



## From the Principal

With Covid restrictions lifting, it has been really nice to meet up with colleagues at professional learning sessions. Just last week I was invited to a tour of Caroline Chisholm College, Glenmore Park. Dr Greg Elliott showed me around the facilities and I was struck by the aesthetic ambience of the school. The facilities were state of the art, and the classrooms are much more aligned with the type of learning students are used to in primary schools. It was lovely to drop in on my daughter Alex's year eight History class, and in speaking to her students, I was struck by their

dedication to learning. As you can see from the photo taken on the day, I am about to become a grandmother for the first time, in about two and a half months! We are so looking forward to meeting this little person as soon as he is ready to make his presence known. All babies are a precious gift, and all we want for our children or grandchildren is for them to have a happy, long and fulfilling life.

Last Sunday, the Gospel reading was about Jesus explaining his destiny to Nicodemus. He knew that his future involved pain and sacrifice, and ultimately death, for the good of all. Jesus was loved by His Father, but knew what was required. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:15). This Sunday's Gospel we hear about Jesus being troubled over his soon to be passion. We all have times when we feel troubled. Maybe it's because of sorrow and loss, maybe it's because of seeing someone we love suffering. It's painful, it's challenging, but it is also unavoidable, just like Jesus' destiny. As we continue through our last few weeks of Lent, I ask you to remember that Jesus endured the cross because he knew that his death would reveal the depths of God's love for us. Let that love surround and sustain you over the next few weeks.





## Please Keep In Your Prayers...

Please keep Mrs Liz Denham and her family in your prayers as they mourn the sad passing of her mother, Mrs Janice Jarrett, after a short illness.



*Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.  
May Janice rest in peace. Amen.*

## Covid Updates and Changes to Afternoon Dismissal

I would like to thank our parents for the smooth transition to onsite afternoon pick ups. It is so lovely to see parents inside the gate again. As the covid-free period in NSW continues to grow, we have been advised that parents are now allowed to attend our school assemblies. This will commence in Week Nine on Monday afternoon at 2:15pm. There will be covid safe seating in the form of a spare seat between you and the next family, and as there are limits to the numbers we can have present, parents are asked to book their position by using the link provided - <https://forms.gle/xf1RYJpKrsqv4xCs5>

We are also exploring possible ways we can safely invite parents in to attend our Monday Morning assemblies in the near future, so stay tuned!

## Harmony Day

This week we celebrate Harmony Day. Harmony Day is an Australian Government program that centers on the message that "Everyone Belongs", reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians. We encourage everyone in our community to wear a splash of orange on Harmony Day. Traditionally, **orange** signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. This is not a mufti day, and normal school sport uniforms are expected to be worn. However, you might add an orange ribbon, socks, hat or t-shirt.

## Open Tours

Over the past two weeks the Leadership Team and I have been conducting open tours for enrolments for Kindergarten 2022. We have met many new families, and they have been impressed with our facilities and the way we are able to differentiate the learning to cater for all levels of ability. We are hoping that next term, we will be able to schedule open tour sessions for our existing parent community, so that they can come onsite and observe the learning happening in classrooms. In the meantime, if you know of anyone looking to enrol their child for Kindergarten in 2022, please let them know we would be happy to arrange a tour, and answer any questions they might have about St Finbar's.





## NAPLAN Updates

After NAPLAN was cancelled last year, we are looking forward to gathering some data on students reading, writing and numeracy skills. It will be very beneficial for us to analyse this data and track student progress. Next week we begin the practice testing phase of NAPLAN, designed to ensure that all students are able to log in, have stable connectivity and can see the types of questions that will be in the NAPLAN tests. More information will be forthcoming before the NAPLAN testing commences. If you have any concerns or wish to discuss withdrawing your child from participating in NAPLAN, please call either myself or Mrs Alison Maunder, and we can discuss options.

## Peaceful Kids

Over the next week, I will be completing a training program to become a Peaceful Kids facilitator. Peaceful Kids is a program designed to enhance the well-being of our students at school. It is a social and emotional learning program that promotes mindfulness and emotional regulation in students that find these areas to be of challenge. Students that will take part in the program will have access to online resources. Parent resources are also available online. We are looking forward to introducing the program in Term Two.

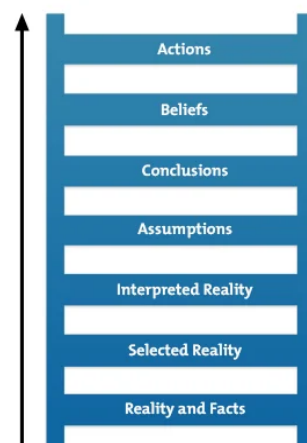
May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke  
Principal



## From the Assistant Principal

Not being on the "inside" can often make it really difficult to help your child deal with problems that they may be experiencing at school. Not being there to witness what happened, not being on the "inside", can lead you to interpreting situations differently to what the reality may be. You run up the ladder of inference.



When you have your daily debrief about the school day, your child can bring up incidents that had occurred in the playground or classroom where



something has elicited an emotional response that is challenging. You will most likely hear the version of events that connect with the reality for your child. Having a 10-year-old daughter myself, I get stories everyday about what some kid did on the bus or what someone said or did while the class was lining up. The situation that comes up the most is what someone did during break time. It always sounds like she is surrounded by these imperfect human beings whilst she continues on the path of perfection. I know the reality is she makes mistakes and poor choices too.

How we as parents deal with conflict situations are vital to our children's development. We play a vital role in helping them learn lifelong lessons to deal with situations that they will experience multiple times over their schooling and beyond.

An important point to acknowledge is that conflict is a normal part of kids' lives. Learning how to work out troubles is an important life lesson for kids. Research indicates that kids who know how to manage conflict are happier, have healthy friendships and learn better at school. How well kids are able to resolve conflict is relative to their age, stage of development and life experiences.

The kid's helpline has got some tips to help you support your child at any age to become better at managing and resolving conflicts with others.

Here's how you can help your child handle conflict better:

- Be a positive role model – Kids learn about resolving conflict by observing others.
- Create a safe environment – Allow them to express themselves openly and honestly without fear of a negative or emotional reaction.
- Teach them strategies to calm down – Such as deep breathing, relaxation, exercise, writing, drawing, painting or other expressive activities.
- Work out how they feel – Talk it over to help them identify and process their feelings.
- Help them manage their feelings – Help your child find ways to manage their feelings in the moment such as counting to 10 or walking away.
- Work out what they want – Help them to understand their own needs or motivations.
- Encourage empathy – Help them to figure out what the other child wants and how they might be feeling.
- Avoiding name calling, hurtful words or acting on emotions

Once kids have expressed and understood what the problem is, you can support them to work it out. Together with your child:

- Brainstorm a big list of solutions
- Help them think of different ways to solve the problem
- Talk about being flexible and making room for compromise
- Aim for a win-win solution – something that is fair for everyone
- Help them agree on a solution and be willing to give it a go
- Support them to think of possible consequences of solution

While it's easy to jump in and fix the problem, coaching kids on their conflict resolution skills can have longer-term future benefits for everyone! - Sky, Parentline Counsellor



- Put the solution into action and see how it works

Finally, the school plays a significant role in assisting with problem solving. More often than not, a peer conflict may not be known by the class teacher or the school. If the school was aware you would already know about it. It is important to ensure that you relay these facts on to the school to assist with resolving the conflict. Problem solving together will bring about the best resolution. It is very easy to bring to the conversation your selected and interpreted reality. This often emotive response does not help resolve the situation. It might make you feel better, but ultimately we want to fix the problem together to help your child feel better. Avoiding the ladder of inference can be very difficult.

Everyone deals with conflict differently, but everyone will experience conflict in their lives. Problem solving together is setting your child up for future success.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst  
Assistant Principal



## HOLY WEEK

In Week Ten, each class will gather together for prayer and reflection, remembering the significant events of Holy Week. These prayer experiences are an integral part of our school Religious Education program and a witness

to our shared Catholic faith.

Holy Week is the sacred week before Easter, encompassing Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It celebrates the life of Jesus and observes his words and actions leading up to his final week of life.

The class teacher will lead the students in different prayers, activities and journaling opportunities, reflecting on the different parts of the Easter story.



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 9.15am.

## PROJECT COMPASSION

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 **Monday 29th March** (Week 10). Alternatively, you can take your Project Compassion box to St Finbar's Parish Mass on Palm Sunday (28th March) or make a donation by calling 1800 024 413 or [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)



Through your generosity, you are assisting some of the world's most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

## RICE GUESSING COMPETITION

Over the past two days, our school Mission Leaders and Faith In Action Team have been busy recording all the guesses for the Rice Guessing Competition. The winner is yet to be announced. They were overwhelmed with the response and generosity from our students. They have so far raised \$80 to donate to Caritas' Project Compassion Appeal, as well as raise awareness for the wonderful work the organisation does in so many countries around the world.

The Mission Leaders and Faith In Action Team will continue to work with Mrs Brown and Mr Lo Cascio on different initiatives throughout the year. They will also be looking for other students to join their team. We are so proud of how these students are putting their faith into action and doing what they can to support others.

## ALTAR SERVER PROGRAM

A number of students have indicated that they would like to be a part of the St Finbar's Altar Server Program. A note will be sent home this week. Please fill in the form and return to the school office by **Friday 26th March**.

Fr Joe 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 at either school masses, parish masses or both (as indicated on the note).





### 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

Yours in faith,

Leanne Brown  
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

## Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Donna Beukers	9th March	Medical Migration Data Training
Robyn Clarke, Ben Ticehurst, Alison Maunder, Leanne Brown, Alicia Borg	10th March	Growing Great Leaders
Leanne Brown	12th March	REC Day
Alison Maunder, Jo Shean, Michael Lo Cascio	16th March	Retelling to Support Literacy
Ben Ticehurst	17th March	Governance Course Oversight of Management of Identified Risks for Schools
Donna Beukers	18th March	ETS Dashboards
Robyn Clarke	25th & 26th March	Peaceful Kids



## Dates To Remember

<b>Monday 22 March</b>	Woolworths Cricket Blast   Glenbrook Oval  2:15pm Whole School Assembly - Parents attending must book in due to limited numbers that are able to attend ( <a href="https://forms.gle/xf1RYJpKrsqv4xCs5">https://forms.gle/xf1RYJpKrsqv4xCs5</a> )
<b>Wednesday 24 March</b>	St Finbar's Cross Country
<b>Tuesday 30 March</b>	School Photo Day
<b>Thursday 1 April</b>	Last Day of Term One

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.

## School Photos

Advanced Life Photography will be at St Finbar's on **Tuesday 30 March** for our school photo day. We ask that all students wear the full Summer school uniform on this day. Please mark this date in your calendars.

If you would like a sibling envelope for your children, please collect one from the office or give us a call and we can send one home with your child.

Orders are to be placed online or you can send in an order envelope on the day. Payment and submission of orders online is the preferred method as we are unable to accept any photo payments through the school office. Orders will be closed off on Tuesday 30 March.

The whole school photo is the first photo of the day. Please try and have your children arrive at school promptly by 8:55am.



**ORDER NOW go to [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au) and enter the code  
AFL YED QLN**





## School Fees

School Fees for Term 1 2021 were due Wednesday 17 March 2021. If you did not receive your fee statement please contact the office.

Fees are payable in accordance with the Diocesan School Fees Policy which states "all fees are due and payable within 28 days of the date the school account statement is issued". If you need to discuss your school fee account, please contact Mrs Denham in the office by phone on 4724 3600 or via email [finb-glbrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:finb-glbrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au)



**Please note that a term's notice in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable.**

## Enrolments Open



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](mailto:stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au) and we can arrange a pack for you.

### Now Enrolling



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



## Award Congratulations

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

**Being Safe** | Daniel Engelbrecht, Joe Engelbrecht, Maiya Edwards, Rhys Loughman, Leo Hetherington, Lincoln Scott, Harrison Bohan, George Nott

**Be A Learner** | Amelie Bohan, Alana Callaghan, Jude Alderton, Makenna O'Callaghan, Matilda Howard, Kian Loughman, Sam Callaghan, Emma Thomas, Maya Powell, Amelie Nott, Jackson Smith, Mali Capuyan, Quentin Lynch, Oliver Wilson, Aris Barlow, Sophia Lynch

**Being Respectful** | Edward Walker, Alyssa Moore, Cooper Kay, Eamonn Apps, Nathan Penny, Ruby Shouha, Oscar Borg, Grace Okaro, Jago Romero, Alexander Nilsson, Theo Maunder, Daniel Fisher, Tyler De Vincentis

**Living Our Faith in Daily Life** | Briar-Rose Wade, Lillian Bastoli, Sam Ambrosoli, Keira Clifford, Aurora Wade, Tomas McKeown, Harper-Rose Hollifield, Valeria Merino, Bruce Boyall, Hope Greenem, Jackson Smith, Kai Evans, Liam Katsantonis, Olivia Macri



## 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.



**St Finbar's Primary School**

*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*

## 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.



**Please read the Parish Barra for current  
Covid-19 Guidelines for Church**