



Acting Principal's Message

Dear Parent/Carer,

Palm Sunday began Holy Week, a time when Jesus entered into Jerusalem triumphantly, only to face such a difficult time on Good Friday. This week, we are reminded on Jesus' endless devotion to us, his love of all and forgiveness that had no limit. Over this week, let us all look inwards to where we can show love and forgiveness to all, when faced with difficult situations. All families are invited to join us over the Easter weekend, so all or some of the Masses (see below). We hope all families have a restful and Holy Easter Weekend, with family and friends.

Easter Donations

Thank you to all the families for donating all the treats that will be packaged for the families at Ronald McDonald House and the residents of St John's Aged Care Villa, as well as the staff. You have been so generous with your donations, I know that the hampers will bring such joy to those that receive them.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

This year, we will change Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) to Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL). This is in-line with the wider Diocese. PBL is a behavioural framework, that sets out the behavioural expectations for students. In Week 5, we conducted a behavioural benchmark, where we looked for errors in behaviours in the classroom and on the playground. The results of this benchmark have been collated, and children were not using manners and they were disregarding rules and expectations. The Year 6 PBL Team has been busy with Mrs Pyers creating videos for students of the school to watch so that we can correct these errors. I would like to congratulate our students on many areas such as: being welcoming, celebrating the unique of others and extending friendship. Across the school, students demonstrated a strength in these behaviours, which creates the beautiful culture we have in our school. This focus on PBL in 2024, is part of the "Wellbeing" focus we have in our School Improvement Plan (SIP) this year.

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

Earlier in the year, I included a graphic to make our SIP easier to read for our families. Following on from feedback from some staff and parents/carers, I have amended this graphic slightly. The three areas of Catholic Identity and Curriculum, Learning and Wellbeing, have now been placed together as part of a circle, as all three aspects are needed together for effective academic, social and emotional learning for our students. Catholic Identity and Curriculum has now been placed at the base of the circle, as our faith and spirituality is the basis of all we do at St Therese's. This graphic has been included in this Newsletter. **(see back of newsletter)**

Enrolments *bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.*

Dates to Remember

28TH MAR - HOLY THURSDAY

**EASTER HAT PARADE 2.30
MAIN HALL**

29TH MAR - GOOD FRIDAY

1ST APR - EASTER MONDAY

**8TH APR - WHOLE SCHOOL
ASSEMBLY 2.30PM**

11TH APR - LAST DAY OF TERM 1

12TH APR - PUPIL FREE DAY

29TH APR - 1ST DAY OF TERM 2

If you have a child that starts Kindergarten in 2025, please see the clerical staff for an enrolment pack, or complete the online enrolment. If you know any families that are looking to enrol their child at St Therese's, please ask them to contact our clerical staff as soon as possible.

Traffic Management

The streets around the school are very busy each afternoon. We again ask all parents/carers to adhere to traffic rules and signs, so that all are safe. We continue to have some parents/carers ignoring traffic lights and crossing intersections illegally, when pedestrians are trying to cross busy roads. Anyone ignoring road rules, may face a fine, or may be reported to the police by residents or other parents/carers.

Newsletter Publication

In discussions towards the end of last year a number of parents queried the Newsletter being sent fortnightly as sometimes articles are repeated. Therefore from Term 2 the Newsletter will be published fortnightly on Wednesday of the even weeks (Weeks 2, 4 etc). We are also working with the Diocese on publishing our Newsletter online. More information in relation to this proposal to follow.

Kaylene Maretich
Acting Principal

Acting Assistant Principal's Message

Happy Easter

I would like to wish all families a happy and Holy Easter. The lead up to Easter with Holy Week, is a special time to reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made. Enjoy spending time with your families and if you're travelling for the break stay safe.

Mark Konik
Acting Assistant Principal

Catholic Culture News

This section of the school newsletter has taken on a new title, '*Catholic Culture*', and with it a slightly new format. Each week, there will be information provided under three major sub-headings as explained below: **Faith Formation, Religious Education and Prayer, Celebration & Mission**. Each of these elements are essential to the work we do of building the Catholic identity and culture of our school.

Faith Formation

This section is designed for you personally and your own faith formation as adults. To promote an authentic Catholic community and lead our children in the ways of the faith, it is essential that we as adults (*staff, parents and carers*) continue to nurture and grow our own faith also.



Francis' Focus – Who better to help guide us in the true depth and meaning of our Catholic faith than the charismatic and authentic leader of our Church, Pope Francis. Below he encourages us to see the events of this coming Holy Week with fresh eyes and new amazement:

'Let us ask for the grace to be amazed', reflects Pope Francis. 'A Christian life without amazement', he warns, 'becomes drab and dreary'. Palm Sunday is about so much more than an annual waving of branches.

Whether our faith has become what the Pope styled 'dull from habit', or we find ourselves 'trapped in our regrets', or 'crippled by our disappointments', or easily inclined to 'take refuge in legalisms', the Pope suggests we return our gaze to Jesus' self-sacrifice and allow ourselves to be amazed.

'Let us be amazed by Jesus so that we can start living again,' the Pope says, 'for the grandeur of life lies not in possessions and promotions, but in realising that we are loved.'

When we allow ourselves to embrace this fact our lives will be changed. As the Pope points out, many of those who welcomed Jesus' entry into Jerusalem quickly abandoned him. They were, he suggests, 'following an idea of the Messiah rather than the Messiah'. Their public demonstrations seem to have proved self-oriented and shallow.

To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.



'To admire Jesus is not enough', the Pope declares. 'We have to follow in his footsteps, to let ourselves be challenged by him; to pass from admiration to amazement.' This, he says, enables us to really 'know that we are not alone: God is at our side in every affliction, in every fear; no evil, no sin will ever have the final word.' 'And with the grace of amazement', the Pope adds, 'we come to realise that in welcoming the dismissed and discarded, in drawing close to those ill-treated by life, we are loving Jesus.'

Taken from: <https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2024Mar24/0/RefNickB>

Year 6 Leaders – Spirituality Day Retreat

Last Friday, all of our Year 6 students – as part of their ongoing faith formation as leaders of the student community – engaged in a spirituality retreat led by Mr Evis Heath. It was a truly blessed day as the students were led, so beautifully by Evis, on a wonderful journey - connecting the Catholic faith with Aboriginal Spirituality and the significance for their own life journey. The themes ranged from cultural awareness and respect to; connection to the environment, others and self; the power of storytelling; along with mindfulness and reflection. All of this took place in a spirit of respect, love and care. These photos capture some of the essence and beauty of the day in our own backyard – Glenrock State Conservation Area.



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Religious Education

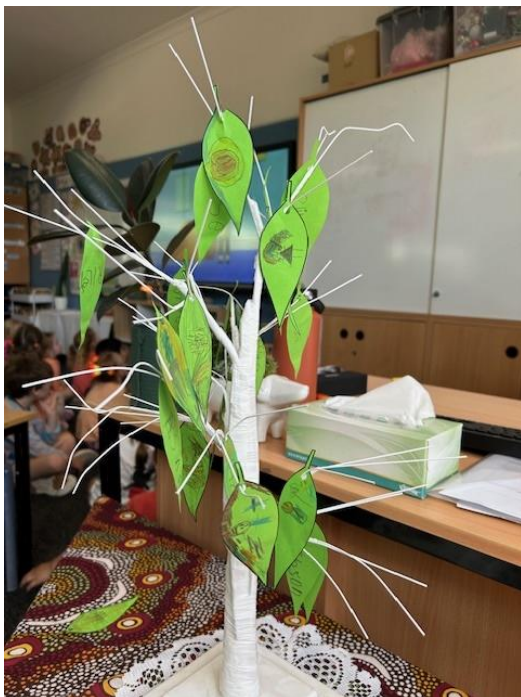
This section is designed to keep you informed of the RE Curriculum and what learning the children are undertaking in the classrooms. This week we look at the learning in Kindergarten:

Kindergarten – Topic: Knowing God The Father

This module is an introduction to encounter with God. Students will come to know God through a sense of wonder and awe about who God is and what God is like. They will understand that God created human beings in His own image, in order to form a loving relationship with them and that they are special. Students will explore the experience of God in the created world, through prayer and reflection. They will communicate their ideas, feelings and thoughts about God throughout the various learning experiences. There will be a special focus on the links between knowing God and the seasons of Lent and Easter as a special time.

Mr Smith: "Tell me what you've been learning about in Religion?"

Zemi – KW: "That the first day of Lent, you get ashes on your forehead. It's called Ash Wednesday!"



KN – Our Lenten Promise Tree



Audrey – KL

Prayer, Celebration & Mission

This section is designed to keep you informed of any important dates coming up regarding our community’s faith-life celebrations and mission activities. Things such as Masses, liturgies, mission days and the Sacramental program will all be included here:

- **Week 9: Holy Week**
 - Thursday 28th March – Holy Thursday: **Stations of the Cross** (to take place throughout the day in the Main Hall – please feel free to come and join in with your child’s grade. See timetable below)

Time	Class
9:30	Kindergarten
10:00	Year 1
10:30	Year 2
LUNCH	
12:00	Year 3
12:30	Year 4
1:00	Year 5
1:30	Year 6
RECESS	
2:30 – Easter Hat Parade	

- **Week 10:**
 - Tuesday 2nd April – Easter Liturgy: Dramatization by some Yr 6 students (2:30pm in the Main Hall – all are most welcome to attend)
- **Week 11:**
 - Thursday 11th April – Mission Day: Out-of-uniform & gold coin donation (Caritas: Project Compassion) * **Please note the change of date due to a clash with X-Country**
- **Term 2:**
 - The current **Sacramental Program** will recommence for students in **Year 4** with Confirmation & First Holy Communion (more information to come).

Luke Smith
RE Coordinator

School Community News

School Medication

Please ensure that any changes to your child’s medication is notified in writing and that you receive a reply from the office within 48 hours. If you don’t hear from us please contact us immediately. We are in the process of updating our Administration of Medication procedures and this will be communicated to the school community in due course.

Volunteering

Throughout the year, we welcome all parents/carers to volunteer at the school. To volunteer, you must complete the volunteer’s induction via the link <https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/families-communities/volunteers/>. This process can take up to 6 weeks, so you are encouraged to complete this early.

External Providers with the school

If your child receives services from external providers such as a speech pathologist, occupational therapist, or from another provider at school such as piano, chess or guitar, please ensure you complete the ‘Application-access 3rd Party contractor’ attached to this newsletter and return to the office as soon as possible.

Thank you.

School Fees -

Thank you to those families that have started payments towards this year’s school fees. Our preferred payment methods are BPay, direct debit or credit card. If you choose to use Compass Pay, please double



check the amount before you submit the payment. Refunds can no longer be given for incorrect amounts paid unless your account is in credit.

There is also an Event set up in Compass to nominate the frequency which you'd like to make payments – weekly, fortnightly, monthly, or annually. It called 2024 Fee Settlement Option. This event will close 31st March so please nominate your preference before this date. If you are having trouble, you can email the school advising your preferred payment option. If you choose to pay annually this payment is required by 30th June 2024. If you choose any of the other options, your first payment is required before 31st March 2024.

Sport

School Athletics Carnival – The first Wednesday of Term 2 (1st May), will be our whole-school Athletics Carnival at the Fearnley Dawes Athletics Track, Newcastle West. This year, we will return to a whole-school event with all students, K-6 participating on the day. This promises to be a great way to build community spirit. Most students will be transported both to-and-from the track inside regular school hours. The day, however, will run as two separate events:

- Those students in Kindergarten and Year 1 will attend and participate in a fun-day of races, relays and rotational tabloid events. These same students, after the completion of all activities, will return to school on buses around 12:30pm.
- All other students Year 2-Year 6 will participate in the competitive version of events as they will be eligible to continue through to Regional level should they be successful. The events that these students will participate in on the day are: 100m (**age-based**), 200m, shot-put and long-jump (all **category-based** events). **NOTE:** only children who turn 8, or older, in the 2024 calendar year are eligible to go through to Regional.

To explain the above, for example, an 8yr old girl will compete in the 100m race against ONLY other 8yr old girls (*there may be several heats, so results will be determined based upon times*). The same 8yr old girl will compete in the Junior Girls (8-10yr girls) for the category-based events of 200m, shot-put and long-jump.

The categories are as follows: Junior Girls & Junior Boys (8-10yrs), 11yr Girls & 11yr Boys, and Senior Girls & Senior Boys (12-13yrs). These are the same categories that are in existence at the higher levels if competition (*Regional, Diocesan, Polding, State, etc.*).

Optional Events: Both the 800m & 1500m races are optional events (category-based also), with the **800m races commencing at 9:00am, prior to the Official Start to our Whole School Athletics Carnival. The children who wish to enter this event will need to arrive at the track by 8:45am via private transport** to meet with myself in preparation for marshalling. The 1500m race will be the final event of the day. There will be a Compass event created and sent out soon regarding nominations for these. When this occurs, please be aware of the final nomination date as no late entries will be able to be submitted.

Parent Helpers: Please email me directly (jye.bowen@mn.catholic.edu.au) if you can help on the day – please list your child's name/year group so I know which of the two events to place you at during the day.

The **Cross-Country** event on the 5th April has now been posted on Compass for you to register your child's interest and give permission for them to run as well as walk to and from Regent Park with teachers, this is for those children turning 8 or older this year (2-6) and is a competitive pathway sport. For more information, please see compass.

Jye Bowen, Year 4 Teacher

Canteen

Mon 1/4	Tues 2/4	Wed 3/4	Thurs 4/4	Fri 5/4
Leonie Nancarrow	Simone Slamet	Erin Kenneally	Luke Wilson	Sarah Hughes
Neroli Moran	Teigan Jobbin			Sara Lee
	Jo Lowndes			



EASTER HAT MAKING



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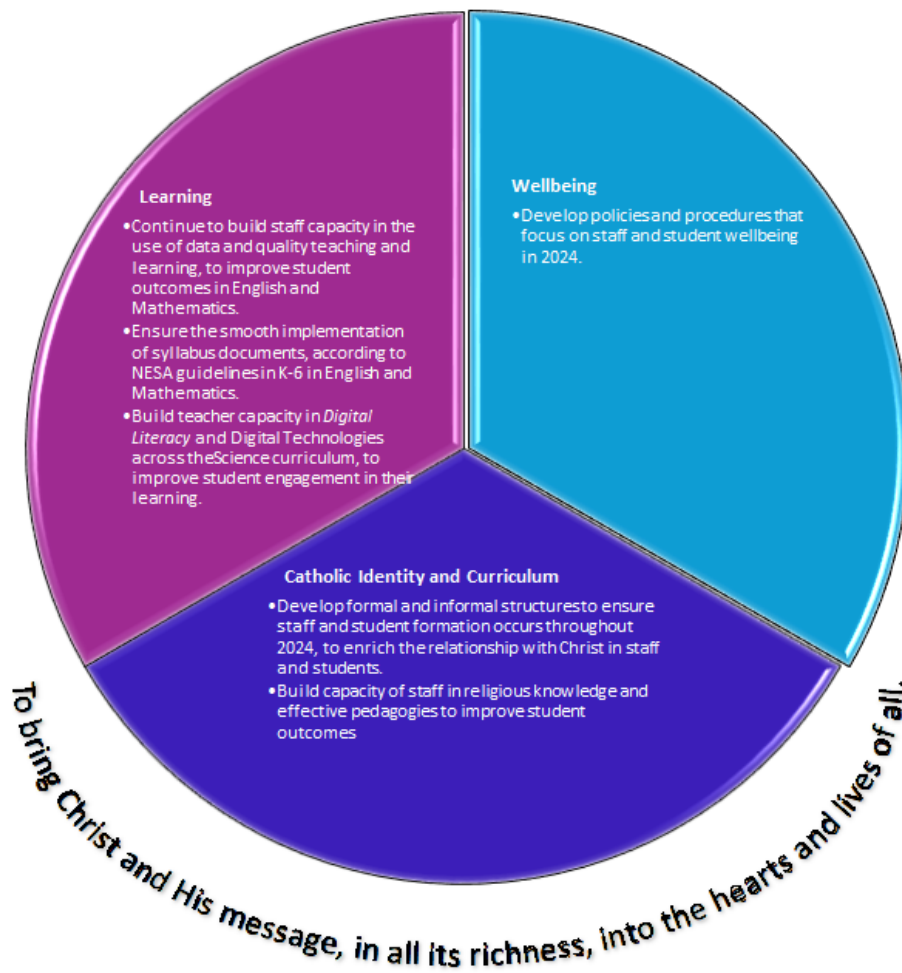


Playgroup

Playgroup was so much fun this week! We made Easter hats and visited the canteen. No playgroup next week due to Good Friday. The last playgroup of term will be the 5th of April and we will have a little party (including jumping castle of course). Contact Simone on 0402305446 for further details.



St Therese's New Lambton



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The Resilience Project

Year 3 have been brainstorming ideas around the principles of 'Gratitude' and Kindness'.

