the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A special time where Mary accepted the responsibility from the angel Gabriel to have a baby and call him Jesus.

The Assumption is something that is embedded in our lives everyday at school. 'The Angelus' is prayed at midday each day in our school community. The term Angelus comes from the Latin phrase 'Angelus Domini' meaning 'The Angel of the Lord', the first line in the prayer.

August 27 sees us celebrate the life of St Monica and St Augustine. St Monica lived a difficult life, where she faced struggles from her husband and mother-in-law, as well as a wayward child, Augustine. For 30 years, Augustine made poor choices in life, but Monica constantly prayed and showed love and suffering that one day she may bring her son home. St Monica not only demonstrates the power of prayer and suffering, but also the importance of patience.



Mr. Michael Lo Cascio  
Liturgy Coordinator



In our lives (especially during these times), we are asked to say 'Yes' to so many new things in our lives. Our community is facing challenges every day. In our world today with Google, online shopping, Zoom, instant messages and social media, we have less patience for things that take time. Likewise, we want instant answers to our prayers.

Just like Mary saying 'Yes', and the patience of St Monica, we can overcome these challenges that we are facing and take time out of our busy lives for those more important things.

Yours in Christ,

Michael Lo Cascio

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

## 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.

