Dear Parents, Friends and Children,

Welcome to the 2016 school year. We hope all families have had a very relaxing break and are ready for another busy and exciting year. A special welcome to the families of our 12 Kinder students and our new families commencing with us this year. Sui and Heng Chew and their son Anson (K), Miss Samantha Curtis & Mr Toby Walmsley and their daughter Charlotte (YR 4), Kate & Jock Graham and their daughter Sophie (K), Alicia & Craig Hagreaves and their daughter Eliza (K), Madeline and Timothy Ryan and their son Hugh and my daughter Summer (YR 6). We trust your time as members of St Patrick’s community will be a rewarding journey in the education for your child and family.

It is indeed a privilege to be Principal of St Patrick’s Gundagai in 2016 and I look forward to serving the best needs of this learning community. I am very excited to be working with and getting to know your children and the wonderful staff of our school.

Both Kerri-Ann and I are very appreciative of the warm welcome received from the Gundagai community and are looking forward to getting to know you all in the near future as we become part of this wonderful school, parish and wider Gundagai community.

Throughout the diocese, St Patrick’s is well known for its student achievement and caring, quality staff. I wish to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the wonderful work of Acting Principal Lisa Wilson, St Patrick’s staff, and Community Council members for their leadership in building upon this great foundation.

On behalf of our staff we would also like to welcome and encourage you all to join with your child/ren and our school to celebrate our first mass with us as a parish school community on Saturday, 6th February, commencing at 6:00pm in our church. You are then invited to walk up the hill to our school for a sausage sizzle, meet other parents, talk to teachers and wander through our lovely new learning spaces. St Patrick’s is a welcoming community school and as such we look forward to seeing lots of parents, grandparents and community members working and celebrating in our school. Take care.

Vincent Powell
Principal
The Good News

Vinnies Christmas Hampers
Many thanks for your kind donations of non-perishables offered at our Thanksgiving Mass at the end of last year. St Vincent de Paul was able to make around 30 Christmas Hampers to distribute to our less fortunate living in our community. Please see pictures below.

Parish Commissioning Mass and Welcome BBQ
This Saturday we are opening the school year with a Parish Commissioning Mass. We are all commissioned to spread the good news of Jesus Christ through our baptism and witness. As well as acknowledging the many ways we can promote the work of the Parish, Archdiocese and Universal Church, we are also on the recruitment drive for new members. Please come along to our celebration at 6pm in St Patrick’s Church. A free BBQ to welcome new and existing families, incoming Principal, Mr Vincent Powell and his family and the Parish will be held up at the school following Mass. All welcome.

Ash Wednesday
On Wednesday, 10 February we begin our holy season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. This time is set aside for prayer, almsgiving and penance to prepare ourselves for the central celebration of the liturgical year – Easter. Please mark this special day in your calendars and join us at 12pm with the Parish. Upcoming Masses will be held Wednesdays on the following dates at 12pm in the St Patrick’s Church: 2 March; 17 March (Thursday, St Patrick’s Day); 6 April.

Jubilee Year of Mercy
Pope Francis announced late last year that this liturgical year would be a Jubilee Year of Mercy. Jubilee years date back to Old Testament times in the Jewish traditions every 50 years. There have been many jubilee years in the 20th Century with the most recent being in 2000. This jubilee year coincides with the closing of the second Vatican council 50 years ago. It will be something we speak and act often about this year. Please visit http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en.html if you and your family would like to find out more about this most holy of years.

Gospel Quiz
Each week I will be posing a question to reflect on based on the scripture readings of the upcoming vigil mass. This week’s question: Simon Peter was a fisherman who caught fish – What did Jesus want him to catch?

Craig Ferguson
Religious Education Coordinator
Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their birthdays in January.

- Charlie Braun
- Thomas Ferguson
- Harriet & Jack Kingwill
- Sophie Graham
- Jake Bower
- Lochie Wilson
- Mrs Eccleston
- Mr Ferguson
- Mrs Carberry
- Mr Powell

Happy birthday to the following students who celebrate their birthdays this week.

- Today - Ella Nugent
- Tuesday, 2 February - Jack Peterson
- Wednesday, 3 February - Eliza Hargreaves

Our very best wishes to you all on your special day!

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**Kindergarten - Wednesday Rest Days**
The following Wednesdays will be rest days for our Kindergarten children where they will not attend school for the day. February 3, 10 and 17. Their first full week with us will be Week 5 commencing 22 February.

**Swimming for Sport this Thursday**
All students will be swimming for sport this Thursday. Entry to the pool is $3 if you are not a season ticket holder. This money is paid to the class teacher on the day. Please pack swimmers, rashie, towel & sunscreen.

**St. Patrick’s Swimming Carnival - Thursday, 11 February**
Students and staff are looking forward to the much anticipated swimming carnival next Thursday. There will be a number of notes coming home this week regarding parent assistance for the carnival, student participation and tuckshop orders on the day. Please ensure that these notes are filled out and returned promptly to ensure the smooth running of this event.

**Tuckshop starts this Friday**
Thank you again to Michelle McDonnell and Leanne McDonnell for taking on the Tuckshop Coordination for 2016. There will be a roster and menu coming home this week. Tuckshop operates each Friday of the Term unless otherwise specified.

**St. Patrick’s Phone Directories**
If you have not already collected your local telephone directory they are available from the following outlets for $10.
- Gundagai Newsagency
- Gundagai Real Estate
- Coolac Store

**St. Patrick’s 2015 Yearbook**
There are still a few copies of the 2015 Yearbook for sale. This is a great compilation of school life here at St. Pat’s for you and your children to enjoy. Please contact the front office for a copy at a cost of $25.

**St. Patrick’s ‘no hat no play’ policy**
Due to health regulations and in line with our ‘no hat no play’ policy, please ensure that your child comes to school each day with their own hat as we are not in a position to hand out spare hats.

**Library Days**
- Monday - Year 1
- Tuesday - Year 2 & 3/4
- Thursday - Kinder
- Friday - Year 5/6

Please ensure that your child brings with them a waterproof library bag on these days.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, 3 February - Kindergarten rest day
Saturday, 6 February - Parish Commissioning Mass 6pm
    BBQ afterwards at the school - open to parish and school members.
Wednesday, 10 February - Ash Wednesday
    Kindergarten rest day
Thursday, 11 February - St. Patrick's Swimming Carnival
Friday, 12 February - Summer Trials
Wednesday, 17 February - Kindergarten rest day
Thursday, 18 February - Community Council Meeting
    WR Swimming Carnival - Temora
Tuesday, 1 March - Archdiocesan Swimming Carnival - TBA
Monday, 7 March - Winter Trials
Thursday, 17 March - St. Patrick’s Cross Country
Friday, 25 March - Good Friday
Saturday, 26 March - Easter Saturday
Sunday, 27 March - Easter Sunday
Monday, 28 March - Easter Monday
Thursday, 31 March - Mackillop Swimming

## ROSTERS

### PRAYER & MASS TIMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, 3 February</th>
<th>Saturday, 6 February</th>
<th>Saturday, 13 February</th>
<th>Saturday, 20 February</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liturgy 12pm Church</td>
<td>Parish Commissioning</td>
<td>Max Peterson &amp; Sam Crane</td>
<td>George Harpley &amp; Jack Kingwill</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, 6 February</th>
<th>Saturday, 6 February</th>
<th>Parish Commissioning</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harriet Kingwill &amp; Ruby Wilson</td>
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### ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, 5 February</th>
<th>Jacki Fairall</th>
<th>Jess Eccleston</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 12 February</td>
<td>Renee Lindley</td>
<td>Paula Cotterill</td>
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### TUCKSHOP ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cakes</th>
<th>Cookies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suzie Sharman</td>
<td>Jodie Crossley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Scott</td>
<td>Rebecca Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cookies</td>
<td>Cakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shannon Bartlett</td>
<td>Liz Kelleher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Peterson</td>
<td>Leanne McDonnell</td>
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### Gundagai/Adelong Junior Rugby League

Under 12's League Tag.
Could any 10, 11 or 12 year old girls interested in playing League Tag this year please contact Nicole Bethune ASAP on 0447 888 368.
GUNDAGAI SHIRE COUNCIL

TOURISM PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

PRIZE

Each category has one $100 prize for the winning entry only.

NUMBER OF ENTRIES

Entrants are entitled to submit up to three entries in each category.

CATEGORIES

1. Gundagai Tourist Icon
2. Local Panoramic Landscape
3. Enjoying Local Attractions
4. Artistic Impressions of Gundagai

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

All photographs must be submitted in digital format of no less than 2MB as well as in printed form A4 size or larger. Failure to submit both hard and file copies of photographs will void your entry. Photographs must be of landscape not portrait orientation. Photographs must be taken within the Gundagai Shire. Gundagai Shire Council reserves the right to use any photographs submitted in local promotional material or online. The judge's decision is final.

ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

Photographs must be submitted via email to travel@gundagai.nsw.gov.au (max file size per email 10MB) and hard copy photographs dropped in to the Gundagai Show as per their general photography entrant conditions.